



Ankeny
Christian Church

POSITIVE PEOPLE DOING GOD'S WORK



DISCIPLES
OF
CHRIST



November 2020 Newsletter

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Who wants an extra hour of sleep this
Saturday night?

Well, it's time to "fall back" again,
so remember to set your clocks
accordingly!

Boo Bag Delivery

We will be delivering the Boo Bags to the kids on Saturday, October 31st. Please meet in the church parking lot at 10:00 am if you would like to help with delivery. We have 64 bags to deliver - many hands make for light

work!



Missing Our Usual Holiday Tradition?

With the annual holiday happenings being postponed this year, we're missing our Thanksgiving Dinner & Silent Auction, but that doesn't mean you have to miss DESSERT!

In keeping with our stewardship theme, "Dessert First", we will be hosting a Thanksgiving treat exchange! It will be appropriately safe & socially distant, but still delicious. Look for details to sign up in the coming week or two and get in the spirit of giving (and receiving) and having DESSERT FIRST!

November 1: All Saints Sunday
"Plenty of Dessert for Everyone"
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

November 8
"Sugar Highs and Sugar Lows"
Matthew 25:1-12

November 15
“A Piece of the Pie”
Matthew 25:14-30

November 22 – Thanksgiving Sunday
“Community Inside and Out”
Matthew 25:35-46

New Series: I Believe Even When

November 29 –
1 st Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9



Sunday Worship Online

Worship services will continue to be live streamed on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. You can either use the Facebook Link or the YouTube Link to see the live feed, or even worship a little later if you need to. Use the buttons below to choose which link fits your needs best.

[Facebook Link](#)

[YouTube Link](#)

Pastor Owen's Note

November 3 is fast approaching. When it comes and goes, I imagine, there will be a collective sigh of relief that it is finally done, and we will have our traditional 6 month reprieve before the mid-term election ads begin. At the same time it will also mean celebration for some, and disappointment and frustration for others. Some of “our” candidates will have won and some of “our” candidates will have lost. And there will be, as there always are, good and faithful Christians all along the spectrum of celebration and frustration. One thing I have learned in all my years in the church is that there are faithful Christians who are also Republicans, faithful Christians who are also Democrats, faithful Christians who are also Independents, faithful Christians who are also Libertarians, and so on down the line. There are even faithful Christians who choose not to vote.

As I am writing this before the election, I do not know who will win in

any of the races – there seems to be something wrong with my crystal ball. What I do know is this: no matter who is elected to serve, we Christians still have work to do. Even if every candidate you or I support were to win, that does not release us from our work as followers of Christ Jesus.

The Kingdom of God is not something that comes in as a result of a vote! The Kingdom of God is not a matter of, nor is it dependent upon having all the right people in the right places of government allowing us to sit back in our easy chairs and brush our hands together and congratulate ourselves for a job well done. The Kingdom is always at hand and requires work and faithfulness, and each of us (elected or just regular ol' citizens) is imperfect though striving to be faithful.

Until such time as the prayer "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven" is a reality, those who follow Jesus will have work to do, whatever the system of government. Wherever there are people hurting, we have work. Wherever people are hungry, we have work. Wherever people are in prison, we have work. Wherever people live under violent circumstances, we have work. Wherever systems oppress people, we have work.

Further, we have a duty to pray for our nation and our nation's leaders. There is no argument that what the United States does affects the rest of the world. Thus it becomes paramount that we ask God for direction in all of our dealings and for soft hearts that we all might listen to God's desires for us.

Yet, our obligation for prayer does not stop with our own nation. We are also called to pray for the whole world: our friends, our enemies, our neighbors, those foreign to us, the significant and powerful, and those who seem of little consequence to us. We confess that God has created a world of abundance and that it is God's desire that the whole world be blessed. All human beings have been made in God's very own image (That is the first confession about humanity in the Bible!) and therefore every human being has value to God.

So, after the voting is done, our real commitments continue. Let us work together for the building of God's Kingdom. And let us pray together and with Jesus: "God, **Your** Kingdom come, **Your** will be done right here and around the world."

Shalom,
Pastor Owen

Pastor Alison's Youth News

Sunday School News

Sunday School continues as usual from 9:00- 9:45 a.m. for the month of November!

Our preschoolers and elementary school grades (Preschool - 5th

grade) will be finishing up the story of Joseph and His Brothers, and will continue with the Joseph story as they learn more about Joseph and Pharaoh through the month of November.

Our youth Sunday School classes continue to learn in fun and in community with one another!

Our 6 - 12 Grade class continues to meet with Susie Bentley, Owen Cayton, Lori Krase-Cayton, and me as we work our way through our re:form curriculum. Questions that we'll be discussing this month are, "Do I have to believe Jesus performed miracles to be a Christian?" and "What does God think about war?" We'll also be doing some class choice discussion days and a game day or two as we head on our way to December.

Our classes will continue to meet in the Fellowship Hall and Classrooms. There is also a Zoom option for those who prefer to do Sunday School at home. Contact me for those links and we'll make sure that you have access to them.

Looking forward to another month of learning, conversation, and fun this month in Sunday School!

CHAOS Ensues in October!

Our 6th – 12th grade youth group or CHAOS (Christ Honoring and Others Serving) will be doing many great things within the month of October. Here's what's on our agenda:

November 1 – 3G Night: Our Game, Gather, and God nights will continue the first week of the month on the church lawn. Bring your chair!

November 8 – Others Serving: We'll be participating in a service project on this day to benefit one of our local agencies. See you then as we live out the last two letters of our name!

November 15 – 3G Night : Our 3G Night continues this week!

November 22 - No CHAOS: Prep your spirits and your stomachs for Thanksgiving and we'll see you the 29th!

November 29th - Game Night!: Come prepared to have some fun as we play games with one another for an hour or so as we unwind after a holiday weekend!

New this year is NOW (Nourish On Wednesdays) meeting on Wednesday evenings from 6:45 - 7:45 p.m. for some check-in, and discussion of current events coupled with a Bible Study. It's a fun time!

Parents - Please keep your eye on Weekly CHAOS as the weather is getting colder and we'll need to come up with an alternative plan! It'll be good!

It is going to be a fantastic month for our chaotic youth!

Mid-Week Mayhem

The Mayhem will continue in the month of October! Here's our schedule:

November 4 – Joseph and Pharaoh: Join us as we spend an hour talking about our Sunday School lesson - MidWeek Mayhem style!

November 11 – Giving Thanks Night (parents and siblings welcome!): Come and spend an hour with us as we find ways to be thankful and share our gratitude with others!

November 18 – Thank You Note Night: On this day we'll be decorating and writing thank you notes to those that we appreciate and love. It's going to be fun!

November 25 – No MWM: Prepare your bellies! Thanksgiving is coming!

Parents - Please keep your eye on Monday Mayhem as the weather is getting cooler and we'll need to come up with an alternative plan. Whatever it is, it'll be a good one!

We are looking forward to another great month of Mayhem in the middle of the week! Please email me with any questions you may have.

A Note on the Children's Christmas Program...

Please keep your eye out for a way that you and your family can participate in our Christmas program this year! The Christian Education Committee, Karla Rice, and I are finding a new way to celebrate this wonderful church tradition. More to come! Stay tuned!

November 2020 Calendar Link

[Google Calendar](#)

November Special Offering:

Disciples Mission Fund Thanksgiving Offering

The Mission Committee voted to support the Thanksgiving Offering through the Disciples Mission Fund for their November special project. According to our General Offices this offering supports Disciples colleges, universities, and theological institutions. Disciples have a long history of post secondary and theological education. This offering provides a direct relationship to 15 colleges and universities, 7 seminaries and theological initiatives. Gifts from this offering continue the Disciples tradition of developing leaders for our communities and the Church.

Please prayerfully consider supporting this special project. Checks should be designated to the Disciples Mission Fund and placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church at 2506 SW 3rd St., Ankeny, IA 50023. Or, you can give online by clicking the button below to set up a one-time donation. (Please note in the comments that this is for the "Thanksgiving Offering".)

Thank you in advance for your contributions and support of this and other mission projects.

The Missions Committee

[One Time Donation](#)

Well Done!

Talk about Mission Impossible!? On Saturday Oct. 17, 16 members of the congregation arrived at the Christian Camp & Conference Center to tackle a much-needed project. Simply put; rip off old siding and insulation on a wall of the Lodge and install two new windows, siding and insulation. Plus, if there is time, paint the siding of 5 outer resident units. Plus, clear branches, twigs, and debris from all the Chi Rho village huts. We started at 9:00 a.m. but many began around 8-8:30 a.m. Upon ripping off old siding, water damage and wood rot was discovered, which necessitated replacing plates, sills and bracing. I saw Matt Porath looking at the mess and wondering if



he was calculating the job or praying. Long story short, at the end of the day, sills, plates, bracing, two new windows including taping and weather proofing, new siding and insulation were done. At the end of the day, all resident units were painted. Oh, and all the huts at Chi Rho villages were clear of debris. Not to mention four camp signs were treated with waterproofing. WELL DONE, Good and faithful servants. When we finished at 7:30 pm. that night, everything was checked off the To Do list. If you get a chance would you give a personal thank you to Matt, Arnie, Cameron, and Grace Porath, Clay Dean, Chuck Fausch, Jerry & Gladys Sawyer, Larry & Nancy Squier, Steve & Georgene Raver, JP Channels, Suzy Hart, Hannah Wehofer, Maya St. Clair. You've got to love this church!

September Council Meeting Kudos

- Sunday School Teachers, youth leaders.
- Outdoor worship: Pastor's Alison and Owen, Bob Brown, Georgene Raver, Cindy Holub, C-19 committee members (volunteers).
- Baptisms of Caleb Porath and Hayden Gage: Pastor's Alison and Owen, Matt Porath and Curt Gage, Randy Wehofer.
- Pastor's for their leadership and time commitments for keeping two services going through C-19.
- Covid committee members.

August Council Meeting Kudos

- Curt Narwold, Matt Porath, Grace Porath, Mike St. Clair and Darin Leach for helping clean up at Denny Peterson's property this morning
 - Crew who helped clean up church property after the storm ~ Jerry, Gladys Sawyer; Owen, Tovi, Tai Cayton, Lori Krase-Cayton; Matt, Emily, Cameron, Caleb Porath; Curt Narwold, Darin Leach, Steve Raver, Suzy Hart, John, Jen Hauschildt, Mike St. Clair, Carter Linn, Bram Van de Mortel, Chuck Fausch, Arnie Porath and John Sayre
 - All who helped with cleanup at other properties of church members around town this week
 - All involved in organizing and presenting Wednesday night outdoor services
 - Judy Johnson and Shelby Skinner for preparing and sending cards people are receiving from Connections Team
 - Youth and members who participated in Anawim housing drive
 - The "Covid-19" committee and the work they have done in getting the in person, outdoor worship going.
 - Pat Fliger, Judy Johnson, Marlys Lampham and Karen Fausch for decorating the sanctuary and adding new banners and decoration

July Council Meeting Kudos

- Those who assisted on Wednesday night with the inaugural outdoor service
- Darin Leach for his leadership during the youth virtual mission week
- Pastor Alison for organizing the mission trip
- ACC youth for all of their work at church member's homes
- Covid-19 Task Force members
- All who are contributing to on-line worship
- Owen and Lori for their work

Birthdays in November

3 Hayden Gage
4 Jon Haushildt
11 Cassidy Waters
16 Jodie Craig
17 Christina Dean
17 Blake Shelton
18 Amy Channels
18 Amanda Neitzel
19 Bob Brown
20 Scott Gessner
23 Sue Woods
28 Rebecca Dean
29 Matthew Hunter
29 Ron Lapham
29 Dorothy Mathis
30 Bob Turner
30 Corbin Fett

November Anniversaries

8 Larry & Judi DeMoss
12 Justin Breckenridge & Lori Reynolds
16 Arnie & Colleen Porath
24 Ben & Doreen Chatman

The church continues to operate even in these difficult times. If you would like to continue (or begin) to contribute to the work of the church financially, you can mail in a check to 2506 SW 3 rd ST, Ankeny, IA 50023. Or, you can give online by clicking the button below.

There you can set up one-time or recurring donations.

[Online Giving](#)

Pastor Owen Cayton, Senior Minister
Pastor Alison Nicoll, Associate Minister
Melissa Webb, Office Manager

Ankeny Christian Church

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[Visit our website](#)

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