



Ankeny
Christian Church

POSITIVE PEOPLE DOING GOD'S WORK



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OF
CHRIST



October 2020 Newsletter

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October 4
Philippians 3:4b-14
"The Sky, Not the
Grave, is Our Goal"

October 11
Philippians 4:1-9
"Lord, Haste the Day
When the Faith Shall
be Sight"



Dessert First

As children we learned to eat a balanced diet – and it rarely included dessert first. We were taught to be sensible – to eat our veggies first and save ice cream for last. Giving first to God is a lot like eating dessert first – it is not a “reasonable” thing to do. We are encouraged to give first to God, generously from our hearts filled with gratitude for all we have received from God. Giving first invites us to share with our community ways that we know God’s faithfulness. Dessert First reminds us that giving to God is cause for celebration; as delightful as eating dessert first.

October 18

“Giving Sets Us Free”

Matthew 22:15-22

October 25

“A Glimpse of the Future”

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

November 1

“Many Hands”

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

November 8

“Burning the Midnight Oil”

Matthew 25:1-12

November 15

“Well Done!”

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

Do a little experiment with me: Since many of you are at your computer or on your phone right now, find your favorite Bible app (or download one, Olive Tree is the one I have on my phone), or go to a searchable Bible online, (or if you are getting this at home, find a good concordance) and explore the number of scriptures that talk about justice: things like helping the poor, welcoming the stranger, caring for the sick, the vulnerable (often widows and orphans), and compare that to the number of scriptures that talk about devotion and prayer. You might even do that by narrowing the search to just the gospels: how many times is Jesus actively caring about others, and how much of the time does he spend in conversation about having a personal relationship with him?

After you have done that, search Amazon.com for books about faith (probably Christian Faith) and notice the number of books about a relationship with Jesus verses the number of books about justice.

My hypothesis is that we will find the opposite imbalances. The amount of space the Bible devotes to concern for the poor, welcoming the stranger, etc. is much greater than the number of passages dedicated to developing a personal relationship with God. On the other hand, the amount of writing done about faith and the life of faith seems to indicate a different emphasis.

Certainly, prayer and devotion are important, vital even in the life of faith, and in the Bible. Jesus spends time away from the world around him in prayer and rest. However, the faith emphasis in our culture is very clearly on "having a personal relationship with God."

What we seem to forget most often when we get wrapped up in the personal relationship with God stuff is that our relationship with God and our relationship to others are inextricably linked (see Matthew 22:34-40, Mark 12:28-34, and Luke 10:25-28). Prayer and devotion should lead us to action, as they did Jesus. Our personal relationship with God ought to bring more sharply into focus God's desires for the world, God's desires for justice and right-relationship.

Isaiah 58:3-7 makes clearly the comparison between personal piety and action. It ends with the words, "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?"

To be sure, we live in a difficult moment to do these things. We are having to rethink how we live life, how much more are we having to rethink the ways we live out our faith? Still, there are opportunities to serve and care, and we, the faithful, are needed now, as much as ever, to make the world a better place.

Shalom,
Pastor Owen

Sunday School News

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

Our preschoolers and elementary school grades (Preschool - 5th grade) will be finishing up the story of Isaac and Rebekah, and then will move along to the story of Joseph and his Brothers through the first week 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, "Can I do something bad enough to make God stop loving me?" And, "What if my friends aren't Christian?" The conversation should be great!

Our classes will continue to meet outdoors until we're ready to go inside. 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:

October 4 – 3G Night: Our Game, Gather, and God nights will continue the first week of the month on the church lawn. Bring your chair!

October 11 – Afternoon at the Christian Conference Center: From 1:30 - 5:30 p.m. Our youth are headed to Newton to spend an afternoon on the lake, hiking, making s'mores and enjoying all that our beloved CCC has to offer.

October 18– 3G Night : Our 3G Night continues this week!

October 25 –Geisler Farms: Our youth are headed to Geisler Farms on this afternoon for some fall fun! (Time TBD)

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

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:

October 7– Photo Scavenger Hunt

October 14– Fall Fun Night: Decorating Pumpkins (parents and siblings welcome!)

October 21– Joseph and His Brothers

October 28 – Halloween Game Night!

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.

October 2020 Calendar Link

[Google Calendar](#)

Bible Study to Begin October 7th

Fall Bible Study will be held this year beginning Wednesday, October 7 for 6 weeks. We will meet from 10:00 to 11:30 AM at the home of Karen Fausch. We will be studying from the book of Acts. Our reference will be a book by Matthew Skinner called, "Acts, Catching up With the Spirit." Please call Karen at 515-556-1483 for more information and if you are interested in attending.

DES MOINES AREA



Hunger Hike

As in past Octobers, the Missions Committee will be supporting the Des Moines Area Hunger Hike. Due to the current pandemic situation this year's hike will be virtual.

Much of the hike will be the same.

- Individuals or families can get a collection form and ask for donations.
- Participants can run or walk and the collected money can be turned in on Hike day or collected later.
- Checks are to be made out to the Des Moines Area Hunger Hike.

How will the Hike be different?

- You can pick the time, date, place and distance you hike. The need for food assistance is as great previous years.
- The “shoe offering” will be held at a later date.

October 11th is Hike Day. To participate in the virtual Hike, follow the Facebook Link below at 1:30 the day of the Hike.

www.facebook.com/events/227431081996805/

Forms will be available on Sunday mornings. For more information or to receive a form call Chuck Fausch at 515-556-1483 or email to *fauschck@msn.com*

WORK DAY
MISSION PROJECT
“Everything and the Kitchen Sink”
October 17, 2020

We’ve all heard the saying, “Everything but the kitchen sink.” How about a Mission Project that is “Everything AND the kitchen sink?” Our church is inviting members to a Mission project at the Christian Conference Center to install siding and do general maintenance at the Lodge before winter sets in. With

Jerry Wolf supervising we will finish putting siding around lodge rooms that had new windows installed as well as fix up and spruce up the lodge for continued retreats and occupancy. The date is October 17 from 9:00 am till 4:30 pm with lunch provided. PLUS, our congregation is going to raise money for a new triple tub kitchen sink for the conference center. The goal for the purchase of the sink is \$500. So, as a congregation we want to do EVERYTHING we can and the kitchen sink. To join us contact Larry & Nancy Squier about your commitment to join our team on October 17 at lsquier17@msn.com or (515) 556-1721. Carpooling/travel arrangements will be pending the number of participants.

Those wishing to donate to the sink can make a donation designated or marked Kitchen Sink CCC. Let's do this church! We'll do our best to keep masked and socially distanced while we still help our Conference Center continue doing its vital ministry to our Region. Any questions? Call 515 556-1721.

Trunk or Treat Promises a Sweet Time

Join us in the church parking lot for our annual Trunk or Treat celebration on October 25th from 3:00-5:00 p.m. Plan to decorate your trunk & bring individually wrapped, store-bought, nut-free treats for the little ones." Prize awarded for the best decorated trunk.



Kids can dress in costume and trick or treat from trunk to trunk in the safety of the parking lot. This event is scheduled for two hours and trick or treaters may come and go as they please. If you plan to decorate your trunk & hand out treats, please plan to stay the whole time.

Please have one person designated to provide treats from your trunk. Plan to wear a face covering & gloves for safety. Face coverings & or gloves will be provided for those who are distributing treats and don't already have them.



Welcome Our New Regional Minister

The Rev. Joshua Patty will begin his work with the Upper Midwest Region on October 1 and our first opportunity to meet him will be 2 days later at our first Virtual All Congregational Gathering! Worship and a question and answer time with Rev. Patty will begin at 10 (preceded by a business meeting at 9:30). For more information and to register, please click the button below.

[https://www.uppermidwestcc.org/2020acg?](https://www.uppermidwestcc.org/2020acg?fbclid=IwAR1qoAG55HOx6FBziLPuddJ75KpEr9bHbLergyNjLFsQ3MwWG6taUflqIRM)

[fbclid=IwAR1qoAG55HOx6FBziLPuddJ75KpEr9bHbLergyNjLFsQ3MwWG6taUflqIRM](https://www.uppermidwestcc.org/2020acg?fbclid=IwAR1qoAG55HOx6FBziLPuddJ75KpEr9bHbLergyNjLFsQ3MwWG6taUflqIRM)

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is seeking leadership for the church for next year. Colleen Porath, Ben Chatman, and Annette Hunter make up the

committee along with Pastor Owen who chairs. Please, prayerfully consider your gifts and if you feel a call to share in the leadership of Ankeny Christian Church, contact one of us, there are plenty of opportunities! While we don't know exactly what leadership looks like in 2021, we do know that God equips the called.



Online Church DIRECTORY

We have been researching and experimenting with a couple of online directories and we are almost ready to launch our directory through a company called Online Church Directory. In the next couple of weeks, you can expect to receive an email that will provide details about how to get started. We look forward to giving you access to updated directory information when you want/need it.

Quilt Ministry Update

Six twin size quilts and two throw size quilts were dropped off September 16 at the Catholic Church in town. They will be delivered at a later date to the Refugee Resettlement Program in Des Moines.

Birthdays in October

1 Karla Rice
3 Mike St. Clair
5 Justin Breckenridge
Jason-Paul Channels
6 Clay Dean
10 Chloe Schroeder
12 Lisa Duffy

Linda Lamont
15 Carter Hauschildt
16 Caleb Porath
Colleen Porath
Casey Shelton
17 Larry Squier
18 Christine Stoffa
21 John Lee
24 Patty Dorman
Pat Fliger
Nancy Squier
26 Judy Krase
27 Sara Hanley
28 Kathy Sample

October Anniversaries

2 Ron & Marlys Lapham
3 Brian & Cheryl Jass
11 John & Patrice Sayre
15 Clint & Deanna Fischer
Dennis & Christine Stoffa
20 Felix & Julie Garcia
Justin & Jennifer Schroeder
26 Randy & Joanie Wehofer
28 John & Jodie Craig

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

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[Visit our website](#)

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