



Ankeny
Christian Church
POSITIVE PEOPLE DOING GOD'S WORK



DISCIPLES
OF
CHRIST



August 2020 Newsletter

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This Is Our Prayer

July 29 and August 2:
Longing for Renewal
Luke 5:12-16, and Isaiah 40:1-5, 28-31

August 5 and 9:
Longing for Change
Numbers 27:1-11

August 12 and 16:
Longing to Celebrate
Philippians 1:3-11

Sunday Service and Fellowship Time

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](#)

**Join us for Fellowship Time
after Worship through Zoom**

[Zoom Link](#)



"Worship on the Lawn" is an in-person, outdoor service being held in the evening to take advantage of cooler temperatures and shade, and will take the shape of a church camp vespers type of service: scripture, brief message, communion, prayers, and singing. It will be held on the lawn at Ankeny Christian Church. The service itself will last approximately 30 minutes and, because we will be doing a little singing, we will be observing extended physical distancing (16 feet, rather than the 6 feet normally required). Please bring your lawn chairs or blanket or beach towel to sit on, as well as your own communion elements to share with your immediate family. Pieces of this worship service will be recorded to use during the live stream of worship on the following Sunday. If there is inclement weather, we will hold worship the following day at the same time (7:30 p.m.). We will also be sending out a questionnaire to determine how many families and individuals we should expect, so that we can identify locations for people to sit. We recognize that people do not all have the same comfort level with returning to group gatherings. We will continue to live stream worship on Facebook and YouTube live on Sunday mornings so that everyone can participate in worship in the way that fits them best.

August 2020 Calendar Link

[Google Calendar](#)

Pastor Owen's Note

*"May you live in interesting times."
– English expression purported to be a Chinese Curse*

*"Better to be a dog in times of tranquility
than a human in times of chaos."
– Original Chinese saying*

We do, indeed, live in interesting times, and I for one would just as soon times be a little more uninteresting. This is a moment of uncertainty where the sprint we anticipated the pandemic to be has turned not so slowly into a marathon. Planning adequately and adaptively presents its own challenges as uncertainty arises and continues to be the order of the day.

Interestingly enough, the people of God have frequently

lived in interesting and uncertain times. The Bible is replete with stories of people (both groups and individuals) who find themselves faced with difficult choices and threats. Slavery in Egypt, struggle with neighbors who are also enemies, exile, occupation, war, persecution, famine to name a few of those threats. Repeatedly the stories in the Bible point to a trust in God in these moments.

Rarely, if ever, does God simply snap the divine fingers and magically fix all the problems. To be sure, the Bible shares some stories of immense divine power and wondrous, even miraculous deeds, but those moments aren't the whole of the witness; they don't end the journey. For example, 'with a mighty hand and outstretched arm' God delivers the Hebrew people from enslavement in Egypt, but they still have a long journey ahead of them. When God directs Moses to strike the rock to produce water in the wilderness, the people are sustained, but they are not removed from the wilderness.

My point here is this: we are always partners with God in living through interesting and uncertain times. While we are never quite sure what particular thing God will do in any given moment; we know that God is present with us, God loves us, and God will act from that love for us even as we continue living and working for the gospel in moments of uncertainty. In other words, this moment, even in its uncertainty is a moment for us to find ways to care for each other and the world. This interesting moment has provided an opportunity (no, the Chinese word for "crisis" is not "danger + opportunity" as it is so often expressed) to bring the ongoing, yet often unseen by many of us, issues of racism and systemic oppression to light. For some reason, it seems white folk are more ready to listen right now to the concerns of our siblings of color.

Further, in interesting times, God often brings forth leaders who will faithfully guide the people of God through these moments. Here at ACC this is no less the case. I have been grateful for the excellent, thoughtful, and faithful leadership of the Executive Committee and the Church Council. I am also grateful for the group of people who have stepped forward to be a part of our team to plan our faithful and as-safe-as-possible return to gathering. The people on the team are: Arnie Porath, Frank Prowant, Karla Rice, Jennifer Koehler, Darin Leach, Latisha Ukpabi, John Sayre, and Karen Fausch.

the group what quadrant of town they're in, we will all go and find them with the help of clues from the hider, and the last car to find the rest loses!

Here are some logistics:

For safety reasons, I'd ask that parents/an adult that isn't a youth chauffeur their youth around for this game.

We'll meet in the church parking lot on Sunday, August 2nd at 3:00 p.m. We'll gather, create a group text, I'll send out a map, and we'll get to playing! We'll play until 5:00 p.m. or so!

If you are planning to do this on August 2nd, would you please send Pastor Alison an email or text so we know who to expect? Please include who will be driving. If you are unsure just give your name and someone else who could potentially drive. Thank you!

We did this activity once this spring, and it was a BLAST. Can't wait to do this again! Hope you can join us!

VBS in a BAG

Although we may not be able to participate in an in-person Vacation Bible School (VBS) this year, the Christian Education Committee has come up with the next best thing--VBS in a BAG! This activity is for all ages. If you are interested in participating, please complete the registration form by August 15th, so we know how many bags to assemble. Our goal will be to distribute the VBS in a BAG around August 30th and individuals as well as families can work on them at their own pace. There will be activities, prayer stations, instructions, a service project and much more.

The Christian Education Committee

[Registration Form](#)



Progressive Dinner

Youth Progressive Dinner ***Friday, August 21st*** ***Time TBD***

On Friday, August 21st our youth will be gathering their dinner from different houses and we need YOUR help!

How will this work? Members of the congregation will sign up for a different part of a meal (appetizer, side, main course, etc.), and each CHAOS member will get a map with their addresses and gather all of their “courses” at these various homes. After they’ve been to all of the addresses and have all of their food, we’ll meet up at the church for a picnic on the lawn. *In order to keep this meal safe, we’d ask that congregants who prepare and hand out food use a mask and gloves to distribute, and that the distribution happens outdoors or in an open garage.*

Interested in being a location for food on the youth’s map? Contact Pastor Alison!

More details coming as the summer progresses (pun intended)!

Reconciliation Offering

The special offering for the month of August is one of our denomination's special offerings that we have not done in the past: Reconciliation Offering. From the Reconciliation Ministry web page: "The Reconciliation Special Offering is used to fund our [denomination's] mission imperative to become a pro-reconciling and anti-racist church utilizing experiential education, inclusive worship, and intentional dialogue. Recent events have reignited the conversation about human brokenness evidenced by the sin of racism and perpetuated in our institutional structures and systems. Your generous giving to Reconciliation Ministry is transforming lives and strengthening Christ's witness in the world showing that we love one another, even as Christ continues to love us!" More information about the offering will be provided throughout the month of August. In the meantime, for more information about the work of Reconciliation Ministry you may visit their website at [Reconciliation Ministry](#).

Thank you,
The Missions Committee

CCUM Anti-Racism/ Pro-Reconciliation Team

The Christian Church in the Upper Midwest is working to establish an Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation Team to lead our denomination's efforts to eliminate racism at a more local level. Pastor Alison and Pastor Owen are both currently on the team. We are currently looking for lay-people to get involved. If you are interested, please contact either of us for information

about this newly forming team!

Birthdays in August

1 Terrie Ostrem
3 Sarah Wright
Lori Krase-Cayton
8 Laura Dolley
13 Julie Garcia
Alison Nicoll
Joyce Raver
14 Doreen Chatman
Latisha Ukpabi
17 Tom Hanley
18 Jennifer Schroeder
24 Justin Schroeder
26 Suzette Hart
27 Bryan Jansen
29 Karen Rawson

August Anniversaries

1 Jerry & Gladys Sawyer
3 Casey & Amy Shelton
6 Jerry & Sue Woods
7 Andy & Susie Bentley
10 Owen Cayton & Lori Krase-Cayton
12 Ramon & Melissa Serrano
20 Max & Jan Marshall
David & Karen Rawson
Eleke & Latisha Ukpabi
21 Brian & Terrie Ostrem
26 Tom & Sara Hanley

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
2506 SW 3rd Street
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[Visit our website](#)

[Email](#)