



Ankeny Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
2506 SW 3rd Street
Ankeny IA 50023-2471
Phone: 515-964-1083
Web site: www.accdoc.org

Pastor: **Owen Cayton**
ocayton@gmail.com

Associate Pastor: **Alison Nicoll**
alisonaccdoc@gmail.com

Office Manager: **Melissa Webb**
ankenycdoc@gmail.com

Sunday Schedule

8:30 Sunday School
9:30 Worship
10:30 Fellowship

Attendance Records

October 27, 2019	123
November 3, 2019	138
November 10, 2019	114
November 17, 2019	134



DISCIPLES
OF
CHRIST

GOOD NEWS

• Learning God's word • Sharing Christ's love • Proclaiming God's messages

December 2019



Important Calendar Change!!!

The **Congregational Meeting** has changed dates!
It will now be held after church on **December 15th**.
The CAT interpretation will still be after church on
December 8th.

From the Office:

With the holidays approaching and my family coming to visit from out of town, my hours will change a bit in December. I have included them on the calendar and they will be on the Google calendar as well. If you have an office need and want to be sure I am around, you can check those two places.

Constant Contact is up and running! You should have received a few experimental emails already using this new system. I have appreciated the feedback I have received, and it seems to be serving its email purpose so far.

The next step is the newsletter! December will be the last month with our current newsletter format. We will continue to have a limited number of paper copies available, but we hope to scale those back with the availability of the email version. Thank you for your patience as we work to update our procedures.

Melissa

From Pastor Owen

One of my favorite household Christmas traditions, which will now be revived as we have an almost-3-year-old in the house who will be interested in Santa's progress, is to track Santa's progress on the NORAD track Santa website (www.noradsanta.org). We watch Santa navigating his way across the globe throughout the day, including spotter videos here and there of Santa and his reindeer flying overhead.

It turns out that NORAD has been tracking Santa since 1955, and all because of a typo in an ad in a Colorado Springs newspaper. The story goes that Sears had taken ads in papers across the U.S. where children could call and speak directly to Santa. The Colorado Springs newspaper misprinted the number with one digit off. That single digit made the number a line for "the Continental Air Defense Command (CONAD)—the predecessor of NORAD—which, like Santa, specialized in aeronautics. And which, unlike Santa, was based in Colorado Springs." (See full article in [The Atlantic](#))

The article continues, "Suddenly, on Christmas Eve, phone calls intended for St. Nick were being received on a top-secret NORAD line—a line that was usually reserved for crises (which, back then, pretty much meant "Russians attacking")."

The Colonel on duty picked up the phone at the first call expecting to hear the worst but heard only stunned silence. After a few 'hello' and 'sir, are you reading' followed by more silence, there was a small voice on the other end, "Is this Santa Claus?" It took a few moments for Colonel Shoup to gather his wits, but he ended up playing along. Then he put an airman on the phone duty for the rest of the evening to pretend he was Santa.

It evolved from there! They literally stumbled upon this marvelous idea because of a misprint in a newspaper. Now, along with the Track Santa website there are also volunteers handling approximately 12,000 emails and 70,000 phone calls, each sharing Christmas joy with children!

I can't tell you how often I simply stumble on to Christmas joy. Every year I have planned for it: I travel through Advent with the church. I hear the stories and wait with anticipation. I even go out and buy Christmas presents for my family, put up Christmas decorations, read Christmas stories, look at Christmas lights, and so on. I have some expectation that my plans will bring me that joy, and to a large degree they do. Is there anything better than seeing your kids open up their gifts? However, it is often the surprise joys that hit me the hardest and bring tears to my eyes.

This year marks the 300th anniversary of Isaac Watt's "Joy to the World." While Mr. Watt never intended it to be a Christmas carol, it has become a staple in that regard. During Advent we will explore the themes of joy and the message of joy to the world that we steward as followers of Jesus.

Shalom,
Pastor Owen

Connecting People:

Does this sound like a ministry you might want to be involved in?

The Ankeny Christian Church Connections Team was created to be an extension of pastoral care and to help us as a congregation remain connected through cards, phone calls, serving communion, taking prayer shawls and/or meals to members. If these ministries sound like something you would like to be a part of, please consider joining us for our next meeting. At that time, we will explore ways we can increase the effectiveness of this ministry. Come be a part of our conversation!

Tuesday, January 7, 2020
Porch Light Coffeehouse
417 SW Third Street

NORTH POLE WORKERS – THANK YOU!

Thank you to those who helped make this year's Santa's North Pole Village a success at both Parkview and Northview concession sites. Approximately 55 of you volunteered your time at one site or the other and a few worked at both sites. The weather cooperated and there was a good crowd of shoppers who were eager to stop for a few minutes for something to eat and/or drink. Between the two sites, Ankeny Christian Church raised about \$3,600.00 with the two sites each bringing in about half of that amount. The Parkview profits will go toward mission projects and the Northview profits will go to the general fund. In addition to this, each site had a donation jar with the proceeds going toward the 2020 youth mission trip. That total was \$257.00. A special thank you to Ankeny Christian Childcare for donating the cinnamon rolls and to Casey's for donating the doughnuts. Also, thank you to those who provided the pans of Scotcheroos and especially to Lisa Duffy and Lori Leach for baking all 240 cinnamon rolls. So, thank you again to all who donated their time and energy to this fundraiser, not only for ACC but also for being a part of this community effort to provide funding for the Ankeny Art Center.

Justin Breckenridge and Lori Reynolds
Steve and Georgene Raver

Winter Weather Notification Procedures:

Winter weather is going to arrive (hopefully later than sooner) again this year. Whether to have church activities or not is the decision made by the pastors and Church Council President. We **try** to make that decision two or more hours prior to the church activity. We are working to streamline that process.



Most of us have email. Most of us have a television. All of us have survival instincts!

In the event of cancellation, we notify the 3 big television stations (channel 5, 8, 13) allowing them to post on the “running cancellations.” We believe that most members will be watching cancellation developments in the comfort and safety of their home.

We are working on an email delivery system that allows one “group” contact that can be done remotely. This would also be delivered at the same time the decision is made to cancel an activity.

We realize that there are members who need a phone call directly. This is the least desirable as it is very manpower intense. This should ONLY be for those that are not accessible through the other two means.

Lastly, if you are NOT comfortable traveling no matter what the weather situation, DON'T!

That given, please assure we have all your updated information (email, telephone number(s), and address) at the church office.

Arnie

From the Council

Sound system upgrades: Conversation continues regarding the upgrading of our audio/visual system in the sanctuary. As previously mentioned, our present system is expiring. Our sprint committee is obtaining some bids and we will continue to move this project forward.

Our Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) will be revealed on December 8 after our service. This is an opportunity for members of ACC to learn our results. This will be presented by Diane McClanahan. A special thanks to all who participated in the survey. We had 106 responses which is an outstanding response for a congregation of our size.

Our Annual business meeting will be held after our December 8 service. We will have our worship service (annual Cantata), a fellowship break to return to the sanctuary for our business meeting and Diane’s presentation.

Arnie

December Worship Series

December 1, 2019

Prepare Him Room:

Hopeful Joy

Isaiah 2: 1-5

December 8, 2019

Repeat the Sounding Joy:

Loving Joy

Psalms 98

December 15, 2019

Make the Blessings Known:

Unabashed Joy

Luke 1: 46b-55

December 22, 2019

Make the Nations Prove:

Peaceful Joy

Matthew 1: 18-25

December 24, 2019

The Lord is Come:

Incarinate Joy

Luke 2: 1-20

John 1: 1-14

December 29, 2019

Wonders of His Love:

Compassionate Joy

Matthew 2: 13-23

From Pastor Alison

Children's Christmas Program: Straw and Order!



This year our children and youth will be performing a musical program called "Straw and Order"! We will have some great acting, songs to sing along to, plenty of laughs, and lots of great and amazing talent!

The performance will be on Wednesday, December 18th beginning with a soup supper from 6:00 – 6:45 p.m. and the program from 6:45 – 7:30 p.m.

Rehearsals will be as follows:

Sunday, December 1 - 8:30 - 9:15 a.m.

Wednesday, December 4 - 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 8 - 8:30 - 9:15 a.m.

Wednesday, December 11 - 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 15 - 8:30 - 9:15 a.m.

Wednesday, December 18 - Performance

Please note that all Sunday morning rehearsals, during Sunday School hour, will either be held in rooms 2 and 3 or in the gym; Wednesday evening rehearsals will be held in the Sanctuary.

As you may have noticed, Wednesday rehearsals are over Mid-Week Mayhem times. Rehearsals will be the MWM activity for those weeks leading up to the performance. Our performance will also serve as our monthly all-church gathering instead of holding a traditional Second Wednesday event.

We will need volunteers to bring soup, salad, desserts, and drinks for our soup supper before the performance. Keep an eye out for sign-up sheets in the coming weeks!

We hope you will join us for this wonderful program to get us all in the Christmas spirit!

Coming up in December



Blue Christmas Tuesday, December 10, 2019 7pm

While many meet this time of year with joy and excitement, the cries of "Merry Christmas" contrast with the feelings of some at this time of year. For those suffering from the recent or impending death of loved ones, dealing with recent separation or divorce, struggling to find employment, or facing depression or family crisis, or even just the pressures that often come with the season, this can be a very isolated and dreary time. We recognize that a lot of Christmas celebrations do not meet everyone's needs. This service will honor where on the feeling spectrum people find themselves. We will make space for healing and hope and together we will bear each others' burdens. We will be, with them, light in the darkness.



Christmas Eve Services

Wednesday, December 24th at 7pm

And

Wednesday, December 24th at 11pm

Coming up in December

Holiday Giving Opportunities

Each year we have the opportunity to share with the community and our congregation.

The tree in the entry is not decorated with traditional objects; however, you may participate in decorating it by covering the branches with mittens, gloves, scarves, hats as well as socks and underwear in any size and hygiene items for any age. Quilts, blankets and cleaning supplies are also always appreciated. Place gifts either on or under the tree.

The “Giving Tree” banner is on the wall beside the Pastor’s office door and has stickers on it indicating items that are needed by various committees. Our assisting with these needs allows the committees to use their budgeted finances for other projects and we all win. Remove as many suggestion stickers as you desire. The items may be placed under the large tree in the sanctuary. If you prefer to provide funds to purchase all or part of an item, please place the donation with an indication of its purpose in the offering.

TAKE (the Ankeny Klothng Exchange) sponsors a Christmas Room of new or gently used gift items for any age. The room is monitored to control usage in order to serve as many persons as possible. Feel free to donate whatever seems appropriate. Encourage your family and acquaintances to visit and shop at TAKE and utilize this opportunity to add blessings to the holiday at no cost. Contact Pat Fliger for information or place your donations in the coat room and they will be delivered to TAKE. The Christmas Room operates December 2nd through December. TAKE is open 9:30-11:30 daily and the second Saturday of each month. ACC leads Ankeny in it’s support of TAKE throughout the year.

Thank you in advance for your contributions and support of these and other mission projects available during the year.

The Missions Committee

It’s Cantata Time!!!

“Come and See, Go and Tell”

Sunday, December 8th at 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School News

During the month of December the Sunday School hour is a bit different. Here is what our schedule looks like for the month:

All children and youth Sunday School time on December 1, 8, and 15 will be dedicated to Christmas Play Rehearsals. Our Adult Bible Study class will continue to meet as usual during those weeks in the Fellowship Hall.

There will be no Sunday School on December 22nd & 29th due to a break for the holidays.

Regular Sunday School programs will continue as regularly scheduled on January 5th.

CHAOS Ensues in December!

Our 6th – 12th grade youth group or CHAOS (Christ Honoring and Others Serving) will be doing many great things within the month of December. Our group typically meets 6:30-8:00 p.m. on Sunday evenings.

December 1st – No CHAOS: Thanksgiving Break

December 8th – Advent Prayer Stations: Join us as we actively participate in the season of Advent through prayer and reflection

December 15th –Annual CHAOS Christmas Party: We will have some holiday fun during our CHAOS time this particular week! We will be playing some Christmas themed games, eating some delicious food, and sharing silly gifts with each other. We hope you can join us!

CHAOS will not meet on December 22nd or December 29th due to the holidays. We will resume normal Sunday evening programming on January 5th.

Keep your eye on the weekly email newsletter for continuing information! If you’re interested in being put on the weekly email newsletter, please email me at alisonaccdoc@gmail.com.

DECEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30a Sunday School and Play Practice 9:30a Worship 1-5p Training 6:30p CHAOS	2 7-8p Cub Scouts	3 9:30-1:30 Office 1:40p Staff Meeting	4 5:30p Choir 6:30p Mayhem	5 9:30-1:30 Office 7-8p Cub Scouts	6 9:30-1:30 Office	7 8a-12p Cantata Practice
8 8:30a Sunday School and play practice 9:30a Cantata 10:30a CAT interpretation 6:30p CHAOS	9	10 9:30-1:30 Office 7p Blue Christmas Service	11 5:30p Choir 6:15p Second Wednesday	12 9:30-1:30 Office 5:30-7:30p Private Event	13 9:30-1:30 Office	14
15 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Worship 10:30a Congregational Meeting 11a Council Meeting 6:30p CHAOS	16 9:30-1:30 Office 7-8 Cub Scouts	17 9:30-1:30 Office 1:40p Connections Team Meeting	18 9:30-1:30 Office 6p Soup Supper 6:45p Children's Christmas Program	19 7-8 Cub Scouts	20	21 2-8p Private Event
22 9:30a Worship 12p Newsletter articles due	23 9:30-1:30 Office	24 7p Christmas Eve Service 11p Christmas Eve Service	25	26	27 9:30-1:30 Office	28
29 9:30a Worship	30	31 9:30-1:30 Office				



- 3 Andrew Rawson
4 Chuck Fausch
Toviel Cayton
5 Pat Morton
David Rawson
6 Jan Marshall
Missy Stoa
7 John Sayre
8 Thomas Cox
14 Tabitha Brandenburg
15 Tim Kalvig
16 Ethan Hauschildt
17 Bev Lancaster
18 Grace Porath
Jerry Woods
23 Gladys Sawyer
24 Felix Garcia
28 Madilyn Shreffler
30 Mary St. Clair
Elian Cayton



22 Will & Barb Bates

The calendar on the website is updated and will continue to be updated, so please feel free to utilize that tool for things like youth groups, Bible studies, retreats and more. If you notice something is missing, please let Melissa know and she will gladly get it added.
www.accdoc.org

If you forgot to pick up a newsletter, have no fear!

The current and past newsletters are available to read on our website.

www.accdoc.org

The next newsletter due date is noon on Sunday, December 22nd. If you have articles done early, I always appreciate getting a jump start, so don't hesitate to send them in!