



May 2020 Newsletter

Here's what you will find in this issue:

- May Worship Series and introduction to the new series
- Worship Links
- Link to ACC Google Calendar
- Pastor Owen's Note with an additional article
- Youth and Children News from Pastor Alison
- Birthdays/Anniversaries
- Online Giving Link



May 3

Acts 2:42-47

Your Mission, Should You Choose to Accept it
is to Dare to Be a People of Resurrection

May 10

Acts 7:55-60

Your Mission, Should You Choose to Accept it
is to Forgive

May 17

John 15:15-21

Your Mission, Should You Choose to Accept it
is to Give AND Receive

May 24

Title and Text TBD

**New Worship Series:
An Out of the Box,
Out of the Building Church,
begins for Pentecost**



May 31st

1 Corinthians 12:3-13

It's In Every One Of Us

Facebook Link

YouTube Link

Worship services will continue to be live streamed only on Sunday morning at 10 a.m. at this time. 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 above to choose which link fits your needs best.

May 2020 Calendar Link

Google Calendar

Pastor Owen's Note

“Did you know that an Enchanted Forest is a place of transformation? I have no idea what that means, but I can't wait to see what it's going to do to each one of us.”

– Olaf, Frozen II

“Simon Peter said to them, ‘I am going fishing.’
They said to him, ‘We will go with you.’”

– John 21:3a

For about 2 ½ years, the disciples had been on a whirlwind tour with Jesus, going this way and that, building up admiration for him, learning from him, finding life and peace in his presence. Suddenly it comes to a crashing end. Jesus is arrested, tried, and crucified over the course of a mere 2 days. Then, that Sunday, Mary meets the risen Christ outside the garden tomb where he is supposed to be buried. That night, Jesus appears to the remaining disciples, sans Thomas, and a week later appears to all of them.

The disciples' minds must be spinning. Their lives have been turned completely upside down, and everything has happened so quickly – even 2 ½–3 years is not particularly long in a lifetime! They are, to put the word I used on Sunday to it, discombobulated.

What do people tend to do when they are discombobulated; when minds are spinning? They go back to what they know. For the disciples in the gospel of John, chapter 21, this means they go home, to Galilee. And for Peter, it means going fishing.

Things have happened so fast over the past few weeks...even though it feels like time is moving at a snail's pace. More than that, though, many of us have had to let go of things, maybe even things

we were holding onto, counting on: vacations, graduations, being present at births, surgeries, as loved ones went in and out of the hospital, being there when someone dies – to hold their hand and let them know they aren't alone, seeing grandchildren and great grandchildren.

But the world is different. We are different.

The disciples had been transformed by their time with Jesus. The disciples have changed so much, they have forgotten how to be fishermen...or at least they don't catch anything. We are changed in different ways by our time with social distancing and isolation.

Jesus then calls to them from the shore: "y'all caught anything yet?" Peter calls back in and says "No", in what I am sure is in less than a calm, conversational voice – maybe he even used a few words that the author of the gospel of John didn't feel were...well...biblical. Then Jesus offers the friendly suggestion (which I'm sure was well received...I've always gotten the sense that there is more to the story than is written), "Have you tried putting the net on the other side of the boat?"

Of course they do...and they catch a lot of fish; 153 John tells us.

The world is different. They are different.

When change happens, even if it is for the better, we must grieve what has been lost. You take a better job...you grieve having to leave your co-workers. You move to a new house, you grieve the loss of your neighbors. Grieving the things we have lost in this moment in time is appropriate and good.

At the same time, just like in this story, there is always a tension between grieving and moving on...because both happen simultaneously. It is never – hey let's get done grieving so we can move on, or you just need to move on so you can stop grieving. It is a both/and sort of thing. The loss of the old and the claiming of the new happen at the same time and we feel the struggle – especially when we don't know exactly what the 'new' is finally going to look like.

I invite you to ponder in these moments these questions: What are you trying to cling to? What are you doing differently? How are grief and moving on in tension in your life in this season?

Shalom,
Pastor Owen

Sabbatical Postponed

In consultation with the Executive Committee and the Sabbatical Planning Team, I have decided to postpone my sabbatical, originally scheduled for June 15 –September 15

of this year. Over the course of the past two months the major experiences I had planned for my time of rest and renewal have been cancelled, National and State Parks are currently closed for camping with no planned open date, and retreat centers are not scheduling times with so many unknowns. I am concerned that taking sabbatical at this time would create as much anxiety for me in pulling away from my work with the congregation as there would be rest and renewal. In addition, at some point the congregation will begin moving back into our worship space and occupying our building. I would very much like to be a part of that, as I miss everyone, too! At this point, I have not determined an exact date, but my sabbatical would not occur until 2021. I will continue working with the Executive Committee and the Sabbatical Planning Team to set dates and plans for the congregation while I am gone. I remain grateful and hopeful for this gift and the opportunity to take some deep breaths, filling my Spirit and renewing my energy for ministry. It will simply have to be at a later time. I also remain grateful to serve Ankeny Christian Church alongside so many good, thoughtful, and prayerful leaders.

Shalom,
Pastor Owen

Youth and Children News from Pastor Alison



MidWeek Mayhem and CHAOS to Resume Through May

Both MidWeek Mayhem and CHAOS will continue to meet at their regularly scheduled times on Zoom! Each week through the month of May both groups will do a bit of checking in and a game. Our schedules in a pre-COVID world ended towards the beginning - middle of the month, but have been extended! Wahoo!

This will hopefully add a bright spot in your week as we see one another and have some fun!

Youth Mission Trip Update

All of us have been keeping track of the coronavirus and how it will affect us - our communities, our world, our businesses that we love, our families, and last but certainly not least our church community. As we move through these strange times, I have been paying particular attention to what the spread of this virus might mean for our youth and summer programming.

Originally I had hoped that we would be able to go to St. Louis, Missouri for some service learning within the community during June 28 - July 4th. After much prayer and extensive discussion and consultation with others, ACC's executive committee and I have decided that for the safety and health of our youth and sponsors that our youth group will not be going to St. Louis this summer.

Some good news: Just because this decision has been made does not mean that our youth will not have any mission trip experiences this summer. We have a unique and new opportunity to serve our community in different and fun ways! I am placing all of my energy towards this potential and am looking forward to finding exactly what that might be. I am teaming up with other ministers in our area so that together we can dream about ways that we can still safely do service learning right here in our own community and make it a great experience for everyone.

Our new opportunity for a mission week is still unfolding and for now, the youth and I would love your prayers for all of the youth, our seniors, and the ministers planning this event as we navigate through this unknown and as we dream about the potential for this service-learning week within our community.

Christianity was created in uncertain times! Big things happen in the in-between and I am hopeful that we can create something so good as we venture into the unknown together!



Celebrating All Graduates!

As you all know, we normally have a Graduate Sunday in May during which we recognize our seniors and those that have graduated with a gift, a blessing, and a cake reception. This year that Sunday was scheduled for May 17th. While we will not be meeting in person on this Sunday, we still plan to recognize our graduates on May 17th but it will look a bit different!

If you know of someone affiliated with the church who graduated this December, or who will be graduating this Spring, please provide Pastor Alison at alisonaccdoc@gmail.com with their name, where they are graduating from, what their future plans entail, and at least one picture so that we can recognize their hard work!

If you are a high school senior (or if you're a graduate that would like to participate!), please include the following:

- A baby photo
- An elementary/junior high photo
- A picture of them doing an activity that they love
- Senior photo

PARENTS OF SENIORS: We'd like for you to send in a baby photo of you as well! We'll be doing a fun competition with the photos on our Facebook page the week before our Graduation Sunday on May 17th.

Please note that we do intend to do a recognition,

blessing, and cake reception for our graduates in-person during worship as soon as we are able to safely meet back at church and can get it on the calendar.

Thanks in advance! We can't wait to celebrate you, graduates!

Birthdays in May

2 Mason Hanley
3 Tara Baldwin
7 Cheryl Jass
9 Madison Mann
14 Martha DeVries
Karen Fausch
15 Ruth Baker
Pat Sommerfeld
Kayla Harris
17 Sam Johnson
31 Frances Johnson
Paul Lamont
Zach Narwold
Patrice Sayre
Maya St. Clair

May Anniversaries

14 Tyler & Lisa Vroegh
20 Dan & Pat Fliger
21 Dave & Karla Rice
25 Paul & Linda Lamont
30 Ken & Sherry Johnson

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
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