

# January Encounter

Ankeny Presbyterian Church, 317 SE Trilein Dr, Ankeny, IA 50021  
Phone: 515-964-0264

## **A Word from Pastor Eric - January 2025**

Happy New Year! As we enter 2025, I am hopeful and excited about the journey ahead. January is a time to reflect on the past year and to open our hearts to whatever God has in store for us in the coming months.

## **Reflecting on 2024**

The past year was a good one for APC. We continued our relationship with the Corozal Community in El Salvador and held a successful Soup and Pie Lunch and Auction to benefit that ministry. We also sponsored a Summer Day Camp, the Love Lunches program, and our annual Trunk or Treat event. Multiple Bible studies enriched the lives of participants, and monthly potluck meals enhanced our fellowship. In addition, we made several improvements to our facility including the elimination of a leaky skylight and the construction of a solar power system that will reduce both our electric bills and our carbon footprint. Our members have been very faithful supporters of Christ's ministry through APC and we ended the year in a good financial position. As always, weekly worship has been at the center of our life together.

## **Looking Ahead**

This year we are in a good position to move forward in mission and ministry. We remain committed to our long-term mission partners and are investigating ways of more effectively serving in our neighborhood and beyond. Our Outreach Committee has begun work with a marketing specialist to help us reach new people with our message. Our worship, discipleship, and fellowship ministries are poised to continue their work, and fine-tune their potential for connecting with people and changing lives. We are also in the process of setting up a new system to make it easier for folks to join meetings and classes remotely via Zoom and a device called "The Meeting Owl". One of the things I personally hope to work on this year is finding ways all our ministries can work together as vehicles for outreach, mission, and spiritual growth – and especially how they can do so by bringing generations together, instead of separating them. (This is something I'm still reading and praying about, so please pardon me if that seems vague).

Whether it is through prayer, worship, study, service, or fellowship, this year will give us the opportunity to draw closer to God and to one another!

## **Closing Thoughts**

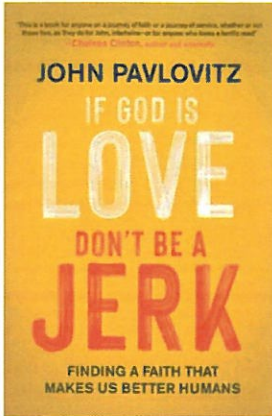
In closing, I want to express my gratitude for each of you. Your faith, dedication, and love are what make our church a true family. Let us enter 2025 with hearts full of hope and a steadfast commitment to seeking God's will. May this year be one of growth, renewal, and abundant blessings for all.

Your Companion on the Journey,

Pastor Eric

## BIBLE STUDIES AT APC

### NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TOPIC



Pastor Eric will lead a video-based series on the book, “If God is Love, Don’t Be a Jerk.” The class will take place on Sundays at 10:50 am in the Library, beginning January 19. There are eighteen videos, so the class will continue through the Winter and Spring, with days off for holidays and special occasions.

About the book...

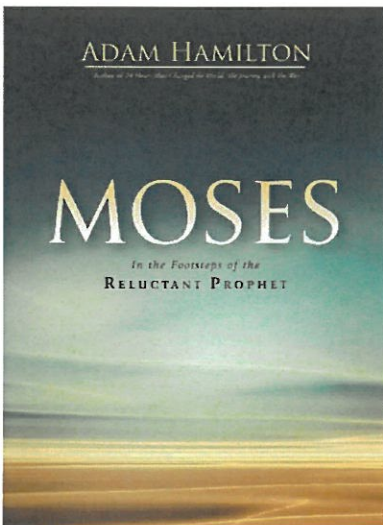
***Thou shalt not be horrible.***

*Imagine for a moment what the world might look like if we as people of faith, morality, and conscience aspired to this mantra. What if we were fully burdened to create a world that was more loving and equitable than when we arrived? What if we invited one another to share in wide-open, fearless, spiritual communities truly marked by compassion and interdependence?*

*In If God Is Love, Don't Be a Jerk, John Pavlovitz examines the bedrock ideas of our religion: the existence of hell, the utility of prayer, the way we treat LGBTQ people, the value of anger, and other doctrines to help all of us take a good, honest look at how the beliefs we hold can shape our relationships with God and our fellow humans—and to make sure that love has the last, loudest word.*

*The book is available from Amazon.*

### 2025 MONDAY & WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY



Beginning January 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> the Monday and Wednesday afternoon Bible study groups will begin a six-week study of Moses. We’ll be using the video and book, *Moses, In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet*, written by Adam Hamilton.

In this study, Hamilton intersperses travel descriptions with historical, archaeological and scriptural information. He says he hope this will make Egypt vivid and bring the story of Moses to life. In the videos that go with the book chapters viewers will be able to see key locations associated with Moses’ story. There’s also maps, photographs and illustrations of many of the places.

If you think you’d like to know more about Moses as we study and fellowship together, please join us on either Monday or Wednesday afternoons at 1:00 p.m. in the church Library. If you’d like to order a book contact Mary Ellen Fischer at [echobase49@hotmail.com](mailto:echobase49@hotmail.com) or call her at 712-830-2242. If you have questions or would like more information about these two study groups contact Coleen Myers at [coleenmike@msn.com](mailto:coleenmike@msn.com) or call her at 319-325-4785.



# AMOS Organizing for Justice Training

Join us for a 2-day training over Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend to learn how relational organizing can help you grow as a public person, strengthen your organization, and make real change in your community.

*Informed by lessons from the Civil Rights Movement, this organizing training will focus on skills for effective justice work today.*



## FRIDAY, JANUARY 17

5:30 - 8 PM

*Dinner included*

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

9 AM - 4 PM

*Lunch included*

## Walnut Hills United Methodist Church

12321 Hickman Rd, Urbandale



## COST

Members of AMOS institutions: \$35

Non-members: \$45

*Scholarships available*

REGISTER BY JANUARY 10, 2025

<https://bit.ly/amos012025>



 AMOS | A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy



AMOS is a broad-based organization of faith congregations, neighborhood groups, and nonprofits working together to develop citizen leaders, strengthen community institutions, and advocate the issues important to families. Together, AMOS leaders are working to build relationships across lines of race, income, citizenship status, geography, and religion in Des Moines and surrounding suburbs, Ames, and rural Dallas, Polk, Story, and Warren counties. APC is a member of this organization.

### Upcoming Event

- **Jan. 7th 5:30-8:00 PM - Mini Retreat** at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Ankeny. Celebrate & reflect on the impactful work and relationships built in 2024; discuss the organization's vision for 2025. Dinner provided.



**Mark your calendar – Sunday, January 12, 2025, 10:45am  
at APC in the Library!**

**Rev Gary Hanson, Executive Director**, will join us after worship to share the ministry of **Cross Outreach**. Cross Outreach's mission focuses on preventing homelessness and providing financial assistance and other basic survival needs for people in crisis. APC supports Cross Outreach through an annual pledge. Learn more about Cross Outreach at: <https://crossoutreachdm.org/>



### IOWA HOMELESS YOUTH CENTER

**Thank you!** For your support of this ministry!

Each month APC delivers a home cooked meal to the Center. **The meal for January will be chili, chips, fresh veggies, fruit and brownies** will

be delivered to the Youth Center on Monday, January 13. Sign-up sheet for food contributions is on the Mission table.



In addition, the Center is always in need of the following items:

- Undergarments and socks (adult sizes)
- New or gently used clothing, suitable for work or school- adult sizes
- Hygiene products (shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shaving supplies)
- Feminine hygiene products
- Laundry detergent
- Bedding
- towels

Donations may be placed in the designated bin next to the Mission table. Direct any questions, or suggestions to Carla Yeager at (515) 669-8620 or [yeagercc@msn.com](mailto:yeagercc@msn.com)



## Thank you!

Thank you for all the lovely gifts, cards, and food, they are all appreciated! Your kindness makes the Christmas season special and makes APC a great place to work.

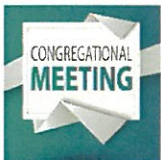
The APC Staff:

Pastor Eric, Karisa, Kris, Nancy and Connor

### JANUARY VACATION TIMES

Pastor Eric and Karisa will be on vacation from January 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> and Kris will be on vacation from January 15<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>.

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



There will be a congregational meeting in the sanctuary following worship on Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, to vote on the Pastoral Terms of Call for 2025.



**De-Decorate:** After the Congregational Meeting on January 5<sup>th</sup>, we will be taking down the decorations and putting them into storage. "Many hands make light work." Pizza will be served afterwards.

### CHURCH DIRECTORY

We will be updating the church directory in January, please notify the office of any changes or corrections in addresses, telephone number or other information and you may also update your picture. If you would like a new picture taken Jane Middents would be glad to take one for you. Please have the changes submitted to the office by January 8, 2025, to

office@ankenypresbyterian.org. Thank you!

Kris Jackson, Administrative Assistant

### APC TRIVIA NIGHT



January 19th at 5:30 p.m. Instead of our monthly potluck we will have a fun-filled night of Trivia. Teams of 8 or less will compete for prizes and bragging rights. Teams may be formed ahead of time OR just come and see who you end up with. Bring finger-food snacks to share with all. Drinks will be provided. Put it on your calendar!

### HELPING HANDS FOOD PANTRY BOX



Cold weather and freezing temps provide a big challenge filling the Helping Hands box located in our APC driveway.

Please **DO NOT** place canned goods in the box when temperatures overnight drop below freezing. If you see metal cans in the box that wouldn't be removed shortly by a guest, please bring them inside the church and place them in the designated DMARC Food Pantry cabinet.

Here are some suggestions for helpful items to stock the box over the winter:

- Vegetable oil
- Personal items, e.g. soap, shampoo etc.
- Dry soup mixes
- Female hygiene supplies
- Dry milk
- Diapers — size 4 or larger
- Cereal or Oatmeal
- Wipes
- Pasta
- Cleaning products
- Hamburger Helper
- Paper products, e.g. toilet paper, tissues, paper towels, trash bags
- Dry beans or rice
- Tortillas
- Warm hats, gloves, socks (any size)
- Pancake mix/syrup
- Tuna in foil packs
- Bread items
- Meat items OK depending on temps

Thank you for supporting our local neighbors in need! Items can go directly into the box when space allows or inside the food pantry cabinets in the church entries.





## DECEMBER CAROLERS

Thank you to all the carolers who participated in singing to members and nursing homes.

## CONGRATULATION APC ON 60 YEARS!

That is quite an achievement to reach out to so many people to guide them in their spiritual like and I'm glad to have been one of them. I've never felt so at home since leaving my original church. You're a hard church to live up to. I know all of you will continue to do God's work in your own individual ways. May you all go with God!

Phyllis Christensen

## QUILTERS & CRAFTERS



To My Dear Sisters in Christ,  
Thanks so much for being at my party and for the amazing Cricut Joy Cutter. It was so thoughtful of you and so generous. You helped

make my 70<sup>th</sup> birthday very special! I value your friendship and thank you very much.

Love, Sue Tomlinson



Thank you to all who have prayed, sent cards and reached out to us during Gary's recent hip replacement surgery. We truly appreciate it!! Recovery is going well. Hope to see you all soon! Merry Christmas from our

house to yours!! Gary Shivvers

## JANUARY HOSPITALITY

### **GREETERS:**

5<sup>th</sup>: Ron & Sue Faerber, Audrey Kobus  
12<sup>th</sup>: Sam & Heather Housker, Marge Hennings  
19<sup>th</sup>: Mark & Marcia McAdoo, Jean Campbell  
26<sup>th</sup>: Dale & Jan Smith Ken Nelson

### **USHERS:**

5<sup>th</sup>: Dan & Brenda Hucka  
12<sup>th</sup>: Ken & Myrna Rummer  
19<sup>th</sup>: Ken Nelson and Pam Slippy  
26<sup>th</sup>: Gary & Mary Weeks

### **WORSHIP LEADER:**

5<sup>th</sup>: Alice White  
12<sup>th</sup>: Karen Miller  
19<sup>th</sup>: Renee McClendon  
26<sup>th</sup>: Mark McAdoo

### **WELCOME DESK:**

Marge Hennings  
12<sup>th</sup>: Ken Nelson  
19<sup>th</sup>: Chris Wehrman  
26<sup>th</sup>: Jo DeHart

### **HOME COMMUNION:**

Nadine Greiman - Audrey Kobus and Jan Klinker  
Allyn Lamp - Gary and Janie Owens  
Sonya Maxwell - Jerry and Kathy Brown  
Joyce McCloud - Mary Weeks and Carla Yaeger  
Al & Cathy Overbaugh - Bonnie McCaughey and Alice White  
Verne & Kelly Murray - John and Jane Middents  
Emily Wycoff - Lola Peters and Marge Hennings

## CELEBRATIONS

### **BIRTHDAYS**

4<sup>th</sup>: Mary Selby  
5<sup>th</sup>: Midge Slater  
5<sup>th</sup>: Julie Nurnberg  
5<sup>th</sup>: Susan Turnbull  
8<sup>th</sup>: Lori Lawson  
8<sup>th</sup>: Jay Vander Wilt  
16<sup>th</sup>: Adda Morris  
16<sup>th</sup>: Jill Vander Wilt  
23<sup>rd</sup>: Emmett Taylor  
26<sup>th</sup>: Coleen Myers  
27<sup>th</sup>: Linda Wehage  
30<sup>th</sup>: Vanessa Frimpong  
31<sup>st</sup>: Kris Jackson

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

4<sup>th</sup>: Pastor Eric & Karisa Pasanchin  
6<sup>th</sup>: Rick & Del Konopka

# January 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			<b>Happy New Year!</b> Office Closed	9:00-11:00am Office Hours 9:00am Quilters & Crafters 6:30pm Optimist Group	Office Closed	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:30am Worship/ Communion 10:30 Congregational Meeting De-Decorate/Pizza	9:00am-2:00pm Office Hours 9:00am Morning Bible Study 1:00pm Afternoon Bible Study 6:30pm Scouts 7:00pm Mission Comm Mtg	9:00am-2:00pm Office Hours 1:00pm Yoga 2:30pm Gentle Yoga 5:30pm AMOS @ Resurrection Church, Ankeny	9:00am-2:00pm Office Hours 11:30am Congregational Life Comm Mtg 1:00pm Afternoon Bible Study 6:30pm Adult Choir 7:30pm Men's Bible Study	Office Closed 10:00am Wellness Comm Mtg 5:00pm Iowa Youth Choir 7:00pm Ankeny Comm Chorus	Office Closed	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:30am Worship 10:45am Cross Outreach: Guest Speaker	9:00am-2:00pm Office Hours IHYS Meal 9:00am Morning Bible Study 1:00pm Afternoon Bible Study 6:30pm Scouts 7:00pm Session	9:00am-2:00pm Office Hours 1:00pm Yoga 2:30pm Gentle Yoga	<b>Kris on Vacation</b> 9:00am-11:00pm Office Hours 1:00pm Afternoon Bible Study 5:30pm Worship Comm Mtg 6:30pm Adult Choir 7:30pm Men's Bible Study	8:30am Facilities Comm Mtg 9:00-11:00am Office Hours 9:00am Quilters & Crafters 5:00pm Iowa Youth Choir 7:00pm Ankeny Comm Chorus	Office Closed 5:30pm AMOS @ Walnut Hills	
19	20	21	22	23	26	25
9:30am Worship 10:50am Bible Study 5:30pm Trivia Night	<b>Kris on Vacation</b> 9:00-11:00am Office Hours 9:30am PW Bible Study 1:00pm Afternoon Bible Study 6:30pm Scouts 7:00pm Deacons	<b>Kris on Vacation</b> 9:00-11:00am Office Hours 1:00pm Yoga 2:30pm Gentle Yoga 5:00pm Discipleship Comm Mtg	9:00am-2:00pm Office Hours 1:00pm Afternoon Bible Study 6:30pm Adult Choir 7:30pm Men's Bible Study	9:00-2:00pm Office Hours 5:00pm Iowa Youth Choir 7:00pm Ankeny Comm Chorus	Office Closed	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
9:30am Worship 10:50am Bible Study	<b>Encounter Deadline</b> 9:00am-2:00pm Office Hours 9:00am Morning Bible Study 1:00pm Afternoon Bible Study 6:30pm Scouts 7:00pm Outreach Comm Mtg	9:00am-2:00pm Office Hours 1:00pm Yoga 2:30pm Gentle Yoga	9:00am-11:00am Office Hours 1:00pm Afternoon Bible Study 6:30pm Adult Choir 7:30pm Men's Bible Study	9:00-11:00am Office Hours 5:00pm Iowa Youth Choir 7:00pm Ankeny Comm Chorus	Office Closed	