

Encounter March 2025

Ankeny Presbyterian Church
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A Word from Pastor Eric

Embracing Lent

As we enter the sacred season of Lent, we are invited to embark on a journey of reflection, repentance, and renewal. Lent is a time for us to pause and consider the depth of God's grace and the self-giving love of Jesus Christ. It is a season that calls us to examine our hearts, to commit to following our Lord more fully, and to draw closer to our Creator.

Lent is often associated with giving up certain comforts or indulgences. While the practice of self-denial can be helpful if approached in a prayerful way, it is important to remember that the true purpose of Lent is not sacrifice. It is to grow in intimacy with God. This is a time to give our souls what they need to grow, whether by giving up an activity or adding a new spiritual practice. Spiritual growth is much like cultivating a garden. There are times when you must pull some weeds. At other times, your garden may need additional nourishment. During Lent, we each discern what our spiritual garden needs to continue healthy growth. It might be that we need to eliminate an unhelpful behavior. Then again, we might benefit from including some a new form of study, prayer, devotion, meditation, or service.

Whatever the needs of your individual soul, let us all focus on acts of kindness, generosity, and compassion. By doing so, we not only emulate Jesus, but we also bring joy and hope to those around us. Remember that Lent is more than a time to say "no" to selfish indulgence. It is a time to say "yes" to abundant life in union with Christ.

As we journey through these forty days, let us embrace the opportunity to deepen our faith and renew our commitment to living as disciples of Jesus. May we find joy in the journey, knowing that it brings us closer to the heart of God.

Your Companion on the Journey,

Pastor Eric

MISSIONS



LOVE LUNCHES

APC will be hosting Love Lunches again this summer and looking for a Site Supervisors. They need two Site Supervisors daily, and they oversee the operations for the day. If anyone is interested, please contact Ron Faerber at 573-999-2508 or email at ron.ferber@gmail.com.



The AMOS Ankeny Cluster cordially invites you to the following event:

Community Forum: Supporting Students and Schools to Improve Behavior and Engagement

When: March 30, 2-3:30pm

Where: Christian Life Center (Ankeny First United Methodist), 710 NE 36th Street, Ankeny

Who should come: Ankeny parents, students, teachers, grandparents, and others who care about Ankeny schools

What to expect: information about Ankeny Schools, information about the cell phone policy effects from Superintendent Dr. Pruitt, and small group conversations for you to share your experiences

Childcare will be provided for children up to age 12; must be toilet trained

Register here: [Community Forum Registration](#)

The Ankeny area AMOS organization, a community organizing group that co-hosted the Ankeny School Board Candidate Forum in 2023, wants to learn more about the challenges facing students, parents, educators, and school staff so that together we can build stronger schools for our community. Teams from AMOS have interviewed Ankeny School District administrators, teachers, staff members, former teachers, students and parents over the past year to gather information that might assist the District in its continuing effort to be one of the best in Iowa.

We've heard about technology challenges, behavior intervention strategies, and resource development. Now, we want to hear from you: what do you or your children experience in the Ankeny Schools? What are our common experiences of success or frustration? How could we work together to make the ACSD an even better place to learn and work?

Join us for a community forum and conversation, with a presentation from Dr. Pruitt, ACSD Superintendent. All are welcome, so please spread the word!

Ankeny AMOS <https://www.amosiowa.org/>

COROZAL PARTNERSHIP

Our Annual Soup & Pie fundraiser on February 16th was a great success! Thank you to everyone who contributed your precious time, incredible talents, and resources toward raising funds for our partnership with Corozal, El Salvador. The silent auction offered some fabulous hand-crafted items as well as very generous entertainment opportunities. The soups and pies were all delicious! Congratulations to Dave Lawson on his first place in the Soup Challenge! Together, we raised nearly \$11,000 as of this writing. Funds have already been sent to the Pastoral Team to purchase fertilizer for our Corozal families for spring planting. We will have additional funds available to continue with other development projects for their community.

Here's some other APC-funded projects already underway in Corozal:

The community is installing a chain-link fence surrounding their fútbol (soccer) field. This will protect the field from wandering animals and improve the space for community members to gather and play sports. The project involves many community members working together in fence construction, which is great to see.

Improvements like this are very good for the morale of the community. Cost fencing materials: \$8,777 + \$600 transport

In December, each of our partner families received 4 plastic chairs (as they had requested) to use in their homes. A small packet of medicines was also provided each family, including cold medicines for adults and children, acetaminophen, antibiotics, antidiarrheal meds, alcohol wipes, and vitamins. Cost chairs for 38 families: \$1156 + \$896 for medicine packets

Concrete flooring is being installed in their community building, a pole-building with corrugated metal roof and partial side walls. *APC provided materials for the building in 2015.* Another organization provided part of the funds for flooring, and we were asked to help complete the project. Cost of flooring materials (cement bags, sand, gravel): \$1,655

The weather was particularly harsh in 2024, not enough rain early in the growing season and too much rain at harvest time. The result was nearly total loss of their harvest, the corn and beans they grow to feed their families. APC stepped up to provide beans for our Corozal families to eat. Cost \$900 (\$25 per family)

Thank you for your generous support our long-time partners in Corozal. Keep them in your prayers – they also pray for you!

Corozal fence under construction Feb 2025



Soup Challenge Contest

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
 SPECIAL OFFERINGS
 HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) — Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People — all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Received during the season of Lent (March 5 – April 20), each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God’s love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. One Great Hour of Sharing makes a difference in the world.



PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (PDA)	PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM (PHP)	SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE (SDOP)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters, and support for refugees • Receives 32% of funds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation, and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed • Receives 36% of funds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invests in communities responding to their experiences of oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues • Receives 32% of fund

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be collected during worship on Palm Sunday, April 13th. Please prayerfully consider giving to this Special Offering. If you wish to give electronically, you may do so by texting OGHS to 91999 or online at pcusa.org/give-oghs.

YOUR IMPACT

Restoring Hope, Feeding the Hungry, Empowering the Oppressed

Thank you for your generosity:



60 deodorant items were delivered to Northwest Elementary to support their school wide mission project.

Over 30 winter clothing items were delivered to the students at East and Southeast Elementary Schools.



IOWA HOMELESS YOUTH CENTER

*"We always get great meals for Ankeny Presbyterian.
Thank you!"...IHYC*



Thank you! to everyone who contributed to the meal that was delivered to the Youth Center in February! We get notes of appreciation every month for the meals that we provide.

The meal for October will be meatloaf, mashed or party potatoes, buttered corn and dessert. It will be delivered to the Youth Center on Monday, March 17th. Sign-up sheet for food contributions is on the Mission table.

In addition to the meal, any personal care items or clothing placed in the bin beneath the Mission table will also be delivered. The Center seeks donations of the following:

- 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

Contact Carla Yeager at (515) 669-8620 or yeagercc@msn.com.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MOWING



The Facility Committee is looking for volunteers to mow the church lawn this summer and for volunteers to water the flowers. The mowing consists of mowing the large lawn East of the church, we hire the front lawns mowed by an outside vendor. The mowing is scheduled for each week during the spring through fall. Time requirement is approximately two hours 3 to 4 times a summer. If interested, please contact Dave Dirks at 515-971-5972 or davedirks@mchsi.com

LET THE SUNSHINE! APC IS NOW SOLAR POWERED

Our Session approved the installation of solar panels in our under-utilized backyard late last summer. (The east yard has some limitations due to city-mandated stormwater drainage, but a massive amount of sunshine is available). This fall, the panels were installed in the southeast part of the property, with the arrangement facing south to maximize the capture of the sun's rays.

Solar energy will reduce our annual electrical bill so that funds may be better used for service in our neighborhood and beyond. In addition, a federal rebate application has been submitted. If approved, about \$30,000, or a third of the cost of the project, will be returned to APC.

By using solar power, we are deepening our commitment to caring for the environment – which was already evidenced during our renovation with the installation of more efficient heating and air conditioning units and LED lighting. We also monitor our water use so we can identify and repair leaks quickly, avoiding wastage.

As a congregation, we are doing what we can to exercise wise financial and environmental stewardship, setting an example for our visitors and neighbors, as well as investing in the future. Thank you for all you do.



ASH WEDNESDAY

On March 5th at 6:00pm APC will be hosting the United Church of Christ for Ash Wednesday worship service.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



On March 9th there will be a Congregational Meeting following worship for the purpose of electing the next class of ruling elders and deacons.



DAYLIGHT SAVING BEGINS

March 9th daylight savings begins, be sure to turn your clocks ahead one hour.

POTLUCK

Our monthly potluck will be held March 16 at 5:30. The meat will be provided by Dave Lawson so please bring one side to share.

Put on your green and come celebrate St. Patrick's Day with us!



THANK YOU!

Thank you to all those who pledged and contributed to Per Capita.

With appreciation, The Stewardship and Finance Ministry.

MARCH HOSPITALITY

Greeters:

2nd: Rick Ruff & Mary Kleis, Becky Stadlman
5th: Gary & Mary Weeks
9th: Ken & Myrna Rummer, Pam Slippy
16th: Rich & Bonnie McCaughey, Cathy Demoss
23rd: Phil & Shirley Pease, Emily & Noah Wood
30th: Susan Turnbull, Jay & Jill VanderWilt

Ushers:

2nd: Karen & Chuck Miller
5th: Scott & Jane Wood
9th: Gary & Janie Owens
16th: Arnie & Carole Snook
23rd: Rick & Del Konopka
30th: Lee & Alice White

Worship Leader:

2nd: Lee White
5th: Ash Wednesday
9th: Sue Tomlinson
16th: Carla Yeager
23rd: Gary Naylor
30th: Coleen Myers

Welcome Desk:

2nd: Cathy DeMoss
5th: Del Konopka
9th: Mary Weeks
16th: Marge Hennings
23rd: Jo DeHart
30th: Ken Nelson

Home Communion:

Alllyn Lamp - Gary & Janie Owens
Joyce Mc Cloud - Dan & Brenda Hucka
Sonya Maxwell - Jerry & Kathy Brown
Verne & Kelly Murray - Mary Weeks & Carla Yeager
Al & Cathy Overbaugh - John & Jane Middents
Emily Wycoff - Lola Peters & Marge Hennings

BIRTHDAYS

3rd: Dave Dirks
4th: Mary Kleis
4th: Jason Nutt
5th: Lee White
8th: JJ Schraderbacher
9th: Jim Haberichter
9th: Allison Stewart
11th: Will-Nathan Musoro
11th: Myrna Rummer
12th: Stephen Jefferies
12th: Audrey Kobus
12th: Renee McClendon
13th: Kelsey-Faith Abeh
16th: Jo DeHart
17th: Marge Hennings
21st: Rebecca Morris
23rd: Mary Ellen Fischer

NO ANNIVERSARIES!

March 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 9:30am Worship/ Communion 10:50am Bible Study	3 9:00am-2:00pm Office Hours 9:00am Morning Bible Study 1:00pm Afternoon Bible Study 6:30pm Scouts 7:00pm Mission Comm Mtg	4 9:00am-2:00pm Office Hours 1:00pm Yoga 2:00pm Gentle Yoga 6:30pm Finance Comm Mtg	5 Ash Wednesday 9:00am-2:00pm Office Hours 1:00pm Afternoon Bible Study 6:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship	6 8:00am-6:00pm Lifeline Screen 9:00am-11:00am Office Hours 9:00am Quilters & Crafters 10:00am Wellness Comm Mtg 5:00pm Iowa Youth Choir 6:30pm Optimist Group 7:00pm Ankeny Comm. Chorus	7 Office Closed	8
9 Daylight Saving Begins 1st Sunday of Lent 9:30am Worship/ Congregational Mtg 10:50am Bible Study 12:30 Ankeny Comm Chorus: Fellowship Hall 2:00pm Optimist Group: Library	10 9:00am-2:00pm Office Hours 9:00am Morning Bible Study 1:00pm Afternoon Bible Study 6:30pm Scouts 7:00pm Session	11 9:00am-2:00pm Office Hours 1:00pm Yoga 2:00pm Gentle Yoga	12 9:00am-2:00pm Office Hours 10:00am Congregational Life Comm Mtg 1:00pm Afternoon Bible Study 6:30pm Adult Choir 7:30pm Men's Bible Study	13 9:00am-11:00am Office Hours 5:00pm Iowa Youth Choir 7:00pm Ankeny Comm Chorus	14 Office Closed	15
16 2nd Sunday of Lent 9:30 Worship 10:50am Bible Study 5:30pm Potluck	17 9:00am-2:00pm Office Hours 9:30am PW Bible Study 1:00pm Afternoon Bible Study 6:30pm Scouts	18 9:00am-2:00pm Office Hours 1:00pm Yoga 2:00pm Gentle Yoga 5:00pm Discipleship Comm Mtg	19 9:00am-2:00pm Office Hours 1:00pm Afternoon Bible Study 5:30pm Worship Comm Mtg 6:30pm Adult Choir 7:30pm Men's Bible Study	20 8:30am Facilities Comm Mtg 9:00am-11:00am Office Hours 5:00pm Iowa Youth Choir 7:00pm Ankeny Comm Chorus	21 Office Closed	22
23 3rd Sunday of Lent 9:30 Worship 10:50am Bible Study	24 April Encounter Deadline 9:00am-2:00pm Office Hours 9:00am Morning Bible Study 1:00pm Afternoon Bible Study 6:30pm Scouts 7:00pm Outreach Comm Mtg	25 9:00am-2:00pm Office Hours 1:00pm Yoga 2:00pm Gentle Yoga	26 9:00am-2:00pm Office Hours 1:00pm Afternoon Bible Study 6:30pm Adult Choir 7:30pm Men's Bible Study	27 9:00am-11:00am Office Hours 5:00pm Iowa Youth Choir 7:00pm Ankeny Comm Chorus	28 Office Closed	29
30 4th Sunday of Lent 9:30 Worship 10:50am Bible Study	31 9:00am-2:00pm Office Hours 9:00am Morning Bible Study 1:00pm Afternoon Bible Study 6:30pm Scouts					