

Worship & Music Arts

Worship ministry brings together everyone to encounter God through the shared experiences of praising God, bringing our cares and petitions to Him, hearing and proclaiming God's Word, and being inspired to go and be the active Body of Christ in the world. Our worship is supported by the music and creative arts, the technical arts, and through worship hospitality ministries. 16 music and worship arts groups, over 500 children, youth, and adults providing their music talents, and nearly 800 individuals serve as worship volunteers.

Children's Ministry

The Children's Cluster is involved in creating new opportunities for faith and community to the children and families in our congregation and in the Ankeny community. The Cluster is actively involved in outreach events including the Easter Egg Hunt, Super Summer Daze, Trunk or Treat, Advent Festival, and Parent's Night Out events. Our Children's Cluster also oversees the Birthday Card Ministry, Children's Mission Projects (VBS, Mitten Tree and Wish Tree), Worship Bag Ministry, nursery/childcare, and other children's ministry projects.

Education Ministry

The Education Cluster includes many areas of children's ministry—from Sunday School at all three sites, to Wednesday Night Programming, Vacation Bible School, Palm Sunday and Easter Celebrations, and many other areas where we reach out to children and families to become followers of Jesus Christ. Through these programming activities, the Education Cluster is able to provide Lenten and Advent Family Devotions, Third Grade Bibles, Kindergarten Bibles, and summer camp scholarships.

Youth Ministry

The Youth Ministry strives to empower our youth with the understanding that they are not the *future* of Christianity, but the present! We are an open door to the community, and welcome all youth looking for a place to call their own. Whether it is just a place for them to relax and escape the pressures of life for an hour or two, or a place for those seeking to grow deeper in their faith, no one is turned away. Programs include Spark (6-8 grade), Ignite (9-12 grade), and Confirmation.

Adult Ministry

The Adult Cluster is made up of various ministries that support Groups@First—a vital area of discipleship at Ankeny First. These groups include structured programs, such as Alpha, Disciple, and Financial Peace University, as well as general study groups and the Women's groups of the church. Groups@First provides a space for fellowship, prayer, study, and worship in both large and small settings. Groups@First is a way for people to become connected to the life and faith of Ankeny First, while deepening their relationships with God.

Sports Ministry

Sports Ministry provides a unique opportunity to our church family to be active together while building our faith and sense of community. In addition to that, our programs offer a non-threatening entry point to individuals in the community who do not have a home church and/or those who are looking for faith-based programming. Sports Ministry includes fitness, sports, and recreation opportunities for both adults and kids.

Connection Ministry

The Connection Cluster brings people together by building relationships among members, friends, and those new to Ankeny First, to grow deeper together in Christ. Its ministries seek to ease ways for our church family to be involved in the rhythm of life in our community. A few Connection opportunities include a nourishing meal and fellowship time on Wednesday evenings at Soul Food Café, fellowship gatherings after worship, gift bags for new worship guests, and supporting THE CONNECT for those who seek information and ways to be involved at Ankeny First.



Christian Care Ministry

The Christian Care Cluster's mission is to reflect God's love and to bring wholeness and healing to God's people through support, education, and service. 500+ people through twelve different ministries, provide *Prayer, Care, Companionship, and Sharing* to reach all ages and varied circumstances to strive to see the face of Christ in all and to respond to needs as Jesus modeled for us. Through the ups and downs of life, it is especially important for members of the church family to "be there," giving comfort and support.

Recovery Ministry

The Recovery Cluster serves the call of offering encouragement, comfort, understanding, and a clear path of discipleship to those in the recovery community. One of the major components is The Road of Recovery worship service every Saturday night, which provides transportation to and from three rehabilitation facilities and a simple meal for all who attend.

Mission Cluster

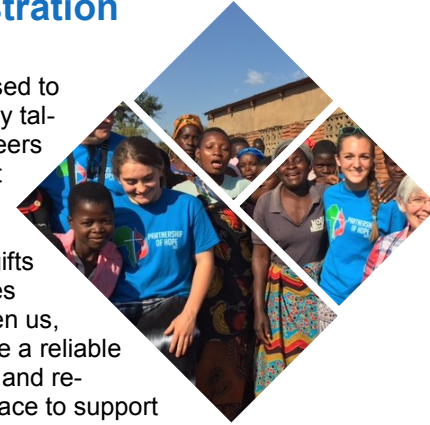
We know it is important to reach out beyond the walls of the church to the community and beyond to help those in need. In addition to direct mission support from members/guests, we also contribute to Women at the Well, a United Methodist prison congregation inside the women's prison in Mitchellville; to Trinity United Methodist Church, an inner-city Des Moines church that houses many ministries that meet the needs of that area; funding for our annual 2-week mission trip in support of our partners at Malawi UMC in Malawi, Africa; and to missionaries in Zimbabwe, Africa.

Conference Apportionments

As the largest United Methodist church in Iowa, we contribute a significant amount to our Iowa Conference through what are called "apportionments." Through these contributions, we collaborate with United Methodist churches all around Iowa, and throughout the world, in the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world (the United Methodist Mission Statement). From colleges, camps, new churches, disaster relief, community service centers, to raising up new pastors/leaders, etc., we are able to accomplish so much more than we could on our own.

Administration Support

We are blessed to have so many talented volunteers and staff, but in order to make the most of the gifts and resources God has given us, we must have a reliable support staff and resources in place to support these ministries. Like most businesses, there are costs needed to run the day-to-day business such as administrative staff, training, payroll taxes, insurance, postage, banking/credit fees, etc. The time and resources involved are essential to our mission by being welcoming and inviting to all who contact the church.



Property Management

All of the great and amazing work that God does here each and every day requires another foundation to support it. One of the larger expenses of providing an open and inviting space is the ongoing use, safety, repairs, and maintenance required at all three of our unique campuses. When you think about all of the meals, small groups, hosting of families, sports activities, support, encouragement, planning, worship opportunities, and outreach of ministry that take place across our three campuses on a daily basis, it is truly a blessing how God is able to multiply the impact over and over.

Debt Reduction

Following feedback from our current capital campaign, "That They May Know," the Finance Committee, with approval from Church Council, has committed to phasing in additional *principal* payments toward the mortgage debt on the Christian Life Center. We hope to continue to increase the amount of payments each year until, by the time the current capital campaign ends, we will have the entirety of the Christian Life Center mortgage payment in our operating budget. These additional principal payments will not only lessen the impact in future budget years, but will also shorten the length of time needed before the mortgage is paid off entirely.

Why is giving important?

The Bible has much to say about giving, with 2,300 verses that tell us to be generous and good stewards of our resources. Your giving is a key marker for your life of faith and enables our church to do the work that God calls us to do.

How does our church use my Estimate of Giving?

Your pledge is used to set a realistic goal for our annual operating budget and to ensure we have the funding necessary to put *First Things First*.



2018 Budget

While the final budget will be determined by the response each of us gives to this finance campaign, the working budget has been recommended at \$2,149,500. That is a 7.5% increase (\$150,000) over the 2017 budget.

The need for growth includes increases in Annual Conference Apportionments, staff health insurance costs, and a commitment to begin making additional principal payments on our CLC mortgage debt *beyond* what we raise in our current capital campaign pledges.

To see an explanation of expenses presented both as narrative and line-item budgets, see the Giving page of our website www.AnkenyFirst.org or find copies at The Connects.

Complete your pledge card online and set up your automatic withdraw!
Visit the Giving page at www.AnkenyFirst.org and click on 2018 Pledge.

Should I use Electronic Funds Transfer?
Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) is the easiest, most cost-effective giving option for both you and Ankeny First.

With EFT, you can reinforce your commitment to giving your tithes and offerings to God first, before anything else. By choosing EFT, it guarantees that Ankeny First will receive your gifts on a regular basis, even if you are unable to join us for worship.

You can set up your own account through the Giving page at www.AnkenyFirst.org or you can request a form from the church office and we would be happy to set up the EFT for you.

If you ever have any questions concerning giving, pledge cards, or contribution statements, feel free to contact Alicia Ver Huel, Financial Officer at 515.964.4249 or alicia.verhuel@AnkenyFirst.org.

CHRIST

FIRST THINGS FIRST

2018 FALL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN
& NARRATIVE BUDGET SUMMARY



Here at Ankeny First, we are excited to share the stories and inspirations that surface each and every day through your generous support of our annual operating budget.

We invite you to take a look at each ministry area included in our annual budget and join us in celebrating what God is doing among us and through us here at Ankeny First!

Through your continued, dedicated giving, you demonstrate the importance of putting *First Things First*.

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world. | Romans 1:8



Contact Us

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