



DID YOU KNOW...

- No one site is “paying the way” for any other site. All our sites are equally supporting the ministry we share.
- While adding space to the CLC is perhaps one of our most pressing needs, it’s not a “done deal.” Other options also need to be explored, and then, together, we need to make a decision. The key is that it will take about three years to get into a new space, so now is the time to begin thinking about the best ways to reach our community. Part of the capital campaign would set aside funds so that once a decision is made, we can act sooner rather than later.
- No outside consulting firm is leading us in this campaign, and we have no big dinner/other “kick-off event”— saving us (redirecting to our capital fund) nearly \$100,000 compared to previous campaigns’ efforts.
- The site where we have the highest worship attendance is our Uptown site, followed closely by the Christian Life Center, and then Faith Chapel.
- There really are children in our Uptown Sunday School; nearly 60-80 each week (150-200 CLC, 5-10 at Faith)—plus 100 or so children in our Wednesday evening programs at Uptown.
- We provide nine different worship services at three different locations, times and styles to reach a variety of people—and it works.
- Our monthly mortgage payment (\$19,475) is covered strictly through our capital campaign—paying BOTH interest and principle. Current capital debt is around \$2.6 million.
- We are currently required to pay a minimum of \$701,100 in interest and principal on our capital debt every three years, with interest alone of \$8,000/month. Obviously, the more/faster we pay this down, the more we have for other areas of ministry.

For more information about our current/future capital campaign and other financial information, see the Giving page of our website www.ankenfirst.org/online-giving and watch for more inserts like this one in upcoming bulletins!

Our Stories

We recently asked some questions of our church family about their personal Ankeny First stories. Here are a few answers that you can be in prayer over.

How did you find your way to Ankeny First (How did you get here?)

- a. When we moved to Ankeny 24 years ago, we visited Ankeny First and liked the minister, then decided it would be better to transfer from Union Park to Ankeny because it was so much closer. (Connie R.)
- b. The Road of Recovery brought me to Ankeny First. Once I started, I was part of not only a recovery community, but a church community. (Jonie C.)
- c. We moved to Ankeny from NW Iowa to be closer to our daughter and her family. Before moving I spent about a month with the family to help with their new baby. During the stay I searched the Iowa UMC website to find Ankeny First and visited Uptown and Faith Chapel. I liked Faith Chapel because it reminded me of the small country church in SW Iowa where I grew up. I love music and had been in bell choirs for about 20 years so the service at Uptown also seemed like a fit. The icing on the cake was the friendliness at both locations and one of the sermons talked about Disciple and I was looking for Bible Study Opportunities. (Glenda H.)
- d. I have been visiting Ankeny First for many years. First, through my cousin when her daughter got married, and then when my daughter moved to Ankeny from Iowa City. She worships at the CLC. At Christmas time, we could attend Uptown for the 11:00pm Christmas Eve service. When I moved to Ankeny, I checked out the CLC and Uptown. Since I was used to the 11:00am format, I started coming to that service. When choir started, I joined it. (Sherrill M.)

Now that you are here, what gets you excited about Ankeny First? (What keeps you here?)

- a. All of the children’s programming is a huge draw. We love all the young people and fellow parents that attend. We both now teach Sunday School and participate in VBS, and I will take over as co-chair of the preschool board this fall. We want our children to have a more positive and engaging experience with church than we did when we were children. (Kate M.)
- b. The warm and meaningful friendships and love of the church. (Connie R.)
- c. I get excited about our church because we’re a family and really, truly care about each and every person. Ankeny First is more than a church it’s our family! (Jonie C.)
- d. The people continue to be priceless. I am loving the Disciple class, circle, fun activities, opportunities to serve, and great Sunday services. (Glenda H.)

How long have you been here?

- Almost 5 years (Kate M.)
 - A little over 20 years (Connie R.)
 - Almost a year (Glenda H.)
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