



We Welcome Our Guests to Ankeny First! At today's worship service we pray that you will sense a new and energized connection with the presence of God as we worship through singing, praying, learning, and experiencing together. We invite you to tear off the Connect Card, fill it out and drop it in the offering baskets.

Worshipping at Ankeny First

Children are always welcome in worship, and "Worship Bags" containing children's activities are available for them to use. Childcare is provided on Sunday mornings for infants and toddlers, as well as Sunday School for children ages 3 and up. Just ask an usher for assistance in finding the nursery or Sunday School rooms. A "Wee Care" Room is located in the balcony of the Uptown Sanctuary, so little ones can play while parents watch and listen to worship.

Special Needs At our Uptown location, large print hymnals and bulletins, and wireless hearing aids are available—ask an usher for assistance.

Fellowship You are all invited to Fellowship Time! **Uptown:** Between the three Sunday services in Fellowship Hall. **Faith Chapel:** Between both services. **Christian Life Center:** Between both services. **Spirit Alive:** Before worship.

Communion The first weekend of each month.

Worship	Sunday School
<u>Uptown:</u> 206 SW Walnut St ~ 964-4249	<u>Uptown:</u>
Saturdays 5:00pm ~ Spirit Alive	9:45: 3yr old –8th grade
Sundays 8:30am ~ Traditional	11:00: 3yr old –5th grade
9:45am ~ Relaxed Contemporary	9:45: Seekers (adult)
11:00am ~ New Traditions	9:45: Alpha & Omega (adult)
<u>Christian Life Center:</u> 710 NE 36th St ~ 289-9153	9:45: Disciple's Dojo (adult)
Wednesdays 6:15pm ~ Casual	<u>Christian Life Center:</u>
Saturdays 7:15pm ~ "The Road"	9:00: 3yr old –8th grade
Sundays 9:00am & 10:45am ~ Contemporary	10:45: 3yr old –5th grade
<u>Faith Chapel:</u> 7384 NW 16th St ~ 289-2171	<u>Faith Chapel:</u>
Sundays 9:00am ~ Traditional	10:30am ~ 3yr old-3rd grade
10:30am ~ Casual	

Nursery available at all Sunday services.

At Ankeny First, we are intentional in keeping our Membership covenant to uphold the United Methodist Church by our **PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS, SERVICE & WITNESS:**

PRAYERS: The following are some of our joys and concerns:

Hospitals: Mercy: Ashely Lorenz Lutheran: Dwight Brown

Discharged: Lowell Smith, Howard Twidt

Sympathy to: ♦ Michelle Hupp on the death of her mother, Donna Madsen, on December 18.

PRESENCE: The following are attendance figures from last week:

WORSHIP (Wednesdays@First)30 (The Road)29 (Sat)49 (8:30)235 (9:45)179 (11:00)197 (CLC-9:00)311 (CLC-10:45)155 (FC-9:00)60 (FC-10:30)34 Total = 1,280

SUNDAY SCHOOL (Uptown)81 (FC)7 (CLC)127 Total = 215

GIFTS: Last week's offering for Christ's work here and around the world:

Operating Budget \$40,043.80 Capital Campaign \$13,643.23 Mission \$3,891.00 Other \$778.80 Memorials \$20.00

December Food Pantry: Food items (147) Personal items (34) Nov. monetary donations \$9,336.23

Find us on the web at www.AnkenyFirst.org.

Care | Connection

Do you know anyone experiencing Depression or Anxiety during the holiday? In January, we are offering an 8-week course in conjunction with our other faith neighbors. An orientation will be held at **Holy Trinity Lutheran Church on Thursday, January 14, from 6:30–8:00pm.** You are welcome to check it out without any obligation. If you choose to continue, each of these 8-week courses will introduce this easy-to-follow, clinically proven program for decreasing the effects of two debilitating conditions: Anxiety and Depression. Each course is explained during the orientation, but only one course can be taken at a time so each participant will need to choose the segment best suited for his or her needs. For further information or questions, contact **Jacque Coulson** at 964-4249, ext. 112 or Jacque.coulson@ankenyfirst.org.

General News

Called to Lead Event This new event for ALL church group leaders, whether part of a cluster, committee, or small group, has a two-part purpose: To show our appreciation because you gift our church and community with your time and talents, and to share the vision of how we all can grow in discipleship and succeed in bringing God's kingdom on earth, as it is in heaven. The **Called to Lead** event begins with a "thank you meal," followed by important training with a guest keynote speaker and subsequent presentations by our pastors and staff. The event is offered on two nights. Choose the time that works best for you: **January 7 from 6:30–8:30pm at the CLC OR January 11 from 6:30–8:30pm at the Uptown location.** You may have already received an individual invitation and made your reservation for this event, but if not, consider this your invitation. RSVP to Lindsay.Drake@AnkenyFirst.org or Jacque.Coulson@AnkenyFirst.org, by January 3. Childcare provided upon request.

Year-End Financial Contributions For a 2015 income tax deduction of your contributions, please ensure contributions are postmarked **by the end of the day on December 31, 2015 or delivered to the Uptown Church Office by noon on December 31, 2015.** Questions? Contact Alicia Ver Huel, AFUMC Financial Officer at 964-4249 or alicia.verhuel@ankenyfirst.org.

2016 Offering Envelopes If you ordered 2016 offering envelopes, they are available to pick up at your "usual" worship location this weekend. Let us know if you can't locate them or have now decided you'd like to get them by calling 964.4249 or by indicating this on the clip boards.

Holiday Hours Our offices will be closed beginning at noon on December 31 thru January 1. Additionally, the CLC office will have limited hours Dec. 28-Dec. 30.

2016 Uptown Altar Flowers You can now sign up for altar flowers for the new year. The sign up calendar is located on the bulletin board across from the main Uptown church office.

Youth
Worship Arts

Youth@First Dates! Youth@First will be taking tonight and next week off (Dec. 27 and Jan. 3). Join us as we launch a REvolution on January 10 with a new worship series!

January Kickoff for the All-Church Musical Singers, actors, dancers, instrumentalists, and other talented individuals from the church and community are invited to join the cast of our annual Holy Week musical. Presented the week before Easter, this fully-staged musical, supported by a live orchestra, will portray the final days of Jesus' life and ministry. There are many ways to participate, including support behind the scenes. All interested youth and adults are invited to the kick-off event on Sunday, **January 10** at 1:30pm in the Uptown Family Center. Contact Melody.Webb@AnkenyFirst.org with questions.

Prayer Requests

- Please keep this confidential to pastors and church staff only.
- Please put this on our public prayer chain.

- I would like to speak with a pastor or someone from our Christian Care Ministry about this request.

Hospital Notices

Name _____

Hospital _____

Date _____

Ministry Opportunities

- I would like to help with childcare during the support group meetings for foster and adoptive families.
- I would like more information about the new session of Disciple 1 Bible Study.
- I would like more information about the new session of Alpha.
- I would like more information about the new session of Financial Peace Univ.
- I would like more information about groups for the all-church study of "Tough Questions."

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Faith Chapel: 9:00 10:30

Christian Life Center: 9:00 10:45

Wednesdays@First

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Week of December 26/27.

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Welcome

Uptown Campus ~ Traditional Worship December 27, 2015 ~ 8:30am

PRELUDE

WELCOME / *CONGREGATIONAL GREETING

*CALL TO WORSHIP Worship Leader: Don Miller

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN "Angels from the Realms of Glory" #220

*OPENING PRAYER/WORDS OF PARDON & ASSURANCE

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

ANTHEM "Emmanuel, God With Us" [Point of Grace]
Emma & Lauren McEvoy

OFFERING OUR PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS, SERVICE & WITNESS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / THE LORD'S PRAYER
OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY / *PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SONG OF REFLECTION "Love Came Down at Christmas" #242

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:22-40

SERMON: "Bless Beyond Words" Rev. Angie Loomis

*HYMN OF SENDING "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" #251

*BENEDICTION / POSTLUDE

**Please stand if you are able.*

Note: Please silence all cell phones & refrain from flash photography during worship.

Today's Worship Helpers are listed below:

Greeters: Russ & Carolyn Copley, Jim & Judi Logan

Organist: Mark Shultz **Tech Support:** Riley Cullen, Ryan Garcia

Acolytes: Confirmation Students

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To be an open and inviting community of faith through which God grows deeply committed Christians.

Our Vision:

Reach WITH the love of Christ.

Grow IN the love of Christ.

Serve THROUGH the love of Christ.



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Wednesdays@First

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Week of December 26/27.

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Welcome

Uptown ~ Relaxed Contemporary Worship December 27, 2015 ~ 9:45am

GATHERING SONG / WELCOME

*CONGREGATIONAL GREETING

*PRAISE SONG

CHILDREN'S TIME

OFFERING OUR PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS, SERVICE & WITNESS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERTORY "Emmanuel, God With Us" [Point of Grace]

Emma & Lauren McEvoy

DOXOLOGY

SONG OF REFLECTION

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:22-40

SERMON

"Bless Beyond Words" Rev. Angie Loomis

*SONG OF SENDING

**Please stand if you are able.*

Note: Please silence all cell phones & refrain from flash photography during worship.

Today's Worship Helpers are listed below:

Ushers: Head Ushers: Jon Vandervort, Rod Sharar

Greeters: Dennis & Linda Miller, Chris & Gretchen Frazier

Worship Leader: Lindsay Drake **Tech Support:** Ryan Garcia, Mark Johnson

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Reach WITH the love of Christ.

Grow IN the love of Christ.

Serve THROUGH the love of Christ.

UPTOWN CAMPUS: 206 SW Walnut Street

FAITH CHAPEL: 7384 NW 16th Street

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Christian Life Center Contemporary Worship December 27, 2015 ~ 9:00am & 10:45am

*PRAISE

PRAYER

CHILDREN'S TIME

OFFERING OF OURSELVES

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:25-32

SERMON

"Changing Babies—Relieved"

Rev. John Wagner

*CLOSING SONG

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Uptown ~ New Traditions Worship December 27, 2015 ~ 11:00am

PRELUDE "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"
WELCOME/*CONGREGATIONAL GREETING
***GATHERING SONG** "Unspeakable Joy"
TIME WITH THE CHILDREN Worship Leader: Lindsay Drake
ANTHEM "Emmanuel, God With Us" [Point of Grace]
Emma & Lauren McEvoy
OFFERING OUR PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS, SERVICE & WITNESS
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / LORD'S PRAYER
OFFERTORY
*DOXOLOGY
SONG OF REFLECTION "Love Came Down at Christmas" #242
SCRIPTURE Luke 2:22-40
SERMON "Bless Beyond Words" Rev. Angie Loomis
***HYMN OF SENDING** "Go Tell It on the Mountain" #251
***BENEDICTION / POSTLUDE**

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Greeters: Mel & Kathy Weatherwax, Jim & Pat McCullough

Pianist: Scott Marler **Acolytes:** Confirmation Students

Tech Support: Brian Crouch, Mark Johnson

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Welcome

**Uptown ~ Spirit Alive
December 26, 2015 ~ 5:00pm**

WELCOME/*CONGREGATIONAL GREETING

***SING PRAISE TO GOD** "Joy to the World"
"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

OFFERING OUR PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS, SERVICE & WITNESS

PRAYERS/THE LORD'S PRAYER
OFFERTORY Christine Stone
*DOXOLOGY

SONG OF REFLECTION "Love Came Down at Christmas"

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:22-40

SERMON "Bless Beyond Words" Rev. Angie Loomis

***SENDING SONG** "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

*BENEDICTION

Worship bags for children are available from Worship Hosts.

Note: Please silence all cell phones & refrain from flash photography during worship.

Today's Worship Helpers are listed below:

Worship Host: Tom & Terri Taylor **Food Host:** Sue Sevedge

Worship Team: Christine Stone, Alicia Carlberg, DJ Swope **Powerpoint:** Glenn Hobin

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Circle Worship Location/Time:

Uptown: 8:30 9:45 11:00 Sat. 5:00

Faith Chapel: 9:00 10:30

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Wednesdays@First

Please update the following:

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Welcome

Faith Chapel ~ Traditional Worship December 27, 2015 ~9:00am

PRELUDE

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

*OPENING HYMN "Angels From the Realms of Glory" #220 vs. 1-3

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*WORDS OF PARDON AND ASSURANCE

*OUR RESPONSE "Glory Be to the Father" #70

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ~JOYS & CONCERNS

OFFERTORY Mike & Allison Klein

*DOXOLOGY & PRAYER OF DEDICATION #95

SERMON HYMN "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" #218 vs. 1-3

SCRIPTURE READING 1 John 4:9-12

SERMON "Keeping Christmas" Melody Webb

*CLOSING SONG "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" #251

*CLOSING BLESSING/BENEDICTION SONG

**Please stand if you are able.*

Join us for fellowship downstairs in the Fellowship Hall.

Note: Please silence all cell phones & refrain from flash photography during worship.

Today's Worship Helpers are listed below:

Audio/Video: Dean Pollpeter Keyboard: Claire Brown

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Welcome

**Faith Chapel ~ Casual Worship
December 27, 2015 ~10:30am**

WELCOME

*PASS THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*PRAISE SONGS

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CELEBRATIONS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/JOYS & CONCERNS

OFFERTORY

Mike & Allison Klein

SCRIPTURE

1 John 4:9-12

SERMON

"Keeping Christmas" Melody Webb

*BENEDICTION

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Welcome

**Christian Life Center ~ Casual Worship
December 30, 2015 ~ 6:15pm**

OPENING SONG

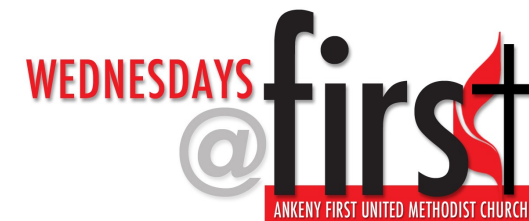
PRAYERS

OFFERING

CONVERSATIONAL MESSAGE

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*From 6:45-7:30 we offer small groups,
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