



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 Resources Uptown & Faith Chapel: large print hymnals and bulletins, wireless hearing aids, and wheelchairs. CLC: Wheelchairs.

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. Healing oil is also available in the Uptown Chapel after communion.

Worship

Uptown: 206 SW Walnut St ~ 964-4249
 Saturdays 5:00pm ~ Spirit Alive
 Sundays 8:30am ~ Traditional
 9:45am ~ Relaxed Contemporary
 11:00am ~ New Traditions
Christian Life Center: 710 NE 36th St ~ 289-9153
 Saturdays 7:15pm ~ "The Road"
 Sundays 9:00am & 10:45am ~ Contemporary
Faith Chapel: 7384 NW 16th St ~ 964-4249
 Sundays 9:00am ~ Traditional
 10:30am ~ Casual

Sunday School

Uptown:
 9:45: 3yr old -7th grade
 11:00: 3yr old -5th grade
 9:45: Seekers (adult) Rm 314
 9:45: Alpha & Omega (adult) Lounge
 9:45: Disciple's Dojo (adult) Rm 310
Christian Life Center:
 9:00: 3yr old -8th grade
 10:45: 3yr old -5th grade
Faith Chapel:
 10:30am ~ 3yr old-3rd grade

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: Methodist: Brian Bacon **Discharged:** Margaret Robinson, Tom Towers

Sympathy to: ♦ Friends & family of Vernon Merkey on his death on December 11. ♦ Sue Ann Jones on the death of her mother on December 14.

PRESENCE: The following are attendance figures from last week:

WORSHIP: (The Road) (Sat)49 (8:30)162 (9:45)171 (11:00)139
 (CLC-9:00)270 (CLC-10:45)152 (FC-9:00)62 (FC-10:30)16 Total = 1,054

SUNDAY SCHOOL (Uptown)102 (FC)6 (CLC)192 Total = 300

GIFTS: Last week's offering for Christ's work here and around the world:
 Operating Budget \$30,384.88 Cap. Campaign \$3,869.23 Mission \$13,439.75 Memorial \$50.00

Inclement Weather Information If the Ankeny Community Schools are closed or dismiss early due to weather conditions, all children and youth activities will be cancelled. The decision about whether to cancel adult groups will be made by the individual leaders of those groups. Worship is rarely cancelled. Please watch for special announcements through media outlets to confirm.

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

Adult Study

Celebration of Discipline Thursday nights beginning January. 19, 6:30-8:00pm in CLC Room 103/104, explore the central spiritual practices of the Christian faith using the book, *Celebration of Discipline*. Cost is \$10.

Daring Greatly Book Club Monday nights, 6:30-7:30pm, beginning January 16, at Plot Twist book store in Ankeny. Explore the book *Daring Greatly: How the Courage to Be Vulnerable Transforms the Way We Live, Love, Parent, and Lead*.

Budget Class Join us for four Wednesday nights, 6:00-7:00pm in Uptown Room 314 beginning January 4 for *Budgeting with God in Mind*. Through biblical truth and practical action plans, this group will go through simple, workable plans for personal money management. Cost is \$10.

Work of the People Wednesday nights 6:30-7:30pm in JC's Cafe. Are you looking for a group to casually discuss current events and how your faith relates to the world around us? Each Wednesday, you are invited for a short film from *Work of the People* about current event topics, followed by conversations in a safe atmosphere. This is a come as you are small group. January topics: 1/4 What is a Christian?; 1/11 Missio Dei; 1/18 Participate & Create; 1/25 Eucharistic Community.

Financial Peace University CLC 1/19 - 3/16, 6:30-8:00pm Room 106/107; OR UPT 2/12 - 4/9 from 5:00-6:30pm Lounge. Jesus wasn't afraid to talk about money, so why are we? A great opportunity to explore and work towards your financial goal is through Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University. Register at ankenfirst.org/financial-peace-university.htm.

General News

Christmas Eve Worship Request As many of you know, our earlier services on Christmas Eve, especially the 5:00pm Uptown and CLC services, are usually at or beyond capacity! Therefore, we encourage you and your family to consider attending a later service to allow for the many guests that worship on Christmas Eve.

Winter Break Little Cherubs, Celebration Chimes, K.U.L.E. Kids, Bible Adventures, and Preschool will not meet until the week of Jan. 3. There will be no meal served at Soul Food Café on Dec. 28. Most adult activities and small groups are taking a break too. If you have any questions, please call the office 964.4249.

Nativity Pageant for Christmas Eve For the Dec. 21 pre-Christmas Eve service, and the 5:00 & 7:00pm Christmas Eve services at Uptown, we are looking for youth and adults to bring the Nativity story to life! If you would be willing to portray a shepherd, wise man or member of the holy family at any of these services, please sign the connect card or email Melody.Webb@ankenfirst.org.

Christmas Eve Support at Uptown Did you know that we offer SIX Christmas Eve worship opportunities at the Uptown site? We will need over 200 individuals to serve as ushers, greeters, communion servers, and candle bearers. Consider serving at the service before or after the service time you prefer to attend. Sign up on the CONNECT card, at ankenfirst.org/christmasevehelp.htm using the "Sign up" button, or email Melody.Webb@AnkenyFirst.org.

Called to Lead All leaders from Ankeny First are invited to attend this 2nd annual Called to Lead training event on **January 12**, 6:00-8:00pm, at the Christian Life Center. As vital leaders in our church, it is very important that you, as a cluster, committee or ministry team leaders, as well as small group leaders, attend this training event. Come for a thank you meal, followed by a key note address, breakout sessions, and worship. Watch your mail for a formal invitation later in December.

No UMW Craft Day in December We will not be meeting in December. May the season be filled with blessing for you and for those with whom you share your crafted gifts. See you January 23!

Thank You to our Family of Faith for your amazing support of New Horizons Adult Day Center's Waffle Breakfast. We raised over \$3,500 to go toward activities for our programs. God Bless! ~Vicki Eng

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 serve at our Uptown Christmas Eve services:

- Service
- December 21 (6:30pm)
- December 24
- 3pm 5pm 7pm 9pm 11pm

- I would like to help as a host at the Christmas Day Potluck Brunch at the CLC.

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Faith Chapel: 9:00 10:30

Christian Life Center: 9:00 10:45

Please update the following:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Names and grades of children in attendance: _____

I am a:

First Time Guest Member/Friend

Guest less than 6 months

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I would like more information about becoming a member.

I would like our twice monthly e-newsletter (provide email above).

December 17/18

Mark Your Calendars for Christmas Worship!

December 21

6:30pm Candlelight & Pageant Uptown Sanctuary*

December 24

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Adult Volleyball Keep active during these cold months by joining our adult volleyball league. A new 8-week session begins **Thursday, February 2**. Recreational and Competitive divisions are offered to accommodate all skill levels. Cost is \$20 and childcare is provided. Register on our website at www.ankenfirst.org/volleyball.htm.

Little Ones Open Gym Bring your little ones to the CLC gym on Tuesday mornings to burn off energy! Toys are out and music is playing from 9:30-10:30am on Tuesday mornings. A Bible story time is also part of open gym time. No need to pre-register – just show up for some fun. Open Gym resumes on **Tuesday, January 10**.

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Children's Sunday School We will NOT have Sunday School on Christmas Day, Dec. 25. We will resume on Sunday, January 1. Happy holidays!

Bright Beginnings Preschool Give your child a strong preschool beginning with a faith-based component. Programs range from Parents Morning Out to Kinder-Prep. Come to our Open House at our Uptown site on **January 11**, 4:00-5:00pm OR **January 12**, 5:30-6:30pm. Registration will be held the evening of **January 17**. Visit www.ankenfirst.org/preschool.htm for further details.

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Sports Fitness In Mission

Youth Children | Families

Welcome

Uptown Campus ~ Traditional Worship December 18, 2016 ~ 8:30am

PRELUDE

WELCOME / *CONGREGATIONAL GREETING

*CALL TO WORSHIP Worship Leader: Rev. Angie Loomis

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN "O Come All Ye Faithful" #234 vs. 1,3,5

*OPENING PRAYER/WORDS OF PARDON & ASSURANCE

ANTHEM "Unto Us a Son Is Born" [Trevor Manor] Chancel Choir

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" #211 vs. 7

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

OFFERING OUR PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS, SERVICE & WITNESS

OFFERTORY / *OFFERING SONG

"What Child Is This" #219 vs. 3

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN OF REFLECTION "In the Bleak Midwinter" #221 vs. 1,3,4

SCRIPTURE Galatians 4:4-7

SERMON "Awaiting God or a Waiting God?" Rev. Scott Hibben

*HYMN OF SENDING "Angels We Have Heard on High" #238

*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:

Worship Hosts: Betty Arnold, Terry & Veda Bergeson, Matt & Heidi Heilskov, Lory Johnson, Ralph & Michaela Owens **Organist:** Paul Van Ryswyk

Acolytes: Confirmation Students **Tech Support:** Steve Fravel, Del Pittmann, Jake Ramsey
Advent Candle Lighters: Scott, Tiffany, and Mason Ingersoll

Chancel Choir Director: Melody Webb **Chancel Choir Accompanist:** Christine Stone

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Reach WITH the love of Christ.

Grow IN the love of Christ.

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Please update the following:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

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How did you hear about Ankeny

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I would like more information about becoming a member.

I would like our twice monthly e-newsletter (provide email above).

December 17/18

Sports Fitness In Mission Youth Children | Families

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6:30pm Candlelight & Pageant Uptown Sanctuary*

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Welcome

Uptown ~ Relaxed Contemporary Worship December 18, 2016 ~ 9:45am

*PRAISE SONGS

WELCOME / *CONGREGATIONAL GREETING

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

CHILDREN'S TIME

OFFERING OUR PRESENCE, SERVICE & WITNESS

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY/*OFFERING PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERING OUR PRAYERS

SONG OF REFLECTION

SCRIPTURE

Galatians 4:4-7

SERMON

"Awaiting God or a Waiting God?" Rev. Scott Hibben

*SONG OF SENDING

**Please stand if you are able.*

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Today's Worship Helpers are listed below:

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Worship Leader: Rev. Angie Loomis

Tech Support: Brett Pike, Steve Fravel, Steven Whelan, Jake Ramsey

Advent Candle Lighters: Dan, Cherish, Emme, Drew, Ben & Anna Taylor

Our Mission:

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Christian Life Center

Contemporary Worship

December 18, 2016 ~ 9:00am & 10:45am

*PRAISE

PRAYER

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

CHILDREN'S TIME

OFFERING OF OURSELVES

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 40:27-31 (the message)

SERMON

"Awaiting or a Waiting"

Rev. John Wagner

*CLOSING SONG

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Advent Candle Lighters:

(9:00) Ryan & Stephanie Moore (10:45) Ross & Nikki Schuchart

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CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER: 710 NE 36th Street

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PRELUDE Heavenly Metal
WELCOME/*CONGREGATIONAL GREETING
*SONG OF PRAISE "O Come All Ye Faithful" #234 vs. 1,3,5
ANTHEM "Unto Us a Son Is Born" [Trevor Manor] Chancel Choir
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" #211 vs. 7
TIME WITH THE CHILDREN
OFFERING OUR PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS, SERVICE & WITNESS
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Acolytes: Confirmation Students **Worship Leader:** Rev. Angie Loomis

Advent Candle Lighters: Paul & Cherry Marsden

Heavenly Metal Director: Elaine Oursler

Chancel Choir Director: Melody Webb **Chancel Choir Accompanist:** Christine Stone

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Names and grades of children in attendance: _____

I am a:

First Time Guest Member/Friend

Guest less than 6 months

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December 17/18

Sports Fitness In Mission Youth Children | Families

Mark Your Calendars for Christmas Worship!

December 21

6:30pm Candlelight & Pageant Uptown Sanctuary*

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Uptown: 3:00pm Children's Service; 5:00* & 7:00* Candlelight & Pageant, 9:00 and 11:00pm Candlelight Services

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Childcare is available.* | Communion will be served at all services.

December 25

(Please note differences from our normal schedule)

Uptown: 9:00am Traditional Worship

Christian Life Center: 9:30am Contemporary Worship

10:45am Christmas Day Potluck Brunch

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Welcome

Uptown ~ Spirit Alive

December 17, 2016 ~ 5:00pm

WELCOME/*CONGREGATIONAL GREETING

*SONGS OF PRAISE

"All the Earth"

"Waiting Here For You"

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

OFFERING OUR PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS, SERVICE & WITNESS

PRAYERS/THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERTORY

"While I'm Waiting"

*DOXOLOGY

SONG OF REFLECTION

"The First Noel"

SCRIPTURE

Galatians 4:4-7

SERMON

"Awaiting God or a Waiting God?" Rev. Scott Hibben

*SONG OF SENDING "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (w/ King of Heaven)"

*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: Shawn Wilkening Tech Support: Kent Kiefer

Worship Leader: Amity Wagner

Advent Candle Lighters: Phil & Sue Sevedge

Our Mission:

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.

UPTOWN CAMPUS: 206 SW Walnut Street

FAITH CHAPEL: 7384 NW 16th Street

CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER: 710 NE 36th Street



Connect Card

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Circle Worship Location/Time:

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

Faith Chapel: 9:00 10:30

Christian Life Center: 9:00 10:45

Please update the following:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

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Welcome

Faith Chapel ~ Traditional Worship

December 18, 2016 ~ 9:00am

PRELUDE

INTROIT "Emmanuel" [Bob McGee] Chapel Singers

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

*CALL TO WORSHIP

*OPENING HYMN "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" #240

*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, CELEBRATIONS & CONCERNS

OFFERTORY "The Birthday of the King" [Neullinger] Chapel Singers

*DOXOLOGY / PRAYER OF DEDICATION #95

SPECIAL MUSIC "Beautiful Star of Bethlehem" [Pace/Boyce] Chapel Singers

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 40:31, 49:23b; Psalm 27:14, 40:1

SERMON "Awaiting God or a Waiting God?" Rev. Dick Pfaltzgraff

*HYMN OF DEDICATION "Away in a Manger" #217

*BENEDICTION/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.

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Audio/Video: Dean Pollpeter Keyboard: Kay Riggins

Advent Candle Lighters: Dick & Pat Wilson Chapel Singers Director: Cindi Roberts

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Welcome

Faith Chapel ~ Casual Worship December 18, 2016 ~ 10:30am

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

*PASS THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*PRAISE SONGS

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CELEBRATIONS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/JOYS, CELEBRATIONS, & CONCERNS

OFFERTORY

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 40:31, 49:23b; Psalm 27:14, 40:1

SERMON

“Awaiting God or a Waiting God?”

Rev. Dick Pfaltzgraff

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