



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.

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 -7th grade

9:45: Seekers (adult) Rm 315

9:45: Alpha & Omega (adult) Lounge

9:45: Disciple's Dojo (adult) Rm 310

9:45: Sunday School (adult) Rm 314

Christian Life Center:

9:00: 3yr old -7th grade

10:45: 3yr old -7th grade

Faith Chapel:

10:30: 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: Bettie Bennett, Janet Metzger **Kavanagh House:** Al Van Kley **VA:** Jerry Weiss

Hospice (WA): Marilyn Henrichs **Methodist:** Carl Barnes **Mill Pond:** Laura Swearingen

Discharged: Renee Cullen, Mary Katherine Webb

Altar Rose: (Uptown) In celebration of the birth of Oliver Scott Vandenberg, son of Monica & Scott Vandenberg, on December 11.

Sympathy to: Alicia Carlberg on the death of her mother on December 13.

Baptism: (CLC) Camille Joy Robertson, daughter of Nick & Jenny Robertson. **(Uptown)** Taya Elwyn Lemke, daughter of Neil & Cindy Lemke.

PRESENCE: The following are attendance figures from last week:

WORSHIP: (The Road)25 (SA)43 (8:30)201 (9:45)164 (11:00)119

(CLC-9:00)291 (CLC-10:45)144 (FC-9:00)38 (FC-10:30)48 Total = 1,073

SUNDAY SCHOOL (Uptown)99 (FC)0 (CLC)165 Total = 264

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

Operating Budget \$41,273.42 Cap. Campaign \$13,500.00 Mission \$9,385.00

December Food Pantry: 338 Food Items 2 Baby Formula

Small Groups | Connect

Christmas Day Potluck Makes Us All Family Since 2010, we have offered a Christmas meal for all who wish to break bread and have fellowship with others. We invite you again this year to join us from noon-2:00pm in the Uptown Fellowship Hall. We will provide a main dish and table service. If you are able, bring a dish to share.

"Missing You" Ministry In a large church, it can sometimes be difficult to realize when one of our church family who attends regularly is missing unexpectedly. Unfortunately, in the past we have learned only afterwards that some of those people needed our help or support. For that reason, we will begin using a feature of our database system that tracks attendance based on who signs the CONNECT card. If you normally sign the Connect card, but miss signing for a few weeks, you will receive a card saying we missed you. If you don't normally sign a CONNECT card, please consider doing so, to help us know that you are present and active in our church body. We hope this caring touch conveys the message that every one of you is important to us!

Caring Ministry Life is messy and often painful. What we do to help each other get through difficult times can be complex, yet in many ways it simply means loving each other. Caring @First wants to build on our current ministries to provide better and more complete caring. If you are a person who is driven by concern for others and want to make a positive difference in their lives, we invite you to learn more about our new and improved caring ministry on one of two nights: Tues., **January 9**, at 6:30pm in Uptown room 315 or Tues., **January 16**, at CLC Library.

Invitation to the Old Testament Have you wanted to read the Bible but didn't know where to start? Consider joining this new video-based small group, beginning Wednesday, **January 10** from 7:00-8:00pm in JC's Café. This group will explore the Old Testament in 8 weeks. Come for engaging conversation and connection. Books (\$16) available for purchase on the first night. Contact Rhonda Alessio with questions. (Rhonda.Alessio@AnkenyFirst.org or 515-964-4249)

New Year Covenant Facebook Group What is your New Year's resolution? Does your resolution include adding intentional time with God through prayer and reading the Bible? Do you need a group to help you stay accountable? A new Facebook group is forming to help keep you focused on your relationship with God, others, and yourself. If interested, contact Lindsay Drake Lindsay.Drake@AnkenyFirst.org to be added to the private Facebook Group beginning **January 8**.

Sunday Night Small Group *Traveling Light: Releasing the Burdens You Never Intended* to Bear by Max Lucado—Join this small group on Sunday nights from 5:30-6:30pm in the CLC library beginning **Jan. 14**. Books (\$10) available at the Connect.

Youth Groups for 6th-12th Graders We will be taking a winter break and will resume normal activities on Wednesday, January 10. If you have questions, contact Drew.Saforek@AnkenyFirst.org or Lauren.Wilken@AnkenyFirst.org.

Join Us for the Next Pack the Pews! We invite all the youth to worship together on Sunday, **January 7**, at the 9:00am service at the Christian Life Center.

Spring Break Mission Trip Youth in grades 8-12 are invited to become a mission team for the week of **March 11-16**. We will be taking the "Urban Plunge" to Omaha, through Christ for the City International, an organization which serves inner cities. We will have the privilege of serving in 6-10 different ministry areas over the course of the week, from serving the homeless to working outdoors. Watch for registration to open in January!

Want to Volunteer? Register on our website for adult volunteer needs. We need small group leaders and general help for Ignite and adults to work in collaboration with our high school guides at Spark. Thank you for everything you do for the Youth@first!

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.

Congregational Care

We always want to know how we can reach out to individuals that need our care. If you know of someone we've missed, please let us know.

Name _____

Contact Info. _____

Hospital Notices

Name _____

Hospital _____

Date _____

Ministry Opportunities

- I would like more information about the Facebook Covenant Group starting on January 8.
- I would like more information about the Invitation to the Old Testament Bible Study starting on January 10.
- I am interested in helping with sidewalk snow removal at:

- Uptown CLC Faith Chapel

Connect Card

We're glad you're here!

Please complete this tear-off as your offering of presence, and place it in the offering basket. If you have new contact information, please provide your name and updates.

Circle Worship Location/Time:

Uptown: 9:00

Faith Chapel: 9:00

Christian Life Center: 9:00

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

How did you hear about Ankeny

First? _____

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

Dec. 24

General News

Winter Break Little Cherubs, Celebration Chimes, K.U.L.E. Kids, Kids of the Kingdom and Bible Adventures are now on winter break and **will resume Jan 10**. There will be no meal served at Soul Food Café on Dec. 27 or Jan. 3. Most adult activities and small groups are taking a break too. Questions? 515.964.4249.

Sidewalk Snow Removal Team Needed We have contracted help to clear snow from our parking lots, but our property ministry team is looking for volunteers to help with snow removal from our sidewalks during and after snow events at all three of our locations. If you would like to be a part of this team, please sign the CONNECT card and we will be in touch with further details.

New Horizons Adult Day Center has an opening for a Food Service Worker Mon./Tues./Thur. from approximately 11:00am - 2:00 or 2:30pm. This is a paid position. We also have several volunteer opportunities to help with activities or with lunch clean up. Please call Vicki Engh at 965-1602 for more information.

Office Hours During the Holiday The Uptown office will be closed Dec. 25 and will close at noon on Dec. 29. It will also be closed on Jan. 1. The CLC office will be closed Dec. 25-Jan. 1.

Spirit Alive Room Change Our Saturday evening worship service at our Uptown location will begin meeting in the Sanctuary on January 7.

Mission | Serve

Last Chance to Serve at Bidwell Riverside in 2017! On Wednesday, Dec. 27, the group will carpool from the north Uptown parking lot at 11:30am and will return by 3:30pm. We expect to be quite busy again this trip. This work trip would be a great opportunity to show your children and grandchildren how to help people in need. Wear comfortable shoes and bring your smiles! Contact Pam Heilskov Zivley if you have questions 515.257.0577 (pjheilskov@gmail.com). First three work days in 2018: Mon. 01/29/18, 9:00am-1:00pm; Tues. 02/27/18, 9:00am-1:00pm; Thu. 03/29/18, 12:00pm-4:00pm

Volunteers Needed to Help Teach English in Immigrant/Refugee Classes If you are flexible, open to new people and experiences, and have language skills you would like to use to help an immigrant or refugee gain the skills needed for success in our community, please consider volunteering with the English Language Learners program located in Trinity Las Americas UMC in Des Moines. Classes meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00-8:00pm, and we offer instruction in levels Basic Beginner through Level 4. You will join a class as an assistant, and as you get comfortable we will ask you to substitute. For more information, contact Wendy Vasquez, 515-771-8656.

December Mission of the Month—Diapers! What gift shall we bring? At Christmas we celebrate the birth of a baby, and what better gift can we bring an infant than the gift of diapers—all babies need them! We will again be collecting disposable diapers for Bidwell Riverside and other agencies within Polk County. Larger sized diapers are especially needed. Keep the diapers coming through the 31st!

Fitness

Adult Volleyball A new session of adult volleyball will begin on Thursday, **January 25**. This 8-week co-ed league is for adults 18+. We offer recreational and competitive divisions to accommodate all skill levels. Sign up individually or as a team. Space is limited so register soon! www.ankenyfirst.org/volleyball.htm

Start Smart is a program for boys and girls (ages 3-5) that teaches the basic motor skills necessary to play organized sports. The program focuses on teaching children and their parents basic sports mechanics without the threat of competition or the fear of getting hurt. This program begins Tues., Jan. 9 at 6:30pm. Cost is \$20 for this six week program. www.ankenyfirst.org/start-smart.htm

Welcome

Uptown Campus ~ Traditional Worship December 24, 2017 ~ 9:00am

PRELUDE Christine Stone

WELCOME / *CONGREGATIONAL GREETING

INTROIT "Baby, What You Goin' to Be?" [Sleeth] Beth Madison & Gary Van Cleave

*CALL TO WORSHIP

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

CANTICLE OF GOD'S GLORY

"Canticle" #83

"Angels We Have Heard on High" #238 vs. 3

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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

ANTHEM II "Joy to the World with Glory to God" [Hopson] Chancel Choir

OFFERING OUR PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS, SERVICE & WITNESS

OFFERTORY "Sweet, Little Jesus Boy" Lindsay Drake

*DOXOLOGY / *PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN OF REFLECTION "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" #216

SCRIPTURE John 1:1-5

SERMON "The Word" Rev. Mike Janes & Rev. Angie Loomis

*HYMN OF SENDING "He Is Born" #228

*BENEDICTION "Still, Still, Still" [Luboff] Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE Christine Stone

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

Today's Worship Helpers are listed below:

Worship Hosts: Hosts—Rhonda Alessio, Betty Ann Arnold, Melody Auten, Dengler family

Pianist: Christine Stone Tech Support: Steve Fravel, Anne Marie Webb

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

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.



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Welcome

Christian Life Center Contemporary Worship December 24, 2017 ~ 9:00am

*PRAISE
PRAYER

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
CHILDREN'S TIME
OFFERING OF OURSELVES

SCRIPTURE
John 1:1-5

SERMON
"In the beginning..."
Rev. John Wagner

*CLOSING SONG

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

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CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER: 710 NE 36th Street