

MAY 2024

THE ANKENY ARCHIVES

The Official Newsletter of Ankeny UCC



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FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

Happy May, everyone!

I once thought that as we enter into the summer months of the year, that things would naturally slow down. As kids finish up their school year and as people begin to plan vacations, it seems like there would be a natural slowing to other aspects of our lives as well.

However, this year that is certainly not the case. In fact, as we make our way into the summer months, I'd argue that our church is going to be far busier than it has been in quite some time! As we have scheduled special activities, unique worship services, group meetups, and community events, we are not slowing down in the slightest.

Because of this, I would encourage you to read this particular newsletter **fully**. There are many events and dates that you should put on your calendar in the coming months, so that we can all be on the same page as we move forward into the summer season.

Precisely because of how much we have going on, it is also the perfect time to invite others into our church to see what we are all about. We will be having casual get-togethers and entertaining evenings throughout the course of the next few months, so if you know of someone who could use a fun faith family, invite them to one of the many special events we have this summer!

On a personal note, I want to thank everyone who came out to make my installation service so special. It was a lovely afternoon filled with love and hope, and I can't wait to see where this partnership of ours will take us next. Now that we have officially "tied the knot," my intention is to be your partner for the long haul. With that in mind, if you ever have anything you wish to talk to me about, please know that my door is always open and I'm all ears.

Truly, this church is an incredible place and I am optimistic about what the future will bring. Please consider joining us for our special services and activities in the coming months, as we work toward reconnecting with one another and growing our faith family.

Thank you again, and may this month be filled with sunshine and hope, as we move forward into the summer months, together.

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Arik



IN OUR PRAYERS

Continue to keep
in your prayers:

Tom & Trina Rupp's
family

Mark and Sally
Brandhorst

Brian and Terri's
family

Laura and Bruce

MOTHER'S DAY WORSHIP SERVICE

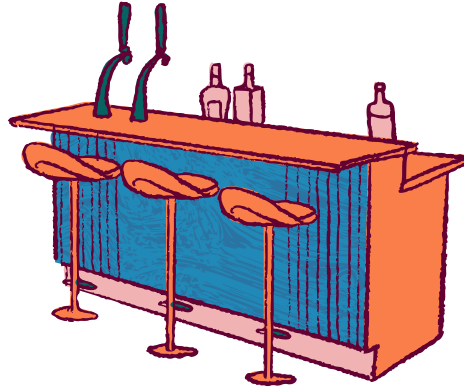


Join us on May 12th as we celebrate the women in our lives who have shaped us into who we are, today.

We recognize that not all of us have a good relationship with our mothers, which is why this service will be a celebration of **all** the women who make our lives special.

Please join us on May 12th as we celebrate these incredible women in our lives!

THEOLOGY ON TAP



Starting in June, Pastor Arik will be hosting evening hours once a week at a local pub/restaurant. This will be similar to his coffee shop hours, except it will be in the evenings on Thursdays.

You will be invited to stop on by to visit him for drinks/food and conversation, as he will be there from 5:30pm until 6:45pm each Thursday. If you ever wanted a chance to get to know people or if you want to talk about what is going on in your life, make sure to stop by and join him!

Like his coffee shop hours, the location will rotate each month to a different place, so if you have any favorite bars or restaurants here in Ankeny, please let him know!

CONGRATS REV. SHONDA!

One of our newest members, Rev. Shonda Deranleau, was selected by our Conference to be a Conference Deacon that leads the Navigator Program.



The Navigator Program will focus on finding, curating, and delivering the best resources for our authorized ministers and local churches. This program will provide personalized assistance to our churches as they seek resources to help them in their ministries. We offer our congratulations to Rev. Shonda and are excited to celebrate this new position alongside her!

PASTOR ARIK'S COFFEE SHOP HOURS

You are invited to join Pastor Arik every Thursday from 8am-12:30pm at a coffee shop for conversation outside of the typical church setting.

The coffee shop will change each month, but March's coffee shop will be at **Cafe Diem** in Ankeny.



Whether you need to talk about something or want to stop on by just to say hi, he would love to see you there! Having an opportunity for conversation outside of the church office space can lend itself to a less intimidating atmosphere, so make sure to join him if you have the time!

BOOK CLUB



We are in the process of scheduling our very first church book club meeting for the month of May. If you are interested in attending any of the monthly meetings, please do so!

Even if you haven't read the book, you are still invited to attend for the discussion! We will rotate selections each month so each person can choose a book for our club to read. The book for each month will be posted in this newsletter, so stay tuned to discover what book we are reading for June!



THE CLERGY CORNER

A WEEKLY PODCAST FROM PASTOR ARIK

Join Pastor Arik every Wednesday as he releases short 5-10 minute reflections for us to consider throughout the week.

You can listen and subscribe to The Clergy Corner on iTunes, Spotify, or anywhere you listen to podcasts.

You can also listen on our website at ankenyucc.org/podcasts

If you need a moment of reflection in the midst of your busy week, listen in!



MONTHLY COIN COLLECTION

This month's coin collection in worship goes to support One Iowa.

One Iowa seeks to improve the lives of LGBTQ Iowans by protecting and advancing equality and inclusiveness through education, improving workplace culture, and increasing access to quality healthcare across our state. You can learn more at oneiowa.org

Please join us as we support this incredible fund as a faith family

one1owa

BINGO NIGHT



Join us on **May 31st at 7:00pm** as we host a BINGO night for all ages to attend!

The church will provide the bingo cards, markers, and light refreshments for the evening, but it would be great if there were some small gift baskets or prizes that could be donated for those who get bingos throughout the course of the night.

There will be a sign up sheet posted in the coming weeks, but please consider joining us for this fun-filled evening with our faith family. All are welcome to attend, so bring your friends and neighbors along to play as well!

PENTECOST



On **May 19th**, join us in worship as we celebrate the birth of the early church.

We will be looking at the juxtaposition of the Pentecost story and the Tower of Babel in Genesis, so make sure to join us as we celebrate this important event in the life of our faith.

To symbolize the pouring of the Holy Spirit upon the early believers, you are invited to wear red to the worship service that morning. We hope that you will join us for worship!

ANKENY PRIDE

PRIDE!

As with last year, this year our church is sponsoring the Ankeny Pride event on **June 22nd, at the Ankeny Market and Pavillion from 4pm until 9pm.**

In addition to being a sponsor of Pride, our church will also be setting up and hosting a table at the event.

We will have a bunch of free gifts to offer those who attend and stop by our table, as well as information about who we are as a church. If you are able to volunteer to help staff the table at the event this year, please reach out and let me know. In addition, we are trying to get a group together to organize and plan our presence at the event, so if you are interested in that part of the process, please let me know!

JUNETEENTH

Last year we sponsored the Juneteenth event, hosted by the Ankeny Community Network, and this year we are proud to partner with them, once again! The event takes place on **Sunday June 23rd from 3-9pm at the Bandshell at Wagner Park.** We will also be planning on having a table at this event focusing on the work of being an anti-racist church, so if you are interested in staffing the booth for any of this event, please let us know!

JUNE
TEENTH

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

On June 2nd, we will be holding our worship service outside (weather permitting). This is an opportunity to celebrate and worship surrounded by the beauty of God's creation. Please dress appropriately and wear sunscreen if it is a sunny day! We hope you will join with us for this special worship service!



IMPACT FOOD PANTRY

Thirty-two contributions of food for IMPACT Food pantry in Ankeny were delivered from the church on 4/11/24. Our church garden is also a wonderful mission if you want to get involved with providing the food pantries with fresh produce. All skill levels welcome!



A BIG THANK YOU!



"Thank you to everyone who came out to make the installation service so special. I'm so excited for what the future holds for us, and I hope you are, too! Make sure to invite friends and neighbors to come see what our church is all about. There's never been a better time to have people come and experience the love that we share! Let's continue to live, love, and grow, together! Thanks again!" - Pastor Arik

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

In addition to the weekly coffee shop office hours that Pastor Arik hosts, we are experimenting with the idea of having a weekly early morning coffee club. This group would meet from 7:30-8:30 every week at the same coffee shop for a social visit before the workday begins. If this sounds interesting to you at all, please reach out to let us know! To test if there is an interest in a group like this, we will start meeting weekly in June. More information (like the day and the location) will be revealed soon, so stay tuned!



BIRTHDAYS

No church birthdays in the month of May



ANNIVERSARIES

Bob and Shonda Deranleau

5/9

43 years

Name: _____ Date: _____

MERRY MONTH OF MAY

Word Search

DIRECTIONS:
Find and circle the
vocabulary words
in the grid. Look
for them in all
directions including
backwards and
diagonally.

BASEBALL

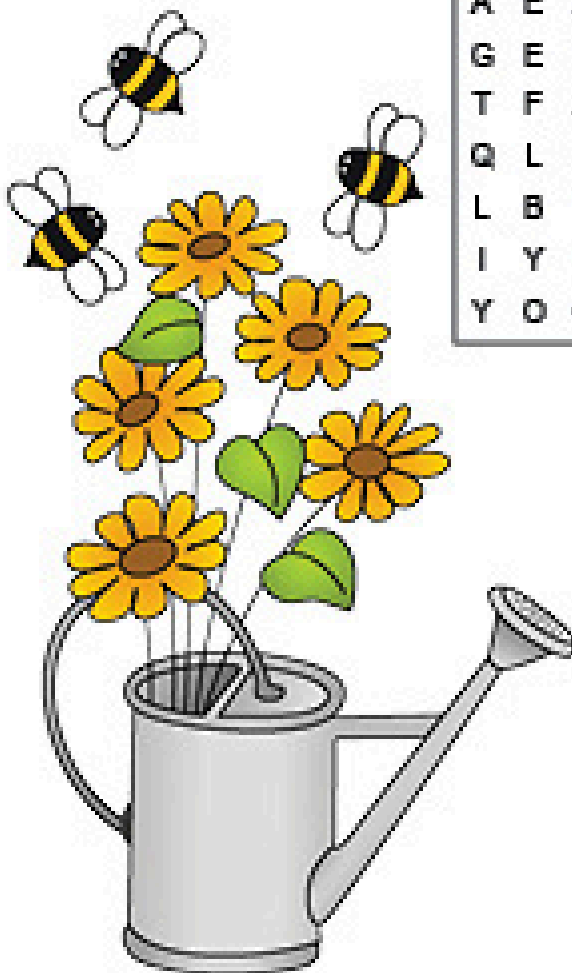
BLOSSOM

BUMBLEBEE

BUTTERFLY

CINCO DE MAYO

FLOWERS



GARDEN

GEMINI

GREEN

LADYBUG

LAWN MOWER

MAYPOLE

MEMORIAL DAY

MOM

MOTHER'S DAY

PIÑATA

PLANT

SEEDS

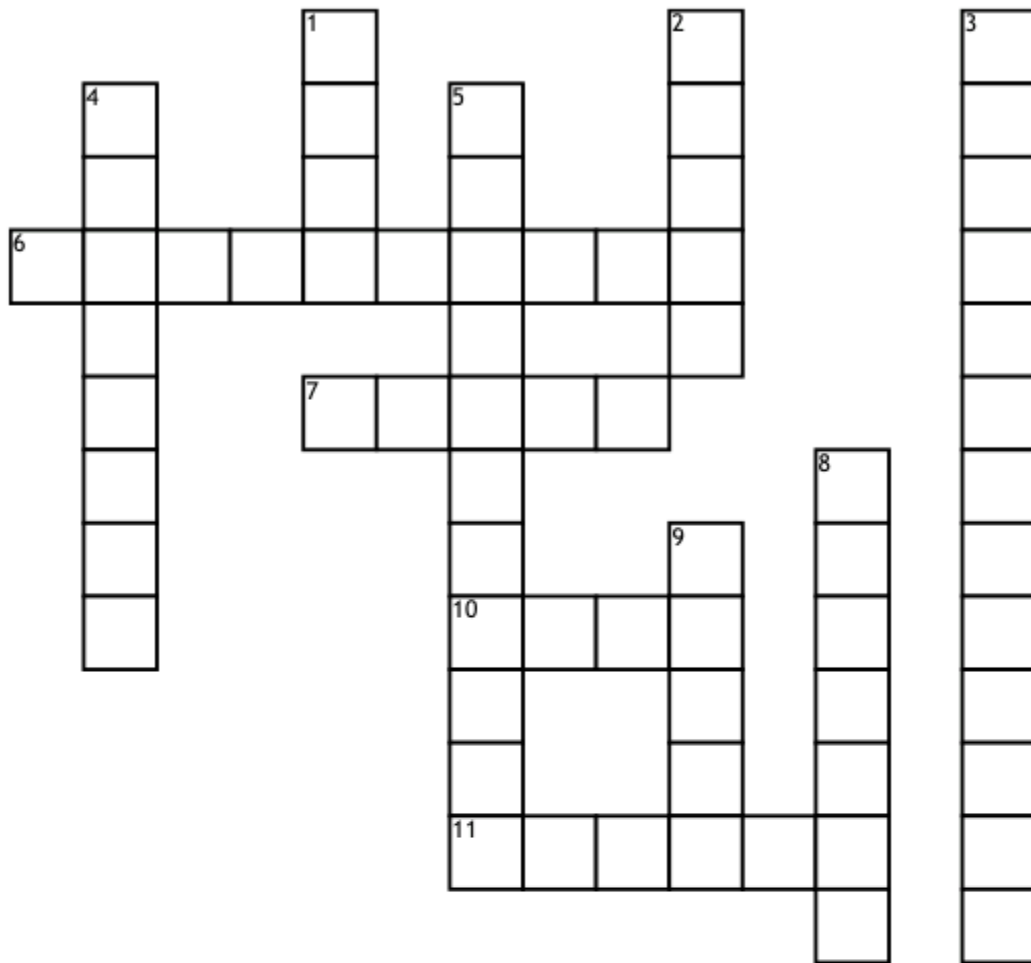
SPRING

SUNSHINE

TAURUS

TEACHER

Pentecost



Across

6. A holy promise

7. ____ Christ

10. A symbol representing purity and freedom

11. The Holy _____

Down

1. Symbol of Pentecost

2. How many days Pentecost goes for

3. What the holy spirit came down as

4. The 12 _____

5. Also called _____

8. On the ____ sunday after easter

9. An apostle beginning with Pe

Word Bank

Apostles

Convenient

Tongues of Fire

Whitsundays

Dove

Jesus

Seventh

Fifty

Spirit

Peter

Fire