

FEBRUARY 2023

THE ANKENY ARCHIVES

The Official Newsletter of Ankeny UCC



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FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

Welcome to February!

To be quite honest, I'm not sure how welcome February is this year. With the winter we have had in January, there's no telling what February might bring. However, it is a leap year, so we get one extra day on February 29th.

February also marks the month when we enter into the holy season of Lent. Beginning on Ash Wednesday (on Valentine's day, no less) we embark upon those 40 days and nights that lead up to Easter morning.

To commemorate the beginning of the Lenten season, we will have an Ash Wednesday service on February 14th at 10am in the sanctuary. It will be a short service of meditation, prayer and the imposition of ashes. If you are not able to attend the service in the morning but would still like to receive ashes, please reach out to me and let me know and we can come up with other arrangements.



Then, during our Lenten season, we will be having a Lenten discussion group after worship services each Sunday. This will be an opportunity for discussion and reflection on various topics as we get to grow closer together and closer to God. Whether you can attend all the discussions or only one or two, you are invited and welcome! Each session stands on its own so you won't be missing out if you aren't able to attend every Sunday.

To help center ourselves in the Lenten practice of prayer and scripture, you will also be invited to put together your own "Lenten gardens" throughout Lent. You will receive an empty vessel for your garden and a booklet that will walk you through the process, as every week you add a new element to the garden and reflect upon its meaning in the story of our faith. Then, on Palm Sunday, you will be invited to bring your completed garden back to church so we can display them for all to see on Easter morning.

Truly, Lent is a time for reflection and renewal. It is a time when we can intentionally center ourselves on the divine, and consider how God is still at work in our world and in our lives, today. May we embrace all that Lent has to offer and teach us, as we remember who we are, and to whom we belong.

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Arik

IN OUR PRAYERS

Continue to keep
in your prayers:

Tom & Trina Rupp's
family

Pat and Dave
Hykes

Paige Wonderly

Brian and Terri's
family

Laura and Bruce

ASH WEDNESDAY



We will kick off our Lenten season with an Ash Wednesday service at 10:00am on February 14th

If you would like to receive ashes and can't make the service, please let Pastor Arik know and he can schedule a time for the imposition of ashes

LENTEN STUDY

As we enter into the Lenten season this month, please join Pastor Arik after worship on Sunday mornings for a short study and discussion.



Topics will change week by week but it will be primarily a discussion based study, so come with your questions and willingness to listen to one another!

Each Lenten study will last anywhere from 30 minutes to an hour, so it is tentatively scheduled every Sunday from 11:30-12:30. We hope you'll join us!

HOMEBOUND MEMBERS LIST



As part of his new partnership with the church, Pastor Arik is looking to compile a list of church members who are not able to physically join us for worship.

This could include people in physical therapy, retirement homes, rehab centers, or anyone who is unable to get out and around. Once this list is compiled, Pastor Arik will begin to reach out and call/visit these members of our church and bring them communion. This is one small way to let them know they are still a valued part of our faith community.

If you know of someone who fits this description, please reach out to Pastor Arik to let him know!

Thank you so much!

PASTOR ARIK'S COFFEE SHOP HOURS

You are invited to join Pastor Arik every Thursday from 8am-1pm at a local coffee shop for conversation outside of the regular church setting.

The coffee shop will change each month, but February's coffee shop will be **Cafe Diem** Coffee Shop



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!

LENTEN GARDENS



During the Lenten season, you will be invited to create a lenten garden with the materials provided by Pastor Arik. Follow along in the booklet each week of the Lenten journey and bring your lenten gardens back on Palm Sunday so we can all see your creative masterpieces!



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 the Ankeny Ministerial Association Traveler's Fund.

This fund allocates money to people who are traveling through the Ankeny area and are in need of lodging and food.

Organized and distributed through the local police, people in need are entitled to one night's stay at a hotel and three meals.

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

NEW WEBSITE IN THE WORKS

Our website is in the final stages of testing before being launched and shared with the congregation. Look forward to a more intuitive and user-friendly website experience!



CLARICE BECKWITH'S 100TH BIRTHDAY



On February 17th, Clarice Beckwith turns 100 years old. We invite you to offer her your well wishes and send her cards as we celebrate this incredible woman and the wonderful century of her life!

SUNDAY SCHOOL TIME CHANGE

For the Lenten season (beginning on 2/18) all Sunday school classes will be held after worship at 11:30am. This will coincide with the Adult Lenten discussion time, so parents will have a place to gather and learn while the children attend Sunday school. This isn't necessarily a permanent change, but we know many families have let us know that Sunday mornings can be a bit long for those that have children in Sunday school both before and after worship. After trying this time change out for Lent, please let us know your thoughts!

BIRTHDAYS

Gale Gilbert	02/04
Sandra Plager	02/09
Marlis Gilbert	02/13
Leona Martin	02/16
Clarice Beckwith	02/17
Bruce Beckwith	02/21
Jeanette Beckwith	02/22

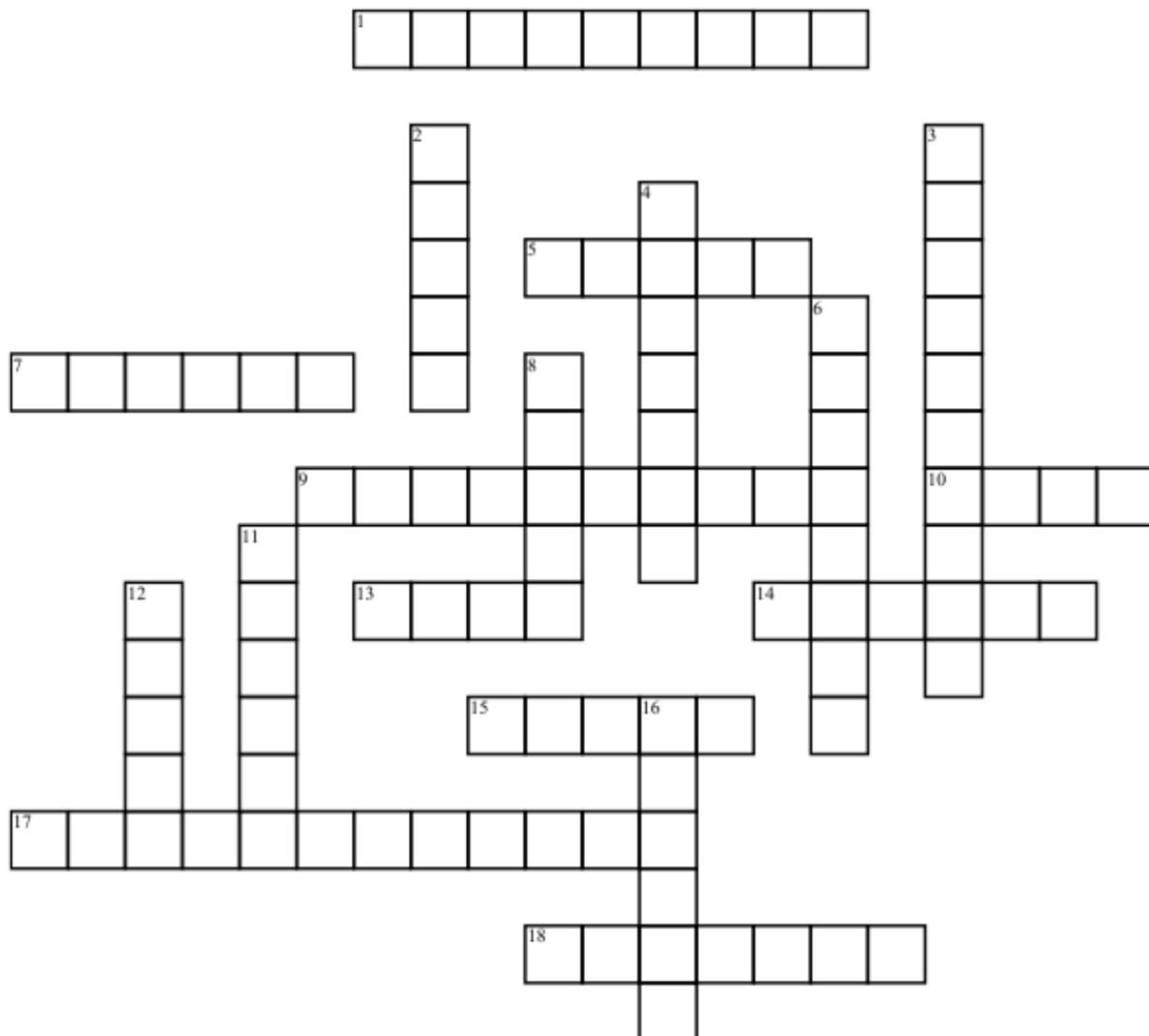
ANNIVERSARIES

Bruce and Jeanette Beckwith	02/03	34 years
Scot and Marcia Storjohann	02/06	25 years

February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Groundhog's Day	3 AA Meeting 6:00pm
4 Boy Scouts 6:00pm	5 Deacons Meeting 6:30pm	6	7 Choir Practice 7:00pm	8 Pastor Arik at Café Diem 8:00am-1:00pm Iowa Food CoOp 4:00-6:00pm	9	10 AA Meeting 6:00pm
11 Boy Scouts 6:00pm	12 Boy Scouts 7:00pm Trustees Meeting 7:00pm	13	14 Valentine's Day Ash Wednesday Service 10:00am Choir Practice 7:00pm	15 Pastor Arik at Café Diem 8:00am-1:00pm Boy Scouts Committee Meeting 6:30pm	16	17 AA Meeting 6:00pm
18 First Sunday in Lent Worship - 10:30am Clarice Beckwith Birthday Celebration 11:30am-12:30pm Boy Scouts 6:00pm	19 President's Day	20 Boy Scouts Committee Meeting 6:30pm	21 Choir Practice 7:00pm	22 Pastor Arik at Café Diem 8:00am-1:00pm Iowa Food CoOp 4:00-6:00pm	23	24 AA Meeting 6:00pm
25 Second Sunday in Lent Worship - 10:30am Lenten Discussion 11:30-12:30pm Boy Scouts 6:00pm	26 Church Council Meeting 6:30pm	27	28 PREP Preschool Conferences 5:00-8:00pm Choir Practice 7:00pm	29 Pastor Arik at Café Diem 8:00am-1:00pm		

LENTEN CROSSWORD



Across

1. ASH _____
 5. The Christian holy book
 7. Jesus entered Jerusalem on this animal
 9. Day in Lent recalling Jesus' death (2 words)
 10. Branches waved at Jesus upon his entry into Jerusalem
 13. Was with Jesus at the cross

14. Jesus prayed for 40 days here
 15. What Jesus died upon
 17. We spend Lent preparing for Jesus death and _____

18. Giving to _____ is a good Lenten practice

Down

2. What Jesus shed for our sins

3. Holy Communion started after this
 4. To go without
 6. The final week of Lent (2 words)
 8. Number of days in LENT
 11. Season after Lent
 12. Disciple who betrayed Jesus
 16. PALM _____

Season of Lent

L C W O W V Y C O U H U F S P Y W K Z W P E G B
 U Q I W I J Z J B G E T H S E M A N E D Q J I A
 Z P S E N E J B P R C E T A N M N K B K H G I I
 D E W C E S P M S L G R U G T D A T M U D Y I C
 B P J U B U R I Y M B F T O E R E K J Q V C Z O
 A X D S C S V U G A O N Q D C X G L X S M J M P
 R T P A L M S U N D A Y M B O X E K F G T G K P
 A N R J Z A Y F X E J U D A S N X E A S T E R Q
 B Y N Y Z Y O I T V I N R I T A G K Q F C X N K
 B I Z Q I S E U C H A R I S T P O H J F O R S Z
 A A K I A S H W E D N E S D A Y O Y E A M Z J J
 S K W V F C A E P A Y S R L V O D P R L A S X C
 S O U C Q H S V I S U U F L F X F K U X R T K X
 C R U C I F I X V O G R P I O J R T S C Y A Q C
 A P O S T L E S N M V R X U H S I J A M M L S K
 V D P C Q V K C Y N H E A E L P D C L G A A R K
 F M E D E M Q R X X E C T N E M A Z E D G S G E
 P M T B U P J O D A P T J X N H Y G M U D T R D
 F U E B O P L S Z T Y I M P T Z E Z B A A S C C
 C B R T V Z Y S B O G O X Q K D A K S S L U Z U
 N K M L Z D E S B M Y N I B M A T D S X E P B G
 S X X U I C Q L Z B L P N L J Q F Q A K N P K B
 D Y T Z V W C H R I S T I A N I T Y U V E E B Z
 Y P O N T I U S P I L A T E L C E K H U S R G N

Palm Sunday
 Crucifix
 Peter
 Cross
 Pontius Pilate
 INRI
 Apostles

Lent
 Barabbas
 Jerusalem
 Ash Wednesday
 Pentecost
 Gethsemane

Jesus
 Tomb
 God
 Wine
 Mary Magdalene
 Easter

Good Friday
 Resurrection
 Eucharist
 Last Supper
 Judas
 Christianity