



# The Encounter

March 2016

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**A Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> after worship for the election of elders and deacons.**

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## ***A Word from Pastor Eric***

This month we will complete our journey through Lent by observing the most sacred days of the Christian year. On Palm Sunday, March 20, we will remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem – complete with palms and musical offerings by our children's choir. During Holy Week we will have special services on both Maundy Thursday (7 p.m., March 24) and Good Friday (7 p.m., March 25). The Maundy Thursday service will be a time to remember Jesus' last meal with his disciples, and his commandment that we should love one another. We will celebrate the Lord's Supper on that evening. On Good Friday, we will have what is called a Tenebrae Service (also known as a service of shadows), as we recall Jesus' death on the cross for us and for our salvation. We will extinguish candles one by one after each reading until we are left in complete darkness, symbolizing Jesus, the light of the world, temporarily snuffed out by the powers of evil and sin. Finally, Holy Week will reach its culmination with our celebration of Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday, which will feature joyous music, beautiful flowers, and a message about the resurrection. I hope you will be able to join us in worship for these very special services.

On another note, there are many exciting things happening in the life of our church. Now that we are fully staffed - with the addition of Amber Kent as Christian Educator and Eric Mohlis as Music Director - we can begin to develop and strengthen our ministries across the board. Mr. Mohlis (I have to make it clear that I'm not speaking about myself in the third person, since we both have the same name) has already been planning music out through the end of the choir season, while Amber is laying the groundwork for an outreach-focused Vacation Bible School. We have scheduled another big "Invitation Sunday" for April 10<sup>th</sup>, on which we'll begin a four-week series on tough questions about the Christian faith. Although our last Big Sunday was a victim of subzero temperatures, I'm optimistic that the weather will not be against us in April – so begin making plans about who you will invite. Once again, we will provide handy invitation cards for you to use!

In addition, look for information in this edition of the Encounter about our youth fundraising breakfast on Palm Sunday, and the annual Easter Egg hunt on the Saturday before Easter.

There is a lot happening at APC. We are a congregation that is active in worship, learning, mission, and, increasingly, community outreach. Thank you for your support and participation as we seek to fulfill our calling to proclaim the Gospel here in Ankeny and beyond.

Your Companion on the Journey,  
Pastor Eric

## Mission News



### Soup & Pie Fundraiser



Thank you to everyone for your generous support for our partner community of Corozal, El Salvador. We raised over \$4500 at the annual Soup & Pie Fundraiser and silent auction on February 7th! Most of the funds will be used to purchase fertilizer for the farmers' spring planting in May. This support directly impacts how well they will be able to feed their families in the coming year. Pray for a good growing season ahead. Muchas gracias and God bless you!

## Corozal Update from Mission Co-worker Katherine Pater

This past Thursday, February 18, 2016, we held an "All-Community Meeting." This is our bi-monthly opportunity for all the community leaders of Berlín to gather, to pray together, and to discuss our common problems, solutions, and successes. It's always a holy opportunity to celebrate the heart of our work: organizing people so that they can empower one another to build a better world!

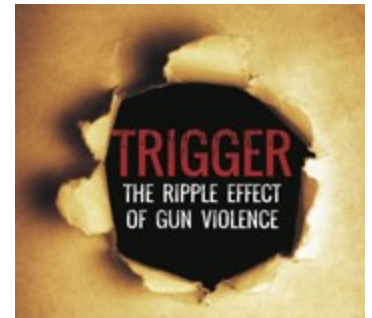
At the meeting, I asked the representatives of each individual community to answer the same set of questions about their current situation. The idea was both to see how all the communities are doing generally, and to also be able to provide their partners in the United States with information specific to each cantón or caserío. We plan to make this a tradition at each meeting so that we can offer partner churches and the mission at large a snapshot of the situation in Berlín more frequently than we have been able to do in the past.

The questions were as follows *with responses inserted from Cantón El Corozal*:

- 1) How is the food security situation in your community? Do the families have enough corn? Beans? For how many months? *Some families have just a little bit of corn, and the same for beans. Other families have to buy it.*
- 2) Have there been any deaths in December, January, or February? Any births? How many? *Just two deceased in December: a young person and an older person, and three babies born.*
- 3) Has anyone left the community to find work? In another city? In another country? *Yes*
- 4) Have you obtained any kind of project from another development institution recently? *Just the electricity.*
- 5) Are any organizations helping you with food security or the drought? *No, no one.*
- 6) Was there any kind of celebration, wedding, party, or another happy occasion celebrated in recent months? *Just a soccer tournament and a wedding at the end of the year, and we are getting ready for our patron festival that begins the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> of March.*
- 7) What problems or worries should the churches of Iowa and/or your partner churches be praying for? *For the lack of water, so that this year the harvests may be abundant. For the health of every one of us. That the whole community may be well.*

# Mission News (con't)

Trigger: The Ripple Effect of Gun Violence will be shown at Heartland Presbyterian on March 12 from 9 a.m. - 12 noon. In addition to the movie, there will be a panel discussion and time to meet with filmmaker David Barnhart and ask him questions. The discussion is not intended to be about gun control but instead will focus on helping individuals, families, and communities heal after experiencing the effects of gun violence.



More about the movie: Trigger, which examines the ripple effect that one shooting has on an individual, family, community and society, had the distinguished honor of being selected for the Martin Luther King Jr. D.R.E.A.M Film Series. In the United States more than 30,000 people are killed every year by gun violence and more than 100,000 are wounded. The traumatic impact of gun violence can be seen in almost every community. We may hear briefly about the victims of these shootings, but what happens after the media attention moves on and the wider public becomes numb to 'just another shooting'? Drawing upon conversations with ER chaplains and trauma surgeons, police officers and ATF officials, survivors and victims' families, students and school counselors, and others., TRIGGER: The Ripple Effect of Gun Violence shares the story of how gun violence impacts individuals and communities and examines the 'ripple effect' that one shooting has on a survivor, a family, a community and a society.

More about Barnhart: David Barnhart is an award winning Producer, Director, and documentary filmmaker. Committed to story as a means to connect and engage wider circles of community, Barnhart has developed story and documentary film initiatives with children living on the streets in Argentina; communities displaced by war and natural disasters in Latin America, Syria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo; survivors in South Korea of systematic rape and torture by the Japanese military during WWII; and survivors of the 2004 Tsunami in Indonesia. His projects "Kepulihan: Stories from the Tsunami," "Coming Home: Hurricane Katrina 5 Years Later," and "Trigger: The Ripple Effect of Violence" were available nationally on ABC and NBC and were screened at film festivals across the country and internationally. Trigger, which examines the ripple effect that one shooting has on an individual, family, community and society, had the distinguished honor of being selected for the Martin Luther King Jr. D.R.E.A.M Film Series. His most recent projects, "Kepulihan: When the Waters Recede" (a film 10 years in the making) and "Locked in a Box: Immigration Detention" were official selections for the Beaufort International Film Festival and Locked in a Box recently received one of the main awards at the Tryon International Film Festival. He is in preproduction and development on a follow up to Trigger that looks at how different individuals are responding to the epidemic of gun violence in their own communities and context. A graduate of Georgia Southern University and McCormick Theological Seminary, Barnhart is the proud and tired father of twins. He and his wife Elsie live in Atlanta, GA.

### Worship Service Attendance

<b>January 2016</b>	<b>546</b> (5 Sundays)	<b>February 2016</b>	<b>376</b> (3 Sundays—does not include 2/28)
Weekly Average	109	Weekly Average	125
<b>January 2015</b>	<b>408</b> (4 Sundays)	<b>February 2015</b>	<b>311</b> (2/1/2015 cancelled due to weather)
Weekly Average	102	Weekly Average	104



## Human Resource News

HUMAN RESOURCES  
COMMITTEE

At the February Session meeting, the Session voted to offer the Music Director's position to Eric Mohlis. Eric has accepted the job offer and started on February 10<sup>th</sup>. Eric has a wealth of education and experience to bring to APC. We are excited and pleased that Eric has joined the APC staff.

Please thank Jane Middents for the wonderful job she had done filling in as choir director while we searched for a permanent Music Director. **Great job Jane!**



Allow me to introduce myself as new Music Director here at Ankeny Presbyterian Church. I am Eric Mohlis and am honored and excited to be part of the APC family and community!

I serve as the 10-12 Vocal Music Director at Dallas Center-Grimes High School. I received my Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from Luther College in 2008 and received my Masters of Music from Western Illinois University in 2015. I previously have held posts as a high school vocal music director in Underwood, Iowa and Vinton, Iowa. While teaching and working for my degrees, I have always felt a strong desire to serve in churches to share music and faith. I have directed adult church choirs, taught youth choirs, and assisted with praise bands throughout Iowa. It is with those wonderful experiences that I am so happy to become part of the Ankeny Presbyterian Church family!

It is my hope that music allows all of our members to connect and grow in their faith. Whether singing in the choir or singing hymns and praise songs in the congregation, I think music allows all of us to celebrate our faith individually and as a community through song.

I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting so many of you in these first two weeks. The welcoming environment and wonderful hospitality have been a joy. I look forward to sharing in faith with all of you!

*Eric Mohlis*

Allow me to  
introduce  
myself...

## Outreach Committee News

### DO YOU LOVE BOOKS?

The APC Outreach Committee is looking into the idea of starting our own "Little Free Library". If you haven't heard of the program go to [www.littlefreelibrary.org](http://www.littlefreelibrary.org) and learn how this unique program is fostering reading and literacy at all levels.

Because of our proximity to East Elementary many kids and parents pass by our property year round. We envision our little library under one of our big shade trees with a couple of benches for kids and adults to relax and read.

Check out the "little free library" website and let Rich Flaugh ([richf@gsfinc.com](mailto:richf@gsfinc.com)) know if you are interested in helping with this project.



## Session Action Items

Session took action on the following items during February:

- ◆ Approved hiring of Eric D. Mohlis as Music Director for APC
- ◆ Approved hosting of travelers to Triennium from Prospect Hill Presbyterian Church on Monday, July 18, 2016
- ◆ Authorized the Chair of the Finance committee and the Chair of the Stewardship committee to sign for transactions involving the Endowment Fund



*Please contact any of your Session members with comments or concerns.*

## Worship Committee News

### A continuous dramatic story

All of Holy Week points toward the passion — the death and resurrection of Christ. The week's final three days (from sunset Thursday to sunset on Easter) complete the commemoration of Christ's passion. These three days are called the Triduum.



The Triduum engages us from Thursday until Sunday in a unified act. What happens on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil forms a continuous dramatic story. These days are to be seen together rather than separately. The services for the three final days of Holy Week connect with one another and, together, comprise the oneness of the Triduum.

Because of this interrelationship of the three days, each service of the Triduum needs the others to tell the whole story. For example, resurrection is incomprehensible without Christ's self-giving in crucifixion and at the Lord's Supper. Therefore, Easter needs Good Friday and Maundy Thursday to be fully understood. The way to the triumph of Easter is through the Triduum.

All of Holy Week, and particularly its three concluding days (the Triduum), provides an opportunity to undertake a pilgrimage of renewed commitment and joy; to travel Christ's path of servanthood, through the Lord's Supper and the suffering of the cross, as we move toward Easter. Our joy during the great festival of resurrection will be enhanced by faithful participation in worship during the preceding week, especially during the whole of the Triduum.

### Worship Schedule for March

- 6<sup>th</sup> Worship with Communion—"Risk-Taking, Mission, and Service", Matthew 25: 14-30
- 13<sup>th</sup> Worship—"Extravagant Generosity", 2 Corinthians 9:6-15
- 20<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday—"A Different Kind of King", Luke 19: 28-40, Children's Choir Sings
- 24<sup>th</sup> Maundy Thursday with Communion—"Letting Go", John 13: 1-17,31b-35, Service @ 7:00P.M.
- 25<sup>th</sup> Good Friday Service—John 18: 1-19,42, @ 7:00 P.M.
- 27<sup>th</sup> Easter with Communion—"The Walking Dead", John 20: 1-18,

## From the Christian Education Wing



I want to say Thank You to everyone who has supported me as I have transitioned into this position. The members and friends here at APC are wonderful and have been very welcoming as I have been learning and asking many questions over the past month. Thank you for being there now and in the future.

I am really looking forward to start the planning process of VBS!

August 1 – 5<sup>th</sup> is a great time to host an event like this. With the schools letting out later and starting later than usual, I think kids will need more things to do in August. I can't think of a better place for them to be than at Vacation Bible School. I have many memories from VBS not only as a child attending, but also as a Youth helping.

I now have a church email address! You can email me at: [amber@ankenypresbyterian.org](mailto:amber@ankenypresbyterian.org). Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or ideas.

*Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.*

**Proverbs 22:6**

Amber

### APC Wednesday

APC Wednesday is coming to an end for our children. It takes a lot of time and dedication from our congregation to make Wednesday night so successful. Thanks to everyone who has taken the time. It is truly appreciated!

**March 9<sup>th</sup>** marks the last APC Wednesday. We will celebrate another successful year by taking the kids out to The Playground. Parents must complete a waiver and make sure their children are wearing socks for their children to attend this event. The waivers are available at the "Sign Out" table. APC will provide dinner for the children and then transport them to *The Playground*. Parents should plan on picking their children up from *The Playground* by 7 pm.



\*Please note, the Children's Choir will start practice at 4:15 pm on March 9<sup>th</sup> as they will be singing in worship on Palm Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>.

### Sunday School

The children are participating in the 5 Practices of Fruitful Living this Lent season. It has been a great program so far. We have seen the kids changing their gears and really thinking about the different ways to get themselves more involved with their church.

### Easter Egg Hunt



There will be an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 26 at 10:00 am. After service on Palm Sunday we will be filling the Easter eggs with candy and scripture in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to donate items for the Easter Egg Hunt we would greatly appreciate it. Items could include: Life savers, mini Reese's pieces, bouncy balls, little erasers, etc... Please keep in mind the items need to be small enough to fit inside an



Easter egg. There will be a box in the fellowship hall marked "Easter Egg Hunt". If you would like to make a monetary donation, please put that in an envelope marked "Easter Egg Hunt" and place in the offering tray.

# From the Christian Education Wing

## Youth Group

While APC Wednesday will come to an end our Youth Group continues to meet each Wednesday evening from 5:30 – 8:00 pm.



Our APC Youth Group is hosting a French Toast Breakfast on Sunday March 20. This is a fundraiser for their summer mission trips. There will be no Sunday School that day as we hope you and your families will stay for breakfast.

The Youth are scheduled for 2 trips this summer.

The first is a mission trip to Murray, IA. They will be spending June 24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> doing various home repairs. With a population of only 760, Murray is a small town with a big heart in the rolling prairies of southern Iowa. You'll find a diverse--but needy--population here. Over 14 percent are widowed, nearly 5 percent are unemployed, and 15 percent live in poverty.



From July 19 – July 23, the Youth will be GOing to Triennium at Purdue University.

Triennium is a gathering for high school age youth from the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church that occurs every three years. I can't think

## March Activities

**Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**—APC Wednesday, K – 5<sup>th</sup> grade, celebrating at The Playground in Ankeny.

**Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, Palm Sunday**—French Toast Breakfast, a youth fundraiser, immediately following worship.

Filling of Easter Eggs after Breakfast in preparation for the Egg Hunt. No Sunday School

**Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>** Easter Egg Hunt @ 10:00am

**Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup>** EASTER – No Sunday School



## Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for August 1 – 5. The Theme this year is Surf Shack: Catch the Wave of God's Amazing LOVE. Be on the lookout for more details on this event.

## Confirmation Schedule—Creating Statements of Faith

Reminder—Confirmation starts at 6:15 p.m. on these evenings.

March 2—God the Holy Spirit & the Bible

April 6—Resurrection/Eternal Life

March 23—The Church

April 27—Complete Faith Statements

March 30—Forgiveness of Sin

May 4—Meet with Session

May 15th Confirmation Sunday



## This—n—That



Marjorie Chase and her son, Tom, would like to thank everyone who prayed, sent cards, made calls, gave memorials and showed their support after Bill's death on February 16th.

### Worship Volunteers

#### March 6

Greeters: Andy & Amy Metcalfe, Diana Haines  
 Ushers: Rick & Del Konopka  
 Youth Ushers: Aiden Metcalfe, Alestair Metcalfe  
 Worship Leader: Lola Peters  
 Font of Identity Deacon: Cathy DeMoss

#### March 13

Greeters: Rich & Bonnie McCaughey, Tim Little  
 Ushers: Aaron & Mary Selby  
 Youth Ushers: Cory Brooks, Ryan Brooks  
 Worship Leader: Phil Pease  
 Font of Identity Deacon: Bob Zinn

#### March 20—Palm Sunday

Greeters: Bob & Linda Zinn, Carolyn Rudisil  
 Ushers: Debi Garner & John Richards  
 Youth Ushers: Theo Housker, Jesse Hanke  
 Worship Leader: Rich Flaugh  
 Font of Identity Deacon: Terri Blattner

#### March 27—Easter

Greeters: Rich & Marcia Flaugh, Olive Musoro  
 Ushers: Rick Ruff & Mary Kleis  
 Youth Ushers: Rico Da Veiga, Kelsey-Faith Abeh  
 Worship Leader: Marcia McAdoo

### Interested in Membership at Ankeny Presbyterian Church?

Please contact Pastor Eric via [eric@ankenypresbyterian.org](mailto:eric@ankenypresbyterian.org), or call him at 964-0264. Basic information and introductory videos about being a Presbyterian Christian are available on our website ([www.ankenypcusa.org](http://www.ankenypcusa.org)) by following the links in the "I'm New" section.



### MONTHLY SOCIAL LUNCHEON FOR MEN & WOMEN!

This group meets the first Wednesday of the month (**March 2nd this month**) at Perkins at **12:00 noon**. Anyone who would like to fellowship is welcome and encouraged to bring a friend.



3	David Dirks
4	Mary Kleis
5	Lee White
	Alestair Metcalfe
8	JJ SchraderBachar
9	Allison Stewart
12	Audrey Kobus
13	Kelsey-Faith Abeh
14	Pat Brewbaker
16	Jo DeHart
	Jan Olofson
	Katie Stephany
	Jenny Scharn
17	Marge Hennings
21	Rebecca Morris
	Patti Rowedder
25	Andy Metcalfe
	Jeff Wood
27	Chris Albers