



The Encounter

January 2017

A Word from the Pastor

The Bible in 90 Days

This winter our congregation will be undertaking a special adventure! Over the course of 90 days, we will work our way through the Bible via sermons, a Sunday school class (which I will lead), and individual readings. Of course, reading every word of the Bible in 90 days would be a monumental task, so we have developed a Bible highlights guide that calls for reading only one or two chapters per day, but which still provides a good overview of the story. The thirteen sermons of the series will cover the main themes of the scriptural narrative. The Sunday school class will provide you an opportunity to reflect on the weekly readings and sermons.

As a pastor, I often encounter people who share that they don't know the Bible as well as they would like. Sometimes this is a source of embarrassment; sometimes it's a source of frustration. Either way, enough people have expressed a desire to better understand the Scriptures that we felt led to offer this special opportunity to learn and grow.

The "Bible in 90 Days" readings will begin Monday, January 2, and the sermon series will begin Sunday, January 8. The Sunday school class will likewise commence on January 8. The series will conclude on Sunday, April 2. During the same period, our youth group will be engaging in its own review of the whole Bible. Look for the 90 Day reading guide in this edition of the Encounter. It will also be available as a pamphlet on the welcome desk. I'm excited to begin this journey through the entire Bible together, and look forward to it as a time of spiritual growth for the APC family. Please join us for this special series, and use it as an opportunity to invite your friends who might also wish to better understand the Bible.

Your Companion on the Journey,

Pastor Eric



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Just a reminder of our upcoming services



December 24: Christmas Eve, 7:00 pm

Carols, Candlelight & Communion Worship

December 25: Evening Worship, 7:00 pm

Service of Lessons & Carols

January 1: 9:30 am Worship Service

(Communion will be served on January 8th)

From the Christian Education Wing

Ending a great year and starting a new year with all of you is truly a dream. I am very grateful for everything you guys have done for me over the past year. I love my job and you guys are just the icing on the cake. I enjoy spending time with all of the kids, young and old, and enjoy getting to know each of your families as well. I'm grateful and blessed that my family has such great leaders and peers to look up to, and are able to look to each of you as part of their family. To all of you: Thank you for all you do.

With a new year come new resolutions as well. Please don't be afraid to reach out to me if you have any ideas or questions for this upcoming 2017! I'm looking forward to serving another year with APC.

~Amber

Sunday school: Resumes January 8th

Children – We just learned the Christmas story and birth of Jesus, so we will be following up with some of Jesus's stories after birth.

Christmas Program – The Christmas Program was AWESOME! Jill and the kids worked very hard and it showed. The message was good and was a great way for the kids to learn about the birth of Jesus in another way.



Adult schedule—Resumes January 8th

The Wired Word: Led by Del and Rick Konopka meets in the Fireside Room.

The Bible in 90 Days: Led by Pastor Eric will meet in Classroom 408 (also called the Cross Room)

Wednesday Evenings: Resumes January 4th

Children – We will continue learning of stories after Jesus's birth and next month will go over the 10 Commandments. In preparation for that Bible Study, we will start to learn the 10 commandments one by one.



Youth Group: Resumes January 4th

Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser – On December 18, the Youth hosted a Pancake Breakfast fundraiser for their upcoming Mission Trip; they raised a little over \$1,800.00. THANKS to you all for making that happen. They are very excited for this trip and right now most of the Youth group have committed to going.

Mission Trip – Mission Trip is set for June 25-30. The Youth decided as a group to go to Camp Westminster on Higgins Lake in Michigan. It is a ministry of Westminster Church of Detroit (Presbyterian). There will be kids attending camp at this time, however, our group will support the mission of the camp by working on camp maintenance – painting, trail maintaining and other work to keep up camp for the campers. This trip comes with the opportunity for our Youth group to experience their own group building.

Bible Study – The Youth will also be going through The Bible in 90 Days and following a similar layout as the adults.



Nursery

There will be **no nursery attendant** present during the following worship times:

Saturday, December 24; Sunday, December 25; and Sunday, January 1.

You are free to use the nursery as needed all we ask is that you stay with your children, and put back what was used.

APC Wellness—*Let's get healthy together*

10 Feel Good Resolutions

Lose weight. Eat better. Exercise more. Get eight hours of sleep every night.



Year after year, yes even decade after decade, we welcome January 1 with the best of intentions. Because this is the year we truly are going to stick to our resolution past the Super Bowl, beyond Valentine’s Day ... OK who are we kidding? Most years we’d do well to make it through the first week in January with our self-improvement strategies.

While the above resolutions can all contribute to a healthier lifestyle, how about focusing on an activity you’ll actually look forward to incorporating into your routine? Instead of basing your resolutions on improving something negative about yourself, this year pick a feel good goal. They’re good for you and some will brighten the lives of those you’ll impact in the process. Here are 10 ideas to get you started:

1. Before you go to bed every night, think of the nicest thing that happened to you that day.
2. Smile at 5 people every day. And if you don’t see 5 people, smile at yourself in the mirror. Yes, up to 5 times to meet your quota.
3. Read a daily devotional.
4. Don’t just like someone’s post. Post why you like them.
5. Sing a song or whistle a tune daily.
6. Compliment at least one person every day. You’ll feel as good as they do.
7. Let loose and dance in your house three times a week.
8. Join a Sunday school class.
9. Feeling blue? Write a note telling someone what they mean to you.
10. Volunteer.

Blood Pressure Checks



Reminder that on the 2nd Sunday of the month, January 8th, you can have your blood pressure checked in the Prayer Room after worship and before Sunday school begins. Having your blood pressure checked is simple, quick and painless.

Happy 2017 from your APC Wellness Team
Let’s get healthy together

Worship Service Attendance			
October 2016	562 (5 Sundays)	November 2016	476 (4 Sundays)
Weekly Average	112	Weekly Average	119
October 2015	490 (4 Sundays)	November 2015	636 (5 Sundays)
Weekly Average	123	Weekly Average	127

Session Action Items

Session took action on the following items during November:

- * Received Mike and Coleen Meyers as members of APC.
- * Removed Brenda and Carl Schuman from membership roll at their request.
- * Removed inactive and non-responding members from the membership roll.
- * Reviewed pledges and budget options for disclosure to the congregation.
- * Approved Youth pancake fundraiser for Ash Wednesday.
- * Approved congregational members for the Nominating Committee.
- * Approved Celebration of Life service for Clark White on January 14, 2017.
- * Approved a Session Planning Retreat on Jan 28, 2017.

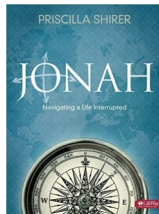
Please contact any of your Session members with comments or concerns.

This—n—That

JONAH STUDY BEGINS—January 8th

One can't escape life's interruptions, but we CAN change our perspective on them. Interruptions may simply be God's divine invitation to a bigger life.

You're invited to join a new women's Bible Study held on Monday afternoons called *Jonah: Navigating a Life Interrupted* by Priscilla Shirer. We meet from 12:30-2:00 in the Fireside Room and the 6-week course includes readings from a member book (\$13 on Amazon), video and discussion. Please contact Bonnie McCaughey for more information.



THANK

YOU!

I want to thank the volunteers from the Presbyterian church for our fundraiser. We cleared over \$3500, which is great considering we are unable to get the \$2500 matching funds for this fundraiser anymore. Your church family continues to be such a tremendous supporter of New Horizons and I am truly grateful!

Vicki Engh

Interested in Membership



Please contact Pastor Eric at 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) 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 (**January 4th this month**) at Perkins at **12:00 noon**. Everyone who likes to fellowship is welcome and encouraged to bring a friend.



Pastor Eric will be on vacation starting December 26 through January 2. If there is a pastoral emergency, please contact the Rev. Jessica Wietzke from the Presbyterian Church in Grimes at 641-221-0690.

The church office will be closed December 26 through January 2 due to staff vacations and the New Year's Day holiday.

Worship Volunteers

January 1

Greeters: Chuck & Arlene Edmondson, Ruth Wagner
 Ushers: Jim & Marge Hennings
 No Youth Ushers
 Worship Leader: Jane Middents
 Font of Identity Deacon: Audrey Kobus

January 22

Greeters: Tom & Jo DeHart, Carolyn Rudisil
 Ushers: Steve & Marian Gibbons
 Youth Ushers: Rachel Stephany
 Worship Leader: Carla Yeager
 Font of Identity Deacon: Shirley Pease

January 8

Greeters: Debi Garner & John Richards, Terri Blattner
 Ushers: Sam & Heather Housker
 Youth Ushers: Abby Housker, Theo Housker
 Worship Leader: Bonnie McCaughey
 Font of Identity Deacon: Janie Owens

January 31

Greeters: Warren & Beth Brooks, Audrey Kobus
 Ushers: Mark & Marcia McAdoo
 Youth Ushers: Addie Brooks, Eli Brooks
 Worship Leader: Gary Naylor
 Font of Identity Deacon: Audrey Kobus

January 15

Greeters: Gary & Theresa Shivers, Cathy DeMoss
 Ushers: Rick Ruff & Mary Kleis
 Youth Ushers: No youth ushers
 Worship Leader: Phil Pease
 Font of Identity Deacon: Cathy DeMoss



**Coming soon – APC’s 15th Annual Soup & Pie
 with Silent Auction Fundraiser**

Sunday, February 12, 2017 at noon
 Join us for a fun event!



Donations will be needed for the silent auction as well as your delicious pies! Contact Marcia McAdoo, justicebern@mchsi.com or 964-5244, for more information. All proceeds support our partnership with Corozal, El Salvador.

January Birthday

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 4 Mary Selby | 16 Adda Morris |
| 4 Amber Kent | 16 Jill Vander Wilt |
| 5 Julie Nurnberg | 23 Emmett Taylor |
| 8 Aiden Metcalfe | 26 Coleen Myers |
| 8 Jay Vander Wilt | 27 Linda Wehage |
| 9 Madeline Clancy | 29 Diana Haines |
| 13 Bonita Lemon | 30 Ralph Bright |



Bottle & Can Donations

Remember that your donation of empty **clean beverage cans and bottles** will support our youth group's expenses. Just drop them off in the furnace room at church. Bins are labeled for cans and bottles. If you need someone to pick them up, contact the office at 515-964-0264. Thank you for your support of the APC youth!

