



The Encounter

May 2017

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A Word from Pastor Eric

The Session has been hard at work developing a strategic plan to guide us in our ministry. While their work is not yet through, one thing has emerged as a clear imperative – we are called to share God’s love with the people who live in the neighborhood around our church. Several things are already in the works to make this happen (The Little Library, Wednesday Story Time, Love Lunches), and I’m writing to ask for your help with a very special partnership that is helping us make a great impact on our youngest neighbors.

As you may know, APC has been working cooperatively with Southeast Elementary School this year in providing volunteers who serve as “Reading Buddies”, who work one-on-one with children who need both additional adult attention and help building reading skills. We have also provided gift cards to the school for the purchase of clothing or supplies for children who cannot afford them. For example, one child kept getting in trouble for not having the proper shoes for gym, but her family could not afford them. Our gift made it possible for her to get appropriate shoes!

Laura Ryan, the School Administrative Manager, is very appreciative of our support for the children, and has made us aware of two additional things we can do to help them.

BOOK DRIVE

Joy DeJong, a fifth-grade teacher at the school, is in the process of turning an old horse trailer into a book mobile (called Barns’n Mobile) that will regularly visit our church this summer as part of the Love Lunches program. In addition, the book mobile will visit the west-side Love Lunches site, as well as some of Ankeny’s underserved neighborhoods. The big need right now is for books. If you can **donate new or gently used books** for elementary aged children (or even up through young adult readers), it would be a great help to this important literacy effort. You can bring your donations to the church and place them in the donation box next to the welcome desk. **The deadline for donations is Sunday, May 28.**

READERS ARE SUPER HEROES PARADE – Tuesday, May 23, 1 p.m.

As part of an effort to encourage summer reading, Southeast will be holding its second annual mini-parade on Tuesday, May 23, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. The theme of the parade is *Readers Are Super-Heroes*, and will include each class carrying items relating to a book they have read, while some of the teachers will form a band for the occasion. What the children could really use is an audience! Please come out to cheer on our neighborhood children so that they feel supported in their academic efforts. The parade begins at SE Trilein, moving east on SE 9th Street to Wanda Drive, south on Wanda Drive, and then west on SE 10th Street as they head back to the school. In the event of bad weather, the parade will be cancelled. Let’s show the children our love and care by being enthusiastic spectators of their parade!

Thank you for supporting our partnership with Southeast Elementary School! This is one of the most exciting and fulfilling forms of ministry we can engage in to share God’s love with our neighbors.

Your Companion on the Journey,
Pastor Eric

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APC Wellness & Outreach

Take Care. Or, more accurately, take CareNotes. Yes, info about dealing with depression, financial stress, addiction and suicide are just a few of the topics available for free in our new CareNotes center. These informational and inspirational 8-page pamphlets cover a variety of issues we, APC members, may be facing, such as learning how to survive a crisis or to live alone without being lonely.

While many of these easy-to-read guides are designed to help us cope with tough situations or conditions, there's also one that

reminds us of the life-affirming power of laughter. And others focus on gratitude and finding peace.

Take a few minutes to check out the CareNotes and help yourself to any that interest you.

Ankeny Love Lunches is a summer program that provides opportunities to improve children's lives when school is out of session by offering both nutritional meals and healthy snacks. This year we



are honored to join forces with Lutheran Church of Hope and Prairie Ridge Church.

Starting June 1st we will be hosting free lunches for adults and kids of all ages and socioeconomic backgrounds outside our church every day during the summer. Hope and the Ridge will be serving on M, T, TH, F and APC will serve on Wednesdays. If you would like to help with this program, contact Rich (richf@gsfinc.com or 681-4034) or Rick (ruffkleis@msn.com or 360-5874).



Mission News



A trip to El Salvador is in the planning stages for a delegation from APC to visit our partner community of Corozal later this year. We are always hosted in the comfortable Pastoral

Team home. Spanish speaking is not a requirement, as we always have interpreters. Costs are reasonable. Pre-trip delegation meetings provide background and cultural information, team-building, and answer any questions. The experience is always extraordinary! If you would like to learn more, chat with Marcia or Mark McAdoo or email them at justicebern@mchsi.com.

Local Mission Opportunity

Our church has been contacted by The Ankeny Panera Bread Mission Team. They are looking for volunteer(s) to pick-up bread at Panera's on Fridays. Then



deliver it to the Ankeny Service Center (Nevelin Center) and repackage it for distribution. To find out more, contact Merron Hart, chairperson, at 515-681-1222 or Becky at the Ankeny Service Center, 965-1976, or email ankenyservicecenter@mediacom.net.



PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

JUNE 17 - 4

Pentecost Offering

A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the offering can be retained by individual congregations, while the remaining 60% is used to support Young Adult Volunteers, Ministries with Youth, and Children-at-Risk. APC will collect the offering on Pentecost Sunday, June 4th.



Have you felt God nudging you to try something new? Are you looking to meet some new people? Besides our ministries at church, we have some other volunteer opportunities for you to try. Here is a list (in no specific order) of possibilities for you:

1. Help with Love Lunches that we will host every day this summer
Contact Rich Flaugh or Rick Ruff if interested
2. Assist with Story Time every Wednesday at 9:00 a.m.
Contact Amber Scott Kent for more info
3. Be a part of Panera Bread Mission Team
Contact Merron Hart - Chairperson at 515-681-1222
4. Become a Reading Buddy to elementary students
Talk with Pastor Eric
5. Help with VBS July 31-August 4
Contact Amber Scott Kent for more info

Session Action Items

Session took action on the following items during April:

- Approved the following Curriculum for use:
 - * "LinC (Living in Christ)" for Youth Group
 - * "52 Bible Story Cards" for children
- Approved Graduate recognition on May 21, 2017.
- Approved the following new Mission Statement for APC:

"Sharing God's love through compassion and service in our neighborhood and beyond".

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

Worship Service Attendance			
March 2017	372	April 2017	581 (includes Easter—does not include 4/30)
Weekly Average	93	Weekly Average	145
March 2016	541 (Easter was 3/27/2016)	April 2016	469
Weekly Average	135	Weekly Average	117

From the Christian Education Wing



April was a month full of many emotions for me. I was tested on many different levels, and have seen how I grew in my faith along the way.

It seems that we are always tested. It seems that whenever I have a plan for anything and write it out, I get derailed. Sometimes I don't always know how to handle that derailment and sometimes it makes me very frustrated, but there are other times when the outcome is better than what I even have planned. It's hard to put all your faith in 1 place and just hope and trust. However, God's way is ALWAYS better, and he has a very special plan for each and every one of us. I challenge each of you to push that hope just a little bit further this coming month, and trust that his plan IS right where you are to be.

Hebrew 11:1 – Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see.

Amber

Sunday school:

Children—Sunday School: 10:45 – 11:45

All Sunday School classes end on May 21.

This month we will be finishing up the Easter Session (I know it's after Easter, but it's a great story to not finish out). Our last day of Sunday School is **May 21**, on this day we will wrap up with a review of what the kids have learned, and play some games.

Adults—Wired Word: Led by Del and Rick Konopka meets in Classroom 408 (Cross Room).

Adult Education & Leader Development: Led by Pastor Eric meets in the Fireside Room

For elders, deacons, and anyone else interested in knowing more about what the Presbyterian Church (USA) believes and the way we operate. Class dates and topics are as follows:

May 7 – Ordered Ministry: The nature of leadership in the PC(USA).

May 14 – Who is the Church?

May 21 – What do we believe? (A Brief Statement of Faith)



Last fall's story time for preschoolers was so successful that we are expanding it to be throughout the year. If you have young children, please bring them to APC Wednesday mornings at 9 for our 20- to 25-minute story time. We'll share books, rhymes and activities while building reading readiness.

This is a great outreach opportunity, so we encourage you to invite other parents and caregivers to bring their preschoolers, intended audience 1 – 4 years old. Older siblings are welcome too.

You can join the fun—and make a difference in children's lives—by volunteering to help. We need 1 volunteer to assist Amber each Wednesday, which will greet our families and show them where to go, as we found that it can be a little intimidating for some to enter an unfamiliar building. Assist with a small craft or activity every once in a while, and maybe even read when the primary reader is unavailable. Amber will do all the planning, just need a helper.

For more info or to volunteer, call Amber at 515-964-0264 or email her at amber@ankenypresbyterian.org

From the Christian Education Wing

Youth Group

Youth Group: Wednesday Night 6:15-8:00 pm

On April 12, The YMCA asked if they could sponsor a focus group with our Youth to get some ideas of how they could provide more for that age group. I admit I wasn't sure what to expect, but I was blown away at how our Youth handled the entire night. A couple board directors from the local YMCA and someone from the corporate office came in and asked them questions. Our Youth provided some wonderful ideas for them, and were very well mannered the entire time. They showed me how creative they could be when being challenged. It's a great group of kids, and the YMCA was pleased with their outcome. It will be interesting to see if they do any of the activities that were suggested that night!

On April 19, we loaded up 10 youth and headed over to Meals from the Heartland in West Des Moines. For those of you who don't know what Meals from the Heartland does, here's a little insight: They package 2 different kinds of meals; soy and rice meal, and a macaroni & cheese meal. Each meal contains added vitamins. Their meals are used for disaster relief, providing nutrition and hope in the midst of epidemics and natural disasters that impact entire communities. For example they provided 2 million meals to Haiti after the 2010 earthquake. Locally, they partner with food banks such as DMARC. In 2015 alone they provided more than 1 million meals across the state of Iowa. They welcome all ages to come into the facility to volunteer. There is something for everyone to do. **Since 2008, Meals from the Heartland has provided over 83 million meals to the hungry in Iowa and around the world.**

When our group went we packaged the soy and rice meal. The room was packed with many people volunteering, and that night alone between 6-8 pm, the room had packaged over 150 boxes of food. Now each box contains 32 meals, and each meal feeds up to 6 people. It's pretty impressive. The youth loved it and have asked when we can go back. If you haven't gone, you should look into it. It does require 2 hours of standing so by the end of the time, my feet did hurt and I was ready to sit. ...Maybe I should have worn better shoes?! Overall, it was a great experience and hope that this is something our Youth group can continue doing.

May 10 – Mission activity: Impact Food Pantry

May 21 – Blessing all Graduates during worship. We have 1 youth, Nathan Stephany, graduating this year. Also Mark, son of Rich and Bonnie McCaughey, graduates from LECOM College of Dental Medicine in Bradenton, Florida this June. There will be a little reception after worship this day.

Youth Group will end on **May 17**. We will regroup again in June to prepare for the Mission Trip.



Vacation Bible School—Save the Dates

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for **July 31 – August 4 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.** The theme this year is *Hero Central; Learning the different ways God is our Super Hero*. If there is something specific you would like to volunteer for during this week, let me know and I will make sure that spot is yours! I have just started looking over the material, and this is going to be a fun one!!! I'm excited for it this year!

This—n—That



Spring Concert: Sacred and Instrumental Music of the 20th Century

Our choir is joining Heartland Presbyterian Church and other area churches in a concert at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, May 21st. Heartland (location is 14300 Hickman Road in Clive) is hosting this event. All are invited to come and enjoy!

Monthly Luncheon for Men & Women

Come join us on the first Wednesday of the month (**May 3rd this month**) at Perkins at **12:00 noon**. Anyone who would like to fellowship is welcome and encouraged to bring a friend.



Child Care Attendant

Trisha, our Child Care Attendant, has accepted a teaching position overseas and is leaving APC in May.

She has been with us about nine months and has a done a great job. If you see her in the next couple of weeks, please thank her and wish her well. If you know someone who maybe interested in this position at APC please have them contact Pastor Eric, Amber, or Al Overbaugh.



Nursery

Sunday Assistants

Lock up Elder: Carole Snook

May 7

Greeters: Becky Stadlman, Marcia Zach

Communion Set up & Clean up: Carole Snooke

Ushers: Arnie & Carole Snook

Worship Leader: Rich Flaugh

Font of Identity Deacon: Tim Little

May 14

Greeters: Phyllis Christensen, Cheryl Schwickerath

Ushers: Lee & Alice White

Worship Leader: Jane Middents

Font of Identity Deacon: Audrey Kobus

May 21

Greeters: Sonja Maxwell, Doris Easley

Ushers: Rick Ruff & Mary Kleis

Worship Leader: Ray Peters

Font of Identity Deacon: Sonja Maxwell

May 28

Greeters: Debi Garner & John Richards, Heather Sanders

Ushers: Gary & Theresa Shivers

Worship Leader: Sandy Wagener

Font of Identity Deacon:



May Birthdays

- 2 Dale Smith
- Carla Yeager
- 4 Rico Musoro
- Jan Smith
- 6 Nelda Lamp
- 8 Ruth Wagner
- 10 Elliot Wagener
- Edna Todd
- 15 Theo Housker
- 16 Cathy Bucklin
- 17 Aaron Selby
- 18 Verne Murray
- 19 Heather Sanders
- 21 Jane Wood
- 22 Abby Housker
- Eric Rust
- 25 Julie Cloud
- 27 Jane Middents
- Wyatt Nutt
- 28 Elizabeth Flaugh
- 30 Randy Korn
- 31 Jenna Kauble



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MANY PARTS • ONE BODY

JUNE 2-3, 2017
AMES, IOWA
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www.dmpresbytery.org

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with guest speaker
PC(USA) STATED CLERK
J. HERBERT NELSON