

ENCOUNTER

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A Word from Pastor Eric



Ankeny Presbyterian Church is moving forward with plans to repair and improve our facility so that it may function as a safe and appealing center for our ministry in this neighborhood for years to come. This month, we will begin the first phases of a Capital Campaign to raise the funds needed for the building improvement program.

You might recall that Robert Ridgway from the Design Alliance architecture firm joined us in January for a prioritization exercise regarding possible improvements to our building and grounds. Each of our members had a chance to fill out a survey prior to the meeting to share their ideas, and when we met on January 14, all members were invited to help rank those ideas. It was a fun time for dreaming about the future of our ministry! The Session is very grateful for your help in this process.

Thanks to a six-month strategic planning process by the Session, and your input this January, our Facility Improvement Task Force was well equipped to work with the architecture firm in developing a project list that will both enhance and extend APC's mission of *Sharing God's Love through Compassion and Service in our Neighborhood and Beyond*.

In consultation with our Facility Improvement Task Force (Del Konopka, Al Overbaugh, Lee White), the architect from Design Alliance prepared a Scope of Work document which identified the projects to be completed. At its February meeting, the Session approved the Scope of Work document, which will serve as the basis for our construction/renovation projects once they begin this summer. The Session previously approved the hiring of both a fundraising consultant and the architecture firm.

A Capital Campaign Task Force has been commissioned by the Session to conduct the fundraising campaign. The original leadership group of the Task Force consisted of Steve SchraderBachar, Rich Flaugh, Audrey Kobus, and Chris Wehrman, but it has now expanded to include thirteen church members. This group is operating in consultation with a professional church fundraiser from Church Campaign Services, who has laid out a plan by which our goal will be attainable over a three-year pledge period. The Task Force is hard at work identifying the various aspects of the campaign, developing a timeline, and

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creating a communication plan. They are committed to keeping you fully informed as they invite your participation. If you have any questions, you can direct them to Chris Wehrman or Scott Wood, who are serving as the Co-Chairs of the campaign.

You will soon begin receiving more detailed communications about the campaign. Beginning March 4, you will find information appearing in the Sunday bulletin. Thereafter, information will be shared through all APC communication channels, as well as through correspondence addressed to you individually. Please be on the lookout for our campaign communications, for in them you will learn what work is being proposed and find many of your questions answered. In particular, keep your eyes open for our official Capital Campaign fundraising goal, which will be set by the Session and announced by the middle of March.

This is a thrilling time in the life of our church. The facility improvement/capital campaign process is more than just a chance to catch up on deferred maintenance items; it is an opportunity to prepare APC for a dynamic future of ministry in our community. I hope you are as excited about this as I am, and that you will join me in supporting the campaign and facility improvement work as they take place.

Your Companion on the Journey,
Pastor Eric

Action Items

Session took action on the following items during February:

- ▶▶ Received Leona Carlson into membership at APC
- ▶▶ Received the Annual Statistical Report to Presbytery
- ▶▶ Approved monthly education presentations about Alzheimer's; and a memory cafe
- ▶▶ Approved a blood drive on March 9, 2018
- ▶▶ Approved the scope of work in proposal from Design Alliance; subject to clarification of certain items
- ▶▶ Determined the Capital Campaign will not have a mission component

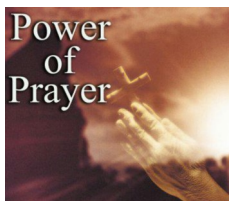
Please contact any of your Session members with comments or concerns.

APC Prayer Chain

Kelly Murray has been a dedicated and compassionate coordinator of our prayer chain ministry for many years and, while she would like to continue serving APC in this manner, she needs backup and support.

If anyone would be interested in learning more about the coordination of the prayer chain and would be willing to serve our church family in this manner, please contact Janie Owens or Alice White, Co-Moderators, Board of Deacons.

Also, if you are not currently on the list but would like to be a part of this ministry, please email Kimber in the church office (office@ankenypresbyterian.org) and let her know.



Attendance Figures

February 2018	441 (4 Sundays)
Weekly Average	110
February 2017	443 (4 Sundays)
Weekly Average	111

APC Wellness Team—Let's get healthy together

Protect Yourself from Colorectal Cancer

Many of us are unaware that colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer in the U.S. and the second leading cause of cancer deaths. It usually affects those 50 and older.

Although there often aren't any signs or symptoms of the disease in its early stages, the good news is that routine screenings may save your life. If everyone 50 and older were screened regularly, 6 out of 10 deaths from colorectal cancer



could be prevented.

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. If you're 50 or older and haven't been screened for colorectal cancer (a colonoscopy is considered the most reliable test and any

polyps found can be removed during the procedure) or aren't sure when you need to be tested again, be sure to check with your health care provider.

For more information about risk factors, symptoms, prevention and early detection, go to PreventCancer.org.

Yoga

One way to help prevent colorectal cancer, as with other cancers, heart disease and diabetes, is by eating healthfully and exercising.

APC offers yoga classes in the church each Tuesday afternoon. Standard yoga starts at 1:00 pm, and chair yoga for those who prefer a modified version begins at 2:30. You don't need to preregister. Just show up in comfy workout clothes



Donors and Volunteers Needed for Blood Drive

APC is hosting a blood drive on **Friday, March 9** from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in conjunction with LifeServe Blood Center. If you are willing to donate, you can schedule an appointment by:

- Going to donor.lifeservebloodcenter.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/155682 or
- Contacting member Heather Sanders at 515-371-9156

Preregistration is for your convenience. But even if you haven't made an appointment, you're still encouraged to participate March 9th. Walk-ins are welcome.

Donating doesn't take a lot of time—you'll most likely spend longer eating your snack than actually having your blood drawn. But your donation could save a life.



This is a community opportunity, so please feel free to share this information with others who might be willing to donate.

Heather also needs a few volunteers to help check in donors and oversee the refreshment table. If you can help, please let Heather know.

Did you know...

- Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood.
- Approximately 36,000 units of red blood cells are needed every day in the U.S.
- Nearly 21 million blood components are transfused each year in the U.S.
- The average red blood cell transfusion is approximately 3 pints.
- The blood type most often requested by hospitals is type O.
- A single car accident victim can require as many as 100 pints of blood.

Mission News

DMARC is excited to announce that loyal contributor Doug Woods has doubled his annual "Challenge Hunger" match from \$10,000 to \$20,000!

For retired West Des Moines police officer Doug Woods, the convergence of "The Grapes of Wrath," a primitive southern Iowa home, and a Bible verse led to his self-described "spiritual awakening"-and, soon after, the launch of the first Douglas M. Woods Hunger Challenge to benefit the DMARC Food Pantry Network.

With the recognition that cash could help DMARC buy more food than he could buy at retail price and donate, Doug began to make monetary donations. But, he felt called to something bigger-to do something more.

The rest is both history and a future in the making, as DMARC announces the sixth year of the Douglas M. Woods Challenge Hunger Campaign.

Thank you, Doug!

From March 1 through April 30, 2018, donations to DMARC will be matched dollar for dollar, up to a total of \$20,000 given. Your \$10 becomes \$20, \$50 equals \$100, and so on.



Palm Sunday March 25th



SPECIAL OFFERINGS
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing — Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People — all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Received during the season of Lent (February 14 – April 1), each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

This year Ankeny Presbyterian Church will receive our offering for OGHS on Palm Sunday, March 25th. APC collected \$900 in 2017 for this offering. **Our mission committee challenges the congregation to increase our giving to OGHS by 10% this year.** Thank you for giving generously!

Corozal Partnership Fundraiser Results

Thank you to everyone for helping to celebrate our 15-year partnership with Corozal at the Soup & Pie event. Thank you for the donations of pies, the delicious soups for the soup challenge, contributions to the silent auction, for volunteering your time, and for all of those who came for the fun and fellowship. We had a very successful day, and raised \$5,000 - plenty for fertilizer for our partner families! Thank you all, you are amazing Christians!



From the Christian Education Wing

I can't believe spring is right around the corner. This APC Wednesday season has flown by this year. We've accomplished and learned so many things. I'm very grateful for everyone who volunteers their time on Wednesday nights to make it run as smooth as it does. You guys are the backbone to Wednesday nights. Dinner is always good, kitchen crew has clean up done in record time every week (they are like a well-oiled machine in there!), table parents are always listening to stories, the teachers have gone above the call and found what makes those kids think and grow in their faith, children's choir is always learning new songs – I love to hear the kids singing those songs outside of choir, it just makes my heart melt, and of course new prayers. A child asked the other night, "Why do we always do the same prayer, can we do a new one?" I said, "We repeat it to learn it. If you've learned it we can do a new one." It was in that moment the boy realized that he had actually learned a prayer!

~Amber

Sunday School

- * Please pick up your child from their classrooms when Sunday School is over.
- * The next session for the Sunday School hour is *In the name of the Lord*. The upcoming stories are to help us focus on Jesus, leading up to his crucifixion. The children will learn how Mary honors Jesus, about Bartimaeus, how Jesus breaks the bread for his last meal, and the people welcoming Jesus into Jerusalem.
- * **March 25** – Palm Sunday, the kids will be singing during worship this day.
- * **No Sunday School** on April 1 – Easter. Enjoy your day with families.



APC Wednesday

- * **March 7**, is the **last Wednesday of APC Wednesday** for this season. We will end the season with a service project for the kids. Hope Animal Rescue league are joining us for the evening. Bringing an animal or two, and talking to the kids about their program and purpose. The kids will also be making no-bake dog treats for them to take back with them. If you would like to donate to Hope Animal Rescue League; they are always in need of supplies for cats (cat litter, cat food, cat toys, etc...). Please bring your items with you that night, or leave them in the bin in Fellowship Hall.



APC Choir Kids

On Wednesday, March 21st there will be an extra choir practice starting at 4:30pm since you are singing on Palm Sunday, March 25th. Pizza Party to follow practice and parents need to pick up their kids by 5:45pm.

Story Time—Every Wednesday @ 9:00 a.m.

The themes this month are:

- March 7: Dr. Seuss
- March 14: No Story Time—Spring Break
- March 21: Spring Time
- March 28: Crayons



From the Christian Education Wing (con't)

Youth Group

5:30 – 6:10 – Dinner \$4.00

6:15 – 8:00 – Mixture of Bible Study from LinC and fellowship. Once a month we will have a mission type experience.

No Youth Group:

March 14—Spring Break

March 21—Night Off

Youth Group **will meet** on March 28



Thanks to everyone who joined us for the Ash Wednesday pancake dinner. It was a fundraiser to help with expenses on the upcoming Youth Mission Trips. Thanks to you, \$1,300 was raised that night. The next mission trip is the weekend of June 15 to Lincoln, NE to spend time with a refugee camp.

All are welcome to join.

Vacation Bible School will be Monday, July 30 – Friday, August 3 in the morning.
Time yet to be determined.

Sunday Adult Education

Join Pastor Eric and others for an adult education class during the Sunday school hour in the Fireside room. This class is the first installment of a program called **Living the Questions** and focuses on the nature of our faith as a spiritual journey. The next couple weeks' topics are:

- ⇒ March 4 - *Lives of Jesus*
- ⇒ March 11 - *A Passion for Christ: Paul*
- ⇒ March 18 - *Out into the World: Challenges Facing Progressive Christians*

LIVING THE QUESTIONS
THE WISDOM OF
PROGRESSIVE
CHRISTIANITY

Living the Questions is a progressive theological exploration geared toward people who want to probe the depths of Christian faith beyond the literal level.

AMOS Follow Up



Over 50 people from APC participated in the presentation by the AMOS Team (AMOS = A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy) sharing the *Needs and Services Assessment of Ankeny* following worship on January 28th. Following the eye-opening program, we discussed in small groups how APC might better live out our mission to share God's love with our neighbors. Some great ideas were shared!

There are no easy solutions to complex problems, but AMOS gives us a framework to join together to address one problem at a time. Our next step is to form our own AMOS Team at APC to expand on those ideas, and discern how we can live out God's love in our neighborhood and beyond. We will plan to begin those conversations right after Easter. Contact mission chair Marcia McAdoo for more info.

This-n-That

Sunday Assistants

Lock up Elder: Del Konopka

March 4

Communion Set up & Clean up: Del Konopka

Greeters: Eric & Rose Frimpong, Gary & Janie Owens

Ushers: Phil & Shirley Pease

Worship Leader: Lola Peters

Font of Identity Deacon: Audrey Kobus

March 11

Greeters: Gary & Mary Weeks, Jacque Hansen

Ushers: Arnie & Carole Snook

Worship Leader: Sandy Wagener

Font of Identity Deacon: Diana Haines

March 18

Greeters: Rich & Bonnie McCaughey, Wade, Dena & Jessi Cloud

Ushers: Jim & Marge Hennings

Worship Leader: Coleen Myers

Font of Identity Deacon: Marge Hennings

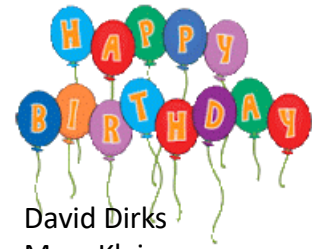
March 25—Palm Sunday

Greeters: Brent, Rebecca, Allison & Katie Stewart, Carolyn Rudisil

Ushers: Gary & Theresa Shivers

Worship Leader: Ray Peters

Font of Identity Deacon: Don Hansen



- 3 David Dirks
- 4 Mary Kleis
- 4 Jason Nutt
- 5 Lee White
- 8 JJ SchraderBachar
- 9 Allison Stewart
- 11 Will-Nathan Musoro
- 11 Myrna Rummer
- 12 Audrey Kobus
- 13 Kelsey-Faith Abeh
- 16 Jo DeHart
- Jan Olofson
- Katie Stephany
- Jenny Scharn
- 17 Marge Hennings
- 21 Rebecca Morris
- 23 Mary Ellen Fischer
- 25 Andy Metcalfe
- Jeff Wood
- 28 Jack Kent (little)

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Outdoor People Wanted

Tired of winter? Crave sunshine, warm fresh air and exercise? Facility Resources is soliciting additional volunteers for maintaining our lawn during the summer. We have a core group that has been volunteering their time and

talent on the mowing team for years and we are seeking new volunteers. Teams of two volunteers are scheduled for mowing and trimming the lawn each week during the growing season. It involves only a few

hours of time every 5-6 weeks. Facilities Resources is also looking for a volunteer to water the flowers in the outside flower beds. Please contact Del Konopka or Dave Dirks if you are interested in helping.

