

2022 Guidebook & Church Directory

AnkenyFirst.org
515.964.4249



GOD, LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE THROUGH
ME SO THAT OTHERS CAN KNOW YOU.

@first  Ankeny First United Methodist Church



ANKENY FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Uptown: 206 SW Walnut St, Ankeny, IA 50023
(515) 964-4249 | FAX (515) 964-4392

Faith Chapel: 7384 NW 16th St, Ankeny, IA 50023
(515) 964-4249

Christian Life Center: 710 NE 36th St, Ankeny, IA 50021
(515) 289-9153

E-Mail Address: First@AnkenyFirst.org

Website: www.AnkenyFirst.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AnkenyFirst>

Instagram: [ankenfirst](https://www.instagram.com/ankenfirst)

Find us on our app! Search Church Center App on your smart device.

I do not think I fully grasped how much about life is not in my control until the pandemic arrived. With the benefit of hindsight, despite what I talked about or what I read in books, I kind of believed I could make a life of meaning with or without God. My mantra was, “Make good choices!” Everything would be great if I just kept making good choices. The last two years have reminded me that sometimes there are not good choices available. Sometimes what I think are good choices in the moment do not turn out like I thought.

That is where the good news sneaks back into the picture. I do not have to build a good life on my own. My choices are not the only variable. God is at work around us, all the time, and has surprises and adventures in store for us. In fact, the best things that have happened in my life have come when I have been willing to receive rather than to generate.

As 2022 progresses, let’s commit together to watch for God’s activity, to ready ourselves to receive what God has for us. Yes, keep showing up in the places you know God goes, like to worship and to connect in a small group and to respond in service. Also be in prayer, all the time, about how God will use this new world to shine the light of God’s love on people. God has provided light for us. The light of God is in us, not only so we can see choices that were not obvious before, but to shed light for others. As you welcome God’s light in you and allow it to shine through you, may others come to know God. Let’s be open to miracles—to things only God can do—as we continually pray: “God, let your light shine through me so that others can know you.”

In Christ,

Pastor Mike

OUR CHURCH'S MISSION STATEMENT

“To be an open and inviting community of faith through which God grows deeply committed Christians.”

OUR CHURCH'S METHOD WORSHIP | CONNECT | RESPOND

CHURCH STAFF

Lead Pastor	Mike Janes
Outreach Pastor	Angie Loomis
Associate Pastor, Christian Life Center	John Wagner
Associate Pastor, Faith Chapel	Lewis Cox
Director of Traditional Worship Ministry.....	Jose Clavell
Director of Contemporary Worship Ministry	Amity Wagner
Director of Youth Ministry.....	Grayson McElroy
Director of Discipleship	Rhonda Alessio
Business Administrator	Brenda Schilling
Director of Communications	Charity McEvoy
Finance Assistant	Cindy Lorus
Ministry Support	Cinnamon Stroud
CLC Ministry Support & Education Assistant	Marcie Mulford
IT Specialist	Jason Akers
Property Manager	Robert Bayse
Light Duty Custodian (Uptown).....	Mike Long
CLC Custodian	Ron Key
Uptown Custodian	Mark Johnson
Nursery Coordinator	Nicole Christoph
Orchestra Director.....	Nate Newhard
Director of Bright Beginnings Preschool.....	Tiffany Hoffman

WORSHIP DESCRIPTIONS AT ANKENY FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Our Three-Site Campus locations:

Uptown Campus - 206 SW Walnut Street, Ankeny, IA 50023

Christian Life Center - 710 NE 36th Street, Ankeny, IA 50021

Faith Chapel - 7384 NW 16th Street, Ankeny, IA 50023

Visit our website www.AnkenyFirst.org to view current in-person and on-line worship information.

Uptown:

Join us on Sundays for formal worship with inspirational messages, classic hymns led by the organ, and special music presented by choirs, hand bells and orchestra. Worship services are also streamed online.

Christian Life Center:

Contemporary worship services are offered on Sunday mornings in the multi-purpose room of the Christian Life Center and online. High energy praise music transforms the multi-purpose room into a very special worship space.

Faith Chapel is an ideal worship setting for those who prefer a more intimate worship space that provides weekly avenues for sharing the joys and concerns of life. Join us on Sundays in-person or online.

Preaching across all three sites will focus on the same scriptures and themes each week to address today's life issues.

FOR THE LATEST CHURCH INFORMATION

See our website at www.AnkenyFirst.org for the latest information and announcements. Our monthly electronic newsletter, In-Site(s), comes to you by email each month. Follow us on social media as well – www.facebook.com/AnkenyFirst OR Instagram: [ankenfirst](https://www.instagram.com/ankenfirst). Our church's main office, housed in our Uptown location, is open Monday through Thursday, 8:00am-4:30pm and Fridays, 8:00am-2:00pm, or you may reach us by phone at (515) 964-4249.

THE SACRAMENTS

A sacrament is a sacred Christian rite in which God's saving grace is uniquely active, often defined as an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace. Like most other Protestant denominations, United Methodists recognize only those sacraments in which Jesus Christ himself participated: Baptism and the Lord's Supper (also known as Communion or Eucharist).

Baptism

We practice baptism as a means of God's grace (unconditional love) and a sign of regeneration or new birth. Baptism is offered for persons of all ages, infancy through adult. The vows that are made by an infant's or child's parents at baptism are later professed by the child when old enough to understand them, usually at the time of Confirmation (when a person joins the church as a professing member). To schedule a baptism, contact the church office, (515) 964-4249.

The Lord's Supper (Communion)

The sacrament of Communion was instituted by Jesus at the Last Supper, which was the last meal that he shared with his disciples before his crucifixion. Through the receiving of the bread and the grape juice, we remember that Christ gave himself for us and we in turn receive the spiritual strength to give ourselves to others. Following the United Methodist tradition, we have an open table which means that everyone is invited to participate. Communion is typically served on the first Sunday of each month.

We also embrace and celebrate other religious ceremonies such as healing services, preaching, prayer, confirmation, marriage, funerals, and family devotions. These are not considered sacraments in the United Methodist Church.

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER

The joy of Christian discipleship is most fully experienced and expressed within Christian community. For many people, that sense of community includes active membership within a local church.

To express interest in becoming a member, contact the church office at (515) 964-4249 or watch our communications for upcoming opportunities. We will then contact you about upcoming membership classes.

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS AUTOMOTIVE



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PLANNING A SPECIAL EVENT AT OUR CHURCH/BUILDING USE PROCEDURES

Wedding Information

Couples planning to marry should contact the church office in advance to secure a date and officiating pastor. Premarital counseling is required for all couples. Information regarding policies, scheduling, wedding costs, etc., may be obtained through the church office.

Funerals and Memorial Services

At a time of death, the church seeks to be supportive of bereaved families in a variety of ways. There is no charge for the use of church facilities for a funeral service, visitation, or luncheon. Luncheons following funerals are handled by the Funeral Hospitality Ministry Team. Though not required to pay anything for the luncheon, a statement listing the cost for any food items purchased by the Ministry Team will be presented, and the family is given the opportunity to contribute. Contact the church office or pastors to make arrangements.

Use of Church Facilities for Personal/Family Events or Non-Profit Groups

When not in use for church activities, various church facilities at all three Ankeny First worship sites can be made available for rent by members or non-members for personal use/family events. Facilities are also available for rent by non-profit groups at the non-member rate. Please request a copy of current fees from the church office. (Note: A separate fee structure exists for weddings.) Church facilities are not available for rent by for-profit groups or businesses, regardless of whether the request comes from a member or non-member.

SPORTS & FITNESS MINISTRY AT THE CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER

Sports and Fitness Ministry at Ankeny First builds Christian community where all involved can experience Faith, Fitness, and Friendship (F3). Sports, recreation, and fitness activities create a unique way for individuals to unite and create a special community. We want to take that common bond created by athletics and use it as a platform to share the love of Christ with our friends, families, and the community. Throughout the year, we offer a variety of activities for adults and children.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Children from birth to 5th grade are an important part of the ministry at Ankeny First United Methodist Church. We offer a variety of special activities and programs for children and families to grow together in their faith, as well as to reach out and invite others to know, love, and serve Jesus Christ.

Each year, we provide special programs and events for children. Watch our website and other communications for details. Our hope is that children and families grow together and experience Christ in a real way.

BRIGHT BEGINNINGS PRESCHOOL

The Ankeny First Bright Beginnings Preschool, started in 1964, was and still is an outreach program for the church and community. Licensed by the State of Iowa, our three, four and five-year-old, Kinder-Prep and Parent's Morning Out (two-year-olds) programs provide meaningful preschool experiences in a social environment. We use The Creative Curriculum to help guide our teaching through Interest Areas and process-driven activities. We weave Christian faith, concepts, activities, and monthly Bible verses into our teaching as well. We provide a preschool-appropriate Chapel time each Wednesday, introducing a variety of Bible stories and songs.

More information can be found at www.brightbeginningsatfirst.org.

YOUTH MINISTRY

BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR LIFELONG FAITH IN CHRIST!

Middle School and High School students are invited to join us for weekly fun and fellowship as we grow closer to Christ, together. We gather each week for worship, Bible Study, games, and small group time. We also participate in several other special events and trips throughout the year, including summer mission trips for both middle school and high school students.

6th-7th Grade Youth Group

6th-7th grade students meet for a weekly youth group gathering each Wednesday evening.

8th-12th Grade Youth Group

8th-12th grade students meet for a weekly youth group gathering, also on Wednesday evenings.

Confirmation: 9th Grade and Above

For those students who were baptized as infants or as children, Confirmation is an extension of that baptism. For those who have not yet been baptized, Confirmation is a chance to further explore their faith in Christ, our United Methodist history, and our Method here at Ankeny First UMC before joining the church as an adult member.

SMALL GROUP OFFERINGS & SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

In a large church, it can be hard to meet people and make friends. That changes for those who connect in a small group. In these settings, you get to know and care for others while they know and care for you. Discussions move beyond the superficial into the real issues of life and living like Christ in the secular world.

The Groups page on our church website (<http://ankenymethodist.org/groups-page.htm>) has great information about ongoing and upcoming small groups.

CHRISTIAN CARE MINISTRIES

The Caring Ministries' mission is to reflect God's love and to bring wholeness and healing to God's people through support, education, and service. In consultation with the church's Christian Care Cluster, the Director of Discipleship provides leadership, care, guidance, and support in the area of health ministry.

DISCIPLESHIP CLUSTER

The Discipleship Cluster brings people together by building relationships among members, friends, and those new to Ankeny First, to grow deeper together in Christ. Its ministries seek to ease ways for our church family to be involved in the rhythm of life in our community.

WORSHIP ARTS MINISTRY

WORSHIP is essential to living out our Method here at Ankeny First. When we as a church come together each weekend, we are putting Christ first and telling God He is worth all our glory, honor, and praise. One of the ways we can RESPOND in service is by giving back to God using the gifts and talents He has given us. Whether it be singing or playing an instrument, running cameras or slides, audio or lights, we offer a variety of musical and creative opportunities for all ages.

MISSIONS MINISTRIES

At Ankeny First we believe in putting "Love in Action" and the many ministry teams of the Missions Cluster provide a number of hands-on ministry opportunities. Our local ministries supplement our support of the denomination-wide emphasis. In addition to our physical and material efforts, we also keep those served by these ministries in ongoing prayer. Look for ways to get involved through our weekly announcements, InSites newsletter and our website.

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MJOHNSON7@FARMERSAGENT.COM
<https://agents.farmers.com/mjohnson7>



Restrictions apply. Discounts may vary. Not available in all states. See your agent for details. Insurance is underwritten by Farmers Insurance Exchange and other affiliated insurance companies. Visit farmers.com for a complete listing of companies. Not all insurers are authorized to provide insurance in all states. Coverage is not available in all states.

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2022 ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Mike Janes & Angie Loomis, Staff

2022	2023	2024
Tim Harrison	Matt Bybee	Nancy Myers
Cherry Marsden, Co-chair	Krista Fuller	Julie Porter, Co-chair
Vikki Vencil	Mark Vogt	Cherish Taylor

Lay Leader Steve Nielsen
Finance Rep Julie Porter

TRUSTEES

Robert Bayse & Brenda Schilling, Staff

2022	2023	2024
Tyler Hogue, Co-chair	Josh Cronbaugh	Don Boyce
Jackie Vandivier	Mark Fischer	Dave Kubik
	Dave Unick, Co-chair	

Finance Committee Rep Mark Fischer
Memorial Committee Rep Tyler Hogue
Endowment Rep Dave Unick
Church Council Rep Jackie Vandivier

MINISTRY TEAM AND TASK FORCE COORDINATORS:

Property Tony Arbogast
Kitchen Committee Janet Leonard
..... Nancy Miller

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mike Janes, Angie Loomis & Brenda Schilling, Staff

2022	2023	2024
Nikki Harrison	Kurt Gibson	Todd Anliker
Bill Hudson	Kristin Maletta, Chair	Ryan Brown
Mat Johnson		
Larry Voigt		

Ex-Officio:

Chairperson, Church Council Joel Fox
Representative - SPRC Julie Porter
Representative - Trustees Mark Fischer
Lay Leader Steve Nielsen
Financial Officer Brenda Schilling
Treasurer Pat Glover
Stewardship Rep Dan Taylor

AUDIT SUBCOMMITTEE

2022	2023	2024
Joyce Russell	Addison Riebkes	Teresa Deeth

STEWARDSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE

Wade Greiman	Shelly Kubik	Brad Oelmann
Phil Sherman	Dan Taylor	

**2022 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS –
CHURCH COUNCIL**

Chairperson: Joel Fox (2019)
Vice Chairperson: Angie Thornton (2022)
Secretary: Scott Marler (2021)
Lay Leader: Steve Nielsen (2020)

LAY DELEGATES - ANNUAL CONFERENCE

2022	2023	2024	Alternates
Jill Boliver	Shelly Kubik	Alicia Ver Huel	Scott Marler
		Tracey Simmonds	Jackie Vandivier

CHURCH COUNCIL AT-LARGE MEMBERS

2022	2023	2024
Bruce Worswick	Chris Schreier	Ty Brown
Diane Bargfrede	Terry Boehlje	

Youth Rep: Grayson McElroy
Trustee Rep: Jackie Vandivier
UMW Rep: Joyce Norton