

2021 GUIDEBOOK & CHURCH DIRECTORY

AnkenyFirst.org | 515.964.4249



Therefore
encourage
one another
and build
each other
up, just as
in fact you
are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Ankeny First United Methodist Church

@first



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.

So much has happened, and so much else was canceled or postponed, since we published last year's Guidebook! In a time in history when things were already changing so fast, we entered a world where every travel plan, event plan, or plan to be with the people you love could change at a moment's notice. It can be hard to find your footing, let alone feel like you are soaring. Thankfully, we serve a God who does not change and whose love endures forever, a God whose love causes growth wherever God's love is found. If you look closely, even in a year like we are in, you can see new ways God's love has been able to peek through not despite the challenges, but because of them.

There is quite a bit less information in this Guidebook than usual. The pandemic has wreaked the same havoc on our congregation's schedule as it has on my personal schedule. We are sometimes able to host small groups and fitness classes in our facility...and sometimes not. We are sometimes open for in-person worship...and sometimes not. I encourage you to go to our webpage, ankenfirst.org, and check us out on social media for up-to-date information on what is happening when.

We have focused on the Method of becoming a disciple of Jesus these last few years, and that part has not changed. How we guide you through the Method is different, sometimes from week to week, but we still believe that worship of God not only puts our lives in perspective, but it is what we were created to do. We believe that connecting with others in small groups is the laboratory in which we learn and experience loving our neighbor as ourselves. We believe responding to God's love in service expands our definition of who our neighbor is and also creates in us a fresh experience of worship, leading us back through the Method again. Those three steps, and the people in them, kept me grounded and connected to God in a year when I could count on nothing but God.

Things will certainly change again as we are able to reopen, but the love of God experienced in this Method will be constant. You can find your footing and make progress in your relationship with God, not only by working this Method, but also by inviting others to come with you. My prayer is that you are both grounded and able to soar by staying connected to God through Ankeny First!

In Christ,

Pastor Mike Janes

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 Children & Family Ministries	Pat Crownover
Director of Youth Ministry.....	Dustin Buell
Director of Discipleship.....	Rhonda Alessio
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	Nikki Schuchart
Orchestra Director.....	Nate Newhard
Director of Bright Beginnings Preschool.....	Tiffany Hoffman

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS AUTOMOTIVE



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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:

Traditional Worship -

Join us for formal worship with inspirational messages, classic hymns led by the organ, and special music presented by choirs, hand bells and orchestra.

Contemporary Worship -

Come to this contemporary worship service in our traditional sanctuary setting. Upbeat praise music provided by a small worship band enhances this more casual, spirit-filled worship service.

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.

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 Facebook as well – www.facebook.com/AnkenyFirst. 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 indicate this on the Connect Card that is a supplement each week of worship. We will then contact you about upcoming membership classes.

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.

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To live in the hearts of those we love... is never to die - Thomas Campbell



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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.

ANKENY FIRST 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 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.

SPARK: 6th-8th Grade Youth Group

Spark is our weekly youth group gathering for students in 6th-8th grade. We currently meet each Wednesday evening.

IGNITE: 9th-12th Grade Youth Group

Ignite is our weekly youth group gathering for students in 9th-12th grade, 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 church website, www.AnkenyFirst.org, 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's 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.

2021 ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Mike Janes & Angie Loomis, Staff

2021	2022	2023
Angie Thornton	Traci Schermerhorn	Krista Fuller
Kim Harmon	Cherry Marsden, Co-chair	Matt Bybee
Julie Porter, Co-chair	Tim Harrison	Mark Vogt

Lay Leader Steve Nielsen
Finance Rep Julie Porter

TRUSTEES

Robert Bayse & Brenda Schilling, Staff

2021	2022	2023
John Stratton	Jackie Vandivier	Mark Fischer
Jim Logan, Co-chair	Tyler Hogue	Josh Cronbaugh
Shawn Corey, Co-chair	Dave Unick	

Finance Committee Rep Mark Fischer
Memorial Committee Rep Tyler Hogue
Endowment Rep John Stratton
Church Council Rep Jackie Vandivier

MINISTRY TEAM AND TASK FORCE COORDINATORS:

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mike Janes & Angie Loomis, Staff

2021	2022	2023
Karen Newell, Chair	Bill Hudson	Ross Schuchart
Kelsey Valley	Larry Voigt	Kurt Gibson
Mat Johnson	Kristin Maletta	Nikki Harrison

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

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AUDIT SUBCOMMITTEE

2021	2022	2023
Emily Chance	Addison Riebkes	Joyce Russell

STEWARDSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE

Shelly Kubik	Phil Sherman	Steve Freeborn
Kathy Knutson	Wade Greiman	Tanya Sheeks
Dan Taylor		

**2021 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS –
CHURCH COUNCIL**

Chairperson: Joel Fox (2019)
Vice Chairperson:
Secretary: Terry Boehlje (2015)
Lay Leader: Steve Nielsen (2020)

LAY DELEGATES - ANNUAL CONFERENCE

2021	2022	2023 Alternate
Alicia Ver Huel	Jill Boliver	Dustin Buell
Scott Marler	Jackie Vandivier	Angela Rubino

CHURCH COUNCIL AT-LARGE MEMBERS

2021	2022	2023
Dustin Bloom	Bruce Worswick	Chris Schreier
Jill Boyles	Diane Bargfrede	

Youth Rep: Dustin Buell
Trustee Rep: Jackie Vandivier
UMW Rep: Joyce Norton