

# THE EVANGEL – APRIL 2016

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Greetings all, I trust your spring is sprung. I am happy to say our churches are geared up for a great spring and summer! We are starting the process of seeking God's heart and I feel like we are having some great conversations. I am most excited that we are talking about real issues! I am in prayer for what comes next. Stay tuned and in the meantime check out how someone with a true gift of writing, explains what she sees happening in our churches. And remember to pray for our community!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Jason Collier'.

Pastor Jason Collier

Space. This space is normally used to communicate with the church family what has happened in the past month, or what is coming up in Youth and Family Ministry. A calendar of sorts, which some may skim and decide that nothing applies; and others may use to plan how to get to the fun or important events, or how to help. Instead, this month, I want to share with you something much more important. Our church is changing. It's growing.



I sense the pregnant fullness of something in the belly. Next will come the uncomfortable feeling of impending insecurities and then the groans and growls of labor... but if we endure and work through, we will receive the gift of new life. That's what this is all about, right? This church business we're doing each week, each Sunday, and sometimes every day in between the Sundays. The full, pregnant possibility of new life for ourselves, new life for others, and new life inside the walls of our beloved buildings is what we strive for as Christian believers. It's the promise of a fresh, new start today, and an eternal life that motivates us to stretch our bodies, our minds, and our wills to birth a new life.

It's following Jesus that takes us out of our church and into the world; the cold, dark, hurtful, awful world. A world that has fallen short and often rejects us as we walk out of our precious pews into every Sunday. We are called, so we go. We go and we extend our hands to those who look like they need Jesus. We feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick, dying and imprisoned and we give drink to the thirsty. Because Jesus told us that this is the way to be like Him. We do it for the least. Then we come in on Sunday morning to be fed and filled and fortified so that we can go back out and do it all again.

But what happens when we come in on Sunday, and we don't feel fed, filled or fortified? What happens when our attention is on noisy kids and diapers that need changed; on fights over crayons and etch-a-sketches or who got the last of those delicious cookies? What happens when we can't pay attention to the message because someone's hair is on fire or there are people getting up to use the restroom or we just can't focus because of the disagreement we had with our spouse over coffee this morning? What if our hearts are broken because we are missing our beloved spouse? Are we still pregnant with possibility and potential when we aren't "feeling" the love from the church? Of course. Are we joyful about it? Probably not.

I've met all kinds of pregnant women over my life. I've even been one. I have seen women who, like me, enjoy every second of the pregnancy, and I've spent time with women who absolutely detest being pregnant and try to rush through their 40-week incubation period like mad hatters beyond the looking glass. I have been on both sides of that pregnant feeling in many churches. I've watched as beautiful ideas are spat on and slapped away, much like Christ on the road to Golgotha, and I've seen people hissing and booing from the side of the road. I have also witnessed people leave the comfort of their hiding place to come to an event in the church, to meet Jesus. I've heard the stories of those who minister to others because their hearts are moved.

I have been blessed many times in the past month, to see how very pregnant our churches are; and to see the belly widening with each person who steps in to be a part of the growth. I see people from all different ages, with all different reasons coming together to stretch and dilate and contract and breathe. And yet, while there are some coming, there are others who have reservations. They doubt that they can do anything, and to them, I can only say this: there is no end to our life bearing years until Jesus says so. If you are like Sarah and saying, "Will God give Abraham a son in his old age?" remember that God's answer was a resounding, "Yes!" in a wrinkled little boy named Isaac. We are never too old to bring forth new life in the church. If you are wondering if you are too young, well, then I must tell you that Mary was probably around 13 years old when she became pregnant with Jesus. Mary was not married, had never been with a man, but was betrothed or engaged to Joseph; Jewish history and culture says that young women were often married as they entered their teenage years. So if she hadn't been married yet, she was likely just entering her teens. I say then no! You are not too young to bring forth new life. You are the perfect age! As long as God is your birth coach, you are going to be just fine. When the pain gets too much to bear, cry out to Jesus. Who better to have in your delivery room than THE deliverer? Who better to stand with you through the excruciating pain than the one who endured hell and overcame death? What then, are we pregnant with? What is this new life? Only God really knows, but I suspect that it is new ministry. New direction, new purpose, a renewed sense of belonging to the Lord, and service through gratitude. I sense that a right and re-centered focus on God would bring us to a kinder, more intentional way of loving each other, as Jesus commanded us. Our neighbor as ourselves. Not just saying "good morning", but actually looking our neighbors in the eye and seeing what God wants us to see. Perhaps that is what is in the womb of our pregnant churches. Won't you pray with me that whatever God is delivering will be set free and released for His kingdom purposes, that this new life will be welcomed, yes, and even expected? That all God's people will say, "Amen", yes, "So be it Lord"! I can almost hear the rush of the waiting room now. People are coming to see our new life!

*AmySara Richardson*  
*Youth and Family Ministry*

## **PASTOR VISITS AND PRAYER LIST**

Please let the church know if you would like Pastor Jason to call on you or if you need to be on our prayer list. Unless Pastor hears from you, he has no way of knowing of your needs. You may call **Pastor Jason's cell 563.343.3390** at any time or **AmySara's cell 319.591.0745**. You may also leave a message on the **church answering machine: 319-657-3020** or call **Jan's cell 319.330-6175**.



## COLTHURST SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION: 4.17



Youth who have been active in the church by being involved in youth group, puppet ministry, and other church activities are eligible to apply for the Colthurst Scholarship. Write a letter (**there is not a form**) to the selection committee sharing an overview of your church, school, community, and family activities and responsibilities. Submit the information to the Ainsworth Community Church Office by **Sunday, April 17**. It may be mailed to: Ainsworth Community Church, PO Box 40, Ainsworth, IA 52201; **OR** given to Jan Temple, **OR** emailed to [AinsworthChurch@gmail.com](mailto:AinsworthChurch@gmail.com) Recipients will be announced during worship on May 1 – Senior Sunday.

## SENIOR SUNDAY – MAY 1



Mark your calendar for May 1! We will acknowledge graduates and announce recipients of the Colthurst Scholarship. The celebration will begin at 10 AM with special treats at the snack table. The honorees will be there to receive your congratulations.

## THANK YOU!! TO ALL KIDS' CLUB WORKERS



A big **THANK YOU** to everyone assisting with Kids' Club! It was another wonderful season, thanks to you. Every teacher, helper, parent and participant plays a very important role in this ministry of the church. Please know your efforts are noted AND appreciated!

## SPRING CLEANING AT ACC – APRIL 13



It's time to do a bit of spring cleaning at the church! We need to wipe out the refrigerators and check the cupboards in the kitchen. If there are some nimble volunteers, the baseboards need attention! The main thing will be treating the woodwork – it's a "Liquid Gold®" Party! Following are the times that have been set aside for cleaning. Please let Jan Temple or Linda McNeil know if you could assist. Thank you! **Wednesday, April 13: 9-10:30 AM and/or 7-8:30 PM**

## MISSION SPEAKER SUNDAY, APRIL 24



Todd and Marcia Baldrige, Directors of "Water Our Thirsty World," will give our children's sermon as well as a message during worship on Sunday, April 24. We will have an opportunity to visit with them informally asking more questions at a potluck luncheon in the Fellowship Hall at ACC following worship. We are currently helping support them through "On His Path". Todd and Marcia will help us see the need and the hand of God at work in the world. FMI: <http://www.ourthirstyworld.org/who.html>

## SPPRC – THANK YOU, MARG COLTHURST!



We wish to express our grateful thanks to Marg Colthurst for graciously serving on the Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee for MANY years! This is the committee that oversees all paid staff at the church. If there is ever a pastor vacancy, THIS is the committee that goes to work to find a replacement. Marg has chosen to step down from the committee but not before finding a replacement to suggest to Parish Council. Thank you, Marg! We now welcome Karen Arduser to complete Marg's term on the committee.

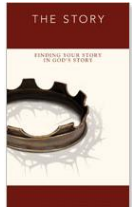
# SYNOD SCHOOL 2016 – JULY 24-29



Synod School is a special learning and personal enrichment experience for all ages. We seek to create an environment of hospitality, healing and hope. The week is designed for laity and clergy, individuals and families. Classes and activities are available for adults, youth and children – some separately, some intergenerational. Come...and grow in faith through action, relationships, and a centering of the spirit. Come...for continuing education, for a special family experience, or for individual growth. Come...to participate in a unique experience of Christian community, as we worship, study, play, and live together. FMI: [www.lakesandprairies.org/SynodSchool](http://www.lakesandprairies.org/SynodSchool) or Call: 800.328.1880 x 207 OR check out the catalog on the bulletin board inside the South Church door. **Connecting with Jesus in an Over-Connected World Synod School 2016**

## “THE STORY” ADULT BIBLE STUDY

“The Story” Bible Study group will resume with **Chapter 28 on Sunday, April 3** at 9:15 AM in the Fellowship Hall under the leadership of Oscar and Wynne Steele. Here is the schedule for the rest of the series.



<b>April 3</b> – Chapter 28: New Beginnings	<b>April 17</b> – Chapter 30: Paul’s Final Days
<b>April 10</b> – Chapter 29: Paul’s Mission	<b>TBD</b> : Chapter 31: The End of Time

## SHOW COURTESY TO CHURCH NEIGHBORS



FYI – We have new neighbors living in the house across 4<sup>th</sup> street to the west of the south church. The house has been empty for some time and we have all gotten a bit haphazard in where we park as we attend events at the South church. Unfortunately, their driveway is right there and we have goofed and blocked them in several times – Opps!! PLEASE – let’s be good neighbors and be careful where you park. Thank you all for your courtesy.

## PARENTS NIGHT OUT

Friday April 1, 2016 is the first **Parents Night Out** (or in)! Ainsworth Community Church is offering a special time of FREE childcare for children ages 0-10. Preregistration is required. FMI: please call Ann at 319-325-2108.



## PARENTS AND PRESCHOOLERS



Wednesday, April 6, 2016 is the first **Parents and Preschoolers** event at Ainsworth Community Church. The Drive-In Theatre will begin at 11:15 AM, in the Fellowship Hall of the South Church, at the corner of Washington and 4th in Ainsworth. Bring a box to decorate, and watch the movie “Cars” with other moms and preschoolers! There will be a light lunch, stories, memory verses, prizes and much more!!! All children are welcome as long as they are accompanied by an adult. For information, call Ann at 319-325-2108.

## ACC GARAGE SALE

Saturday April 9th will be the monthly ACC **Garage Sale** in the North Church at the corner of Lincoln & 4th in Ainsworth. This is a free will donation garage sale with proceeds benefiting our local food pantry and mission work as well as our student outreach and ministry events. Rain or shine this event is open from 9 AM until Noon.



## LOST AND FOUND



A small earring was found in the sanctuary. Call 657-3020 or 319-330-6175 to claim it. Thank you!

## +++++COMMUNITY EVENTS+++++

### ACAPPELLA – SUNDAY APRIL 10



Sunday, April 10 at the Ainsworth Opera House enjoy tunes as treats as Acapella performs. Doors open at 1:30 PM; show begins at 2 PM. There is an admission fee. Acappella is a group of women who sing a unique brand of four-part harmony, unaccompanied. Formed in 1999, the 14-member group is known for their pleasing, close harmony and an eclectic musical mix including sacred, gospel, country, popular, jazz and Broadway selections. All ages are welcome.

### ANNUAL ROAST BEEF SUPPER – APRIL 16

Saturday, April 16, 5-7:30 PM Trinity United Methodist Church, 11 East 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Riverside will host their Annual Spring Roast Beef supper. Tickets may be purchased at People's Bank in Riverside or call 319.430.0595; 319.330.8557, or 319.648.3092. Menu: Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Corn and Green Beans, Dinner Rolls, Homemade Salads and Homemade Desserts. During the supper, the United Methodist Women will host their Annual Bake Sale.



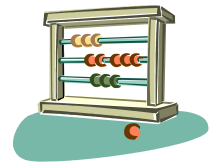
### UCC SPRING RUMMAGE SALE – APRIL 21-23



Thursday, April 21, 8 AM – 6 PM  
 Friday, April 22, 8 AM – 6 PM  
 Saturday, April 23, 8 AM – Noon  
 FREE WILL DONATION

### FEBRUARY AND MARCH ATTENDANCE

Month	2015	2016
February	308	327
March	421 (5 Sundays)	391




### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE



**Joys:** Our risen Savior! The wonders of Spring! **Concerns:** Those recovering from surgery – join replacement, organ transplant, and others; those returning to work; those mourning the loss of friends, family, neighbors; those suffering with an illness; Steve and Rachel Call Family upon the death of Rachel's mother; **Serving Our Country:** We say "Thank You!" to members and their families serving our country.

### BUDGET REPORT – 2.29.16

	Income	\$5,893.98	Expenses	\$6,336.34
	General Fund	\$16,173.02	Building Fund	\$13,240.52
	Memorial Fund	\$5,258.25	Need/month for budget	\$7603.00

2016 Combined Presbytery and Methodist dues/apportionments: \$10,062.00

# PARISH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



An overview of some reports and issues discussed at the March meeting. **Ann Ballard** addressed the Council about starting several new ministries at ACC directed at families with young children. The Council approved supporting Ann as she implements the Parents Night Out and Parents and Preschoolers ministries. (Details may be found elsewhere in the newsletter). **Christian Education – Kids’ Club** has concluded for the spring. About 35 youth participated during the spring session that concluded with a special presentation by the Kingdom Klowns. **Property** – The bushes have been removed from all around the church and fresh rock has been spread around the church parking areas. Kim Yoder has installed the building surge protector at the South Church. He is checking options for the chandelier in the entry so it may be operated from both the ground floor and the sanctuary level. **Mission** –The Garage Sale is happening March 10-12. In future months, the plan is to have a sale the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month from 9 AM until Noon. **SPPRC:** Need to meet to complete report that is due May 2. **Memorial** – We are receiving some monies from the Freda McCracken and Margene Erlenbush memorials. **Old Business:** Adapt to Thrive – 18 persons attended first meeting. **New Business:** Approved monies for Molly Klinzman to attend Crooked Creek Christian camp. Worship in the Park is set for June 12 in the Conservation center. Worship at 10 AM; potluck at 11:30 AM. Next meeting is Thursday, April 14, 2016.

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS/\*ANNIVERSARIES



4) Amy Runge; 5) Dorothy Stout, Derek Stewart; Laurie Morrison; 6) \*Larry & Kathy Bean; 8) Maggie Rees Altenhofen; Deb Chalupa; 9) Don Powers; 10) Carson Bean, \*Gary & Nancy Stewart; 11) Megan Edgar, Jacob Hartzler; 13) \*Rich & Lois Riggan; 15) Jim Wilson; 16) Allison Barnes; 18) Gracyn Anderson, Dave Skubal; 20) Rachel Megchelsen; \*Dan & Stacy Klinzman; 21) Kate Hartzler; 22) Ed Shatzer; 23) Linda Wenger; 25) Rosemary Harris, Marissa Chalupa; Brian Koehler, \*Eric & Deb Stewart; 26) Josh Sands; 28) Georgina White; 30) Bernice Darby, Pat Jenkins, Joe Skubal

## APRIL/MAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



Please note: If you are not able to serve as a worship assistant, **please find a substitute**. If you would like to be a worship assistant, PLEASE tell Jan!!

Date	Ushers	Greeters	Candles	Snacks	AV
April 3	Neil Mills Neal Megchelsen	Wilma/Darrell Chalupa	Gracyn Bean- Humston	Laura Temple, Jan Temple	Dalton Diers, Joey Collier
10	Dave Kaufman, Steve Anderson	Dan/Stacy Klinzman	Molly Klinzman	Liz Kaufman, Rita Anderson	Dalton Diers, Joey Collier
17	Jim Hansen, Wendell Arduser	Oscar/Wynne Steele	Lexi Collier	Sherri Hazen, Chris Sieren	Dalton Diers, Joey Collier
24	Carson Bean, Dennis Bean	Joe/Judy Skubal	Kate Hartzler	Wynne Steele, Kathi Bean	Dalton Diers, Joey Collier
May 1	Myron Rees, Jason Anderson	Carol Bean, Nancy Stewart	Shalyn Kirk	ACCW & Membership	Dalton Diers, Joey Collier
8	Neil Mills Neal Megchelsen	Ruth Miller, Angie Ornduff	Carson Bean	Karen Megchelsen, Brenda Bean	Dalton Diers, Joey Collier

# LECTIONARY SCRIPTURE FOR APRIL 2016

## APRIL 3 (2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER)

Acts 5:27-32;  
Psalm 150 (UMH 862),  
Revelation 1:4-8;  
John 20:19-31



## APRIL 10 (3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER)

Acts 9:1-6 (7-20)  
Psalm 30 (UMH 762)  
Revelation 5:11-14  
John 21:1-9

## APRIL 17 (4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER)

Acts 9:36-43  
Psalm 23 (UMH 754 or 137)  
Revelation 7:9-17  
John 10:22-30

## APRIL 24 (5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER)

Acts 11:1-18  
Psalm 148 (UMH 861)  
Revelation 21:1-6  
John 13:31-35

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS – APRIL 2016



**Sunday, April 3:** Adult Bible Study “The Story, Ch. 28”, Fellowship Hall, 9:15 AM; Worship 10:30 AM, AmySara Richardson, Pulpit Supply, CIA Youth Group, 4 PM, UCC

**Monday, April 4:** Sisters Group, Crawfordsville, 8 PM

**Tues., April 5:** Spirit Sisters Bible Study, Ainsworth, 8:30 AM; “Son” Seekers, Jan Temple 7 PM

**Wed., April 6:** Parents & Preschoolers, 11:15 AM, Fellowship Hall, FMI: Ann 319-325-2108

**Thursday, April 7:** TKD, Fellowship Hall, 6 PM

**Friday, April 8:** Jason: Course of Study; Praise Team Rehearsal, 4-5 PM, Church Sanctuary

**Saturday, April 9:** Jason attending Course of Study, ACC Garage Sale for Mission and Youth Group – North Church, 9 AM to Noon

**Sunday, April 10:** Adult Bible Study using “The Story, Chapter 29”, Fellowship Hall, 9:15 AM, Worship 10:30 AM, “The Story” Chapter 29, “Paul’s Mission”; CIA Youth Group 3 PM, UCC

**Monday, April 11:** Sisters Group, Crawfordsville, 8 PM

**Tuesday, April 12:** Spirit Sisters Ainsworth Bible Study, 8:30 AM

**Wednesday, April 13:** Clean the Church!!! 9-10:30 AM and/or 7-8:30 PM

**Thursday, April 14:** ACCW 1:30 PM, Fellowship Hall, Program by Jason, Angie Refreshments; TKD, Fellowship Hall, 6 PM; Parish Council, 7 PM, North Church

**Friday, April 15:** Praise Team Rehearsal

**Sunday, April 17:** ***Colthurst Scholarships Due to Church Office by 5 PM***; The Story Bible Study, 9:15 AM –Ch. 30: Paul’s Final Days”; Worship 10:30 AM, CIA Youth Group, 4 PM UCC

**Monday, April 18:** Sisters Group, Crawfordsville, 8 PM

**Tuesday, April 19:** Spirit Sisters Ainsworth Bible Study, 8:30 AM; “Card” Club, ACC Fellowship Hall, 5 PM; “Son” Seekers, Herb & Dorothy Koehler, 7 PM

**Wednesday, April 20:** Staff Meeting, UCC, 8:30 AM; Bachelor’s Lunch, 11:30 AM, UCC

**Thursday, April 21:** TKD, Fellowship Hall, 6 PM

**Friday, April 22:** Praise Team Rehearsal, 5 PM, ACC Sanctuary

**Saturday, April 23:** Fellowship Hall reserved for private group

**Sunday, April 24:** Todd and Marcia Baldrige Mission Speakers during worship at 10:30 AM and guests at potluck in Fellowship Hall following worship. Bring dish to pass; table service and beverage provided. CIA Youth Group, 4 PM UCC

**Mon., April 25:** Hold Fellowship Hall for Sacha Club, 6 PM; Sisters Group, Crawfordsville, 8 PM

**Tuesday, April 26:** Spirit Sisters Ainsworth Bible Study, 8:30 AM; Adapt to Thrive Strategic Planning, 6:30 PM, Fellowship Hall

**Wednesday, April 27:** Parents and Preschoolers, 11:15 AM

**Thursday, April 28:** TKD, Fellowship Hall, 6 PM

**Friday, April 29:** Praise Team Rehearsal, 5 PM ACC Sanctuary

**Saturday, April 30:** Fellowship Hall reserved for private group.

**Sunday, May 1:** Senior Sunday including Colthurst Scholarship Announcement, 10:30 AM

**Ainsworth Community Church**  
**PO Box 40**  
**322 Washington Street**  
**Ainsworth, IA 52201**

Nonprofit Organization  
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Permit #3  
Ainsworth, IA

**Change Service Requested**

WORSHIP TIME

Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM; Adult Bible Study: Sunday 9:15 AM

GENERAL MINISTRY OF CONGREGATION

PASTOR JASON COLLIER: Home: 319.658.3013; Cell: 563. 343.3390;

OR EMAIL: [jwcyouth@gmail.com](mailto:jwcyouth@gmail.com)

CHURCH OFFICE: [AinsworthChurch@gmail.com](mailto:AinsworthChurch@gmail.com)

Phone: 319.657.3020

PO Box 40, 322 Washington Street, Ainsworth, IA 52201

Facebook: Ainsworth Community Church and

Ainsworth Community Church Youth Group

Web: <http://ainsworthchurch.org> Twitter: AinsworthCC

YOUTH MINISTRY: AmySara Richardson 319.591.0745;

OR EMAIL: [amysararichardson@gmail.com](mailto:amysararichardson@gmail.com)

SECRETARY: Jan Temple 657.2291; Cell: 319.330.6175;

OR EMAIL: [templejan@gmail.com](mailto:templejan@gmail.com)

ORGANIST: Linda McNeil; Jenny Yoder (substitute)

CUSTODIANS: Dick & Chris Sieren: 657-2222

TREASURER: Rita Anderson

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Karen Megchelsen, 3206 265<sup>th</sup> St.,

Ainsworth, IA 52201

MISSION COMMITTEE: Kathi/Brenda: 657.2387; and Ann: 319.330.0348

Ainsworth Community Church is a United Methodist/Presbyterian Church (USA) union congregation, together since 1973. Aligned with United Church of Crawfordsville since April 1, 2013.

We are the community church. We hope you will come and join us in one or more of these activities: Morning Worship Service, Youth Fellowship, Bible Studies, Women's Group, and much more.