

THE EVANGEL – DEC. ‘15/JAN. ‘16

FROM THE PASTOR

Christmas Holiday Greetings

This Christmas, cut through the hype that leaves you exhausted and broke at the end of the year. Instead, experience the peace of knowing that God is truly with us, the joy of giving sacrificially, and the love of a Savior who gave everything he had for us. In the 4 short weeks of Advent (and the week before and after) our Worship and Mission team will be challenging our church to approach Christmas differently, and be transformed in the process.



Biblically, the focus of Christmas is God's redemptive work of Salvation in the person of Jesus—who came to be among us. The mission of Jesus as stated in Isaiah 61 is to “preach good news to the poor, and set the oppressed people free”. This applies to all forms of oppression including materialism. What we have done is taken Christmas and abandoned the whole reason of Jesus' birth, which was to give his life for the life of the world and for the least and the lost.

This advent, I am challenging our congregation to give to an amazing mission. We will be investing in the lives of families here in our community through our mission team. This includes food pantry, Christmas giving, clothes closet, rummage sale and lots more. I am asking for families to prayerfully consider giving an equal portion of what they spend on holiday festivities to this mission. Our Christmas miracle fund raising goal is \$1,500. Do you think a miracle is possible?

Just remember, we can give in lots of ways including time, service, and money! I need to be clear that if you have a mission you always support this time of year please do that. And never go into debt to help the church! “Christmas is not your birthday.” We can live out that belief together this advent by reclaiming the missional meaning of Jesus' birth and experience a Christmas season with more peace and joy than any toy or gadget could ever bring. Let us be disciples that are heaven-bent on changing the world!

**BE BOLD, BE STRONG, FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD IS WITH YOU!
AND MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM MY FAMILY TO EACH OF YOU!**

Pastor Jason Collier

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason Collier', written over a light grey background.

PASTOR VISITS AND PRAYER LIST



If you have special needs or would like Pastor Jason to call on you, you may reach him on his cell phone at any time – 563-343-3390. If you would like to request prayers or join the prayer chain, contact Jan at 319-657-3020 or 319.330-6175 or ainsworthchurch@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS AT ACC

The Youth Christmas Program will be held during 10:30 AM worship on Sunday, December 13. The Puppet Ministry, Youth, and Adult Choir will all be part of the service.

Christmas Eve Candlelight worship (no communion) will be held at 5 PM at ACC.



YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

WE'VE MOVED! Thank you to Joe Skubal, Clifton Dawley, and Chris Richardson and family for their help on Sunday, November 29th. Clifton and Chris moved all the furniture from the basement in the North Church so that Kids Club can have their music room back this winter!! Chris and his family then moved all the furniture to Crawfordsville, where Norman Brooks will use some of it in his furniture ministry, and a couple of items will remain in the youth room for our weekly meetings. We are so blessed to have these men in our church family, who are so willing to help when needed! Thank you Chris, Clifton, Norman and Joe!

YOUTH GROUP In December, the students will be enjoying more time together in Crawfordsville from 4-5:30 on Sundays. Youth Group is open to all students in grades 6-12 regardless of their experience in church. We meet in the fellowship hall or the youth room for activities and discussion each week. Topics range from being willing to give all we have to serve God to using our time and talents to serve others to what's going on in our world. We love hanging out and welcome anyone who wants to visit. All students who wish to be a part of youth group, specifically to attend special events, are required to fill out a waiver. Waivers are available on the youth group's Facebook group page. We are also seeking adults to volunteer their time as staff and adults who would like to donate meals or come and cook meals at youth group. Students LOVE to eat!!

BREAKFAST CLUB Approximately 10 students enjoy breakfast together on PD Fridays at Crawfordsville. All students are welcome when there is no school. Youth group pays for the food. We have received some generous donations from the Lewis family, and Juanita Dawley and Rachelle Hiller have come to cook breakfast and donated food to this ministry. Rachel and Trent Megchelson have been constants as adult volunteers! This is an amazing time of fellowship, and students enjoy hanging out in the church!

WEDNESDAY PROGRAM The Wednesday program, formerly known as The Well has been discontinued in Ainsworth. Because most of the parents and other volunteers work during the days, we are unable to continue with the after school time frame of this program. New ideas have been shared, and we are exploring our options for changing the time and structure of this ministry. We have PLENTY of students who want to spend time together on Wednesdays, however, we are careful to honor our Safe Sanctuary policy of always having two adults minimum at every youth event. Stay tuned after the first of the year for more information on the Wednesday Program!

RETREAT January 8th, 9th, and 10th will be the winter youth retreat. Students earned enough money through the ACC Garage sale to cover the cost of this special event! We will spend the weekend at Crooked Creek Christian Camp, and there are some amazing plans in the works! Registration for this event is required, and open to members of Christ Is Alive Youth Group. Adult volunteers are needed for all kinds of things! You don't have to stay overnight! You don't have to spend all day! You can volunteer to come for an hour or two or less! Call AmySara to find out how you can be a part of this special event! [319-591-0745](tel:319-591-0745)

WOMEN'S MINISTRY NEWS It is so exciting to know that our women have begun meeting in small groups! We have two groups and times, with different styles right now. All women are welcome to attend!

Spirit Sisters meets at different times in various homes. Currently, this group has begun a new Bible Study, so our focus will continue to be prayer and encouragement, but we are also walking daily in the Word, and daily aware of our God Sightings! This



Bible Study is easy to jump into, and one does not need to be afraid to just "show up"; however, you will need to know the location, as it changes each week, so please call AmySara or any of the Spirit Sisters to find out where you're going! Talk to any of the following people for details on the Ainsworth Group: Rachel Call, Jessica Davis, Juanita Dawley, Andrea Ballard, Tina Collier, and Kassi Rice.

Crawfordsville Sisters small group is meeting Monday evenings from 6:30-8:30pm.

This small group women's ministry is primarily prayer and encouragement right now. This chapter does NOT have a Bible Study at this time. We meet each other where we are and support each other in our daily walk with God, as well as in our various life roles. At the current time, this small group meets in Crawfordsville church. For more information, see Becky Kremer or AmySara.

AmySara Richardson, Youth and Family Ministry

ACC RANG BELLS DEC. 6



The Ainsworth Community Church rang bells for Salvation Army at the Washington Wal-Mart on Sunday, December 6 from 1-8 PM. Shoppers were kind and generous for a great cause. 'Thank You' to our volunteers for donating their time!

KIDS' CLUB SPRING SESSION - JANUARY 20

The Ainsworth Community Church Kids' Club will resume on Wednesday, January 20, 2016 and run through Wednesday, March 9, 2016. Each session begins at 6:30 PM and will conclude by 7:30 PM at the North Church Building. All youth aged 3 years through 6th grade are welcome for the 8 week session.



MISSION COMMITTEE SAYS, "THANK YOU!"



The Mission Committee wishes to thank everyone for their support of the November Garage Sale. They raised about \$1200 that will be divided equally between Missions and the Youth Group. They are also pleased to announce the receipt of 220 pounds of potatoes from the Society of St. Andrews.

LOST AND FOUND

A pair of eye glasses (children/youth size) was found in front of the South Church. Please call Jan or the church office to claim them.



COMMUNITY NEWS

- **AINSWORTH OPERA HOUSE TO HOST:** "The Great Bluegrass Herons and Friends Acoustic Christmas Show" on Sunday, December 20, 2015, 2 PM \$12/person (Kids under 13 freewill offering). Please call ahead for reservations-319-657-3782 (ask for Sherrie or leave a message). Ainsworth Opera House Community Center-Celebrating 100 years 1915-2015.
- **ALZHEIMER'S FUNDRAISING EVENT:** Monday, December 14 at Pizza Ranch in Washington, there will be a 'Tip Night' for the Alzheimer's Association from 5-8 PM. FMI: Pat Jenkins.




WE SAY "THANK YOU!" TO:



- Kim and Jenny Yoder for providing the large evergreen wreath hanging in south entrance by the Fellowship Hall. It is beautiful!
- Sally Hart for lending her photography and layout skill to prepare the front and back cover and activity pages for the new church directory.
- Will Hart for directing the Christmas Choir at Ainsworth and Crawfordsville.
- Betty Bean for preparing baptismal towels.
- Janet Rees and Karen Megchelsen for the Christmas Program and Kids' Club.
- Janet Rees and Michelle Miller for directing the Puppet Ministry.
- Linda McNeil for the many lovely decorations placed so artfully about the church as well as all the beautiful music she plays (voluntarily) each Sunday!
- And a big "thank you" to all for their willingness to help with the many activities and tasks that make this "Our" Community Church!

BUDGET REPORT – 11-30-15

	Income	\$8555.33	Expenses	\$8,747.06
	General Fund	\$10,225.79	Building Fund	\$12,922.68
	Memorial Fund	\$5,258.13	Need/month for budget	\$7025.00

In November, additional monies were paid bringing the total paid to each denomination \$3668.57. **We still owe \$3,992.68 by the end of 2015 if we are to meet our full obligation.** ACC Parish Council and Finance Committee

PARISH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



The following is a brief overview of the November 12, 2015 meeting.

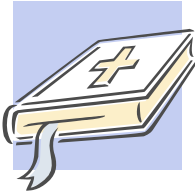
Christian Education – Kids' Club: About 85 persons attended the Harvest Meal. **Worship** – Met with UCC on November 4 to make plans for Advent. "A Different Kind of Christmas" will be the theme for the 6 week Advent series. **Property – Lightning Strike:** We have now replaced one amplifier; repaired one amplifier; replaced the camera, replaced the DVD player for the Fellowship Hall; replaced and improved the sound mixer board; replaced the computer in the office and the sanctuary and replaced the software on both computers. A different contract has been signed with Access Systems to lease a photocopy machine for \$90 each month (previously we spent \$76 each month). **Outside Lights:** Pastor Jason has been working to update the outside lights at both churches. **Mission** – Garage sale went very well. They took in about \$1000 that will be shared with the Youth Group. They are preparing for Thanksgiving and Christmas for families in need. **New Business:**

- Surge Protectors at both churches. Following discussion, it was agreed to proceed with installing whole building surge protection at the South Church, but we will hold off on the North Church until there is a strategic planning meeting.
- Kim Yoder will loan scaffolding to replace the light bulbs in the sanctuary with LED's.
- It was agreed to pay a sign language interpreter \$40 each Sunday she is needed for a hearing impaired family attending ACC.
- A Strategic Planning Meeting will be scheduled for February.
- Date for ordination of new Parish Council members could be January 3 or 10.
- It was approved to pay the Methodists \$699.77 and the Presbyterians \$2201.14 to make the total dollars paid for 2015 equal for the two denominations.
- The local 4-H Club requested use of the Fellowship Hall the 2nd Sunday of each month from 5:30 to 7 PM. Approved.

LECTIONARY SCRIPTURE FOR DECEMBER 2015

Week of December 6

Malachi 3:1-4;
 Luke 1:8-70;
 Philippians 1:3-11;
 Luke 3:1-6



Week of December 13

Zephaniah 3:14-20;
 Isaiah 12:2-6;
 Philippians 4:4-7;
 Luke 3:7-18

Week of December 20

Micah 5:2-5a;
 Luke 1:47-55;
 Hebrews 10:5-10;
 Luke 1:39-45

Week of December 27

1 Samuel 2:18-20,26;
 Psalm 148;
 Colossians 3:12-17;
 Luke 2:41-52

LECTIONARY SCRIPTURE FOR JANUARY 2016

Week of January 3

Isaiah 60:1-6;
 Psalm 72:1-7,10-14;
 Ephesians 3:1-12;
 Matthew 2:1-12



Week of January 10

Isaiah 43:1-7;
 Psalm 29;
 Acts 8:14-17;
 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Week of January 17

Isaiah 62:1-5;
 Psalm 36:5-10;
 1 Corinthians 12:1-11;
 John 2:1-11

Week of January 24

Nehemiah 8:1-10;
 Psalm 19;
 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a;
 Luke 4:14-21

DECEMBER 2015 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

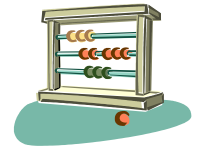
	Ushers	Greeters	Advent Candles	Liturgist	Snacks	AV
Dec 6	Neil Mills Neal Megchelsen	Wilma & Darrell Chalupa	Dan, Stacy, Molly Klinzman	Neal Megchelsen	Laura Temple, Jan Temple	Dalton Diers, Joey Collier
13	Jim Hansen, Wendell Arduser	Oscar & Wynne Steele	Wendell/Karen Arduser		Sherri Hazen, Chris Sieren	Jan Temple, Wendell Arduser
20	Joe Skubal, Rob Yoder	Dan & Stacy Klinzman	Brian/Anna Chalupa Family		Wynne Steele, Kathi Bean	Dalton Diers, Joey Collier
24	TBA	TBA	Jason/Kris Anderson Family	NA	NA	Dalton Diers, Joey Collier
27	Steve Anderson Myron Rees	Carol Bean, Nancy Stewart	Kate Hartzler	Carol Bean	Karen Megchelsen, Brenda Bean	Dalton Diers, Joey Collier

JANUARY 2016 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	Ushers	Greeters	Candles	Snacks	AV
Jan. 3	Dale Holmes, Bill Wilson	Ruth Miller, Angie Ornduff	Ellie Anderson	Judy Skubal, Jenny Yoder	Dalton Diers, Joey Collier
10	Carson Bean, Dennis Bean	Steve and Rita Anderson	Lexi Collier	Kathi Bean, Pat Jenkins	Dalton Diers, Joey Collier
17	Joe Skubal, Rob Yoder	Jim and Penny McCreedy	Gabby Dawley	Wilma Chalupa, Penny McCreedy	Dalton Diers, Joey Collier
24	Myron Rees, Neil Mills	Karen and Wendell Arduser	Shalyn Kirk	Janet Rees, Molly Hartzler	Dalton Diers, Joey Collier
31	Dave Kaufman, Steve Anderson	Dan & Stacy Klinzman	Molly Klinzman	Liz Kaufman, Rita Anderson	Dalton Diers, Joey Collier

OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER ATTENDANCE

Month	2014	2015
October	282	337
November	379	479



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE



Joys: We are grateful for the gift of our Savior. We celebrate the healing of those recovering from surgery. We rejoice in the level of participation in activities of the church and give thanks for the many volunteers who make the programs successful. **Concerns:** Those suffering with poor health, limited resources, or family conflicts. **Serving Our Country:** We say "Thank You!" to members and their families serving our country.

DEC./JAN. BIRTHDAYS/*ANNIVERSARIES

December: 1) Wynne Steele; 2) Michelle Miller, Brittany Stewart, 5) Kristi Bean; 6) Janice Skubal; 7) Janet Rees; 10) Jesse Hahn; 12) Liz Kaufman; 15) Freda McCracken; 16) Joel Hazelett; Joseph Collier; 20) Renee Megchelsen; 21) Neal Megchelsen, Sherry Lord; 22) *Ron & Angie Ornduff; 27) *Chris & Molly Hartzler; * Brian & Anna Chalupa; Lexi Collier; 29) Dorothy Koehler; 30) Molly Hartzler, *Dave & Liz Kaufman.



January: 2) Molly Edgar; 5) *Jim & Sherrie Hazen-Hansen; 6) *Jim & Penny McCreedy; *Owen & Norma White, Diane Anding, Gary Stewart; Tammy Kruse; 7) *Jim & Betty Thompson; 9) Jim Thompson, Nick Yoder; 14) Sheri Edgar; 17) Bev Holmes; 20) John Erlenbush; 21) Sherri Hazen-Hansen; 23) Kathi Bean; 24) Emily Stewart; 25) Alberta Miller; 26) Lois Riggan; 29) Betty Anders; 31) Mildred Wilson.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR DECEMBER 2015

Sunday, December 6: 2nd Sunday in Advent; Ring Bells for Salvation Army – 1-8PM, Walmart, Washington; CIA Youth Group, 4 PM, UCC; Caroling, 4 PM, UCC; Christmas Choir Practice, 7 PM, ACC

Monday, December 7: Sisters Group, 6:30 PM

Wednesday, December 9: Christmas Program Practice, 6:30 PM

Thursday, Dec. 10: Spirit Sister, 9 AM, ACC; TKD, Fellowship Hall, 6 PM; Parish Council, North Church, 7 PM

Saturday, December 12: Praise Team Rehearsal, 5 PM, ACC

Sunday, December 13: Children's Christmas program during 10:30 AM worship; CIA Youth Group at Crawfordsville, 4 PM; Highland 4-H Club meeting in Fellowship Hall, 5:30 PM Choir Practice, 7 PM, ACC

Monday, December 14: Sisters Group, 6:30 PM in Crawfordsville;

Tuesday, December 15: "Card" Club, 5 PM, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 16: Bachelors Lunch, 11:30 PM, Crawfordsville

Thursday, December 17: Spirit Sisters, 9 AM, Ainsworth; TKD, 6 PM, Ainsworth Fellowship Hall

Friday, December 18: Breakfast Club, 9 AM, Crawfordsville

Saturday, December 19: Praise Team rehearsal, 5 PM, Ainsworth

Sunday, December 20: Choir singing at Crawfordsville worship, 9 AM; CIA Youth Group, 4 PM, Crawfordsville

Monday, December 21: Amy Sara Richardson on vacation until Tuesday, January 5, 2016

Thursday, December 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 5 PM, Ainsworth; Candle Light Service, Crawfordsville, 7 PM





Friday, December 25: *Merry Christmas!*

Saturday, December 26: Praise Team Rehearsal 5 PM - TBD

Sunday, December 27: Communion during 10:30 AM Worship

Thursday, December 31: New Year's Eve

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR JANUARY 2016

Saturday, January 2: Praise Team Rehearsal, 5 PM

Sunday, January 3: "The Story" Resumes, Chapter 20 – Bible Study, 9:15 AM, Fellowship Hall; Worship – The Story, Chapter 20, 10:30 AM, NO Communion

Monday, January 4: "The Story" Bible Study, 6:30 PM, Fellowship hall

Thursday, January 7: Spirit Sisters, 9 AM, Ainsworth; TKD, 6 PM, ACC Fellowship Hall

Friday, January 8: Breakfast Club, 9 AM, Crawfordsville;

Friday, January 8 thru Sunday, January 10: Youth Retreat at Crooked Creek Christian Camp

Saturday, January 9: Praise Team Rehearsal, 5 PM, Ainsworth Church

Sunday, January 10: The Story Bible Study, Chapter 21, 9:15 AM, Fellowship Hal; Pastor Jason Course of Study; 4-H Meets in Fellowship Hall, 5:30-7 PM

Monday, January 11: Sisters Group, 6:30 PM, Crawfordsville; The Story Bible Study, 6:30 PM, ACC

Thursday, January 14: Spirit Sisters, 9 AM, Ainsworth; TKD, 6 PM, ACC Fellowship Hall; Parish Council, 7 PM, North Church

Friday, January 15: Breakfast Club, 9 AM, Crawfordsville

Saturday, January 16: Praise Team Rehearsal, 5 PM, Ainsworth Church

Sunday, January 17: The Story Bible Study – Chapter 22, 9:15 AM, Fellowship Hall; Worship 10:30 AM, The Story, Chapter 22; CIA Youth Group, 4 PM, Crawfordsville

Monday, Jan. 18: Sisters Group, Crawfordsville, 6:30 PM; The Story Bible Study, Ch. 22, 6:30 PM, ACC

Tuesday, January 19: "Card" Club, 5 PM, ACC Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, January 20: Bachelors Lunch, 11:30 AM, UCC; Kids' Club resumes, North Church, 6:30 PM

Thursday, January 21: Spirit Sisters, 9 AM, ACC; TKD, 6 PM, ACC Fellowship Hall

Friday, January 22: Breakfast Club, 9 AM, Crawfordsville

Saturday, January 23: Praise Team Rehearsal, 5 PM, Ainsworth Church

Sunday, January 24: The Story Bible Study – Chapter 23, 9:15 AM, Fellowship Hall; Worship 10:30 AM, The Story, Chapter 23; CIA Youth Group, 4 PM, Crawfordsville

Monday, January 25: Sacha Club, Fellowship Hall, 6 PM; The Story Bible Study, Chapter 23, Ainsworth Sanctuary, 6:30 PM; Sisters Group, Crawfordsville, 6:30 PM

Wednesday, January 27: Kids' Club, 6:30 PM, North Church, Ainsworth

Thursday, January 28: Spirit Sisters, 9 AM, Ainsworth; TKD, 6 PM, Fellowship Hall

Friday, January 29: Breakfast Club, 9 AM, Crawfordsville

Saturday, January 30: Praise Team Rehearsal, 5 PM, Ainsworth Church

Sunday, January 31: The Story Bible Study, Chapter 24, 9:15 AM, Fellowship Hall; Worship, The Story, Chapter 24, 10:30 AM, Ainsworth; CIA Youth Group, 4 PM, Crawfordsville

Monday, February 1: Sisters Group, 6:30 PM, Crawfordsville; The Story Bible Study, Chapter 24, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, February 3: Kids' Club, 6:30 PM, North Church

Thursday, February 4: Spirit Sisters, 9 AM, Ainsworth; TKD, 6 PM, Fellowship Hall

Friday, February 5: Breakfast Club, 9 AM, Crawfordsville

Saturday, February 6: Praise Team Rehearsal, 5 PM, Ainsworth Church

Sunday, February 7: The Story Bible Study – Chapter 24, 9:15 AM, Fellowship Hall; Worship with Communion 10:30 AM, The Story, Chapter 24; Halcyon House Worship, 2:30 PM; CIA Youth Group, 4 PM, Crawfordsville



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

Nonprofit Organization
US POSTAGE PAID
Permit #3
Ainsworth, IA

Change Service Requested

WORSHIP TIME

Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM; Kids' Club: Resumes Wednesday,
January 20, 6:30 PM

GENERAL MINISTRY OF CONGREGATION

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

343.3390; EMAIL: jwcyouth@gmail.com

CHURCH OFFICE: 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

SECRETARY: Jan Temple 657.2291; Cell: 319.330.6175;

OR EMAIL: templejan@gmail.com

ORGANIST: Linda McNeil; Jenny Yoder (substitute)

CUSTODIANS: Dick & Chris Sieren: 657.2222

TREASURER: Rita Anderson

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Karen Megchelsen, 3206 265th Street,
Ainsworth, IA 52201

MISSION COMMITTEE: Kathi/Brenda: 657.2387; Judy: 657.2157;
And Stacy: 319.930.0291

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.