

# THE EVANGEL – MARCH 2022

## FROM THE OFFICE OF THE BISHOP



Dear Beloved Community, You are likely now aware that in the early hours of Thursday morning (Feb. 24), Vladimir Putin addressed the citizens of Russia announcing a “special military operation” and “full-scale invasion” of neighboring Ukraine. With Mr. Putin’s announcement and subsequent ground reports of airstrikes, explosions and gunfire resounding across Ukraine, the worst case scenario of war has now been realized. This despite days of diplomatic efforts by The United Nations Security Council and NATO and special pleading from the World Council of Churches. As Russian tanks and troops roll across the border in a full-scale war, it may seem that from Iowa there is not much we can do. We must pray. We pray for the Ukrainian citizens who are hunkering down to weather the siege or who are attempting to flee by train, by car, and even by foot as they seek refuge in nearby nations. We pray for an intercession of peace, protection, and diplomacy. Additionally, we pray for Bishop Eduard Khegay who serves the Eurasia Episcopal Area of The United Methodist Church which includes both Russia and Ukraine: may God grant him what he needs to lead the pastors, leaders and congregations of these nations in this challenging and heartbreaking time.

**On Feb. 22 Bishop Khegay wrote/posted to Facebook: (translated from Russian to English)**

"WAR AND PEACE. Methodist communities in many countries of the world pray for peace in Ukraine. Our community in Lugansk needs prayer support. Residents of this city hear the sounds of guns, mass mobilization of men under 55 is going on. The situation is complicated and disturbing.

As Christian Methodists, 'we believe that war is incompatible with the teaching and life of Christ. Therefore, we reject war as a tool for national foreign policy and insist that the main moral duty of all nations is to resolve by peaceful means every division that arises between them or within them' (Book Discipline OMC, ¶165B). I still want to remind you of a few quotes from great authors:

- 'War is not courtesy, but the most nastiest thing in life, and you must understand it and not play war' (L. N. Tolstoy, War and Peace).
- 'Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and they will open to you' (Matthew 7:7)

Ask for peace for Ukraine."

**A prayer for Ukraine by Iowa City native, Rev. Maren Tirabassi:**

*Prayer for Ukraine under invasion God of plowshares, pruning hooks, and peace-making, translate such old archaic words into hope today in Ukraine that your promise to shatter bows and swords, spears and shields, may mean now an end of missile strikes and long-range artillery, the silencing of Kyiv's air-raid sirens. We pray for those who flee the capital and those who shelter in place and in fear in Kharkiv to the east. We pray for troops already exhausted from their long watching. We pray for NATO land and air forces, knowing that means people, and we pray for Germany and Poland as they open borders to fleeing refugees. God, we have studied war for so long, let it be no more, no more. Teach us a new peacemaking, guiding the leaders of nations, and holding gently in your heart the many who live and die because of their decisions, for we pray in the name of Jesus who wept for our great need of the things that make for peace. Amen.*

Prayers for Peace, Rev. Dr. Lanette Plambeck, Assistant to the Bishop, for Bishop Laurie Haller and the Iowa Conference Cabinet

## LECTIONARY SCRIPTURE FOR MARCH

<b>March 6</b>	<b>Jesus Raises Lazarus</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent	<b>John 11:1-44;</b> (Psalm 104:27-30) Raising Lazarus, Jesus as the resurrection and life.
<b>March 13</b>	<b>Jesus Washes Feet</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent	<b>John 13:1-17;</b> (Psalm 51:7-12) Foot washing as a sign of Jesus' love and example.
<b>March 20</b>	<b>Peter's Denial</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent	<b>John 18:12-27;</b> (Psalm 17:1-7) Jesus' trial before Annas, Peter's denial.
<b>March 27</b>	<b>Jesus and Pilate</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent	<b>John 18:28-40;</b> (Psalm 145:10-13) My kingdom is not from this world.
<b>April 3</b>	<b>Jesus Condemned</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent	<b>John 19:1-16a;</b> (Psalm 146) Jesus is condemned, they have no king but Caesar.

### DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME – MARCH 13

Remember to Spring Forward one hour on March 13 as that is when Daylight Saving Time will begin.



### YOUTH GROUP NEWS – NEW YOUTH LEADERS

## YOUTH GROUP

Crystal Boulton and Allan Allsup, became the Youth Leaders at ACC in mid-February. They welcome youth 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade to meetings on most Sunday nights starting at 5:30pm **sharp** at the north church. Activities currently planned include: guest speakers, sports, games, arts, Bible time and music along with outreach to Ainsworth events and possible summer camp attendance. Meetings are 5:30 to 6:30 PM with food provided. Please bring your Bible, prayer needs and friends. **Crystal** is from Wayland, works with the children at Independent Bible Church, is the house supervisor for New Life House (a home for women in life transitions), and works at a part-time job in Mt. Pleasant. She is a graduate of Bob Jones University with a degree in Apparel, Textiles, & Design. She is a follower of Jesus Christ from a young age who thoroughly enjoys studying the Bible and helping others in their life in Christ and leading people to Christ.

**Allan** lives in Mt Pleasant where he works part time for the Fellowship Cup and creates music and live theatre. He has coached sports for over 25 years as well as operated a Christian Youth Camp in Colorado, camp chaplain in Michigan and Oklahoma, Christian Camp counselor in Iowa, and youth leader in various churches. He is an honors graduate from Iowa Wesleyan College (now University) with a double major of Physical Education/Recreation and a music minor and graduate school in Oklahoma in Education and Theatre Arts. The personal relationship with Jesus Christ is the most important basic in the lives of youth throughout Allan's ministry.

Crystal and Allan look forward to being part of the ministry team at Ainsworth Community Church and the family of the congregation. We pray for the growth of the youth group in the relationship with Christ and the joy of sharing His love with the youth and their families.

*Crystal and Allan*

### PASTOR VISITS AND PRAYER LIST

Please let us know if you would like Pastor Jason to call on you or if you need to be on our prayer list. You may call **Pastor Jason's cell 563.343.3390** at any time; **church answering machine: 319-657-3020** or **Jan's cell 319.330-6175.**



## ACC FOOD PANTRY



Know someone in need of food? To contact the Ainsworth Community Church Food Pantry, call Kathi at 319.657.2387 or 319.461.1339 to make arrangements or receive confidential answers to eligibility questions.

## UMCOR SUNDAY MARCH 27

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING



On Sunday, March 27 we will collect an offering for UMCOR (Methodist term) and "One Great Hour of Sharing." (Presbyterian term) The monies provide major support for immediate assistance in the wake of natural and human-caused disasters and helps support ongoing ministries of food, shelter, health and peace. **Any money collected will be evenly divided between the two denominations.** There will be a 'Donation' jar at the entrance to the sanctuary.

## BLOOD DRIVE – WE MADE GOAL - THANK YOU!



Impact Life is most grateful to all of the donors at the February 14 blood drive at the South Church in Ainsworth. They collected 30 units of whole blood. The coordinator and staff were delighted with the participation and enjoyed working with our donors. Special thanks to Kathi Bean and Linda McNeil who helped secure donors.

## T-SHIRTS PROMOTING ACC

We are in the process of ordering T-shirts, both short and long sleeve, to promote our church. They will have the church logo on the pocket. This is **NOT** a fund-raising project. The goal is to promote and identify individuals as being associated with the church. Order sheets are available at church or contact Jan for information. PLUS – You may order online using this link through the church Facebook page.



Order deadline is Thursday, March 24. <https://forms.gle/jCVGM14XyZYrzK7r8>

## CONFIRMATION SUNDAY W/COMMUNION 4-17




Mark your calendar now for Confirmation Sunday – April 17. Note this is also Easter Sunday. Several youths who have been studying and meeting with Pastor Jason for the past 2 years will be welcomed into the church as Members. Plan now to join us for this very special event and welcome our new members.

## COLTHURST SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DUE

Youth who have been active in the church by being involved in Kids' Club, youth group, puppet ministry, and other church activities are eligible to apply for the Colthurst Scholarship. Write a letter (**there is not a form**) sharing an overview of your church, school, community, and family activities and responsibilities plus your future plans. Submit the letter by **Sunday, April 17**. Either mail to: Ainsworth Community Church, PO Box 40, Ainsworth, IA 52201; **OR** email to [AinsworthChurch@gmail.com](mailto:AinsworthChurch@gmail.com) Recipients will be announced May 1 during Senior Sunday.



# BUDGET REPORT – 01/31/2022

	Income	\$9,248.54	Expenses	\$6,787.92
	General Fund	\$38,992.25	Building Fund	\$12,498.29
	Memorial Fund	\$35,867.43	Need/month for budget	\$7,948.88

2022 Combined Presbytery and Methodist dues/apportionments in ACC budget: \$7,450.00

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**Joys:** We are grateful for the Youth Group resuming and weekly Bible Study groups. **Concerns:** Continued prayers for Jim and Penny McCreedy, Ann Williams, Ron Hazen, Chris Sieren, and Ruth Miller. Prayers also for those preparing for tests or procedures and waiting for results and strength to deal with the information. Praying for the safe return of our church members who have ‘wintered’ in places warmer than Iowa. Those experiencing challenges in their work and personal life. **Serving Our Country:** We say “Thank You!” to members and their families serving our country.



## PARISH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



The Parish Council met via Zoom February 10. Following is an overview of the meeting. **Finance:** Since the last meeting, the water heater and a thermostat were replaced in the parsonage. Also, a bill for just over \$1100.00 for repairs to the furnaces in the South Church. **Pastor's Report:** Jan. 2 -worship was cancelled because of extreme cold weather. January 9<sup>th</sup> Jason had Covid so a guest speaker filled the pulpit. Conducted Audrey Fink memorial on Jan. 17. Jason cooked, delivered, and served 80# of chicken to Keokuk for a homeless shelter fundraiser. Jason served at the Hospice Soup supper. Conducted the Kathy Wintermeyer service subbing for another pastor on January 26. At UCC he officiated at the Duane Miller wedding (outside using the church). Conducted the Arlene Johnson service (Columbus City Church) on January 31. No mileage. **Property:** Jonathan Ward has purchased and is installing new flooring for the parsonage. **Mission:** – Assisted 8 families representing 16 individuals. **Memorial Committee:** Erin agreed to perform duties of the Memorial Committee which include sending thank-you notes acknowledging the receipt of a memorial contribution and contacting the family as to how the donation is spent. The entire Parish Council is the “Committee”. Jan will add Memorial Committee to requested monthly reports. **Old Business:** Clarified that Colleen is the “Point Person” for Finance and Erin is Memorial. **New Business:** \*Approved Sunday, June 26 as a day of vacation from the pulpit for Jason. \*Jan submitted statistical reports to each denomination. \*Jason suggested making T-shirts available for the church as a way to promote our church. Individuals would order and pay for their own with the church logo on the pocket. The church would provide a complimentary T-shirt for members of the Parish Council and staff. Approved. \*It was agreed to provide Crystal with a debit card to use for Youth Group expenses from the Youth Group account. \*Jason will host a special Bible Study based upon “The Chosen” meeting on Tuesdays at 7:30 PM in the South Church. **Next regular meeting:** The next regular meeting will be Monday, March 21 at 7 PM via Zoom.

## PASTOR ENCOURAGES RIGHT NOW MEDIA USE



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## MARCH BIRTHDAYS/\*ANNIVERSARIES



1)Ellie Anderson; 2) Steve Anderson; 3) Chris Richardson; 5) Molly Klinzman;  
8) Stephanie Laverman; 9) \*Dave & Karolyn Skubal; 17) Rita Anderson; Noah  
Hartzler; 19) Emma Beemblossom; Dawn Stewart; 20) Noah Mills Entsminger;  
*Happy Birthdays!* 21) Erin Mills; 24) Jason Collier; Janet White-Stafford; 26) Janene Kirk;  
27) Ruth Miller, Dorothy Jacobs; 29) Elizabeth (Izzy) Collier; Kurt Stewart;  
30) Rich Riggan; 31) Jim McCreedy

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS – MARCH 2022

**Tuesday, March 1:** The Chosen Bible Study, 7:30 PM, South Church

**Wednesday, March 2: Ash Wednesday –**

Drive Through Ashes: 6-7 AM at UCC;

7:30 to 8:30 AM at ACC; Bible Study at UCC, 9 AM;

Drive Through Ashes: 4-5 PM at ACC;

5:30-6:30 PM at UCC

**Sunday, March 6:** First Sunday in Lent; ACC Worship, 10:30 AM; Jason at Halcyon House, 2:30 PM; Youth Group, 5:30 PM, North Church – Special Guest Speaker - Christian Henriksen; Confirmation Class, 6:30 PM, North Church

**Monday, March 7 through Tuesday, March 15:** Jason on Vacation

**Tuesday, March 8:** Bible Study at ACC, 7:30 PM - TBD

**Sunday, March 13:** ACC Worship, 10:30 AM – Joan Rodgers, Pulpit Supply; 4-H Club Meeting, Fellowship Hall, 4 PM; Youth Group, 5:30 PM, North Church

**Mon., Mar. 14:** ACC Parish Council rescheduled to Monday, March 21, 7 PM via Zoom

**Tues, Mar 15:** “Card” Club, Fellowship Hall, 4:30 PM; Bible Study ACC, 7:30 PM – TBD

**Sunday, March 20:** ACC Worship, 10:30 AM; Youth Group, 5:30 PM, North Church; Confirmation Class, 6:30 PM, North Church

**Monday, March 21:** ACC Parish Council, 7 PM via Zoom

**Tues., Mar. 22:** Staff Meeting, 10 AM; The Chosen Bible Study, 7:30 PM, South Church

**Sunday, March 27:** ACC Worship with UMCOR/One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, 10:30 AM; Youth Group, 5:30 PM, North Church; Confirmation Class, 6:30 PM, North Church

**Monday, March 28:** Sacha Club, Fellowship Hall, 6:30 PM

**Tuesday, March 29:** The Chosen Bible Study, 7:30 PM, South Church

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS – APRIL 2022

**Sunday, April 3:** ACC Worship, 10:30 AM; Youth Group, 5:30 PM, North Church; Confirmation Class, 6:30 PM, North Church

**Tuesday, April 5:** The Chosen Bible Study, 7:30 PM, South Church

**Sunday, April 10: Palm Sunday,** ACC Worship, 10:30 AM; 4-H Club Meeting, Fellowship Hall, 4 PM; Youth Group, 5:30 PM, North Church; Confirmation Class, 6:30 PM, North Church

**Monday, April 11:** ACC Parish Council, 7 PM via Zoom

**Tuesday, April 12:** The Chosen Bible Study, 7:30 PM, South Church

**Thursday, April 14:** Maundy Thursday, Worship Service at UCC, 7 PM

**Friday, April 15:** Good Friday, Worship Service at ACC, 7 PM

**Saturday, April 16:** Sacha Club Egg Hunt at Marr Park, 8:30 AM

**Sunday, April 17: Easter Sunday,** ACC Worship WITH Confirmation AND Holy Communion, 10:30 AM; Youth Group, 5:30 PM, North Church

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

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Ainsworth, IA

**Electronic Service Requested**

WORSHIP TIME

Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM, South Church – Corner of 4<sup>th</sup> & Washington

GENERAL MINISTRY OF CONGREGATION

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

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

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

Phone: 319.657.3020

PO Box 40, 318 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Ainsworth, IA 52201

Facebook: Ainsworth Community Church and

Ainsworth Community Church Youth Group

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

YOUTH GROUP CONTACT:

[Crystal Boulton, 913.620.0947](mailto:CrystalBoulton@ainsworthchurch.org); [crissyrie@hotmail.com](mailto:crissyrie@hotmail.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)

CUSTODIAN: Jenny Gerot: 319.461.1239

TREASURER: Colleen Bean

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Christina Collier, PO Box 40,  
Ainsworth, IA 52201

MISSION COMMITTEE: Kathi: 319.461.1339; Brenda: 319.657.2387 or  
319.461.1637; 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.