

THE EVANGEL—DEC. '23/JAN. '24

FROM THE PASTOR

This morning, as I sat in a Zoom meeting for the UMC conference to vote to allow our churches to leave the Methodist denomination, I was proud of us and them—the motion passed by plenty. As of Friday, December 1st, we will no longer belong to the UNITED METHODIST denomination. However, it will not change who we are! It is true that we will now become completely Presbyterian (in polity). But this may or may not be for very long. In either case, it is about us being able to worship God in the same way we have and for the best reason possible. Because we love Him. Let me be CLEAR! We are not sending any messages by leaving!!!! We love you!!! We want to worship with you!!! And if you are listening to the hurtful voices in the world that want to make this vote about division and discord, PLEASE reject that voice and hear our church voice... WE LOVE YOU! Nothing has or will change that. There are lots of people that have very strong feelings on lots of different issues! But we have a strong feeling about this, and our churches met SEVERAL times and agonized over this vote to leave. And we were and are confident it will not change who we are. So may God bless you and our churches for the incredible and difficult work, and bless you as we move forward in Christ, as we share the greatest story ever told. JESUS LOVES YOU! May we be thankful and look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus



Merry Christmas to all!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason Collier'.

Jason Collier

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS AT ACC

Special Music Ministry: Linda McNeil and Jenny Yoder are planning some special piano duets to share with us during Advent. Their music is a beautiful gift to all of us that they are so generous to share with us on December 3 and 10.

Sunday, December 17: The Youth Christmas Program will be held during 10:30 AM worship in the South Church Sanctuary. Youth wishing to participate in the program should contact Karen at 319.430.0496 or Jan at 319.330.6175 before December 10 if possible.



Sunday, December 24: 4th Sunday of Advent will be celebrated during 10:30 AM worship. Then, a special Christmas Eve Candlelight worship (no communion) will be held at 5 PM in Ainsworth; 7 PM at Crawfordsville.

There will be no services on Christmas Day

ACC ANNUAL MEETING: DEC. 3 AFTER WORSHIP



The Annual Meeting for ACC will be Sunday, Dec. 3 following worship. During the meeting we will approve the budget, nominations, 2024 goals, and Terms of Assignment for Jason. Copies are available at each door in the sanctuary.

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 **Teri's cell 319.461.6608**.



MEET TERI RUSSELL – THE NEW ACC SECRETARY



Effective January 1, 2024 Ainsworth Community Church will have a new secretary: Teri Russell. Teri has been working with Jan for the past few months to begin learning the job. A little about Teri: She grew up in Washington, Iowa (her mother still resides there). She retired from the State of Iowa Department of Corrections having worked at the Oakdale Correctional Center for over 33 years in varying capacities as a secretary/receptionist. She and her husband, Doug live south of Riverside. Please welcome Teri and help her as she learns the many tasks involved with the position.

ACC NO LONGER MAILING UPPER ROOM



As the church transitions, we are rethinking our support of the Upper Room Devotional booklet. Starting with the January/February 2024 issue, the church will no longer mail or personalize the booklet. If you wish to receive a copy, they will be available on a first-come-first-serve basis at the back of the church. The size of the order will be modified based upon quantity utilized. Alternatives: At the link below, you may purchase your own print edition (\$15/year) of Upper Room or try a digital subscription (\$15/year); or a combination of both digital and print (\$21.50/year). Large print editions are available for the same price as regular:

<https://store.upperroom.org/subscribe-to-the-upper-room>

You may also wish to explore Guideposts – they offer a daily devotion booklet – price is about the same as Upper Room. Some of our church family already use it. The link:

<https://www.shopguideposts.org/devotionals/daily-devotionals.html>

ACC FOOD PANTRY



The Ainsworth Community Church Food Pantry continues to serve families in need by contacting previous participants. If you know someone in need of food, contact Brenda at 319.461.1637 or Kathi at 319.461.1339 to make arrangements or receive answers to eligibility questions.

MISSION COMMITTEE: HOLIDAY DONATIONS

The Mission Committee is preparing for Christmas. If you are willing to donate a little extra to purchase food and gifts for families in need, please contact Brenda: beanbag@louisacomm.net or 319.461.1637. To mail a check, make payable to ACC Mission Committee; send to: Ainsworth Community Church, PO Box 40, Ainsworth, IA 52201



RING SALVATION ARMY BELLS: NOV. 26



Our church was assigned Sunday, November 26 to ring bells for the Salvation Army Kettle Campaign. We are most grateful to those persons who found the time and energy in their schedule to represent our church: Kim Proctor-Prier; Jim and Sherrie Hansen; Steve and Rita Anderson; Larry and Brenda Bean, JoAnn Torpey (and granddaughter), Deb and Duane Chalupa, Janet Rees, and Hannah Hartzler. Note that all monies collected stay within Washington County. 'Thank You' volunteers for donating your time!

BLOOD DRIVE: DEC. 4, 1:30 TO 6:30 PM-UCC



A blood drive will be held by Impact Life Monday, December 4, 1:30 to 6:30 PM at UCC. For an appointment call Dave Jewell: 319.931.2044. **Bring a photo ID.**

NARRATIVE LECTIONARY SCRIPTURE, DEC. 2023-JANUARY 2024

Dec. 3	Promise of the Messiah 1st Sunday of Advent	Jeremiah 33:[10-11], 14-18; <i>(Mark 8: 27-29)</i> Promise of the Messiah
Dec. 10	Isaiah of the Exile 2nd Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 40:1-11; <i>(Mark 1:1-4)</i> Comfort, comfort my people, a voice cries out in the wilderness, make straight the way of the Lord.
Dec. 17	Rebuilding the Temple 3rd Sunday of Advent	Ezra 1:1-4; 3:1-4, 10-13; <i>(Luke 2:25-32)</i> Return from exile and rebuilding the temple.
Dec. 24	Zechariah's Song 4th Sunday of Advent	Luke 1:5-13 [14-15]; <i>(Psalm 113)</i> Jon the Baptist's birth; Blessed be the God of Israel who has looked favorably on his people.
Dec. 24	Birth of Jesus Christmas Eve	Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]; <i>(Psalm 145:5-10 or Luke 1:46-55)</i> Birth of Jesus
Dec. 25	Shepherds Visit Christmas Day	Luke 2:8-20; <i>(Psalm 108:1-4)</i> Shepherds visit the infant Jesus or Matthew 2:1-12, The Magi
Dec. 31	Beginning of Good News 1st Sunday of Christmas	Mark 1:1-20; <i>(Psalm 91:9-12)</i> John the Baptist, Jesus announces the kingdom, calls the disciples.
Jan. 7	Jesus Heals and Teaches Baptism of the Lord	Mark 2:1-22; <i>(Psalm 103:6-14)</i> Jesus heals a paralytic and eats with tax collectors.
Jan. 14	Parable in Mark 2nd Sunday after Epiphany	Mark 4:1-34; <i>(Psalm 126)</i> Parables of sower and mustard seed
Jan. 21	Jesus and the Gerasene Demoniac 3rd Sunday after Epiphany	Mark 5:1-20; <i>(Psalm 89:1-4)</i> Jesus heals the Gerasene demoniac
Jan. 28	Jairus' Daughter Healed 4th Sunday after Epiphany	Mark 5:21-43; <i>(Psalm 131)</i> Jesus heals Jairus' daughter and the woman with the flow of blood.
Feb. 4	Death of John the Baptist 5th Sunday after Epiphany	Mark 6:1-29; <i>(Psalm 37:16-18)</i> Jesus is rejected at Nazareth, Sending of the Twelve, Death of John the Baptist.
Feb. 11	Transfiguration Transfiguration Sunday	Mark 8:27, 9:8; <i>(Psalm 27:1-4)</i> Peter's confession, passion prediction, bearing the cross, Transfiguration
Feb. 14	Passion Prediction Ash Wednesday	Mark 9:30-37; <i>(Psalm 32:1-5)</i> Passion prediction, debate about who is the greatest, call to become a servant
Feb. 18	First Last and Last First First Sunday in Lent	Mark 10:17-31; <i>(Psalm 19:7-10)</i> Rich man is called to sell all he has and follow Jesus.
Feb. 25	Bartimaeus Healed Second Sunday in Lent	Mark 10:32-52; <i>(Psalm 34:11-14)</i> Passion prediction, son of Man came not to be served but to serve, heals blind Bartimaeus.

KIDS' CLUB SPRING SESSION – JANUARY 10

A Spring session of Kids' Club starts Wednesday, January 10. If school dismisses early for weather issues, Kids' Club will not meet that evening. If you are willing to teach/assist or have children interested in participating, please contact Pastor Jason at 563.343.3390 or Karen at 319.430.0496.



WE SAY "THANK YOU!"

Thank You

As 2023 comes to a close, we take time to reflect. Please join in thanking those who serve on the committees of our church:

Christian Education Programs: The Christmas Program, Kids' Club, and Vacation Bible School. Mission Committee Work: Monthly Food Pantry; Christmas Ministry; Special Donations; In-Gathering Kits, as well as emergency needs of families. Property Committee: For all their work maintaining our property: South Church, North Church, and parsonage. This past year has included adding the restroom and snack corner to the sanctuary, paved parking for handicapped and (coming soon) new exterior doors. HVAC is demanding! Worship Committee: Organizing special worship assistants during Lent and Advent, preparation of Communion elements; and distribution of Upper Room. Decorating the sanctuary: Linda McNeil does such an amazing job with the many lovely decorations placed so artfully about the church as well as all the beautiful music she plays (voluntarily) each Sunday! Special thanks also to Jenny Yoder for serving as Linda's substitute! Membership/Nurture Committee: For their work organizing funeral dinners with the help of ACCW, sending cards and 'loving' on everyone. And a big "thank you" to those serving on the Nominating Committee, Parish Council, and Staff/Parish committees.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS/*ANNIVERSARIES



1) Wynne Steele; 2) Michelle Miller, Brittany Stewart Thompson, 5) Kristi Bean; 6) Janice Skubal; 7) Janet Rees; Kevin McCreedy; Lily Carstensen; 10) Jesse Hahn; 12) Liz Kaufman; 16) Joel Hazelett; Joseph Collier; 20) Renee Megchelsen Davis; Ariel Mills; 21) Neal Megchelsen, Sherry Lord; Joshua Blakley; 22) *Ron & Angie Ornduff; 24) Julie Sue Edmondson; 26) Jared Hazelett; 27) *Chris & Molly Hartzler; Anna Chalupa; Alexandria (Lexi) Yoder; Owen Chalupa; 29) Dorothy Koehler; 30) Molly Hartzler, *Dave & Liz Kaufman, Riley Thomann.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS/*ANNIVERSARIES:

1) Jennifer Crossett; 2) Molly Edgar; 5) *Jim & Sherrie Hazen-Hansen; Lance Mills; 6) *Owen & Norma White, Diane Anding, Gary Stewart; Libby Berner; 7) *Jim & Betty Thompson; 9) Jim Thompson, Nick Yoder; 14) Sheri Bennett; 15) Kyle Entsminger; 17) Bev Holmes; 20) John Erlenbush; 21) Sherri Hazen-Hansen; 23) Kathi Bean; 24) Emily Stewart; 25) Alberta Miller; 26) Lois Riggan; 28) Ivan Lacy; 29) Betty Anders; 31) Mildred Wilson.



BUDGET REPORT – 10-31-23

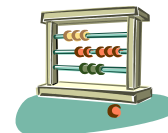


Income	\$8,639.28	Expenses	\$5,618.30
General Fund	\$41,579.38	Building Fund	\$42,044.77
Memorial Fund	\$43,238.30	Need/month for budget	\$7,948.88

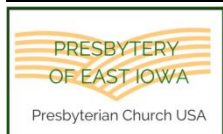
2023 Combined Presbytery and Methodist dues/apportionments in ACC budget: \$7,450.00

OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER ATTENDANCE

Month	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
October	337	371	317	274	246	158	124	252	245
November	479	354	301	261	256	119	144	189	208



WE ARE NO LONGER UNITED METHODISTS



As Pastor stated in his opening article, on November 18, the UMC voted to let us withdraw from the Iowa Conference. The paperwork is effective November 30. So - beginning December 1, 2023 we are no longer a part of the United Methodist Church – we WILL BE Presbyterian Church USA. Please be patient as we work to delete references from printed materials. It's fine to call it to our attention. Thank you for your cooperation.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys: We are grateful for the gift of our Savior. We celebrate the healing of those recovering from surgery and illness. The joy of matrimony. **Concerns:** Prayers of sympathy and comfort for the family and friends of Bonnie Anding Stover, Ann Lewis, Rita Humphreys; and Frank Patterson. Prayers for healing and comfort to Tom Colthurst, Bob Lynde, Sue Frame, Owen White, and Donna Fletcher. Prayers for 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.



PARISH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



Highlights of the November meeting: **Treasurer's Report:** Colleen noted that there was nothing unusual this month in the general balance sheet. In reviewing bills, she noted \$350 for gutter cleaning; \$225 to our property manager – first payment to her for managing parsonage; \$11,756.09 to Doors Inc. for downpayment on the new exterior doors at the South Church; \$533.93 for a new computer for the church office. **Pastor's Report:** In addition to regular meetings and conducting Sunday worship in August: Assisted with VBS for ACC and UCC together at UCC August 1-4; Farm Theme. On August 20, ACC and UCC help membership vote to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church. August 23 Jason had final DS interview. Memorial service for Larry Gerot August 27 in Riverside, passed August 22. Jason met with Mike Pence on August 31 in Burlington round table. September: Tina and Jason attended pastor open house for the Gideons. Sept. 19 parsonage inspection at UCC. Jason attended WACO Boom night. Memorial for Bill Davis on Sept. 15 with Jim Shrimplin at Winfield UMC. Graveside memorial service for Justin Garrison Sept. 30 (passed March 12, 2022). Memorial service for Ann Lewis Sept. 30 – passed Sept. 23. October: Wedding for Jade & Clifton Dawley on Oct. 7 at the Exchange on Vine. Jason attended the memorial service for Rita Humphrey (Wendel Arduser's sister) on Oct. 7. Jason attended pastor appreciation event in Winfield Oct. 14. Gideons spoke at ACC and UCC on Oct. 15. Goal dinner for ACC on Oct. 29. **Committee Reports:** Worship: The future of "Upper Room" and use of the blue hymnals. (see New Business for action taken). Christian Education: Kids' Club has concluded for the fall session with about 30 people attending the Harvest Meal on November 8. Youth are attending Youth Group at Bethel. Membership/Nurture: We will acknowledge the passing of Don Schantz. Property: Issues: Property insurance; Theatre Ministry; Exterior Doors; Sign in front of church. (See new business for action taken) Mission: – In September the Mission Committee served 11 families representing 48 individuals. In October the Mission Committee served 8 families representing 29 individuals. Jennifer and Marshall Crossett knew fire victims. Two garbage bags of clothing from the Christmas Ministry were given

to assist the persons. **SPPRC:** The committee met October 10. It was agreed the pastor's salary and benefits would remain unchanged in the year ahead. **Nominating Committee:** They have submitted their report. It is attached to the agenda. **New Business:** Disaffiliation Status – It was established that everything is moving forward to disaffiliate. Tenant: Jo reported that she is making headway; no action needed. It was agreed to pay Jo for her time to date (usually only charges when the account is in good standing.) Secretary: Teri Russell, Secretary candidate: It was agreed unanimously to employ her. “Upper Room” – it was agreed to discontinue mailing the booklet to parishioners. It will be placed at the back of the church with no name written on each copy. Jan and Teri will reduce the order to 25 small copies and the minimum 10 large print. Interest will be monitored. Hymnals: After checking with several sources, it was determined we may continue to use our current blue hymnal for worship. Evacuation of Theatre Ministry from North Church: It was agreed to accept Allan's request of Dec. 24 as the new date. The offer to assist with removal large items will be contingent upon communicating with Pastor Jason as Jason would be recruiting the volunteers. Nominating Committee Report – Approved. Payment of disaffiliation fees: It was agreed they should be paid NOW. \$6495 for Pension and \$9668 for Apportionments – grand total: \$16,152. Pension and insurance for Jason and family starting December 1. Jason is trying to connect with the Presbytery to get this information. Credit card for Teri – It was agreed that Colleen should arrange for Teri to have a credit card with the church. She will leave Jan's card active for a full year to verify any automatic payments scheduled to Jan's card. Property Insurance Provider: Based upon the recommendation of Jan and Colleen it was agreed to continue with GuideOne. They will also carry us for Workman's Comp. Presbytery Apportionments: It was agreed to pay apportionments to the Presbytery. Proposed Budget – Following review, it was agreed to approve the budget as presented. 2024 Mission and Goals for ACC was reviewed and approved. “Terms of Assignment” for 2024 – this will be completed following information from the Presbytery. Ordaining Parish Council Members – Following discussion it was agreed that all current and future Parish Council Members will participate in the ordination service on December 3 at Annual Meeting. The next regular meeting will be held Monday, December 11, 2023 at 7PM via Zoom.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR DECEMBER 2023

Friday, December 1: Pastor Jason, Vacation; Food Pantry Distribution at ACC

Sunday, December 3: First Sunday of Advent; ACC Worship, 10:30 AM; ACC Annual Meeting following worship, Christmas Card Class with Brenda Bean, 12-6 PM

Wednesday, December 6: Youth Group at Bethel, 7-8:30 PM

Thursday, December 7: Bible Study at Light House Shelter, 7 PM

Sunday, December 10: Second Sunday of Advent, ACC Worship, 10:30 AM; 4-H Club Meeting, Fellowship Hall, 4 PM

Monday, Dec. 11: ACC Parish Council, 7 PM, via Zoom; Fellowship Hall, private group

Tuesday, December 12: Private Group using Fellowship Hall until 5 PM

Wednesday, December 13: Weekly Men's Prayer Lunch, UCC, Noon to 2 PM; Youth Group at Bethel, 7-8:30 PM

Thursday, December 14: Bible Study at Light House Shelter, 7 PM

Friday, December 15: Private Group, Fellowship Hall

Saturday, December 16: Private Group, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 17: Third Sunday of Advent, ACC Worship, 10:30 AM; **Youth Christmas Program** during worship



Wednesday, December 20: Weekly Men's Prayer Lunch, UCC, Noon to 2 PM; Youth Group at Bethel, 7-8:30 PM

Thursday, December 21: Bible Study at Light House Shelter, 7 PM

Sunday, December 24: Fourth Sunday of Advent, ACC Worship, 10:30 AM; Christmas Eve Service, 5 PM at ACC; 7 PM at UCC

Monday, December 25: Merry Christmas!

Wednesday, December 27: TBD - Weekly Men's Prayer Lunch, UCC, Noon to 2 PM; TBD - Youth Group at Bethel, 7-8:30 PM

Thursday, December 28: TBD – Bible Study at Light House Shelter, 7 PM

Sunday, December 31: New Year's Eve; ACC Worship 10:30 AM

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR JANUARY 2024



Monday, January 1: New Year's Day

Wednesday, January 3: Weekly Men's Prayer Lunch, UCC, Noon to 2 PM; Youth Group at Bethel, 7 to 8:30 PM

Thursday, January 4: Bible Study at Light House Shelter, 7 PM

Saturday, January 6: Epiphany

Sunday, January 7: ACC Worship with Communion, 10:30 AM

Monday, January 8: ACC Parish Council, 7 PM via Zoom

Wednesday, January 10: Weekly Men's Prayer Lunch, UCC, Noon to 2 PM; **Kids' Club Resumes, North Church, 7 PM;** Youth Group at Bethel, 7 to 8:30 PM

Thursday, January 11: Bible Study at Light House Shelter, 7 PM

Sunday, January 14: ACC Worship, 10:30 AM; Jason at Halcyon House, 2:30 PM

Tuesday, January 16: "Card" Club with Brenda Bean, 4:30 PM, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, January 17: Weekly Men's Prayer Lunch, UCC, Noon to 2 PM; Youth Group at Bethel, 7 to 8:30 PM

Thursday, January 18: Bible Study at Light House Shelter, 7 PM

Thursday, January 18 through Saturday, January 27: Jason on Vacation

Sunday, January 21: ACC Worship, 10:30 AM

Monday, January 22: Sacha Club, Fellowship Hall, 6:30 PM

Wednesday, January 24: Weekly Men's Prayer Lunch, UCC, Noon to 2 PM; Youth Group at Bethel, 7 to 8:30 PM

Thursday, January 25: Bible Study at Light House Shelter, 7 PM

Sunday, January 28: ACC Worship, 10:30 AM

Wed., Jan. 31: Weekly Men's Prayer Lunch, UCC, Noon; Youth Group at Bethel, 7 PM

Thursday, February 1: Bible Study at Light House Shelter, 7 PM

Sunday, February 4: ACC Worship, 10:30 AM

Monday, February 5: Blood Drive at ACC, 2 to 6:30 PM

Wed., Feb. 7: Weekly Men's Prayer Lunch, UCC, Noon; Youth Group, Bethel, 7 PM

Thursday, February 8: Bible Study at Light House Shelter, 7 PM

Sunday, February 11: ACC Worship, 10:30 AM; 4-H Meeting, Fellowship Hall, 4 PM

Monday, February 12: ACC Parish Council via Zoom, 7 PM

Wednesday, February 14: Ash Wednesday, Weekly Men's Prayer Lunch, UCC, Noon to 2 PM; Youth Group at Bethel, 7 to 8:30 PM

RETIRED – I wish to thank the Ainsworth Community Church for allowing me to serve as your secretary for the past 13 years. Your patience and cooperation have been most appreciated as the job and my own life transitioned. May the Lord continue to bless our Community Church as we strive to serve Him.
In Christ, Jan Temple



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

Nonprofit Organization
US POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 3
Ainsworth, IA

Electronic Service Requested

WORSHIP TIME

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

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, 318 4th Street, Ainsworth, IA 52201

Facebook: Ainsworth Community Church

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

SECRETARY: TERI RUSSEL, CELL: 319.461.6608

EMAIL: BABYGIRL.9177@YAHOO.COM

ORGANIST: LINDA MCNEIL; JENNY YODER (SUBSTITUTE)

CUSTODIAN: ABIGAIL DROST, PROVIDENTIALYBLESSED@HOTMAIL.COM

TREASURER: COLLEEN BEAN, 319.461.0617

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: JESSICA DIERS, % PO BOX 40

AINSWORTH, IA 52201

MISSION COMMITTEE: KATHI: 319.461.1339; BRENDA: 319.461.1637;

ANN: 319.330.0348

Ainsworth Community Church
is a Presbyterian Church (USA)
congregation. 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.