

THE CIRCUIT RIDER



The Anthony United
Methodist Church

225 N. Bluff
Worship: 9:30
Church School: 10:45

NEWS FROM THE ANTHONY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH!

A Message from Pastor Bruce

As the sun rises on 2026, we step into a year that is unwritten—full of possibility, promise, and the gentle invitation from God to draw nearer to Him. Whether you've been walking with Christ for years or are just now taking your first steps toward Him, this New Year offers something sacred: a fresh beginning with the One who makes all things new.

Every January, people make resolutions—better habits, healthier bodies, more intentional living. But a walk with God isn't built on resolutions; it's built on relationship. And the beautiful truth is this: God isn't asking for perfection from you in 2026. He's asking for your presence. He desires your heart more than your perfor-

mance, your attention more than your achievements, and your trust more than your tidy plans. As Scripture reminds us in James 4:8—"Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you."

So how do you start this new journey drawing near to God? One step at a time. A deeper walk with God doesn't require grand gestures. It begins with small, consistent steps:

1. Open His Word daily

Even a few verses can shift the atmosphere of your day. Let God speak before the world does.

2. Create space for prayer

Prayer is not complicated; it's conversation. It's honesty. It's releasing and receiving.

3. Seek community

God never intended us to walk alone. Be active in a church. Participate in a small group. Find one Christian friend who can walk with you.

4. Practice surrender

Let 2026 be the year you stop carrying what God is asking you to lay down. He is stronger than your burdens and gentler with your heart than you are.

If you're stepping into this year feeling uncertain, weary, or not "spiritual enough," take heart—God specializes in beginning with the humble, the hesitant, and the hungry. He transforms ordinary

lives with extraordinary grace. Your past does not disqualify you. Your doubts do not deter Him. Your weakness does not worry Him. In fact, they are the very places where His strength becomes your story.

"Behold, I am doing a new thing... I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.: - Isaiah 43:19

The new year may not be predictable, but God is faithful. His presence will meet you in every day of this year. As you step into this new year, may you be filled with courage to follow God where He leads.

May His peace steady you, His Word guide you, and His love transform you from the inside out. May 2026 be the year you discover that walking with God is not about striving—but about abiding.

Cheers to a year of growth, grace, and God's goodness over your life.

Happy New Year,

Pastor Bruce Wilson

Pastor Bruce's Office Hours

Harper: Tues. 10:30-12:30

Anthony: Wed. 10:30-12:30

Thursday by appointment

Appointments welcome



James 4:8

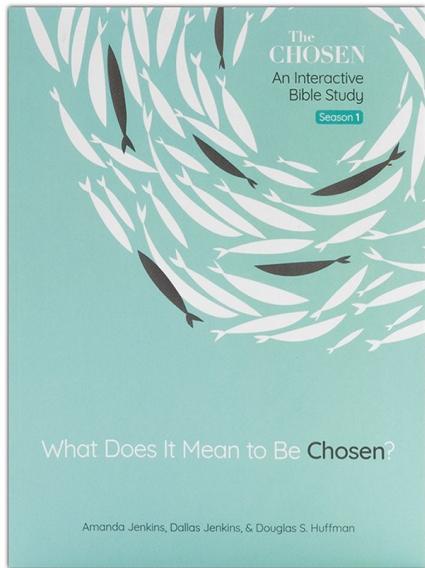
Piper and
Parker
(daughters of
Pastor Bruce &
Melissa)



MINISTRY TEAM NEWS

Those present: Pastor Bruce Wilson, Crissa Foley, Lucinda Gates, Mary Chandler, Robert Chandler, Karen Cather

- * Christmas Eve service at 11 pm—candles ordered.
- * Caroling Party Dec. 21—Meet at Country Living to carol and then proceed to other locations.
- * A small group study will begin Feb. 1 using the a combination of a workbook and viewing season one of the show *The Chosen*. Sign up sheet will be passed to see what interest there is, times, places etc.
- * A "Snow Much Fun" activity is planned for Jan. 18 at Country Living.
- * Volunteers needed to take down Christmas decorations. Begin taking down January 4.
- * Ash Wednesday is Feb. 18 in the sanctuary.
- * Next meeting is February 4



Feb. 1 will begin an 8 week small group study based on season 1 of the show *The Chosen*. Participants will watch the episode ahead of each week's group meeting and will use the study guide "*What Does it Mean to Be Chosen*" for discussion and questions. Be watching for times and places for the study. Call the office if you want to participate.

This study connects readers to the Bible in a brand-new way. It includes:

- † A deeper look at *Isaiah 43* and its fulfillment in Jesus and the lives of His followers (including us!)
- † Script excerpts, quotes and illustrations from the show
- † Guiding questions for groups or individuals

Being chosen by Jesus has beautiful and far-reaching implications—although it says even more about the Chooser than the choosees. We are loved because He's love. We are saved because He's merciful. We belong to the family of God because Jesus invites us, making the Bible and all its promises as true for us today as it was for God's chosen nation.

What does it actually mean to be Chosen? To answer that question we're going Old school—Testament that is—which leads us back to the New. Which always leads us directly to Jesus.



HELP! AUMC NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!
 Can you call BINGO at Country Living Friday's at 2?
 Can you wash dishes or provide a dessert for Open Table on Wednesday nights?
 Can you be liturgist, usher or greeter?
 Can you give the Children's Message?
 Can you purge and organize?
YOU ARE NEEDED!

Thank you to all who helped with the Advent Brunches! \$810.10 was raised!

The Croft/Albright family
 Farmer/Jensen family
 Waldschmidts
 Clarks
 Kaups
 Coggins

Call the office (620-842-5486) to volunteer!



January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>It's time to take down and store the Christmas trappings! (after January 4) The storage containers and instructions will be in the space by the door into Fellowship Hall. All items need to return to the storage room upstairs (except for Chrismons and the Christmas tree, which return to the storage room in NE corner of sanctuary)</i></p> <p><i>If you have some free time, stop by AUMC and take down a few of the decorations!</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Thank you!</i></p>				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Epiphany Sunday	National Bird Day	Epiphany	Open Table Meal 5:30-7:00	Snuggle a Chicken Day	Law Enforcement Appreciation Day—hug a cop!	Houseplant Appreciation Day
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Natl Sunday Supper Day—invite someone over for supper!	Natl Hot Tea Day	Natl Poetry at Work Day	Open Table Meal 5:30-7:00	Natl Hat Day	Religious Freedom Day	Natl Use Your Gift Card Day—use 'em while you still know where they are!
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<i>Country Living activity followed by worship—2:30</i>	Martin Luther King Day	Natl Cheese Lovers Day	Open Table Meal 5:30-7:00	Answer Your Cat's Questions Day—I don't make these up!	Natl Pie Day	Natl Compliment Day
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day		Open Table Meal 5:30-7:00	Natl Puzzle Day	Fun at Work Day	Inspire Your Heart with Art Day

Our Church Family in December



Lighting the Advent Candles—Cashiers, Coggins, Cathers, Clarks, Chandlers



Christmas cuties!



Pastor Bruce & Kayden perform at the Historic Runnymede Church



Laura volunteering



Braxton



Martha & Mary Julana made new friends in NYC at the Today Show!



Advent Special Music



Trip to Wild Lights at Sedgwick Co. Zoo



Carothers Family & Bruce



Joyce giving Children's Message



Caroling at Country Living



Kayden, Maia, Pastor Bruce and Melissa enjoy the Mannheim Steamroller concert!



USHERS

01/04/26—Susan Croft/Erin Albright
 01/11/26—Dorothy Nickel/Dustin Elliott
 01/18/26—Joyce Kaup/Wanda Harnden
 01/25/26—Dan and Diane Cashier

LITURGIST

01/04/26—Karen Cather
 01/11/26—Suzanne Clark
 01/18/26—Karen Cather
 01/25/26—Wanda Harnden

GREETERS

01/04/26—Susan Croft/Erin Albright
 01/11/26—Dorothy Nickel/Dustin Elliott
 01/18/26—Joyce Kaup/Wanda Harnden
 01/25/26—Dan and Diane Cashier

CHILDREN'S TIME

01/04/26—Crystal Carothers
 01/11/26—Joyce Kaup
 01/18/26—Karen Cather
 01/25/26—Linda Francis

DECEMBER OPEN TABLE

Date	# Served	Donation
12/03/2025	53	\$159.00
12/10/2025	64	\$216.00
12/17/2025	80	\$316.00
12/24/2025	N/A	Holiday
	66	\$691.00
Donations		\$950.00
		\$1,641.00

THANK YOU TO 3 GENEROUS DONORS!



ANNIVERSARIES

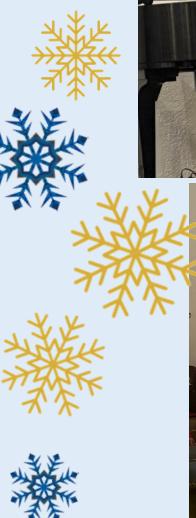
01/01—Pastor Bruce and Melissa Wilson
 01/26—Danny and Shirley Moore

BIRTHDAYS

01/09—Randy Wiseley
 01/10—Rick Chambers
 01/10—Roger Clark
 01/18—Melissa Wilson
 01/21—Chelsea Cashier
 01/24—Mark Waldschmidt
 01/24—Mary Kay Templin
 01/29—Mary Chandler
 Remembering:
 01/06—Erick Francis
 01/20—Larry Dunn
 01/21—Donna Ryan



CHRISTMAS EVE 2025



Prayer Concerns

Pray for our community, country and world

Pray for Pastor Bruce, Melissa, Piper, and Parker

Prayers for those fighting flu and colds

Prayers for Don Jensen family following his passing

Prayers for June as she continues to heal and get stronger

Prayers for Gerri Highbanks as she continues treatment

Prayers of gratitude for our volunteers

Pray for those with unspoken needs

Prayers for continued healing for Pat B. following surgery

Prayers of comfort for those with anxiety and depression

Pray to seek ways to better serve others

Prayers of thanksgiving for Misty volunteering to lead children's Sunday school

Prayers that we may boldly bring others to Christ

Prayers for a deeper relationship with Christ in 2026

Prayers for Trina during cancer treatments

Prayers for Kathy Stewart healing from surgery

Prayers for Kade and Aubrey (Kathy's grandsons)

Prayers for Karen Hare as she heals

Prayers for Kari O'Riley's mom dealing with health concerns

Prayers for Lori Wilcox being treated for cancer

Prayers for strength and healing for Pat W.

Prayers for Kamden, great grandson of Connie Robinson, born prematurely

Prayers for Scott, son in law of Wanda

SEE,
I AM
DOING
A NEW
THING!

NOW IT SPRINGS
UP; DO YOU NOT
PERCEIVE IT? I AM
MAKING A WAY IN
THE WILDERNESS
AND STREAMS IN
THE WASTELAND.

ISAIAH 43:19

Inscribe the Word

January Scripture Writing Plan

Writing out Scriptures is a way to understand God's Word and Hear His voice without distractions. Each of the Scriptures below should take fifteen minutes to copy. So grab your journal, your bible, and some pretty pens, and let us

INSCRIBE THE WORD together.



Study using the W.O.R.D!

W - Write out your passage of Scripture

O - Observe key people, words, and themes

R - How is the passage RELEVANT to you today?

D - Declare and pray the passage over your life.

- 1. 1 John 1:1-4
- 2. 1 John 1:5-7
- 3. 1 John 1:8-10
- 4. 1 John 2:1-2
- 5. 1 John 2:3-6
- 6. 1 John 2:7-11
- 7. 1 John 2:12-14

- 8. 1 John 2:15-17
- 9. 1 John 2:18-20
- 10. 1 John 2:21-23
- 11. 1 John 2:24-27
- 12. 1 John 2:28-29
- 13. 1 John 3:1-4
- 14. 1 John 3:5-8

- 15. 1 John 3:9-12
- 16. 1 John 3:13-16
- 17. 1 John 3:17-20
- 18. 1 John 3:21-24
- 19. 1 John 4:1-3
- 20. 1 John 4:4-6
- 21. 1 John 4:7-11

- 22. 1 John 4:12-16
- 23. 1 John 4:17-19
- 24. 1 John 4:20-21
- 25. 1 John 5:1-4
- 26. 1 John 5:5-8
- 27. 1 John 5:9-11
- 28. 1 John 5:12-13

- 29. 1 John 5:14-17
- 30. 1 John 5:18-19
- 31. 1 John 5:20-21

OBADIAH'S PANTRY

In December, AUMC raised \$410.60 for Obadiah's Pantry by hosting brunches following worship. \$480.50 was raised for Harper County Hope from the brunches too. The December, Obadiah's Challenge was money to enable the Pantry to buy meat. \$1355.00 was donated.

The January Obadiah's Pantry challenge is:

JELLY/JAM/PRESERVES

(plastic jars if possible—no homemade please)

Thank you for your continued support of this ministry!

REMINDER! PLEASE TAKE ANY UNWANTED ITEMS TO THE THRIFT SHOP—
NOT THE CHURCH! SALES FROM THE THRIFT SHOP BENEFIT OTHER
MINISTRIES. SO HELP OUT OTHERS AND DON'T CLUTTER THE CHURCH.

CHURCH PHONE: 620-842-5486

CHURCH EMAIL: anthonyumc@gmail.com

CHURCH WEBSITE:

<https://anthonyumc.wixsite.com/anthonyumc>

PASTOR BRUCE'S PHONE: 316-833-2999

CHURCH ADDRESS: 225 N. Bluff, Anthony, KS 67003

NEW YEAR'S EVE WORD SCRAMBLE

utwdcnono
ebeltreca
idgitmh
ecfotitn
hserec
sinoerustol
rpyta
apelssrkr
kinsamereo
nlaboslo
sogla
rkwesifro
aajrnyu
uemtrieasqs
eirsmome

Answers on page 5



"UGLY" SWEATER SUNDAY!



Ever wonder why it's the same people at church doing everything?



Beth explains the "Iota Eta Sigma on a Greek Cross"

CHRISMON STORIES and MEMORIES



Volunteer! The more people involved, the less you will see the same faces on Sunday! What a great New Years Resolution—volunteer!