

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



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.

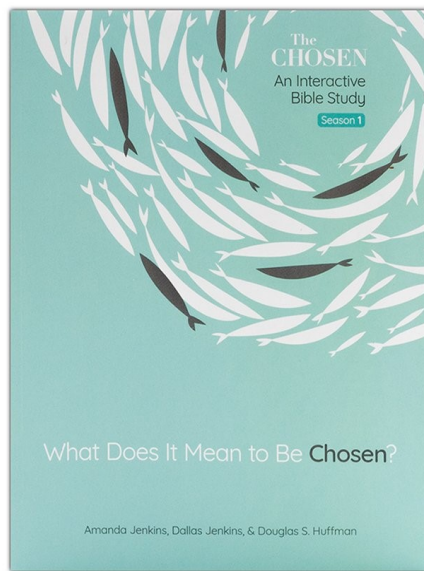
* A small group study will begin Feb. 1 using the a combination of a workbook and viewing season one of the show *The Chosen*. Sign up sheet will be passed to see what interest there is, times, places etc.

* 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



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!

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

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



January 2026

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

*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)
If you have some free time, stop by AUMC and take down a few of the decorations!
Thank you!*



1
2
3
World Introvert Day
Festival of Sleep Day—take a nap!

4 Epiphany Sunday	5 National Bird Day	6 Epiphany	7 Open Table Meal 5:30-7:00	8 Snuggle a Chicken Day	9 Law Enforcement Appreciation Day—hug a cop!	10 Houseplant Appreciation Day
11 Natl Sunday Supper Day—invite someone over for supper!	12 Natl Hot Tea Day	13 Natl Poetry at Work Day	14 Open Table Meal 5:30-7:00	15 Natl Hat Day	16 Religious Freedom Day	17 Natl Use Your Gift Card Day—use 'em while you still know where they are!
18 <i>Country Living activity followed by worship—2:30</i>	19 Martin Luther King Day	20 Natl Cheese Lovers Day	21 Open Table Meal 5:30-7:00	22 Answer Your Cat's Questions Day—I don't make these up!	23 Natl Pie Day	24 Natl Compliment Day
25	26 Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day	27	28 Open Table Meal 5:30-7:00	29 Natl Puzzle Day	30 Fun at Work Day	31 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 Juliana made new friends in NYC at the Today Show!



Advent Special Music



Trip to Wild Lights at Sedgwick Co. Zoo



Caroling at Country Living



Carothers Family & Bruce



Joyce giving Children's Message



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

GREETERS

01/04/26—Susan Croft/Erin Albright
01/11/26—Doroty 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!

LITURGIST

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

TECH DESK

01/04/26—Jennifer Wolff
01/11/26—Fiona Carothers
01/18/26—Suzanne Clark
01/25/26—Dustin Elliott

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



countdown/celebrate/midnight/confetti/cheers/resolutions/party/sparklers/noisemaker/balloons/goals/fireworks/January/times square/memories

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 Hughbanks 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

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 WORD!

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.

The Book of 1 John

- ☐ 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

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



NEW YEAR'S EVE WORD SCRAMBLE

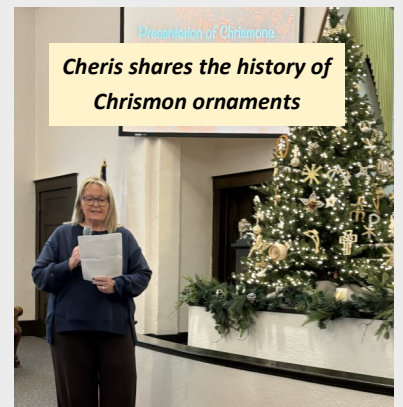
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Answers on page 5

CHRISMON STORIES and MEMORIES



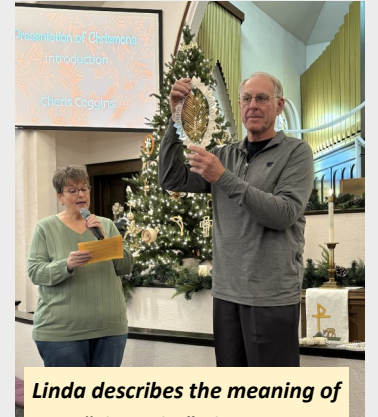
*Karen explains
Chrismons to the children*



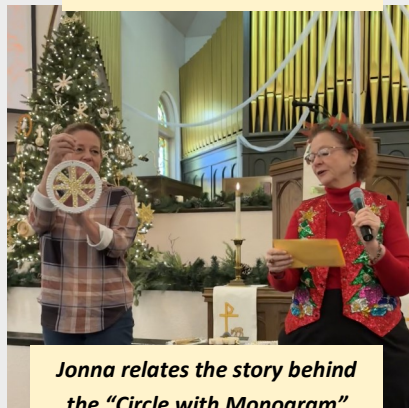
*Cheris shares the history of
Chrismon ornaments*



*Mike shares about the "Chi
Rho with Alpha and Omega"*



*Linda describes the meaning of
"The Palm" Chrismon*



*Jonna relates the story behind
the "Circle with Monogram"*



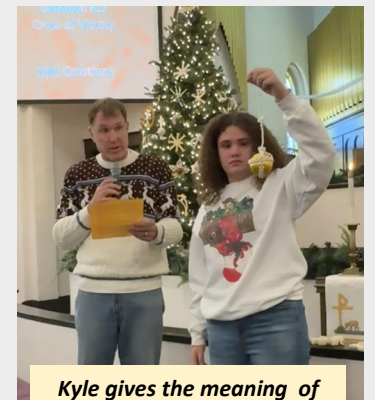
*Fiona tells about the "Triangle &
the Trefoil" Chrismon*



"UGLY" SWEATER SUNDAY!



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



*Kyle gives the meaning of
the "Cross of Victory"*



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

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