

THE
CIRCUIT
RIDER



Anthony
United Methodist Church

225 N. Bluff
Anthony, KS 67003

Worship—9:30 a.m.
Church School—10:45 a.m.

We welcome you!

News from the Anthony United Methodist Church!

A Word From Pastor Bruce Wilson



Brandon Clark, Pastor Bruce, Brian Hess, Curt Clark and Kayden Koehler joyfully rang bells and sang on Christmas Eve

Trust me. I am not keeping track. That being said, I do care about everyone's faith journey and I believe being present in active worship with other Christ-followers is irreplaceable with any other method of spiritual formation. Yes, our time with God in quiet devotion, prayer, Scripture-reading and study is all wonderful. These practices aid in spiritual growth and maturity, but they aren't meant to

replace worship. And watching church on TV is better than nothing, I suppose, but it's no match for the live experience and real human interaction with other worshippers.

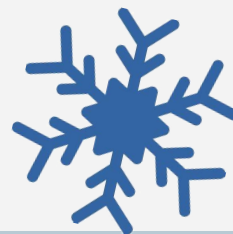
As you embark on a brand new year, I encourage you to elevate your commitment to being an active part of a real live worship service. Of course, I would love to see you worship with me at Anthony UMC. But really, go and worship wherever God is calling you to go. It is vitally important to God. Throughout Scripture, worship is a central act of the Christian Life. You see, we are created for worshipping God. It is doesn't have to make sense to you. You don't have to always feel like it. It's not about you. It's about God, and He really likes it. There-

fore, we should make every effort to do it every week. Psalm 95:6 says: "Come, let us bow down in worship; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker." Friends, there are so many reasons why entering into worship on a regular basis can be hard for any one of us... including me. Maybe you don't understand why it's important. Maybe for you it's a struggle at this season of your life. But the cool thing is, it really doesn't matter what we think or feel about worship, because it is something God asks of us. He wants our worship. He is loved by our worship. And it's not up to you to figure out why. It is simply up to you to give it to Him because that's what you are created to do. So as you step into 2024, I invite you to spend some time praying about worship. Think of it this way... since we ARE created for worship, we will find ourselves worshipping something. At all moments, we are worshipping something. So on Sunday morning, when you find yourself choosing NOT to be in church for worship ... ask yourself what other thing you are worshipping instead. I invite you to get out of yourself in 2024 and come and worship with the body of Christ in person. Doing so will position your heart to receive more from Him in the New Year!

It is my honor and privilege to worship alongside you as your pastor.

Happy New Year 2024!

Pastor Bruce Wilson



In this small community, it's quite common for me to encounter members of the body of Christ who, for any number of reasons, don't seem to make it to worship very often on Sunday mornings. When I see these folks out and about town, I always enjoy saying hello and briefly catching up on their lives. But what is interesting to me, is how often they take the conversation to a place of explaining and justifying their absence from worship. I guess it's just part of having the job title of 'Pastor' attached to my name that folks think I am grading them on their worship attendance.

DECEMBER 20 ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM MINUTES

Those present: Pastor Bruce Wilson, Don Jensen, Martha Hadsall, Kyle Carothers, Mike Cather, Pat Wolff, Gerald Wolff, Lucinda Gates

- Everyone shared a personal reflection on their favorite Christmas Carol and why.

- Reviewed Goals and Vital Signs for 2023-2024

Wesleyan Mission sheet:

- Know God—Advent Study, Bruce's sermon series, Bruce working with congregation
- Proclaim Christ—Caroling
- Serve Others—Open Table
- Seek Justice—Christmas gift bags to Higher Grounds youth.

Vital signs 2023 Year to date:

Average worship attendance—50

Active small groups—4

Total offering—\$143,587

Baptisms—2

New Members—12

Average Open Table Attendance—for Nov.: 82

- Strategic Work: Kyle moved, Pat seconded to give \$3800 from the Croft Mission Fund for mission trip to Africa (see page 7)

- Little Lambs - no report

- Ministry Team reported a small group study will begin Jan. 21 (see page 4) Will try to offer quarterly joint worship service instead of 5th Sunday. Ash Wednesday is Feb. 14

- SPRC—Church office closed Dec. 25-28r

- Trustees reported repairs at parsonage almost complete. Joash offering brought in \$33,660 for window/door replacement by Fellowship Hall. Waiting for Pratt Glass. No decision was made following discussion of chimes from Burchfiel.

- Finance report: finances through Nov. are + \$4,014.73

- Pastor's Report: Bruce wished all a Merry Christmas

Next meeting will be Jan. 17 at 7 pm

MINISTRY TEAM MINUTES FOR DECEMBER

Those present: Mary Chandler, Robert Chandler, Pastor Bruce, Suzanne Clark, Karen Cather, Lucinda Gates, Crissa Cox, Cheris Coggins

- Crissa opened with prayer

- Reviewed activities from November: Hanging of the Greens went well. Outdoor nativity needs to be put up. Charlie, Kyle and Mike will do it Thurs. Hall. All Saints Sunday was well received. Will need to find a different way for participants to light the candles because of lighter difficulties. Silent Auction brought in \$2220. 12 donated items for auction and 20 were bidders.

Old Business

- Advent Brunches: people have volunteered to host except for Dec. 17.

- Caroling party Dec. 17 at 3:30. Meet at Country Living. Bruce will ask Kyle about leading the music. Suzanne will check with ACCC if we can carol there.

- Dec. 17 is Children's Christmas program during worship. Crystal and Diane are taking care of it.

- Advent study: 22 participated on the first Sunday. It was decided to proceed with a study after the first of the year on "Love and Respect." Mary will research what is available since there are several different topics offered.

- It was suggested we set a time earlier next year for going to Wichita to see lights.

- Bruce is finding the families to be readers and light candles during Advent. Christmas Eve will be at 11 pm.

New Business

- How to minister to those attending Open Table: will put together "care packages" for the HGLB kids.

- Will promote "reverse Advent boxes" again for Obadiah's Pantry

- It was decided not to offer anything special for New Years Eve

- It was decided to try quarterly joint worship services instead of doing 5th Sunday services. Each church can choose the Sunday they want to host.

- Upcoming: Ash Wednesday is Feb. 14. Easter is March 31

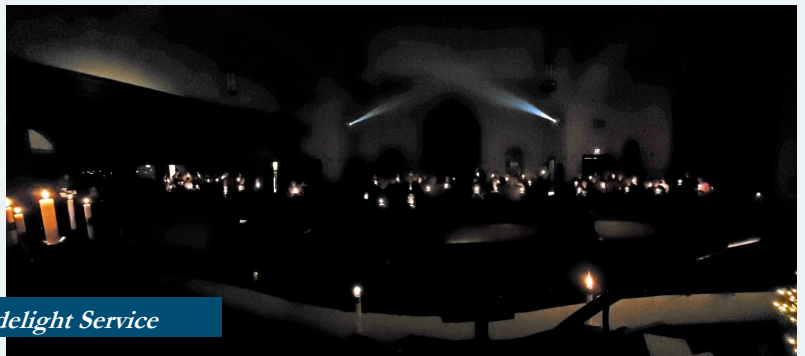
For January Meeting : Members come prepared with ideas and goals for 2024.

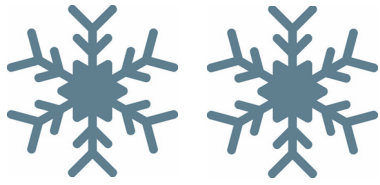
Bruce closed the meeting with prayer.

Next meeting: January 10, 2024



Christmas Eve Candelight Service





JANUARY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2 World Introvert Day	3 NO OPEN TABLE MEAL	4 World Braille Day	5 Whipped Cream Day	6 Epiphany
7 Epiphany Sunday Communion	8 Nat'l Clean Off Your Desk Day	9 Nat'l Law Enforcement Appreciation Day	10 Open Table Meal 5:30-7:00 Ministry Team meeting @ 7:00	11 Learn Your Name in Morse Code Day	12 Nat'l Pharmacist Day	13 Nat'l Sticker Day
14	15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	16 Religious Freedom Day	17 Open Table Meal 5:30-7:00 Admin. Leadership Team Mtg @ 7:00	18 Thesaurus Day	19 Bald Eagle Appreciation Day	20 Nat'l Use Your Gift Card Day
21 New Small Group Study begins	22 Nat'l Polka Dot Day	23 Nat'l Pie Day	24 Open Table Meal 5:30 – 7:00	25 Nat'l Irish Coffee Day	26 Fun at Work Day	27 Holocaust Memorial Day
28	29 Nat'l Puzzle Day	30 Nat'l Plan for a Vacation Day	31 Open Table Meal 5:30-7:00	Ash Wednesday is Feb. 14		

LESSON TOPICS FOR CHILDREN'S JANUARY SUNDAY SCHOOL!



Jan. 7—Mary's Joy—Luke 1:26-38, 46-56

Jan. 14—Joseph's Joy—Matthew 1:18-24

Jan. 21—Jesus Brings Joy—Luke 2:1-7

Jan. 28—Joyous News—Luke 2:8-20

Learn about these Bible stories at Sunday School or read them together as a family!

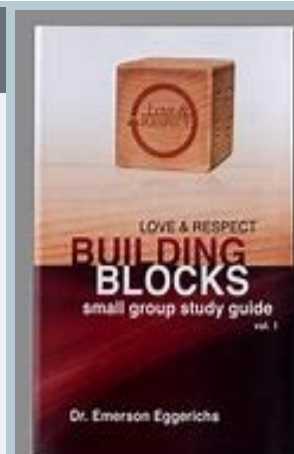
SMALL GROUP STUDY TO BEGIN JANUARY 21

Love and Respect—Building Blocks study is a 6 week course that features unpacking five life-changing relationship principles. The six week course features a 10-20 minute video by author Dr. Emerson Eggerichs and wife Sarah followed by a 10-20 minute teaching on how to apply that week's concept. The course is designed to enable and inspire you to apply the wisdom of Love and Respect in Ephesians 5:33 to your relationships.

Week 1: Pink or Blue. Not Wrong. Just Different. Week 2: Hollywood or Holy Word. Week 3: 80:20 Ratio. Week 4: Not Communication, But Mutual Understanding. Week 5: My Response is My Responsibility. Week 6: Stay the Course.

Books are \$10 and may be ordered through the Church office. Watch for details of times and places for the study.

Both adult Sunday School classes will be participating in this study.



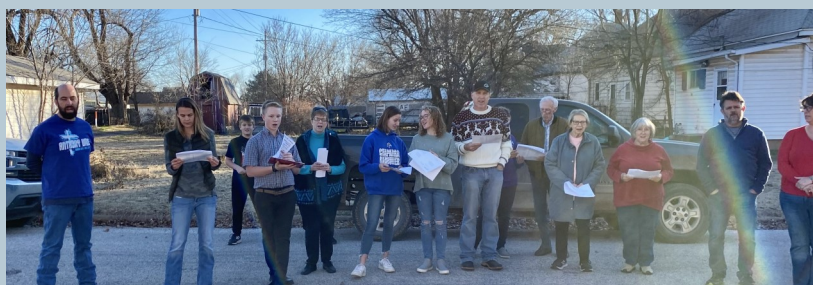
CAROLING PARTY DEC. 17 ENDING AT THE COX HOME FOR REFRESHMENTS!



FOR THIS
Child
WE HAVE
Prayed
1 samuel 1:27

Melissa, Pastor Bruce and Piper
have a new baby
arriving in 2024!

AUMC celebrates their joy and
praises God for answered prayer!

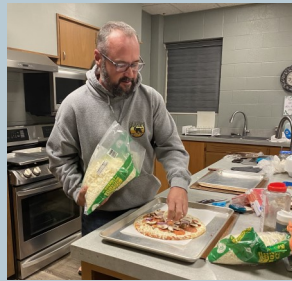


OUR CHURCH FAMILY IN DECEMBER



Christmas Eve Day

Open Table Helpers



Little Lambs enjoy movies and a pre-Christmas slumber party!



Piper!



These 4 performed at the Anthony Theatre



Congratulations Meredith and Troy!



The children gave a dazzling performance Dec. 17 using the "Burchfiel Bells"



Children's Message

Lighting the Advent Candles is a favorite tradition



Bells during Advent



Advent Brunches were well attended & a time for fellowship & good food! \$395 was collected for Obadiah's Pantry



Worship Team

GREETERS

01/07—Matt Wilson/Cate Jensen
01/14—June Kastens/Dorothy Nickel/Susan Croft
01/21—Albright Family
01/28—Don Jensen/Brian Hess

USHERS

01/07—Matt Wilson/Cate Jensen
01/14—Dorothy Nickel/Susan Croft
01/21—Albright Family
01/28—Don Jensen/Brian Hess

LITURGISTS

01/07—Wanda Harnden
01/14—Karen Cather
01/21—Suzanne Clark
01/28—Jason Wolff

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

01/07—Crystal Carothers
01/14—Karen Cather
01/21—Crystal Carothers
01/28—Karen Cather

Please call the church office at 842-5486 if you need to switch with someone or will be unavailable. Of course volunteers are always welcome! Just let Lucinda in the office know!

Birthdays

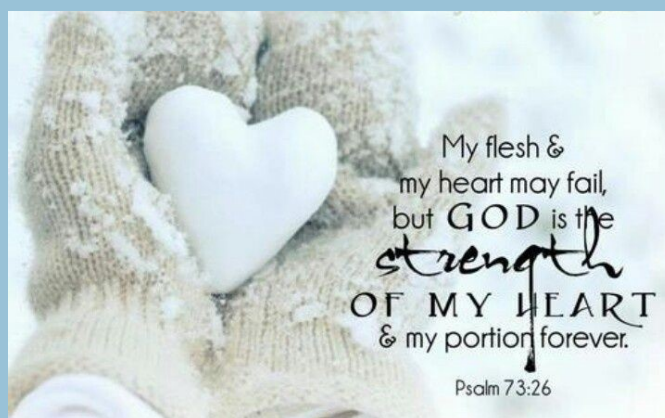
01/06—Erick Francis
01/09—Randy Wiseley
01/10—Roger Clark
01/15—Dustin Elliott
01/18—Melissa Wilson
01/20—Larry Dunn
01/21—Donna Ryan
01/21—Chelsea Cashier
01/24—Mark Waldschmidt
01/24—Mary Kay Templin
01/29—Mary Chandler

Anniversaries

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

TECH DESK

01/07—Lori Wilson
01/14—Bryn Cormack
01/21—Innslee Albright
01/28—Jennifer Wolff



4 "S" WORDS YOUR Relationship With God NEEDS IN THE NEW YEAR

SET—your mind on things above.

“Set” in this context means “to seek.” Look at life from Christ’s perspective. Search for Him daily! Seek God each morning and ask Him to direct your steps for the day. Try memorizing some verses to help shift your focus on Him. Make sticky notes with scriptures and put them on your bathroom mirror!

* Finally, brothers and sister, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Phil. 4:8

* Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. Rom. 12:2

SLAY—the sin in your life.

This can be easier said than done! Remember in these verses Paul is speaking to believers. Chances are what people typically think of as “big sins” may not be happening in your life... but how’s your temper? Do you speak the truth? Obscene speech? Gossip? If your being honest, some of those will make you say “Ouch!”

SURRENDER—to the word of God

If you are a believer, there should be an outward difference in your life. If you take a look at Col. 3:12-14, it shows what qualities, as believers, we should display. Above all of these, we should show love. Surrender to God’s word and love people just as Jesus did!

SERVE—others

Our sinful nature can really take away from serving others. We tend to justify why we shouldn’t serve another person but Col. 3:17 encourages us that whatever we do or whomever we are serving, **we are doing it for the Lord.**

**THE AUMC COFFEE BAR IS THE PLACE
TO MEET SUNDAY MORNING!
COFFEE, HOT TEA, COCOA, WATER
AND JUICE AVAILABLE**
**DONUTS, BREADS, COOKIES ETC.
ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!**
**SIGN UP SHEET ON
COFFEE BAR**
or contact Suzanne at 842-2134



Happy New Year!



AULD LANG SYNE
BABY
BALL
BALLOONS
CALENDAR
CELEBRATION
CHAMPAGNE
CLOCK
CONFETTI
COUNTDOWN
DANCING
DECEMBER
EVE

FATHER TIME
FIRECRACKER
FIRST
FLUTE
GAMES
GOWN
HAPPY
HAT
HOURGLASS
INVITATION
JANUARY
KISS
MIDNIGHT

MUSIC
NOISE MAKER
PARTY
RESOLUTION
SPARKLER
STREAMER
TIMES SQUARE
TOAST
TRADITION
TUXEDO
VOW
YEAR

© 2014 puzzles-to-print.com

PASTOR BRUCE'S OFFICE HOURS

Harper: Tues. 10:30-12:30

Anthony: Wed. 10:30-12:30

Thurs.—By appointment
Appointments Welcome!

Behold
I make
all things
new

Revelation 21:5

May God bless you
this New Year!

Whatever you do,
whether in word or deed,
do it all in the name of
the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to
God the Father.

Colossians 3:17

Hopefully, the words of Col. 3:17 (see above) will resonate with you and are what you need to grow your spiritual walk with Christ. The Lord makes it easy to come to Him, but **it's a choice** that we have to make daily. Some of the most exciting times in life happen when you are closest to Him.

Crissa Cox and her fiancé Brad Foley have been presented the awesome opportunity to teach and work in Malawi, a country in Africa. It is a 3 week mission trip in June, 2024.

Crissa will be teaching CPR, first aid, educating about HIV and AIDS, checking vision, blood pressure, vision and distributing eyeglasses. Brad will work on various projects including repairing ceilings and painting classrooms on the campus of The Great Commission Bible School.

Crissa and Brad are requesting prayers for them and the team going to Malawi. The cost of this mission trip for the couple is \$7600. The Administrative Leadership Team recently voted to give \$3800 toward that cost from the Croft Mission Fund.

225 N. Bluff
PO Box 542
Anthony, Kansas 67003

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

8 am—12 pm Monday-Friday

Church website:

anthonyumc.wixsite.com/anthonyumc

Find us on Facebook!

Church: 620-842-5486

Parsonage: 620-842-3241

Pastor's cell #: 316-833-2999

Pastor's email:

bwilson@greatplainsumc.org

Church email: anthonyumc@gmail.com



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.

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

www.TheFelicityBee.com

PRAYER requests



- Prayers for Pastor Bruce, Melissa and Piper
- Prayers of joy for Pastor Bruce, Melissa and Piper. They are adding a baby to their family in 2024!
- Prayers for our community, country and world.
- Prayers for Larry Dunn and family as he receives treatment
- Prayers for Little Lambs Daycare
- Prayers of joy for all who contributed time, music, food, studied "Faithful" and made Advent at AUMC so meaningful.
- Prayers for Margie, sister of Crystal Carothers
- Prayers for those who are caregivers
- Prayers for Jacquie Wiseley's father & for her family and answers for the cause of Jacquie's back pain.
- Prayers for students going back to school after Christmas
- Prayers for those with unspoken needs
- Prayer for Dr. Jerry Hall and Karen
- Prayers continue for Ashton Hazel and family as he adjusts to a new medication.
- Prayers of thanksgiving that Lyle Redgate's scans were clear
- Prayers for peace for those battling anxiety and depression
- Prayers for Pauletta Hinkle suffering from back pain
- Prayers for Karma Redgate (daughter in law of Lois Bogdanovecz) diagnosed with cancer

OPEN TABLE 2023 STATISTICS

Did you know? 3008 meals were served from the AUMC kitchen in 2023.

Did you know? You can volunteer time and donate desserts any time?

Did you know? That's 3008 opportunities to minister to our guests

Obadiah's Pantry Challenge for November took in 113 items. 141 people received food in December

Obadiah's JANUARY challenge is
SPAGHETTI SAUCE
(canned ONLY)