



December 2023

## Thoughts From the Desk of Shirley...

### Points of Contact

Lay Pastor - Shirley Nelson  
#712-281-0432 or  
#712-373-5368  
nelsoshi@gmail.com  
Available for contact all  
the time

**Anthon Ad Board Chair:**  
Andrea Mitchell

**SPRC Chair:**  
Andrea Mitchell and  
Shirley Nelson

**Anthon Community  
Methodist Church** is  
located at 401 East  
Bridge Street.

**Church e-mail:**  
AUMC5288@gmail.com

**Church website:**  
www.arbumc.com

**FaceBook Page:**  
Anthon Community  
Methodist Church

**Office Hours:**  
Wed. & Fri.  
11am – 1pm  
#712-373-5288

### NOTE:

**We're trying to get  
all available e-mail  
addresses into our  
computer! Please  
send yours to the  
church so we can  
get you in our  
contact list!!!**

Only four short weeks left in 2023. Our church has gone through some difficult decisions this year as have so many United Methodist Churches worldwide.

We enter 2024 as the newly named Anthon Community Methodist Church. We have chosen to remain as a Methodist Church but not affiliated with the United Methodist Church Conference. We will remain an independent church for the coming year being led by a very strong Administrative Board and Staff-Parish committee.

The Lord has blessed our church in many ways this year. We have remained financially stable with very generous contributions from people near and far who show their love and support for our church.

After many years of cracked floors and walls, we were able to raise the foundation on the West side of the church and fix those cracks. We do have some cosmetic repairs to finish but overall, we solved a major problem. Thank you to those who made this possible.

With a very generous memorial, we were able to complete the walk-in shower in the parsonage to make both the church and the parsonage handicap accessible.

We increased our congregation by accepting five transfers and confirmed two young people. We baptized two babies and for the first time in many years, we did not have one funeral service in our church although I had the honor of presiding at the service of a close friend of the church and the interment of several other people connected to the church.

In the next few weeks, we will light the advent candle and hang our banners proclaiming Hope, Joy, Peace, and Love and on Christmas Eve, we will light the Christ Candle proclaiming the birth of Christ.

We will enjoy the youth of the church being part of the church service on Sunday, December 10th, giving us their own view of what Christmas is all about.

Christmas holds a sacred spot in the heart of every believer. We put out our nativity sets. We sing our favorite carols and reread the beloved scripture, the story of Mary and Joseph, their 80-mile journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem and the birth of Jesus in a manger. We are transported back in time.

We all love the cookies, the family get togethers, the gifts, the music, the time off from work, the decorations and everything that goes along with Christmas but we must never forget that the birth of Jesus is the reason for the season.

Blessings, Shirley

# UP COMING EVENTS



## December 3

First Sunday of Advent



## December 4

SPRC meeting in church at 7pm

## December 10

Youth Christmas Program during worship



## December 12

Finance and Ad Board meeting at 7pm



## December 13 & 16

Faith Bible Church at Mapleton presents Walk Through Bethlehem

Dec. 13 from 6:30pm - 8:00pm

Dec. 16 from 5:30pm - 7:30pm



## December 24

**No Christmas Eve morning worship**  
**Christmas Eve Worship at 5:00pm**



## Special Prayer Needs

OUR COUNTRY, OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN, our church, our community leaders, our president, our farmers, Bobby Lewis, Nina Osborne, Tom & Cindy Herrick, Fran & Keith Determann, David Beach, Ed Davis, Brad Harbaugh, Alta Patterson, Ralph Diamond, Trisha Theisen, Keith Allman, Russ Greenlee, Dan Burrough Brady Gothier, Tylene Zevenbergen and Eleanore Lewis.

**Remember our Nursing Home Residents!**

**Be A Part:** If you would like to be part of the prayer support for our church, just send us your name and email.

## Time for Poinsettias

Nothing is more beautiful than an altar full of poinsettias. If you would like to give one in memory of a loved one or just to enhance the beauty of the church, please contact the church at 373-5288. Although we keep the church locked, we will gladly be available to accept flowers. If you want to give a flower, but are unable to shop for one, leave a message at the church with your phone # and we will return your call.



# Our Life Together

## All Saints Tribute

Four people were honored on the first Sunday of November as we observed All Saints Sunday. Candles were lit in honor of Kathy Johnson, Darlene Clausen, Wilma Robeson, and Jack Hansen. Following the lighting of candles, communion was served and the congregation lit individual votive candles to remember those loved ones and friends who have passed away. Everybody enjoyed a potluck luncheon after worship.



**Veterans honored on Veteran's Sunday**

Veterans were honored on  
Veteran's Sunday  
with a special service.  
Those attending were  
Tom Herrick, Dan Brant,  
Mark Meister, Roger Hladik,  
Ralph Diamond, and Trisha Theisen.

**Thank you  
for your service!**

## Hanging of the Greens

Sunday morning the church was transformed from autumn colors to beautiful Christmas colors as many people joined in on hanging of the Greens. Greenery, lights, wreaths, Mary and Joseph on the altar, and a beautiful Christmas tree decorated in Gold and white ornaments adorned the sanctuary. A Nativity set complete with Mary and Joseph and all the animals greet the people as they enter the Foyer. A lunch was provided to everyone who attended or helped decorate the church.



# Missions

Our present mission project will be gathering blankets, food, paper products for the Warming Shelter, Gospel Mission and other programs in the area who need help this winter.

We will continue to give to the Heifer Project International and if you know of a needy program, please contact Shirley or Marilyn.

### Tithes and Offerings

Nov. 5 \$ 2,312.00    Nov. 12 \$ 226.00  
Nov. 20 \$ 2,358.21    Nov. 26 \$ 1,006.00

GIVE THANKS  
to the LORD,  
FOR HE IS GOOD

PSALM 107:1

### New Address

Eleanore Lewis  
Accura Health Care  
PO Box 67  
Room 44  
Aurelia, IA 51005

Anthon United Methodist Church

November 13,2023

Finance: Marilyn Hladik called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. And Lay pastor Shirley Nelson gave devotions. Present were Andrea Mitchell, Deanna Adler, JoLynne Reimert, Roger and Marilyn Hladik, and Shirley Nelson. The profit and loss statement was reviewed with assets of \$62518.32 Thrasher has been paid.

Board: Andrea called the meeting to order; JoLynne made a motion to approve the minutes and Roger 2<sup>nd</sup> it. Motion carried.  
Pastor Dec. 2 will be the soup supper, Nov. 26 will be Hanging of the Greens, Dec. 10 children's program.

Finance : We have assets of \$62518.32

Trustees: Roger reported Marilyn and Gary put weatherstripping on the back door and fixed the parsonage shower door. We have several windows with holes and cracks. Thrasher pumped in polyfill to lift the hall , foyer and kitchen floors.

Teaching: No Sunday school Christmas Eve or New Years Eve day. Dec. 10 is children's program.

Outreach: Marilyn reported 20 hygiene kits and 62 school kits were taken to the Ingathering. We are now collecting items for the Warming Shelter and Gospel Mission.

SPRC will meet Thursday.

Old Business: There was discussion about insurances with the subject being tabled till next month. Work on the new by-laws will be done by, Andrea, Shirley, Deanna, and Kathy.

Nov. 18 at 10 a.m. is the charge conference for final disaffiliation. There was discussion about how to finish removing symbols of the United Methodist Church by Nov.30.

New Business: Soup supper menu , it will be a freewill offering toward a mission project.

Next meeting Dec. 12 (Andrea's birthday) Deanna will have devotions.  
Shirley ended with prayer. Marilyn made a motion to adjourn and JoLynne 2<sup>nd</sup> it.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marilyn Hladik, finance chair

Anthon Community Methodist Church  
Box L  
Anthon, IA 51004-0602

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### Dec. Liturgist Responsibilities

Dec. 3	Eileen Klindt
Dec. 10	Lisa Kerns
Dec. 17	Jerry Klindt
Dec. 24	Kathy Hodgdon
Dec. 31	Roger Hladik

### Dec. Children's Story Responsibilities

Dec. 3	Roger Hladik
Dec. 10	Kathy Hodgdon
Dec. 17	Andrea Mitchell
Dec. 24	Shirley Nelson
Dec. 31	Rhonda Beeson

**\*If you are unable to attend, please find your replacement and let the church know by email.**

### Dec. Birthdays & Anniversaries

Gary & Janice Brown	1
Susan Redenius	2
Theresa Johnson	3
Tye Petersen	3
Kirk & Michelle Fitch	4
Andrea Mitchell	12
Jean Petersen	18
Gary Beeson	18
David & Dawn Zahnley	21
Jacque Gothier	22
Adam Mitchell	26
Phil & Deanna Adler	30

