



January/February 2025

Thoughts From the Desk of Shirley...

Good to be Back

I'm sure you have missed the Focus over the last couple of months and we apologize for not sending one out. Our office staff has had a lot of issues with illness, surgery, and a multitude of family issues. We have been covering each other the best we can, getting bulletins out every Sunday and keeping up with pictures of ongoing activities. This issue is a catch up issue and is covering several months. We hope from now on we will be back on schedule for a monthly Focus. Thanks

Points of Contact

Lay Pastor - Shirley Nelson
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Available for contact all
the time

Anthion Ad Board Chair:
Deanna Adler

SPRC Chair:
Andrea Mitchell and
Shirley Nelson

**Anthion Community
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Bridge Street.

Church e-mail:
AUMC5288@gmail.com

Church website:
www.arbumc.com

FaceBook Page:
Anthion 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!!!**

THUR
JAN 30
2025

“DO YOU TALK TO JESUS?”

READ Mark 10:13-16

*[Jesus] took the children in his arms, placed his
hands on them and blessed them.*

— Mark 10:16 (NIV)

One morning after church, my pastor and I were discussing some church business when I noticed that my four-year-old granddaughter was not with me. As I looked around, I noticed her sitting in the doorway to the sanctuary, munching on her fruit snacks. I could see that she was talking

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY
Christ invites me to come to
him like a child.

to someone as well. I went up to her, knelt down, and asked, “Who are you talking to?” Pointing to a large stained glass picture of Jesus holding children on his lap, she said, “Jesus!” Then with the innocence of a four-year-old, she asked me, “Nana, do you talk to Jesus?” With a chuckle I told her, “Yes, all the time!”

In the Bible, God tells us that children are a blessing and a gift. Their spirits are filled with innocence and trust. But what a reminder to me that I too can talk to the Lord with that same innocence and trust. With childlike humility and faith, I can trust that God is listening and will not turn me away. God wants to hear from every child — no matter their age.

Prayer: Loving Father, thank you for children and grandchildren, who remind us that we are all your blessed children. In the name of Jesus, who never turned the little ones away. Amen.

Joanne Reimert (Iowa, USA)

We are pleased to share the following article written by JoLynne (Ashley) Reimert that has been published in the Jan/Feb 2025 Upper Room. Thank you for sharing!

UPCOMING EVENTS



February 9

Souper Bowl Luncheon

February 10

Ad Board and Finance meeting 7:00 pm



March 5

Ash Wednesday Service at 7pm

Reminder

Please save postage stamps for Eleanore. There is a basket on the table in the Fellowship Hall.



Missions

The church was truly blessed last year. As a way to pass these blessings forward,

donations were sent to:

**The Place, Soup Kitchen, and Gospel Missions, Heifer International,
Mobility Services, and Deaf Missions.**

Gloves and Mittens were purchased for the Warming Shelter.

Tithes and Offerings

December 1 \$1,440.00 December 8 \$1,425.72
December 15 \$1,556.00 December 22 \$1,916.00
December 29 \$5,818.46
Christmas Eve \$346 (Missions)
January 5 \$1,580.00 January 12 \$1,075.00



GIVE THANKS
to the LORD,
FOR HE IS GOOD

PSALM 107:1



Our Life Together

On Sunday, November 10 our Veteran's were honored. Those who could attend were introduced and thanked for their service to our country, our community, and our church. Those in attendance were: Trisha Theisen, Roger Hladik, Tom Herrick Mark Meister, and Dan Brant.



The first Sunday of November is designated as All Saints Day where loved ones of those who have passed away in the past year are remembered. Those who have had their funeral, memorial service or graveside service in our church or those who are connected to our church are remembered during the ceremony. Candles were lit for Russell Greenlee, John Johnson, Teresa Robbins, Tye Petersen, Julie Groszkrueger, Michael Hunwardsen, Kenneth Hansen, Ralph Diamond, Nina Osborne, and Diane Yockey. Following communion, people were invited to light a votive candle for those who have gone before them. Memorials given by the Families of Ralph Diamond, Diane Yockey, and David Beach were also dedicated during the service. All the families were invited to stay for lunch following the service.



HANGING OF THE GREENS

Sunday morning the church was transformed from autumn colors to beautiful Christmas colors. Many people joined in on hanging of the Greens, lights and wreaths. A lunch was served afterwards.



Our Life Together

Advent began on December 1st, 2024. With the church decorated for the Christmas season, we lit a candle each week of December in our Advent wreath and hung the banners that portrayed Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

The first candle representing Hope was lit on December 21st by Shirley and Sunday school kids.

The second candle representing Peace was lit on December 8th by Deanna Adler and Autum Hansen

The third candle representing Joy was lit on December 15th by Mike and Lisa Kerns

The fourth candle representing Love was lit on December 22nd by Kathy Hodgdon and Erin Baird

The Christ Candle representing the birth of Christ was lit on Christmas Eve by Roger and Marilyn Hladik



Christmas Eve Services

The celebration of the Christ child's birth began the Christmas Eve services with Roger singing "O Holy Night."

Roger & Marilyn lit the Christ candle. Scripture of the journey to Bethlehem and the birth of Jesus was read.

Christmas carols were sung by the congregation and a short sermon followed by the song "Adore" was sung by

Kathy Hodgdon and Erin Baird. The service concluded with the congregation lighting their candles and singing "Silent Night."



Anthony Community Methodist Church Minutes
Monday, 13 January 2025

Deanna brought the meeting to order with seven members present: Lay Pastor Shirley, Deanna, JoLynne, Roger, Marilyn, Mark, and Joan.

Mark gave devotions from Corinthians 1:21-22 "Standing Firm For Christ".

The minutes were read. Roger moved we approve the minutes with one spelling error; second by Marilyn; all in favor, motion passed.

Pastors Report: Made many more calls and follow-up calls because of the cold weather and illness in the community. Also did follow up calls for surgeries, including Jeanette, and one nursing home visit. Had six Sunday Church services, did most of the preaching through advent plus did bulletin preparation. Had Special Christmas Eve services and sent Christmas letter to church members.. Accepted memorial gift for church from Dorothy Parker Family.

Worship: Erin and Roger will be singing more; Easter will be late this year.

Finance: Balance Sheet looks good with total assets of \$43,549.22.

New budget is in the ballpark of last year's budget.

Trustees: Roto Rooter fixed sewer line at parsonage so it's completely done. The ground settled and formed a hole between the sidewalk and street, so a barricade with caution tape was built around it to prevent accidents. The hole will be filled in the spring.

Teaching: Sunday school numbers vary. Will add information in upcoming bulletin to encourage more children to attend.

Outreach/Missions: Mark moved we send \$200 to SafePlace, \$500 to the Siouxland Soup Kitchen, \$300 to Gospel Mission, and use \$200 to purchase mittens and scarves for the Warming Shelter; 2nd by JoLynne; all in favor, motion passed.

SPRC Nothing to report.

Women of Faith: Will decide if Women of Faith should meet the next couple of months.

Old Business: Will call Marcus Lumber on the base flooring in Fellowship Hall.

New Business: Lost our snow removal man - looking for someone to do snow removal for church.

Next meeting: Monday, February 10, 2025, at 7 p.m. Pastor Shirley will do devotions.

Marilyn moved the meeting close; 2nd by JoLynne; all in favor, motion passed.

Meeting ended with a prayer by Lay Pastor Shirley.

Respectfully Submitted

Joan Meister

Special Prayer Needs

IN THE CIRCLE OF OUR CONCERN: OUR COUNTRY, OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN, our church, our community leaders, our president, our farmers, Bobby Lewis, Tom & Cindy Herrick, Fran & Keith Determann, Ed and Carol Davis, Brad Harbaugh, Alta Patterson, Trisha Theisen, Keith Allman, Eleanore Lewis, Rick Gubbels, Lana Kropf, Tracy Lewis, Roger Nelson, Peggy Hansen, Brittany Miller, Bettina Perkins, Barb Madsen, Elwanda Sheriff, Linda Christensen, Joyce Gothier, Jeanette Kummer, Lyle & Sally Schram, Roger Hladik.

Sympathy to the Family of Roberta Houlsworth and to the Family of Dorothy Parker

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.

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

Stamp

Address Service Requested

Address Label

February Liturgist Responsibilities

January 26	JoLynne Reimert
February 2	Tim Hoy
February 9	Duane Brandt
February 16	Erin Baird
February 23	Eileen Klindt

Feb. Children's Story Responsibilities

January 26	JoLynne Reimert
February 2	Shirley Nelson
February 9	Rhonda Beeson
February 16	Kathy Hodgdon
February 23	Shirley Nelson

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

Jan./Feb. Birthdays & Anniversaries

Lyle Schram	31
Jim Vaughn	31
Sue Wilson	3
Bill Redenius	4
Nancy Seuntjens	16
Judd Hoy	19
Tim & Jennifer Hoy	22
David Zahnley	26
Alex Pulford	27
Tim Hoy	29

