



March 2025

Thoughts From the Desk of Shirley...

Points of Contact

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This past week began the 40 day journey leading up to Easter. Tuesday, before Ash Wednesday began the last big party in New Orleans to celebrate Fat Tuesday at Mardi Gras. It was started a long time ago to remind us to take time and celebrate the goodness of God. People celebrated Fat Tuesday by eating richer, fatty foods before beginning their time of fasting during Lent. Some would say it was as time for Good Christians to get all of their sinning out of the way before Lent so they would have something to give up during Lent.

The 40-day Journey was for Christ to begin his ministry with a 40 day walk in the desert which he prayed and fasted to prepare himself. It was a time of contemplation, reflection, and preparation. Many people choose to join Jesus on this journey. We don't choose to go off into the desert but we do sacrifice something so we can reflect on Christ's sacrifice and prepare for the night we remember His death and prepare for the celebration of Easter.

The Jewish society of the Old Testament during Jesus' time relied very heavily on wood fires for heating and cooking which meant keeping ashes under control was a monumental task. If a person was preoccupied, they didn't always tend to the housekeeping. If there was a death in the family, ashes were the least of their concerns. A friend stopping by might gently say, "Do you know you have ashes on your face. So ashes became a sign of mourning.

It became a common practice during this time to put ashes on their foreheads. Ashes symbolize our own grief, our own fears, our own penitence and turning wholeheartedly toward the Lord.

Today on Ash Wednesday we wear the sign of the cross on our foreheads. Ashes made of last year's palm branches are placed on our heads hearing the ancient words, "From dust you come to dust you shall return".

Sadly, out of the last four years, two Ash Wednesday services have been cancelled because of bad weather. Even though we were not able to begin our 40-day journey with Ash Wednesday, we will continue our journey to the death of Christ and the joy of Easter morning.

NOTE:

Blessings to everyone as you prepare for the journey of healing and hope.

**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!!!**

Shirley

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 10

Ad Board and Finance meeting 4:30pm



Lent

We are planning to do a simple supper and biblical movie a couple Sundays during Lent

More details to come

Reminder

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



Needed:

We are in need of one or two people to give children's stories on Sunday morning during worship. On rotation you would only have to give one about every six weeks. Also, we will be taking a break during the summer months without children stories.

Missions

With weather dipping into the below 0 temperatures, many mission places in the area were asking for help collecting blankets, warm clothing, coats, scarves and gloves. We had two large collections as our mission projects for January and February. Tubs of gloves and scarves were taken up in January and in the month of February, we took up around 30 blankets donated by the congregation. Thanks to all who shared their extra blankets and purchased gloves and mittens for those who needed them.



Tithes and Offerings

February 2 \$ 1,306.00 February 9 \$ 590.00
February 16 \$ 425.00 February 23 \$ 1,429.87
March 2 \$ 1,320.00

GIVE THANKS
to the LORD,
FOR HE IS GOOD

PSALM 107:1



Our Life Together



Our yearly Souper Bowl Sunday was a huge success again as soup, sandwiches and desserts were enjoyed by the congregation. Everyone was given a sample of the soups and could vote for their favorite.

A traveling trophy is given out every year to the soup maker who receives the most votes.

Allison Randall won the trophy for her chicken and dumpling soup. The decision was made to include a traveling trophy next year for the favorite dessert.



Allison Randall, Lisa Kerns, Shirley Nelson, Erin Baird, Anita Brandt, Deanna Adler, Deb Groszkruger, Brenda Wolfe, and Morgan Hoy



Our Life Together

New furniture has been purchased for the fellowship hall to replace the tables previously holding bulletins, magazines, and other church information. Thanks to Kathy and Erin for decorating the new tables and all the other tables in the fellowship hall.



*For now the winter is passed, the rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come.*

Song of Solomon

2:11-12

Anthon Community Methodist Church Minutes
Monday, 10 February 2025

The Board met in the church at 4:30 p.m. with six members present: Lay Pastor Shirley, Deanna, JoLynne, Marilyn, Mark, and Joan.

Lay Pastor Shirley gave devotions from Psalms 61.

The Ad Board meeting to order by Deanna. The minutes were read. Marilyn moved we accept the minutes; 2nd by JoLynne; all in favor, motion passed.

Pastor's Report: Several cards were sent and calls were made. Made nursing home visits to Kingsley, Mapleton and Cherokee. Held two Sunday Church Services. Will be preaching more than two Sundays a month during Lent. Doing bulletins for Tim and Kathy. Called off church once due to cold weather. Planned Souper Bowl Sunday luncheon with JoLynne; which was very successful. Making changes next year to include a winner for desserts.

Worship: For Lent Shirley will have Ash Wednesday service at 7 p.m.

Finance: Balance Sheet looks good with total assets of \$41,577.03.

Trustees: Nothing to report.

Teaching: Would like to have more adults join our adult class which meets at 9 a.m. Sunday mornings.

Outreach/Missions: Furnishing blankets for Warming Shelter

Nurturing: Nothing to report.

SPRC: Nothing to report.

Women of Faith: Plan to meet in April.

Old Business: Snow Removal – still looking for someone; will announce during church and put on Facebook. Marcus Lumber on hold for now.

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

Meeting ended with a prayer by Pastor Shirley.

Next meeting: Monday, March 11, 2025 - 4:30 p.m.

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, Peggy Hansen, Brittany Miller, Bettina Perkins, Barb Madsen, Elwanda Sheriff, Joyce Gothier, Jeanette Kummer, Roger Hladik and Norma Bunnell.

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

March Liturgist Responsibilities

March 16	JoLynne Reimert
March 23	Sue Wilson
March 30	Jerry Klindt
April 6	Erin Baird
April 13	Lisa Kerns

March Children's Story Responsibilities

March 16	Shirley Nelson
March 23	Erin Baird
March 30	Kathy Hodgdon
April 6	Shirley Nelson
April 13	JoLynne Reimert

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

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

Bill & Marjorie Speirs	5
Roger & Shirley Nelson	6
Trisha Theisen	9
Marjorie Speirs	16
Stephanie Johnson	19
Jennifer Alder	20

