



November 2025

Thoughts From the Desk of Shirley...

Points of Contact

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Available for contact all
the time

Anthon Ad Board Chair:
Deanna Adler

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Andrea Mitchell and
Shirley Nelson

**Anthon Community
Methodist Church** is
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11am – 1pm
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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!!!**

The past month, I had the opportunity to tune into a local TV station to watch their Sunday morning church service from a mega church. I went away from that program with the strong feeling of how much I love our church with our close-knit church family, the traditional music and mission work.

Our culture is obsessed with church size. Only about 1% of all churches can boast of 2,000 or more attendees, yet they get the lion's share of the publicity. How sad that 90% of small churches rarely get the attention of the public or their success in bringing people to Christ and the wonderful things that small churches accomplish.

Often small churches (under 200 people) wish they could raise their Sunday morning attendance and have more programs. But most small-town churches feel very successful if they can keep their doors open and meet their budget with a Sunday attendance of 25-40 people. The Anthon Community Methodist Church has been very blessed. For so many years, we had our share of struggles. Today, we are blessed. We have a consistent attendance and people who are dedicated to making our church successful.

90% of all churches have under a hundred attendees and any church with 200 attendees or less is considered a small church. There is a lot of diversity between a church of 20 and church of 200. A typical church has 100 attendees or less. It's not unusual for a small town like Anthon to have three or four churches, but we are doing what God has called us to do. If we look at what Jesus did to grow his following, we can look at a man who was a small seed, preaching to small crowds, leading his small group of disciples. Often disciples traveled two by two to spread the word of the Gospel. In the beginning, there was not an accumulation of disciples, not a mega group, but a small group. Theirs was not an easy life, but one fraught with danger and uncertainty.

Today, there is real strength in a small church. We can't compete with the mega churches with our shrinking economy, people moving in and out of communities, so we need to do what we have been called to do. We can't fix the size of our churches, but we can be in relationship with our church family and continue to do our mission work without worrying about growing our attendance or the size of our congregation. It's harder for people in a mega church to interact with each other simply because of the size and amount of people. Smaller churches lack the programs and therefore depend on the fellowship of each other and their mission work.

Large churches take a lot of planning to develop programs within their churches. They have to deal with overhead, staff, and calendar events for each group, where small churches who lack the attendance depend on their people to implement changes or new ideas.

Are we being rated on how many baptisms we have, how many young people go through confirmation, how many programs we have in place? Or are we being recognized for the hundreds of pounds of clothing we have given to the Gospel Mission, the Orphan Grain Train, the coats we have given to the warming shelter and the money we have donated to so many organizations in need? There is an advantage to a smaller church family. We're there for each other. We're there to contribute to our mission programs. We're there to comfort each other when there is a death in the community. We're there to share fellowship with pot luck dinners. We are there to thank God for those who are involved with the church.

Thoughts From the Desk of Shirley continued..

We are able to engage in the community., We can show our love, take care of people, join in community activities. We can think in smaller pieces. We can be authentic and not apologetic for our Building, our attendance or for our preaching, it doesn't matter. What does matter is the kindness we show, the people we take care of, the comfort we bring, the love in our hearts. The smallness of our congregation is not an indicator of the successfulness of our church.

Since the covid virus hit in 2020 and so many people quit attending church, it became the hardest time to be a pastor and to lead a church, so instead of trying to grow the congregation, pastors have concentrated on the people they have in their church family. Blessings are what we have and what we do with what God has given us. Whether it's a mega church or a small church, we all have the same goal in mind....to be the best Christians we can be!

Blessings from our small congregation. Shirley

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 2

All Saints' Day

We will honoring All Saints' Sunday dedicated to Dorothy Jean Petersen, Roberta Houlsworth, Dorothy Parker, Donna Puttmann, and Dale Hunwardsen.

Potluck Fellowship following services.

November 3

Funeral service for Marvin Hanson at 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Evening visitation from 4-6 with Eastern Star and Mason service at 6:00
followed by Prayer service.



November 4

Election Day....Please Vote

November 9

Veteran's Day Sunday
(Veteran's Day, November 11)



November 13



WOF meeting, 10:30. Potluck following the meeting. All ladies welcome.
We will be addressing Christmas cards to our seniors and shut ins.

UPCOMING EVENTS cont...

November 17

Ad Board and Finance Meeting. 4:30 p.m.



November 27

Thanksgiving Day

November 30

Hanging of the Greens



December 17

A WALK THROUGH BETHLEHEM

Faith Bible Church, 305 Sioux St., Mapleton, IA, 6:00pm-8:00pm

FREE ADMISSION



Our Life Together



The Women of Faith have been meeting monthly working on projects that they felt would benefit the community. The decision was made to provide lunch once a month to seniors and shut ins in Anthon. The first lunch delivered was on Wednesday, October 29. Nineteen lunches consisting of a bowl of chicken noodle soup, ham sandwich, banana bar and fruit cup were delivered. A lunch will be delivered once a month. If you know of someone who would like a lunch delivered to them, please leave a message on the church phone, 373-5288; Shirley Nelson, 281-0432; or Kathy Hodgdon, 251-0164. We will be contacting those we delivered to this month and will add any others that would like lunch from the Women of Faith.

Laity Sunday was celebrated on October 19th. Kathy Hodgdon and Erin Baird were in charge of the service which consisted of members of Laity.

Each year, the third week of October celebrates the laity of the church by having them in charge of the service.



Thank you to all who participated in Laity Sunday.



Church News

Special Prayer Needs

OUR COUNTRY, OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN, our church, our community leaders, our president, our farmers, Bobby Lewis, Tom & Cindy Herrick, Ed and Carol Davis, Alta Patterson, Trisha Theisen, Eleanore Lewis, Rick Gubbels, Lana Kropf, Tracy Lewis, Bettina Perkins, Elwanda Sheriff, Sally Schram, Kathy Hodgdon, Evelyn Dicks (Becky Marshall's mother), and
Sympathy to the Family of Marvin Hansen.

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.



Tithes and Offerings

Oct. 5 \$ 1,643.00	Oct. 12 \$ 578.00
Oct. 19 \$ 1,489.00	Oct. 26 \$ 945.00

GIVE THANKS
to the **LORD**,
FOR HE IS GOOD

PSALM 107:1

Missions

We are starting our fall/winter mission projects.

We will again be collecting clothes, especially men's clothes for the Gospel Mission this fall and coats for the Gospel Mission and the Warming Shelter.

Also, the warming shelter is in need of bath towels so if you have extra and would like to donate them, bring them to the church.

Since we are closer to the winter months we will be collecting
Blankets, Hats, Coats, and Mittens
for the Warming Shelter and Gospel Mission.

Please leave all donations in foyer of church



Anthon Community Methodist Church Minutes
Monday, 8 September 2025

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

Deanna gave devotions on "Indispensable Tools".

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

Pastor's Report: Busy month with so many in the hospital –made hospital visits on three different days. Made nursing home visit to Mapleton. Also followed up on five who have been ill. Preached three Sundays. Tim and Kathy also preached a Sunday. Made trip to Marcus to pick up larger carpet samples. Worked with Roger and Mike Kerns to replace 18 light bulbs in fellowship hall and sanctuary. Had Women Of Faith meeting, mission and nurturing meeting regarding school supplies and upcoming mission project with warming shelter and Gospel Mission. Called both regarding when they would like coats, clothes and blankets. Membership meeting. New committee list coming out soon. Had to reschedule membership portion of the meeting.

Worship: Want to keep Roger and Erin singing.

Finance: Going well with our assets.

Trustees: Lights were checked out. Frontage of church work will be done in October. Mark didn't hear back about the work on south side of roof, so called someone else. Still waiting for a call-back. Gary & Marilyn fixed closet to hang banners over rods. Had an issue in the parsonage with smoke coming from lift chair remote, so had chair removed. Also have problems with the vertical blinds being old & brittle – may need sheers or curtains.

Teaching: No meeting but will have Adults and high school meeting this week.

Missions: Sent a lot to Sioux City Crittenden Center – value \$195. In gathering kits shipping & handling went up from \$2 to \$3. Will see if Mapleton needs supplies. Took 20 kits there. Sent \$200 to Crittenden .

Nurturing: Nothing

SPRC: Discussed Shirley's raise. Jo moved we give Shirley a 5% raise, beginning next month; 2nd by Roger; all in favor, motion passed.
JoLynne reported she is meeting with Nikki to get the books audited this next week.

Women of Faith: Met and talked about what we can do this year. Will have Easter baskets, Christmas baskets, will be making fleece/tied blankets for missions. We will stay as a group.

Old Business: Discussed our insurance in detail. Will keep cyber insurance, cancel terrorism insurance but will add Workman's Comp for our pastor.
Marilyn moved we raise our personal property insurance for the parsonage to \$15,000 up from \$12,000; 2nd by Mark; all in favor, motion passed.

New Business: Will be having confirmation class.
Need to remove sink in library closet before carpet is laid. Roger will call a plumber to cap the drain and turn off water.

Next Meeting 13 Oct 2025 – 4:30 p.m.
Roger will do devotions
Shirley ended the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Meister, Board Secretary

October 13, 2025 Board Minutes Update

We discussed raising the rates at the parsonage, JoLynne made a motion in increase the rates to 1 bedroom \$80, 2 beds \$90, and 3 beds at \$100 to start immediately. Roger 2nd the motion, motion passed.

Pastor: Made visits to hospital, prepared funeral services and made plans with Kathy and Erin for Laity Sunday. Mileage for the past 6 months is \$700.

Finance: Books will audit later this month, Assets \$53,513.78.

Trustees: Lawn work is done. Metal work on church has been repaired. Pipes were capped before Marilyn and Gary removed the cabinet in library. Squatch Construction reported we might have 3-5 years left on church roof before needing new shingles.

Mission: Shirley has info on matching funds for the Heifer project and we are collecting clothing and blankets for Warm Shelter and Gospel Mission.

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

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Nov. Liturgist Responsibilities

Nov. 2-Jolynne Reimert

Nov. 9-Duane Brandt

Nov. 16-Marilyn Hladik

Nov. 23-Erin Baird

Nov. 30-Tim Hoy

Nov. Children's Story Responsibilities

N/A

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

Nov. Birthdays & Anniversaries

Roger & Marilyn Hladik	3
Mark & Deb Groszkruger	5
Shirley Nelson	8
Coni Miller	8
Marley Maynard	16
Ed Davis	19
Laken Nelson	20
Sheryl L. Ashley	22
Brenda Wolfe	25
Joan Meister	26
Emily Bohle	26
Leann Birk	28

