

# the outreach

**DECEMBER  
2024**

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**ANDOVER UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**  
P.O. Box 519 -1429 N Andover Rd  
Andover, KS 67002

## SUNDAY SERVICES

**TRADITIONAL 9:00AM**  
with chancel choir-in sanctuary  
In-Person & Online

**SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00AM**

**PRAISE SERVICE 11:00AM**  
with contemporary music &  
children's involvement-in gym

**Services In-Person & Online**  
Online: FACEBOOK AUMCKS

## MEDIA CONNECTIONS

Website:

[www.andoverumc.com](http://www.andoverumc.com)

AUMC Online Church Directory:

<https://andoverumc.ctrn.co/>

The Outreach Newsletter:

[andoverumc.com/outreach.html](http://andoverumc.com/outreach.html)

## FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK:

Andover United Methodist Church:

[www.facebook.com/AUMCKS](http://www.facebook.com/AUMCKS)

Andover UMC CrossFit Youth

Ministries: [www.facebook.com/aumcyouthmin](http://www.facebook.com/aumcyouthmin)

Andover UMC Children's Ministry

[www.facebook.com/AUMCKidMin](http://www.facebook.com/AUMCKidMin)



## WORD FROM THE PASTOR

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.

Isaiah 9:2

This passage from Isaiah that we read every year was given in a time of looming dread. The foreign armies of Babylon were threatening the sovereignty of Israel. The prophets were seeking a word that would calm the King and give hope to the people. It is in this setting that the prophet Isaiah gives the prophecy of a child that would be king. The symbols of darkness and light grow in their strength as we approach the winter solstice where the days are shortest. In these periods of long night the imagery of light is often used for hope. Light cuts through darkness. Even the stars that are millions of miles away cut through the darkness of space.

The gospel of John also uses the imagery of light to describe Jesus:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life,<sup>5</sup> and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Jesus is our hope that breaks through whatever is going on in your life. In fact, it is the hope that begins the season. Advent, which is the beginning of the liturgical year, is all about preparing for hope. Part of the ritual of December is decorating and preparing the space for Christmas. What if that space was for more than just gifts and trees; what if you thought of it as preparing for hope. This Christmas I invite you prepare to find the light and hope in Jesus.

God Bless, Pastor Ryan

## ➤➤➤ FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### Drop and Shop

Mark your calendars and tell your friends,  
Drop and Shop is back!

Bring your children between  
10:00 am and 2:00 pm  
on Saturday, DECEMBER 7

Cost is \$5 per child  
Bring a sack lunch



### AUMC Youth Group

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS  
GIFT WRAPPING

During Sunday School on 12/15 and 12/22

Free Will Offering for their services to fund  
2025 Youth Mission Trip



### CARING & SHARING

AUMC will be packing appropriately 90  
non-perishable food bags on **Dec. 18th at 9 am.**

Drivers will be needed to pickup perishable food  
items on the 18th at approximately 2pm and  
deliver them to the South Andover Fire Station.

More information to come. Watch the This Just In  
email for final details.

Contact Tammy Eilert at [tame211@swbell.net](mailto:tame211@swbell.net) if  
you want to help with this.

### Blue Christmas Thursday, December 19 7:00 pm

The holidays can be less  
than joyful for some.  
Join us in coming together  
to acknowledge this fact  
in our Blue Christmas  
Service

Christmas Eve Service

Christmas Eve Service  
will be on  
Tuesday, December 24  
5:00 pm



Sunday, December 29

Online only worship service

worship at home at  
10:00 am

## ➤➤➤ UNIFIED BOARD

Dec. 2024

As December arrives, it is time to give some shout outs to our Unified Board members who are rotating from Board service. Thank these members as you see them for their 3-year service to the Unified Board, Cathy Durano, Barb Harkness, John Hope, and Nita Jackson. Returning to the Board are, John Jacobsen, chair; Mary Carson; Melissa Connell; Kim Fulghum; Scott Hannon, Lay Leader; Lynette Jurasic, who is out going chair and new vice chair; Frank Mattke; and Pastor Ryan Lynch. New members serving a 3-year terms will be Rae Thiel who will be Lay Leader to Annual Conference, Mary Vaughters, Cindy Tyler, and Jay Smith. The next meeting of the Unified Board will be Tuesday, Dec. 17 at 6:30. All are welcome to attend.

## December Worship



The Season of Advent is one of the highlights of the Christian Year. We sometimes think we need to find a new way of telling this story and do something fresh and unique. There is certainly space for that, as long as we remember to prepare. Advent is intended to be a season of preparing for the promise of Jesus. So, let us prepare our hearts, soul and living spaces so we can adore him.

December 1- Preparations

December 8- Passions

December 15- Presence

December 22- Promise

## BLUE CHRISTMAS DEC 19<sup>TH</sup> 7PM

Blue Christmas is a service that acknowledges that for some Christmas is a very difficult time of year. At a Blue Christmas we take the time to recognize grief, loss, doubt, struggle and look towards how the light of Christ may shine even in our darkest moments.



## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE- Dec 24<sup>th</sup> 5pm

This year we will be having one Christmas Eve service at 5pm. Join us for Hymns, Communion and Candle light as we celebrate.

## December 29<sup>th</sup>-Worship at Home

We will be worshipping at home on December 29<sup>th</sup>, meaning there will be no in person services. A pre-recorded service will be played at 10am on Facebook that will have music, scripture, prayer, and a short message. You are invited to stay cozy and worship online with your family.



# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

## DECEMBER EVENTS

**Sunday** – 12/1, 12/8, 12/15, 12/22

9a TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE

10a SUNDAY SCHOOL

11a PRAISE SERVICE

12/29 10a WORSHIP AT HOME-ONLINE SERVICE

**Tuesday:**

12/3, 12/10, 12/17 9a TUESDAY COFFEE at Dunkin Donuts in Andover

12/3, 12/17 6:30p LIGHT & LAMP WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY in Parlor

**Wednesday-** 12/4, 12/11, 12/18, (no Wed. events 12/25 & 1/1/25):

9a WOMEN'S PICKLEBALL

6:30p CHOIR PRACTICE

6:30p KIDS CONNECT

6:30p CROSSFIT YOUTH MINISTRY

8p PRAISE BAND PRACTICE

**Thursday** –

12/5, 12/12, 12/19 9a PICKLEBALL

12/2, Mon 6:30p OPEN DOOR LUNCH PACKING

12/7, Sat. 10a-2p DROP & SHOP

11/17, Sund. 3p CHAT, CHEW, AND DO

12/18, Wed. 9a OUTREACH TEAM

12/21, Sat. 5p LORD'S DINER

12/23, Mon. 6:30p UNIFIED BOARD MEETING

12/24, Tues. 5p CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

12/25, Wed. CHRISTMAS

1/1/25, Wed. NEW YEAR'S DAY



### Sunday Morning Coffee Hosts

Sunday Mornings we have coffee time with cookies. This starts our day with joy. Are you enjoying our Sunday Morning coffee time? Please consider volunteering to host during our coffee time and spread the joy. If you would like when it is your turn to host, you can provide already made cookies or if you love to bake you can share your homemade

cookies, which are always welcome. Providing cookies is not mandatory to be a Sunday Morning Coffee Host. If interested, please contact Nadine Hayden at 316-640-0514.

### REPORT ABOUT JUSTICE TOGETHER

The 2024 Community Problems Assembly of Justice Together was held Nov. 7, 2024. Election of officers was held, testimonies were heard, and updates from the efforts made last year were given. Homelessness will remain as one of the two Justice issues for 2025. In a word, more funding is needed. We voted between two new issues that were presented: Lack of Affordable Housing will be the 2nd Social Justice issue for this term. The next event will be held at Chapel Hill UMC, 6pm, Dec. 10th. Mark your calendars for the Nehemiah Assembly, May 8, 2026 6pm at WSU Hughs Metroplex.

# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

## PRAYER REQUEST

NOV 10  
Cathy Durano  
James & Kara Weather  
Thanks to all our Military Service members  
for their service to our country

NOV 24  
Irene Martin  
Frank & Nancy Mattke  
Aaron Weatherbie's brother & sister-in-law  
Kathy Harmon  
Annie Neugyen  
Safety for those traveling for Thanksgiving  
Blessings from Our Lord as we all celebrate  
the gifts He has given us.

## SYMPATHIES TO FAMILIES/FRIENDS IN THE PASSING OF:

A student at Andover High School  
The friends and family members Frank & Nancy Mattke  
recently lost.

## PRAISES

The Andover schools have brought 10,000 pounds of food to the  
Andover Food Bank this year.

# CELEBRATIONS

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

01 Madison Vaughters	16 Korbin Hedger
02 Carly Haynes	17 Nita Jackson
02 Emily Robinson	19 Bill Westhahl
05 Russ Thiel	19 Dayne DuFriend
07 Catherine Cranmer	20 Justin Kneisler
11 Matt Pippin	20 Scarlett Childress
11 Trevor Guerrie	20 Mary Robey
12 Anthony Hartness	24 Dennis Seidl
13 Valeta Hole	24 Duane Staff
14 Dennis Helon	26 Natasha Reissig
16 Chris Straub	

## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

01 Steve & Diana Shook
04 Larry & Joyce Hamm
04 Ron & Sammy Hole
22 Forrest & Annita Evans
23 Don & Willa Edwards
24 Gary & Cathy Harmon
28 William & Melissa Health

## ANDOVER FOOD BANK



### OPEN:

TUES. 10am-1pm

WED. 3-6pm

### Volunteer needs:

Help for weekly shifts Contact:

<https://tinyurl.com/AndoverFoodBank>

Need people to be a part of the rotation to pick  
up Saturday bread.

## ANDOVER COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

### Winter Break

Dec. 24, 2024—Jan. 2, 2025

Resume food distribution on Tues. Jan. 7, 2025

*AUMC Youth Group*  
**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS  
GIFT WRAPPING**

During Sunday School on 12/15 and 12/22

Free Will Offering for their services to fund  
2025 Youth Mission Trip



January 11, 2025

**CHILI COOK-OFF**

Hosted by AUMC Youth Group

- \*\$10 entry fee for your pot of chili\*
- \*Free will donations to taste test & vote\*
- \*Prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd place\*
- \*Starts at 5 pm\*
- \*Winner announced at 6:30 pm\*
- \*Bake sale\* \*Sides\*



ENTRY LINK



*AUMC Youth Group*

*Annual  
Valentine's  
Dinner & Auction*

SATURDAY  
FEBRUARY 15 AT ANDOVER UMC



# DECEMBER CHILDREN MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

Christmas! Presents, Christmas trees, stockings, food, family. Can you think of anything I have left out? Oh yes! It's someone's birthday, isn't it? Whose birthday is it? That's right! It is Jesus' birthday. We can get so caught up in the celebration, the decorations, and the gifts that we miss the real Christmas -- the birthday of our Savior, Jesus Christ. I pray that we don't forget the real meaning of Christmas.

Blessings, Erin

## Sunday School

FOCUS: Faith in Community  
CHRISTMAS STORYTELLERS:  
We prepare for Jesus together

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sundays - 10am - Sunday School

Wednesdays - 6:30pm-7:30pm -  
KidsConnect  
NO meeting 12/18, 12/25

## Drop & Shop

Enjoy some time without the children to  
Christmas shop.

Saturday, December 7  
10am - 2pm  
\$5 per child  
Bring a sack lunch



## FAMILY IDEAS

### Holiday Baking Extravaganza

Baking together teaches teamwork, patience, and creativity. Plus, sharing sweet treats can make family members feel loved and appreciated.

- While baking, encourage storytelling! Share family traditions, past holiday memories, or favorite holiday tales. Make extra treats to share with neighbors or extended family to further spread the joy.

### Kindness Advent Calendar

The holidays are a great time to foster a spirit of giving and kindness. Engaging in small acts of kindness together helps kids understand the joy of helping others.

Create a simple calendar where each day of December offers a kindness challenge. Ideas include writing a thank-you note, giving a compliment, or bringing someone their favorite treat.

### Winter Story Time with Hot Chocolate

Reading together is a calming way to spend quality time with young children!

Grab a fun book (or a few!), cozy-up with some blankets, and prepare a few cups of hot chocolate!

Take turns reading or, if your kids are young, let them listen and imagine.



## IMPORTANT EVENTS TO NOTE



**Drop and Shop**  
Dec. 7  
10a—2p

**Cost is \$5 per child**  
**Bring a sack lunch**



### AUMC YOUTH GROUP

**Annual Christmas Gift Wrapping during Sunday School on 12/15 & 12/22**

**Donations to fund 2025 Youth Mission Trip**



### OUR STAFF

**Pastor**—Ryan Lynch [ryanl@andoverumc.com](mailto:ryanl@andoverumc.com)

**Youth Ministry**—

**Children's Ministry**—Erin Murray [erinm@andoverumc.com](mailto:erinm@andoverumc.com)

**Music Ministry**—Aaron Weatherbie [jonathanw@andoverumc.com](mailto:jonathanw@andoverumc.com)

**Nursery Cor.**—Mary Vaughters [churchoffice@andoverumc.com](mailto:churchoffice@andoverumc.com)

**Financial Secretary**—Leza Prentice [lezap@andoverumc.com](mailto:lezap@andoverumc.com)

**Pianist**—Laurel Delimont [churchoffice@andoverumc.com](mailto:churchoffice@andoverumc.com)

**Office Adm/Treasurer**—Mary Robey [maryr@andoverumc.com](mailto:maryr@andoverumc.com)

**Custodian**—Alexander Morton [churchoffice@andoverumc.com](mailto:churchoffice@andoverumc.com)

**Office Hours** —: Mon.—Thurs. 9am-5pm; closed Fri.



Andover United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 519

Andover, KS 67002

**Return Service Requested**

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