

## Christmas Cookie Exchange & Family Pictures Dec 7<sup>th</sup>

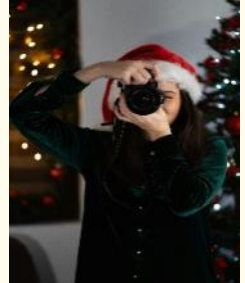


Join us after church for a great Christmas Cookie exchange! Share your favorite cookie and enjoy some Christmas fellowship.

Family Pictures are available that day. Professional Photographer Rachel Morgan will be at the church from 11:30-4:30 if you would like a photo. To sign up go to the link below.

<https://tinyurl.com/AUMCPhotosignup>

After following link click on "jump to next bookable date"



## Christmas Vespers Wednesday Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> 7pm

An evening of Christmas music and worship

## Blue Christmas Service Sunday Dec 21<sup>st</sup> 6pm

A service to recognize that for some this is a difficult time of year. Even on the darkest days the light of Christ still shines.

## Christmas Eve 7pm

Join us on Dec 24<sup>th</sup> for our candlelight service with communion as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

## All church game night Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> 5pm

Games and fellowship over winter break are the best! Join us for board games, card games, snacks and fellowship. You are invited to bring a snack or game that you would like to share.



**ANDOVER UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**

P.O. Box 519 -1429 N Andover Rd  
Andover, KS 67002

## SUNDAY SERVICES

9am SUNDAY SCHOOL  
10am SERVICE

OFFICE HOURS:

Mon.-Thurs. 9am-5pm  
Closed Friday



## Happy December Andover!

2025 us almost done! It is amazing how the year can go by in a blink of an eye. With all the busy schedules and activities in our lives, it is so easy to just fly through the moment on to the next thing. Even things like TV and social media can just gobble up time mindlessly. This advent I invite you to take a moment to slow down and reflect.

*But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. (Luke 2:19)*

After the visit of the shepherds declaring that they heard and saw angels directing them to Jesus who is the Messiah, Mary treasures and ponders what it means. How often have you pondered lately? This advent season, I encourage you to take a moment and ponder about Jesus and faith; hopes and memories; life and loved ones. Take a moment to treasure the gift of Jesus and others in your life. You can ponder in many ways. A few I thought of are journaling, sending notes, drawing ideas or scripture, and taking a long walk. Mary pondered about the gift of life in Jesus, I invite us this advent to ponder as well!

Merry Christmas, Pastor Ryan Lynch

### **Worship in December**

#### **Advent Series- Stories by the Fire**

Before Christmas specials there was story time, when the family would gather around the fire and the stories of the bible were not read but told. This advent we will tell some stories that help us to learn and remember the gift of Jesus.

11/30 Story of Bethlehem---Ruth 1:8-22  
12/7 Story of John the Baptist---Luke 1:8-20  
12/14 Story of Mary---Luke 1:26-38  
12/21 Story of the Journey---Matthew 1:18-25  
Christmas Eve 12/24 7pm Story of Jesus---Luke 2:1-20



#### **Additional Worship Services in Advent**

##### **12/17- A Christmas Vespers Service 7pm**

Join us for a musical vespers service as we prepare ourselves for the gift of Jesus through music.

##### **12/21- Blue Christmas Service 6pm**

Christmas can be a very difficult season for some. This service is to recognize that on the darkest days the light of Jesus is still shining to us.

#### **12/28- Cozy Worship 10am**

Snuggle as a lamb in a barn, we will celebrate the coziness of Christmas.

# Christmas Mini Sessions

AT ANDOVER UMC

with **MORGAN**  
Photography Services

*Save the Date*  
**December 7, 2025**  
Starting at 11:30am

Celebrate the season and capture your family's memories with a fun and quick mini photo session. Each session is for 5 mins and you get 2-5 professionally edited high quality digital images.

These are great for Christmas cards and keepsakes.

**Cost: \$30** Sign up link: <https://tinyurl.co/AUMCPhotosignup>

After following the link, click on "jump to next bookable date".



## ANDOVER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1429 N ANDOVER RD  
ANDOVER, KS 67002



8AM -  
5:30PM

**VBS**  
**IN**  
**DECEMBER**  
MONDAY DECEMBER 29

**\$20  
PER  
CHILD**



### ACTIVITIES

BIBLE LESSONS, SKITS & STORYTELLING, GAMES,  
MUSIC & DANCING, ARTS & CRAFTS AND MORE!

**ELEMENTARY AGE CHILDREN**

**BRING A SACK LUNCH**

**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN**

**PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED**



## Drop & Shop

Saturday, December 13th  
10am-3pm



Drop your child(ren) at church and  
do some Christmas shopping!

Lunch: Mac & Cheese or Bring a sack lunch

**\$10 per child**

Andover United Methodist Church -  
1429 N Andover - (316) 733-1644



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andover united methodist church

**the outreach**



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS/ CELEBRATIONS & PRAYER REQUESTS/ JOYS

## BIRTHDAYS

01 Madison Vaughters  
02 Carly Haynes  
02 Emily Robinson  
05 Russ Thiel  
11 Matt Pippin  
12 Anthony Hartness  
13 Valeta Hole  
14 Dennis Hellon  
17 Nita Jackson  
20 Justin Kneisel  
20 Scarlett Childress  
20 Mary Robey

## ANNIVERSARIES

04 Larry & Joyce Hamm  
22 Forrest & Annita Evans  
23 Don & Willa Edwards  
24 Gary & Cathy Harmon  
28 William & Melissa Heath

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Wayne Dugan  
Marsha Haskins  
Kasey, Justin Kneisel's co-worker  
Kayla

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Prayers for our nation & leaders  
Pray for those struggling with  
cancer diagnosis

## JOYS

--That we were able to help Andover Community Food Bank & we were able to provide Thanksgiving Dinner Bags to 38 families in our community.  
- Kenzie Kneisel got engaged to Kevin Carpenter.  
Congratulations & prayers of love & joy.

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
2025 DECEMBER	30	1 6:30p Open Door Lunch prep 6:30p Cub Scout mtg. 7p Worship Planning mtg.	2 9a Tuesday Coffee Bible Study 10a Food Bank 10a-1p	3 9a Women's Pkball 3p Food Bank 3-6p 6p Crossfit 6-8 6:45p Choir Practice 7p Praise Night	4 9a Pkball Co-ed 6:30p Light & Lamp Worship	5 Scout Lock-in 5:30p - 9a	6 12p Cole Johnson recital
	7 9a Adult Sunday School 9a Children & Youth Sunday School 10a Service 11:30a Christmas Mini Sessions	8 6:30p Cub Scout mtg.	9 9a Tuesday Coffee Bible Study 10a Food Bank 10a-1p	10 9a Outreach Team 9a Women's Pkball 3p Food Bank 3-6p 6p Crossfit 6-8 6:45p Choir Practice 7p Christmas Vesper	11 9a Pkball Co-ed 6p Shadow Rock HOA	12	13 10a Drop & Shop 10a-3p
	14 9a Adult Sunday School 9a Children & Youth Sunday School 10a Service	15 6:30p Cub Scout mtg.	16 9a Tuesday Coffee Bible Study 10a Food Bank 10a-1p 6:45p Kindercare Program	17 9a Women's Pkball 3p Food Bank 3-6p 6p Crossfit 6-8 6:45p Choir Practice 7p Praise Night	18 9a Pkball Co-ed 6:30p Light & Lamp Women's Bible Study	19	20 5p Lord's Diner offsite
	21 9a Adult Sunday School 9a Children & Youth Sunday School 10a Service 3p Chat, Chew & Do 6p Blue Christmas	22 6:30p Unified Board Mtg. 6:30p Cub Scout mtg.	23 9a Tuesday Coffee Bible Study	24 9a Women's Pkball 7p Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas - Office Closed	26	27
	28 9a Adult Sunday School 9a Children & Youth Sunday School 10a Service 5:30p Church Wide Game Night	29 8a VBS in December 8-5 6:30p Cub Scout mtg.	30	31 9a Women's Pkball	1 New Year's- Office Closed	2	3
	Food Bank Winter Break 12-22 to 1/2/26						

## INFORMATION

### ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

**Love at the Center** will be studying "An Unlikely Advent" by Rachel Billups during Advent. Please join us in Room 8 at 9:00am

**Pathfinders** meets at 9:00am and are studying "The 10 Commandments From the Back Side" on Sundays. All are welcome

### ANDOVER COMMUNITY FOODBANK

TUES. 10a-1p

WED. 3-6p

Winter Break  
12/22/25 to 1/2/26



### JUSTICE TOGETHER

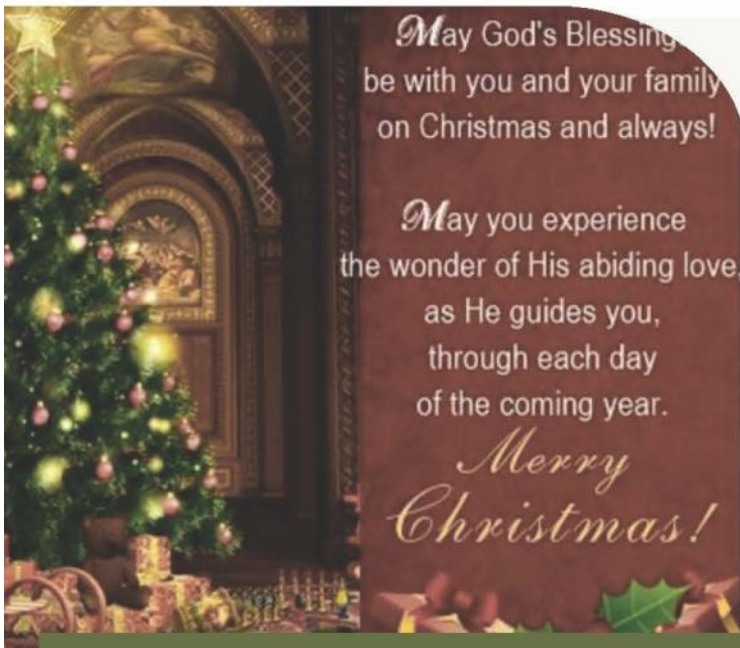
Six members of AUMC attended the Problems Assembly where it was decided to continue the focus on the Homeless and the establishment of Second Light (formally called the MAC in Wichita) and affordable housing. By the time this newsletter comes out, the City of Wichita's City Council will have voted on a one cent sales tax which Justice Together is advocating for 10 million of that to go toward the affordable housing fund. We also voted to add "Gun Violence" as our third focus for the 2026 Nehemiah Assembly.

The next meeting of Justice Together will be on Thursday, March 26 at First UMC in Wichita at 6:00 pm where we will hear the reports of the research committee at the Solutions Briefing. Finally, mark your calendar for the 2026 Nehemiah Assembly which will be on Thursday, April 30 at 6:00 pm.



# December CROSSFIT YOUTH

Hello AUMC Family! Last month the youth had an opportunity to help the community by packing thanksgiving meals for families. Our youth love giving back to our neighbors and welcome these activites. Before Thanksgiving break we had our first lock-in of the year, with a bonus visit to a trampoline park. Thank you for always supporting our youth and letting us give back to the community when we can.



## Upcoming Events

1. Dec 3rd Caroling
  2. Dec 10th Confirmation meeting
  3. Dec 17th Cocoa and Cram  
Last CF of the year
  4. Dec 13th Drop N Shop
  5. Dec 20 Lord's Dinner
  6. 28th All ages game night
- YLT: Sarah, Mike, Christie,

Justin

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025



## Family Ideas

### Shepherd on the Search

The Shepherd on the Search  
This is such a meaningful alternative to Elf on the Shelf! This book along with a plush shepherd follows the interactive journey of a shepherd as he travels to find baby Jesus. Kids move the shepherd figure each day, creating anticipation and excitement leading up to Christmas.

### Jesse Tree

This type of tree is filled with religious symbols: cross, fish, crown, shepherd's crook, manger, lamb, angel, star

### Jesus Stocking

Hang a stocking in your home with Jesus' name on it. Fill it with notes of prayers to Him



## Sunday School

### Faith in Community: What does it mean to you?

**THE BIG PICTURE:** God's community celebrates Jesus  
**Bible Verse:** Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people -Luke 2:10

## Upcoming Events

- Sunday school: 9am
- Drop & Shop: 12/13 10a-3p
- VBS in December: 12/29 8a-5:30p
- Winter Break: Dec. 23 - Jan. 3

## Notes from Erin

Shepherding sheep isn't glamorous, yet shepherds were the very first to hear the news of Jesus' birth. While they were quietly tending their flocks, an angel suddenly appeared with the message that the Savior had come. Frightened at first, they soon believed and hurried to the manger, where they rejoiced in the presence of the Son of God.

As Christmas approaches, imagine standing with those shepherds—hearing the angels, seeing the newborn Jesus. Let your heart be filled with joy and your mind renewed with the truth that Jesus is real, He is alive, and He is with us. and He loves you more than you could ever imagine. Merry Christmas!



## IMPORTANT EVENTS TO NOTE



**VBS  
IN  
DECEMBER**

**8AM-5:30PM  
\$20 PER CHILD  
Bring a sack lunch**

**DROP &  
SHOP**

**Dec. 13th, Saturday  
10am-3pm  
\$10 per child  
Lunch: Mac & Cheese or  
bring a sack lunch**

**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
AND  
HAPPY  
NEW YEAR**

### 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**— Michelle Morris [michelle@andoverumc.com](mailto:michelle@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**— JaCoby Wells [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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