

# the outreach

**DECEMBER  
2023**

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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

*Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You almost persuade me to become a Christian." Acts*

I do not often turn to the King James Version of scripture. There is nothing wrong with that translation; it is just difficult to read. I share it this month as this is the scripture that John Wesley used to preach a sermon he titled "The Almost Christian". An almost Christian, according to John Wesley, is a person who on the outside looks like a Christian. While their life looks like a perfect description of a Christian, the truth is their heart is in conflict. Wesley calls for the love of Christ and of neighbor to breakthrough what culture says a Christian should look like to transform our hearts. Instead of the desire to be perfect and to impress the people around us, Wesley encourages us to have a desire for God's perfect love and to love the neighbor. Our faith is to be more than decorations of our exterior; it should define our soul with the love of God. Wesley called the person that strives for this Christ's love in his life as an altogether Christian.

I share this because too often I find December to be almost Christmas. It looks like it in the decorations of our houses and stores. It sounds like it on the radio, in church services, and school concerts. It smells like it in the cookies and festive foods that are made. Each year I feel the desperate desire to "feel like Christmas". Some long for snow. Others watch endless movies. Our activities, gatherings, entertainment, decorations and even our food are grasps at experiencing Christmas. I love all these activities and I don't want to dissuade you from doing the things that get you in to the Christmas Spirit. What I have experienced is too often we strive for an almost Christmas.

What would it look like if this year you could experience an altogether Christmas? We still send Christmas cards and eat Christmas cookies. We still decorate our homes and listen to Christmas music. We still watch Christmas movies and go to Christmas gatherings and parties. Yet, we are not grasping for it to feel or look like Christmas. In an altogether Christmas, we already know Christmas in our heart. We don't need to be convinced that this is a special time of year or that we should take an extra moment to connect with family, friends and neighbors. We don't need to be convinced that this is a time to show joy in our decorations and clothing or that we should take extra notice and generosity for those in need. In an altogether Christmas, our celebrating is done through the faith, hope, and love we have in Jesus. Our traditions don't bring meaning to Christmas. Rather, it is the faith and love of Jesus that give meaning to our Christmas traditions.

I invite you to have an altogether Christmas this year. May the faith and love of Jesus fill your heart as you decorate, give, gather with friends and family, and whatever else you do to celebrate Christmas. I hope that this year Christmas will not only look like Christmas, but will be an altogether Christmas in your heart.

God Bless,

Pastor Ryan

# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Each December, our thoughts turn to giving. This year, our church is going to participate in 3 different gift giving options. Please don't feel like you have to do everything, just give if you feel called to.

**Option 1-Heifer International** At the Christmas Eve Services, we will pass the collection plate and all proceeds will go toward Heifer International. This project was chosen because it is not only a mercy mission, but a social justice mission as well. It falls in both categories because it gets at the root cause of poverty by giving people the means to help themselves by gifting them an animal that they then, when successfully established, pass on an offspring of their animal to another family to help them get started.

Monetary gifts can come in any amount, but to give you an idea of what animals cost:

Chickens \$20; Bees \$30; Garden seed and saplings \$60; Sheep \$120; Goats \$120; or Heifer \$500  
Joy to the World \$1500 (this includes 2 sheet, 4 goats, 1 heifer, and a bundle of seeds)

**Option 2-Ember Hope/Youthville** If you would like to give to Ember Hope (formerly called Youthville) there are envelopes in the Narthex at the Welcome Desk. You can turn the envelope in to the collection plate or to the church office.

**Option 3-St. Humankind** Boy Scout Troop 533 is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Andover and meets at Andover UMC. They asked us to participate in their service project which is to collect items for Humankind which serves the homeless in the Wichita area. Items listed below can be put in the box in the Narthex.

Items needed:

New or like new kids coats; Kids' winter accessories; Blankets; Non-perishable foods;  
Bath and Body Works matching sets (men and women)

**In addition- St. Francis Foster Care** Our church has an endowment for missions. This year, we are using the money generated by the endowment to buy gift cards for St. Francis Foster Care to give to their teenage children for their Christmas gifts.

## Dec. 2nd KIDS & YOUTH

**Drop & Shop**  
10a-2p \$5 per child

Let your child have some fun at church while you do some shopping or Christmas preparations.

**Youth Gift Wrappings & Dessert Bar**  
2p-4p

Enjoy a treat while the youth wrap your Christmas gifts.  
Free will donation.

## YEAR-END GIVING NOTICE

As we come to the close of another year, many people would like to turn in last minute contributions for tax purposes. Here are a few ways to have contributions recorded in the 2023 giving year:

Contributions mailed to the church office with a postmark of Dec. 31st or earlier.

Contributions given in the offering plate up to Dec. 31st.

Contributions brought to the church office (We will be closed Dec. 25th & Dec. 29th)

The church will be sending year-end contribution statements in Jan. All contributions given in the previously described ways will be included in these statements.

## Wichita Justice Group Sets Name, Priorities

(Edited version from GP Global Connect, Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> edition by David Burke)

Justice Together, the name selected by the 450-plus people who packed into the Wichita First UMC sanctuary on Nov. 9 at its first covenant assembly, selected homelessness and mental health as the top two concerns of residents of Kansas' second-largest county.

The priorities were selected after 112 listening sessions this summer, attended by 994 people.

Testimonials were given by individuals representing the homeless, mental health and lack of affordable housing in Wichita, which received third place in the voting.

Out of the 36 houses of worship represented at the assembly, 14 are United Methodist churches and organizations. A representative from each religious organization signed a charter in the chancel of Wichita First. Ronda Kingwood, pastor of Heart of Christ UMC, was elected as an interim co-president of the group, and Rev. Dr. Kevass Harding, pastor of Dellrose UMC, is second vice president, and Lance Carrithers, pastor of Derby Woodlawn UMC, is treasurer. Its at-large members include Rev. Deann Smith, executive director of United Methodist Open Door.

## AUMC PLEDGE FOR 2024

Please fill out and put in the offering plate or the church office by Dec. 31st.

Name:

Address:

Email:

Pledge Amount:

\_\_\_\_\_ weekly

\_\_\_\_\_ monthly

\_\_\_\_\_ other (Please indicate your plans here.)

\_\_\_\_\_ ACH (automatic withdrawal)

## Dec. 3rd

**The ABC's of Christmas**  
Presented by AUMC kids

## DECEMBER PLUS EVENTS

Date	Time	Day	Event
11/22/23		Wedn.	No Wed. events except choir practice
11/23/23		Thursday	Thanksgiving-office closed
11/26/23	10am & 12pm	Sunday	Hanging of the Greens
11/26/23	6:30p	Sunday	Game Night & Club 45
11/27/23	6:30pm	Monday	Unified Board Mtg
12/2/23	10am-2pm	Saturday	Drop & Shop
12/2/23	2-4	Saturday	Youth Gift Wrappings & Desert bar
12/3/23		Sunday	Children's Christmas Program
12/18/23	6:30pm	Monday	Unified Board Mtg
12/21 & 22	8-5:30pm	Fri. & Sat.	Christmas VBS
12/24/23	10am	Sunday	One Service
12/24/23	5pm & 11pm	Sunday	Christmas Eve services
12/25/23		Monday	Christmas-office closed
12/31/23	10am	Sunday	Service Day
1/1/24		Monday	New Year's - office closed
Food Bank	Tues. 10am-1pm & Wed. 3-6pm		





# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

PRAYER REQUEST		
A-B	I-L	V-Z
*Allen, Drew, Jan Mead's grandson *Andrea, Karol Hastings' Tx grandkids Grandmother *Sharon Bahr, friend of Kay Reissig *Ryan Barnharst's family *Brent, friend of Melissa Connell *Clint & Erica (Valerio) Baker & Vivian *Kara Ball, Erica's HS friend *Ron Benton John Hope's cousin *Bobbie, Dennis Hellon's brother *Laura Boone's father *Dan & Krista Bonnensek's parents *Brooke, Bob & Nancy's grand-dght.	*Landon Israelson *Jack, Kathy Halfman's nephew *Jean Ann, Bob West's cousin *Jean, Cathy Harmon's friend *Carrie Jones, Steve Seckman's Daughter *Josie, Roy Hayden's s-i-l *Marilyn Kumar *Saj Kumar, Marilyn Kumar's husband *Kent, Karol Hasting's nephew *Christy Lawrence *Lily, Missy Heath's friend *Lincoln, Pastor Ryan's nephew *Linda, Irene Gagnon's friend *Logan, his 3 kids, sister & mom *Lynch family	*Dave Valerio *Peggy Valerio *Dave & Peggy Valerio's daughter, s-n-l, & grand daughter, Vivian *Steve Walker, Cathy Durano's Friend *Dave Wall *Hardy Wasson *Ashley Connaly Weaver, friend of Jan Hale-Mansfield *Brenda Wimmers *Wyatt, Erin Murray's nephew
C-E	M-R	MISC.
*Nancy Carroll *Rita Solis Chavez & family *Sharon Bahr, friend of Kay Reissig *Myrna Craig *Daune, Kay Resig's father *Derick DeHass & Anna, his fiancée *Grandma DeHass *Cathy Delimon, Dan Delimont's sister *Doug, Kathy Halfman's b-i-l *Dulton baby *Brian Edem *Dan & Tammy Eilert *Tammy Eilert's mom *Willa Edwards *Debra Ewing, Justin Kneisel's mom	*Irene Martin & her family & Friends *Nancy, Irene Gagnon's sister *Nancy Mattke *Betty Mead, John Hope's friend *Jan Mead's deceased daughters' family *John Murray, Erin's F-I-L *Patrick, Ryan's cousin *Gabbie & Matt Pippin *James Primm, Mike Primm's Brother *Airene Reeves, Kaylee Vaughters friend *Regina & children *Mary Robey *Terry Robey *Royal's D-I-L	*Pray for the peace of Israel and those affected by the war *Pray for students & teachers *Pray for all Caregivers *Pray for those who have lost family *Our nation to follow the Lord *Our Lord change our hearts *Those struggling with health issues & depression – ask for the Lord's intervention
F-H	S-T	
*Fred, Nancy Mattke's brother *Elma, Irene Gagnon's mom *Al Gagnon *Irene Gagnon *Irene Gagnon's B-I-L *Donna Garver *Vivian Grace, Charlie & Mary's granddaughter *Gwen, Jana Robinson's niece *Larry Hamm *Gary Harmon *Marcia Haskins *Jim Haynes *Ruth Helena *Valeta Hole *John Hope's s-i-l & s-i-l's mother	*Rick Sample, friend of Roy Hayden *Scott, Bob West's b-i-l *Phyllis Seidl's S-I-L *Skip, Tim Souder's brother *Courtney Senters *Dean Senters *Debbie Senters *Tim & Colleen Souders *Stouce, Bob, Jan Hal's friend *Kasa Stroub *Rich Tyler	

## CELEBRATIONS

### December Birthdays

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

### December Anniversaries

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

Thank you AUMC family for your support of 24 families receiving a thanksgiving meal. The youth filled 24 bags of nonperishable food donated by all of you on Wed. night. We purchased turkeys, pies, & packaged rolls to complete the meals. Chat, Chew, and Do dispersed the meals on Sun. to 24 very grateful recipients. The extra donated food will be donated to Caring and Sharing for the Christmas meals. Thank you for your continued support fo the outreach program to our neighbors in need. Tammy Eilert.

On Sunday 11/19, Chat, Chew and Do (Sarah Lynch, Carley Weatherbie, Gabby Pippin, Erin Murray) distributed Thanksgiving meals to those who could use a family meal. A huge thank you to Tammy Eilert who helped with organizing everything for the Thanksgiving meals & helping to handing out the meals & Annita Evans, who stored turkeys. Much obliged to everyone at AUMC who donated & helped make this Thanksgiving brighter! And a shout out to KidsConnect, Crossfit youth & adults, & Sherame Kiesel for helping to package the meals.  
Chat, Chew and Do

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### ON GOING EVENTS

**SUNDAY-**  
9:00am Traditional Service – with chancel choir - In-Person & Online  
10:00am Sunday School: Children's (In-Person & Zoom), Youth, Pathfinders, Love at the Center, Seekers, Single Seniors  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 10:00am Coffee with Pastor  
11:00am Praise Service – with contemporary music & children's involvement - In-Person & Online  
3:00pm Third Sundays - Chat, Chew, and Do  
Last Sunday 6:30-8pm Crossfit & Club 45 Game Night

**MONDAY –**  
11am Disciple Bible Study in Parlor (12 wk study ends 12/6)  
1<sup>st</sup> Mon. 6:30pm Open Door lunch packing

**TUESDAY –**  
9am Coffee @ Dunkin Doughnuts

**WEDNESDAY – (NO WED. EVENTS 12/26 & 12/2)**  
9-11am Quilting Group  
4<sup>th</sup> Wed. 9am Outreach Team

6:30 –7:30pm KidsConnect  
6:30-8:00pm Crossfit Youth Ministry  
6:30-7:30pm Choir Practice

**SATURDAY-**  
3<sup>RD</sup> Sat. 5 pm Lord's Diner

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Want a place to volunteer and work with a friend from AUMC who can show you the ropes? Here are a couple of good places to consider:

### **Bike Walk Wichita (BWW):**

Located at 325 N. St Francis, across from the WAVE.

This is a 501c non-profit organization that provides bicycle services to anyone in need. They are open 4 days a week Tu & Th [2-8] Fr & Sat [1-4]

We take donated bicycles of all sizes and shapes. Those that are not repairable are stripped of useable parts. Those that are fixable go into different categories.

Voucher bikes: These are bikes volunteers have fixed and made road worthy. They are given away to those with a voucher from other non-profits such as International Refugee Committee and several others. The receipt of a bike makes finding and getting to a job much more likely.

Earn a bike: This program lets those with no money to trade volunteer hours for a bike. They complete 15 hours of volunteer service and are then allowed to choose a repairable bike and fix it up for themselves.

Kids bikes: All smaller childrens bikes are repaired and given away. A parent or guardian must come with a child. Kids choose a bike and ride away smiling. No charge, these are free.

Sale Bikes: Some of the donated bikes are in very nice condition and are refurbished and then sold at very reasonable prices.

BWW also has "open shop". When space is available anyone can bring their own bike down and work on it. Experienced volunteers will help them, but won't do the work. Parts are available to purchase at very reasonable prices.

BWW is also involved with organizing many local bicycle and walking events throughout Wichita. Anyone is welcome to join in.

### **Habitat for Humanity:**

This non-profit builds houses. They are built for families in need of permanent housing. Families must be able to pay for the house but they buy the house on a zero percent loan. Families, called Partner Families, must complete classes on finance, maintenance, etc. And they are required to put in about 400 hours of volunteering on other homes prior to being selected for a future build. Volunteers can be single individuals but usually come from businesses or organizations. The exception is a group called "core volunteers". I'm part of that group. Core volunteers work Tues-Sat during the builds and do most of the main construction including building and marking walls per blueprint, erecting walls, setting the trusses, enclosing walls, roof decking, and installing doors and windows. On days with community volunteers, the cores lead small teams to complete all the listed tasks.

Habitat of Wichita has built over 300 homes. The "rock the block" area in NE Wichita of approximately 2 square miles just completed the 100<sup>th</sup> home in that area.

If you would like to volunteer for either or both of these opportunities, or if you just want to learn more, contact Roy Hayden.

# ➤➤➤ CROSSFIT YOUTH NEWS

Hello Everybody!

I hope November treated you well.

Here are some updates for Youth Group and CrossFit as well as some upcoming dates to be on the watch for.

I would like to bring notice to an upcoming event in December, the annual Drop'N'Shop! This will take place December 2nd, and will be another wonderful fundraising opportunity for the youth. From 10am-2pm adults are welcome to drop off their kids for 5\$ and get some Christmas shopping done! From 2-4pm if you bring in your gifts, the youth will take care of wrapping them while you can indulge in a Dessert Bar! Please let me know if you or anyone (friends, family, neighbors, spread the word!) intend to stop by Drop'N'Shop, and I will send you a ticket inquiring a few questions ahead of time.

The youth has been spending lots of time team bonding, as well as practicing kindness, and gratefulness through practicing worship. I had my first experience at a youth lock in, which was loads of fun not just for me, but for the kids as well. What wonderful topics for the giving season!

Sloan Weber

Director of youth Ministries

sloanw@andoverumc.com





# ▶▶▶ CHILDREN'S CHATTER

Dear AUMC family,

Welcome to the Holidays! What an amazing time of year in both your family's home - and in our church home - filled with the chaos that the holiday season brings, as well as the joy and quiet moments in between. In those quiet moments we can also find the quiet peace of God's unconditional love and begin to prepare our hearts for what is to come. Born in a manger so long ago, Jesus changed the world forever. That manger truly was a place where ordinary became extraordinary! Throughout our advent season, we celebrate Jesus's birth and the love, hope, joy, and peace brought to the world by the tiny baby born in that manger. This season, take time as a family to find the quiet peace and prepare your hearts for the extraordinary world Jesus prepared for us!

Blessings,  
Erin

### **Family ideas**

- Do a good deed
- Visit a senior
- Wear matching pajamas
- Volunteer
- Christmas scavenger hunt
- Write a letter to a soldier

### **What's happening?**

**Sunday School** – 10am

\*\*NO Sunday School December 24, 31\*\*

**KidsConnect** – Wednesdays- Dinner 5:30; 6-7:30

\*\*No KidsConnect December 20, 27, January 3\*\*

**Drop and Shop**-Saturday, December 2, 10a-2p

Enjoy some time to go shopping while your child(ren) have fun! \$5 per child

**Children Christmas Program**-ABCs of Christmas- Sunday, December 3

During both services

**VBS in December**-Thursday & Friday December 21 & 22

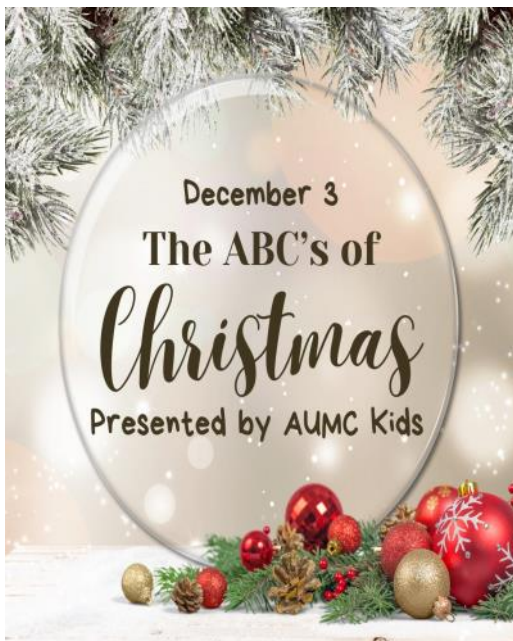
Doors open at 8:30am,

VBS 9a-4p,

Doors close at 5:30pm

\$10 per child.

Bring a sack lunch



Visit Children's Ministry Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/aumckidsmin](https://www.facebook.com/aumckidsmin)

## IMPORTANT EVENTS TO NOTE



**Youth Christmas  
Dessert &  
Gift Wrapping  
Dec. 2nd 2-4p**  
Bring gifts to be wrapped &  
grab a dessert while you wait



**DROP & SHOP**  
Dec. 2nd  
10a-2p  
\$5 per child



### OUR STAFF

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

**Youth Ministry**—Sloan Weber [sloanw@andoverumc.com](mailto:sloanw@andoverumc.com)

**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)

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

**Financial Sec.**—

**Organist**—Irene Martin [churchoffice@andoverumc.com](mailto:churchoffice@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**—Angie Funk [churchoffice@andoverumc.com](mailto:churchoffice@andoverumc.com)



Andover United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 519

Andover, KS 67002

**Return Service Requested**

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