

THE LINK

October 2015



<i>Birchwood Auction</i>	2
<i>Talini Service</i>	3
<i>My Anchor Park</i>	3
<i>Calendar</i>	4
<i>Thursday Study</i>	5
<i>Music Ministry</i>	5
<i>Children's Ministry</i>	6
<i>Youth Ministry</i>	7
<i>United Methodist Women</i>	8

Our Pastor:

Doug Handlong

pastordoughandlong@gmail.com

The Newsletter is published monthly. Articles and material should be to the church office by **the 21st of each month.**

We encourage you to send material electronically if you can. You may email Patti, the Office

Administrator at:

office@anchorpark.org

World Communion Sunday - October 4th

Your GIFT HELPS SCHOLARS BECOME LEADERS.

When an American missionary baptized Elsa Noemi Meza in Lima, Peru, more than 30 years ago, Meza dreamed of living in the United States. In 2005, she and her daughter made that dream a reality.

"When we stepped into St. John's United Methodist Church (in Oak Park, Ill.)," Meza recalls, "my daughter recognized the cross and flame as the symbol that was in the Lima High School. We immediately felt at home and joined the church."

A GIFT FROM GOD

Her pastor told Meza, who had already earned bachelor's and master's degrees, that she "had the qualities needed to be a pastor." He suggested she apply to United Methodist-related Garrett-Evangelical theological Seminary in Evanston, Ill. Thanks to a scholarship from World Communion Sunday offerings, Meza recently completed her first year in seminary.

"If it hadn't been for my scholarship, I would not have been able to go to school" she says. "It was a gift from God. I now see my vocation as serving others."

YOUR GIFT MATTERS

The United Methodist World Communion Sunday offering makes a difference for people like Elsa Noemi Meza. Thank you for your generous gift!



Town Hall Meeting Invitation

The church council would like to invite all members and constituents of Anchor Park UMC to attend a Town Hall Meeting Sunday October 18th, at 7:00 PM. The question of conversation will be, "Should Anchor Park adopt a single-board governance?"

A task force comprised of Jim Allen, Jeanette Cornell, Jo Anne Hayden, Mike Knapp and Pastor Doug Handlong have been working on behalf of the church council to investigate new organizational structures and systems for the administrative oversight of the church. We would love your feedback. Join us Sunday October 18th as we join together in a town hall meeting to hear ideas and feedback. If you have questions, please call Pastor Doug.

GENERAL CONFERENCE 2016

The United Methodist Church's top legislative body will meet at the **Oregon Convention Center**, the largest convention center in the Pacific Northwest, on **May 10-20, 2016**.

General Conference is the top policy-making body of The United Methodist Church which meets once every four years. The conference can revise church

law, as well as adopt resolutions on current moral, social, public policy and economic issues. It also approves plans and budgets for church-wide programs.

Each Annual Conference elects Delegates to go to General Conference. The delegates from the Alaska Conference are: Rev. Carlo Rapanut, Rev. Doug Handlong, JoAnne Hayden and Jim Labau.

Your delegates will also attend the Western Jurisdictional Conference in Scottsdale, AZ in July.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The 2016 quadrennial legislative meeting of the United Methodist Church will take place from May 10-20, 2016 at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, Oregon. The local host committee is responsible for providing hospitality to visitors as they arrive and spend time in the host city, Portland, Oregon.

Volunteer hospitality workers are needed. The Alaska United Methodist Conference through Rev. Dan Wilcox is coordinating this effort for the Western Jurisdiction. The form and other information is available at www.gc2016pdx.org.

BIRCHWOOD CAMP'S ANNUAL DINNER & AUCTION: OCTOBER 4



Come celebrate another excellent year of camping ministry at Birchwood's Annual Dinner & Auction on Sunday, October 4th!! Everyone is invited! Tours of the camp will be available at 4:00 pm. The silent auction will open at 4:30 pm in the Main Lodge. The meal will begin at 5:00 pm, with the program and live auction to follow, also in the Main Lodge. Childcare will be available following dinner. There is no cost to attend, but space is limited; RSVP to reserve your seat: 907-688-2734 or info@birchwoodcamp.org. For additional information and a preview of auction items visit: <http://birchwoodcamp.org/2015/08/2015-annual-dinner-auction/>

TALIUI SERVICE

This past month the Tongan Fellowship celebrated Taliui (Tongan Women's Sunday). Pictured here - Latu Tuuholoaki, Kallie Handlong, Abby Handlong, Deanne Handlong, Lupe Saafi, Hevaha Malupo and Kathy Fakasiieiki



MY ANCHOR PARK

What Anchor Park Means to Me by Lisa Deckert

Family. When Doug asked me to write about what Anchor Park means to me, that was my first thought. Like many of you, I grew up somewhere else. In my case, it was West Texas, and my mother and siblings are scattered across the state of Texas. But Anchor Park is my local family.



They're the ones who ask about my kids, who share my little victories, and who commiserate when things go wrong. They're the people who keep track of who needs a hand and let me know where I can help, who I can pray for. I've watched a generation grow up in this church. Some scattered across the world, like apple seeds bringing fruit to new places, and others stayed to raise a new generation here.

Like any family, Anchor Park provides a secure place to grow. Through Anchor Park UMW, I've learned about our mission to the world and the part we can play locally. At the auction, I've seen outrageous bids on a loaf of bread, knowing that the proceeds will go to mission to help someone, somewhere. I've seen the children's faces in Activity Time light up when they show their parents what they've created. I've been moved to tears by words or song in worship. And I've felt loved. After all, that's what makes us family.

TRANSPORTATION OPPORTUNITIES

Are you willing to give somebody a ride on Sunday morning? We have people living on the East and West sides that need regular rides to church. Please sign up on the Connect if you are willing to be available for driving from the East side, west side or either or call the church office.

OCTOBER POTLUCK AND PIE AUCTION

This will be a special Potluck because we will also have a PIE AUCTION following the meal. The theme will be soup and bread so find your favorite crock-pot recipe for a mouth watering soup. Many people who bid and buy pies are willing to share their pie with all of us. There will be some pie plates available in the Robinson Room for you to use for your pie so you don't have to worry about keeping track of your pie plate. This auction is to raise money for the Nicaragua Mission so be generous with your bids and enjoy some delicious pies!

CHRISTMAS MISSION OUTREACH TEAM IS NOW FORMING

If you are interested in joining others or if you're interested in joining us in planning our Christmas outreach. Please sign up on the connect at church or call the church office

HATS AND MITTENS FOR AIRPORT HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Fiber Fellowship is inviting everybody to bring children's hats and mittens to be donated to Airport Heights Elementary school. Their school is being renovated all school year and the children will be having all their PE classes and recesses outside all year long. Fiber Fellowship members have been donating hats and mittens for a couple years but now that the need is so much bigger, we're hoping for more donations. Please join us in helping our neighborhood children stay warm!

OCTOBER 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Quilt Retreat @ Larerne Griffin Camp 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 12:45 PM Crop Walk 1st Congregational 1:00 PM Tongan Worship 2:00 PM Tongan Bible Study	28 10:00 AM Strong Women & Men Exercise Program 5:30 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM AI Anon	29 1:00 PM Exercise Group 4:30 PM Yoga	30 10:00 AM Strong Women & Men Exercise Program 11:11 AM Prayer Group 6:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal	1 1:00 PM Exercise Group 6:00 PM Thursday Study 8:00 PM Men's AA	2 10:00 AM Yoga	3 10:00 AM Quilting Group 6:00 PM Tongan Choir
4 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 12:15 PM Potluck Lunch & Pie Auction 1:00 PM Tongan Worship 2:00 PM Tongan Bible Study 5:00 PM Youth Group	5 10:00 AM Strong Women & Men Exercise Program 5:30 PM Boy Scouts 6:30 PM Fiber Fellowship 7:00 PM AI Anon	6 1:00 PM Exercise Group 4:30 PM Yoga	7 10:00 AM Strong Women & Men Exercise Program 11:11 AM Prayer Group 6:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal	8 1:00 PM Exercise Group 6:00 PM Thursday Study 8:00 PM Men's AA	9 UMW Annual Gathering @ North Star Bible Camp 10:00 AM Yoga	10 UMW Annual Gathering @ North Star Bible Camp 6:00 PM Tongan Choir
11 UMW Annual Gathering @ North Star Bible Camp 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 1:00 PM Tongan Worship 2:00 PM Tongan Bible Study 5:00 PM Youth Group	12 10:00 AM Strong Women & Men Exercise Program 5:30 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM AI Anon	13 1:00 PM Exercise Group 4:30 PM Yoga 6:30 PM Finance & Church Council Committee	14 10:00 AM Strong Women & Men Exercise Program 11:11 AM Prayer Group 6:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal	15 1:00 PM Exercise Group 6:00 PM Thursday Study 8:00 PM Men's AA	16 10:00 AM Yoga	17 6:00 PM Tongan Choir
18 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 12:15 PM UMW Potlatch Circle 1:00 PM Tongan Worship 2:00 PM Tongan Bible Study 5:00 PM Youth Group 7:00 PM Town Hall Meeting	19 7:30 AM Bean's Cafe 10:00 AM Strong Women & Men Exercise Program 5:30 PM Boy Scouts 6:30 PM Fiber Fellowship 7:00 PM AI Anon	20 1:00 PM Exercise Group 4:30 PM Yoga	21 10:00 AM Strong Women & Men Exercise Program 11:11 AM Prayer Group 11:45 AM UMW Forget Me Not Meeting 6:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal	22 1:00 PM Exercise Group 6:00 PM Thursday Study 8:00 PM Men's AA	23 10:00 AM Yoga	24 1:00 PM Kid's Halloween Party 6:00 PM Tongan Choir
25 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 12:15 PM Safe Sanctuary Meeting 1:00 PM Tongan Worship 2:00 PM Tongan Bible Study	26 10:00 AM Strong Women & Men Exercise Program 5:30 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM AI Anon	27 1:00 PM Exercise Group 4:30 PM Yoga 7:00 PM Reading Group/ Barnes & Noble	28 10:00 AM Strong Women & Men Exercise Program 11:11 AM Prayer Group 6:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal	29 1:00 PM Exercise Group 8:00 PM Men's AA	30 10:00 AM Yoga	31 6:00 PM Tongan Choir

“Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.”



ADULT CHOIR

meets every Wednesday at 7:15pm.

THE HANDBELL CHOIR

will meet at 6:30pm.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Children's Choir will be starting up again and now meeting on Thursday Nights, 5:45 - 7:00 on October 8th!

Come Join Us!

New Members Welcomed!!

DOROTHY ROBERTS IS TURNING 90!

Dorothy's family is hosting a Birthday Party with food and snacks after worship on Sunday, October 11th until 12:30. Dorothy's been a member of Anchor Park since 1955. She and her late husband Bruce were also very active with Birchwood Camp. Everyone is invited to come celebrate with Dorothy. Cards are welcome.

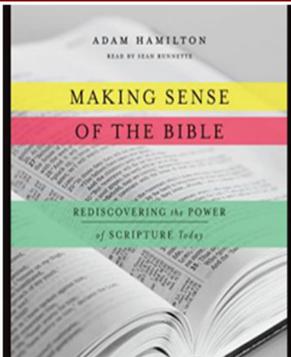


Birthdays

- 2 Seamus Kirkham
- 4 Ken Pendleton
- 5 Sione Fakasiieiki
- 7 Richard Linton
Rosemary Fish
- 10 Lisa Deckert
- 11 Dorothy Roberts
- 12 Mary Ellen Mitchell
- 20 Joel Russ
- 21 Jack Perry
- 22 Peggy Willing
Clayton Walker
- 23 Abigail Wildman
- 26 Janet LaBelle
- 28 Isabella Saafi
- 29 Pam Bell

Anniversary

- 5 Mike Knapp & Rachel Morse
- 28 Shawn & Susan Wildman



THURSDAY EVENING STUDY

You are welcome to still Join us for our study on Thursday nights from 6:30 to 8:00 for what some have described as a life changing study. "Making Sense of the Bible" is a 7-week study that invites us to "Have an honest conversation about the Bible." Together we will address foundational questions such as: How and when was the Bible written? Who decided which books made it into the scriptures and why? How literally must we read it? and, Is the Bible ever wrong? From there, we will journey together and

consider:

- Were Adam and Eve real people?
- Why is God so violent in the Old Testament?
- Why would Paul command women to keep silent in the church?
- Is Jesus the only way to salvation?
- How does God view homosexual people?
- Is the Book of Revelation a guide to the End Times?

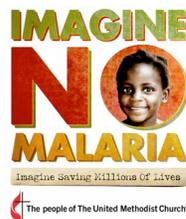


BUDGET UPDATE

Year to Date income and Year to Date budgeted - Income \$ 186,633 Budgeted \$217,406

CHANGE FOR CHANGE...

Look for the buckets in the back of the church to drop your change each week. Our goal \$10,000 Raised so far \$7,030.92 Please help us reach our goal!



SEPTEMBER 27, 2015

- *Income \$ 15,636.80
- *Expenses \$ 17,388.62
- *Apportionments paid to date are \$13,781





YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARTY!

Saturday, October 24, 2015
1:00 – 3:00

There will be pumpkin painting, a fish pond, cake walk (for prizes), face painting, sack race and crafts. Then of course, there will be snacks and rooms to go trick or treating .

We need your help so please sign up on the Connect on Sunday or call the church office.

Everyone can come in costume!

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Starting Thursday, October 8th

The children's choir is open to kids ages 7-12. We will be singing songs of faith from various cultures and incorporate instruments with our singing.

Come join our joyous group on Thursday evenings at 5:45- 6:30 p.m. with singing then from 6:30- 7:00 p.m. enjoy a dinner and some time of fellowship.

Any questions please call the Anchor Park church 277-0152



Youth Calendar and Events

Come join Us! (Sunday Nights 5:00-7:00) Light Supper is provided. Bring a friend and be a part of the fun!

October 4 - Youth Group

October 11 - Youth Group

October 18 - Youth Group

October 24 - Help with the Halloween Party

October 25 - No Regular Meeting

November 1 - Youth Group

November 8 - Youth Group

November 14 - Help with UMW Auction

November 15 - Youth Group

November 22 - No Regular Meeting

November 29 - No Regular Meeting



Our new Youth Leaders!

Pastor Doug, Makeleta, Deanne and Amanda



A CIRCLE FOR EVERYONE!

Potlatch Circle will meet the third Sunday following worship for lunch and a program or service project. (childcare available)

Forget Me Not Circle will meet the third Wednesday at 11:45am. Bring a sack lunch as you meet together for study or work on a service project.

Girls at Heart Circle (girls and their Mons) dates to be announced

Annual Holiday Auction will take place Saturday, November 14 from 10:45am to 2:15pm



ALASKA UNITED METHODIST WOMEN ANNUAL GATHERING/MEETING

OCTOBER 9-11

North Star Bible Camp
10688 Willow Fishhook Road
Willow, Alaska

Early registration fee is \$135 and includes 2 nights lodging, 5 meals and program supplies. For information about the Camp, go to northstarbiblecamp.com for pictures, descriptions, maps.

Program presenter will be Pastor Sandy Ward,, Girdwood Chapel—Prayer beads for protestants. Each attendee will be making their own prayer beads.

Bring a friend and carpool!

ANNUAL HOLIDAY AUCTION

We're collecting donations for our Annual Holiday Auction. Please read the back page for details or call the church office!



Food For Clare House

PROVIDING A MEAL FOR CLARE HOUSE

Clare House provides temporary, emergency 24-hour shelter for women with children and expectant mothers (over 18). Our Church will provide the

dinner meal for the Clare House residents on Sunday, October 18th. If you would like to contribute to the meal, please indicate your preferences on the Connect or call the church office. You may bring your donation on Sunday before noon and place it in the refrigerator marked Clare House in the main kitchen. Call Meghan Cornelison at 907-952-9741 or email mecornelison49@gmail.com if you have any questions.

A Fresh Wind Blowing



*Western Jurisdiction UMW Meeting
April 22-24, 2016 - Salt Lake City*

ANCHOR PARK
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2300 Oak Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99508



*"Open Hearts, Open Minds,
Open Doors "*

Anchor Park UMC
2300 Oak Drive
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Office Hours: M-TH 9:00 - 3:00

View the LINK online in
color at:

www.anchorpark.org

If you wish to only receive
the LINK electronically,
advise the office of your
decision.

UMW HOLIDAY AUCTION LOOKING FOR HOME CRAFTED/BAKED ITEMS!

Anchor Park's Annual Holiday Auction organized by the United Methodist Women is scheduled this year for Saturday, November 14th, so put it on your calendar now. You won't want to miss out on this year's fun.

We especially welcome donations of home crafted/baked items and want to encourage receipt of all donations by November 11th. (Should you want to donate something freshly baked for the day of the auction, plan to complete a donation form by the deadline of November 11 and then bring the fresh baked item immediately prior to the start of the auction.)

Live auction items will be selected through a juried process as long as they are received by November 8th.

This is a great way to have fun and support mission projects focused on women, children, and youth in Alaska, the United States, as well as the world.

We welcome your support and will be sharing more information, ideas for possible donations, as well as welcoming your donations along with an accompanying completed form with each donation, so watch for more information between now and then.

