

We worship in person on Sundays at 11:00am
streamed on Facebook Live

<https://www.facebook.com/anchorparkumc>

Visit our website: www.anchorpark.org
Uploaded early in the week to <https://tinyurl.com/svcxjaq>

Our Sunday sermons and prayers:
Audio only Call (907) 302-2795
no codes required



 YouTube



We Welcome:

*all races, class or lifestyle to experience God's love
through all ministries of our*

We Serve:

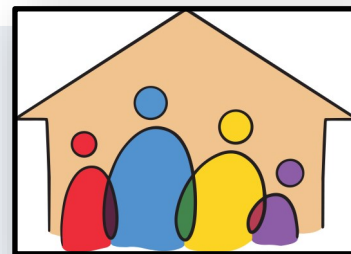
*our community and world through
serving the poor, homeless, or-
phaned, addicted and imprisoned.*



2300 Oak Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

We Love:

*God and neighbors knowing that love
will encourage our diversity and span
our differ-*



Anchor Park provides one meal a month for **Clare House**, a mission of Catholic Social services.
Please consider signing up to provide part of the meal. Sign up is online at
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084dacad2cabfb6-clare>

Refreshment Hour

Speak to Susan Williams
or add your name to a date!



Lay Reader

Speak to the new Pastors
or add your name to a date!
The sign-up sheet is on the
table at the entrance

Pot Luck

Please join us in for a pot luck
after service
with Pastor
Dan and
Pastor Murry



All youth ages 11 thru 18
are welcome!



Worship with Us!! Visit www.anchorpark.org for available in person, on-line, and smart-phone options.

Office Phone: 907-277-0152 Email: office@anchorpark.org Office Hours: 9-2 Mon-Thur.

Dear Anchor Park family,

It is my great joy to report how pleased I am to be walking with you all during this time. I truly feel welcomed and loved here, as does my family, and Alaska Native HOPE is also right at home. Thank you for being such amazing hosts and partners! As we grow in relationship together, I would like to invite any and all who are interested to join us at our Wednesday night dinners and Bible studies. We eat, potluck style, at 6:00 pm., sing songs together, and then finish with an in-depth Bible study. We are about to finish the book of Ezekiel and will then be studying the book of Revelation, probably around the end of January. Leadership team has met and is working on a plan to partner with the work that's already being done on Wednesdays with hopes of reaching our unhoused and otherwise vulnerable neighbors, so consider this a formal invitation for you to examine your heart to see how you might contribute to our ministry together. We are looking for volunteers to help out on Wednesday nights, but if that is not a good time for you, please reach out to Pastor Dan or Pastor Murray to share your vision and passion. If our capacity to help exceeds what's happening on Wednesday evenings, I would love to work with you, find community partners, and participate in transformative work in our community together! Thank you in advance for your consideration. I can't wait for this Advent and Christmas season.

Blessing

Pastor Murray

Christmas Offering to Benefit Food Bank of Alaska

Over 1 in 11 Alaskans struggle with food insecurity. One in six (6) Alaskans do not know where their next meal is coming from. Thirteen percent (13%) of Alaskan children live in homes that may not have enough food.

During the first six months of 2023, over 23,000 households were served compared to 17,600 in 2020. In Juneau, the Southeast Alaska Food Bank set a 27-year record for food distributed in FY23, amounting to 581,500 pounds. These statistics highlight just how critical times have been this year for our neighbors in need. (Foodbank of Alaska September 2023 newsletter)

Anchor Park UMC participates in Backpack Buddies, a food program administered through the schools to feed children on weekends. In October Anchor Park sent the Food Bank of Alaska \$2000.00 to fill the gap in their funding for Backpack Buddies.

The Church Council voted to continue this support through our Christmas Even offering. The offer will be split between the unpaid number of apportionments with the remaining amount going to the Food Bank.

To learn more about the Food Bank of Alaska, their mission and programs visit their website: <https://foodbankofalaska.org/about-us/>

Blessings,

Sandra Woods

Chair, Committee on Finance



The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
For those who lived in a land of deep shadows—light! sunbursts of light!
The zeal of God-of-the-Angel-Armies will do all this.

The people that Isaiah was originally addressing in these verses had witnessed the destruction of everything they know. Every aspect of who they were and how they understood their identity had been torn down by the Babylonians, and then the Persians. To say they were a people who walked in darkness accurately described what most of them probably felt – hopeless and wondering where God was.

The above passage from Isaiah is an excerpt from a larger passage which is a promise that those who have lost everything will be restored. Not individuals, but a nation. Not for themselves, but so that the people of God may once again thrive, and so that the world may know that God has not abandoned the people.

As we prepare for Advent, we hear these words as a promise of Jesus. The light of the world comes into the darkness and the darkness does not overcome it. Those who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. But that may not be what Isaiah originally meant. Some six centuries lapsed between Isaiah and Jesus.

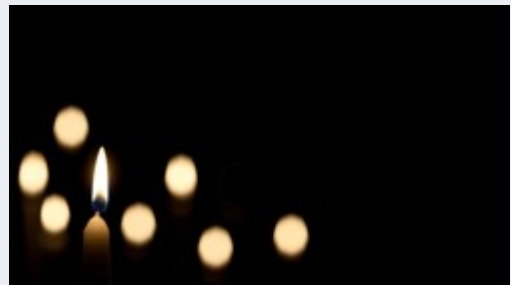
When Isaiah wrote this, he was working to encourage the people of God to understand that the character of God is such that in our times of distress and pain, God is present. In the days of struggle, the God of light breaks in to light our path. The character of God is the same for Isaiah, as it is for the people living in oppression and hopelessness in the first century, and for those of us living even further in time, in the 21st century.

While that which causes darkness has changed, the promise of God's presence and protection has not changed. The promise that in the darkest valleys, God walks with us. The promise has not changed that the light that has broken into the land of darkness has broken into our lives.

The promise which we hope for in the season of Advent is that the character of God continues to offer hope to the hopeless, light to the darkness, and abundant life to us all. Let's go into Advent not just looking for this hope, light, and life for ourselves, but for everyone we meet.

Amen.

Pastor Dan



We invite you to join us in our prayers . . .



Our prayer sessions last from 20 to 30 minutes.

Our voices gather from across the planet (Alaska, Australia, Washington state, and...). We encourage you to adjust the time for wherever you are, set an alarm, and join us. Check this out for yourself! Judy Pendleton, call her at (907) 250-8464 or email her at judyp.alaska@gmail.com. You can find us at this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/889336069552pwd=ZDQwNFJpMnVJMnFPbW8zTjlybFNhUT09>

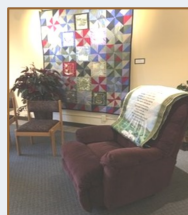


Gregory Todd	03
Patti Butcher	05
Loleini Saafi	08
Susan Williams	10
Lianna Joe	11
Sandra Woods	11
Chivi Crookes	13
VJ Vea	13
Bob Shaffer	21
Elijah Wilcox	21
Lupe Saafi	23
Roan Shawback	24
Rosalyn Mataele	25
Alex Miller	29
Jon Disburg	30
Conrad Vea	30



Hayden, Brian & Jade	12/2	6yrs
Bedwell, Jerry & Jane	12/15	33yrs
Russ, Joel & Dina	12/83	40yrs

A quiet space Or a contemplative journey . . .



Our beautiful prayer room is open to you any time the church office is opened (9am to 2pm Monday thru Thursday). If you would like another to pray with you, please call the church office to set up meeting with a prayer buddy.

Someone will work with you and arrange to meet you there. Praying for and with others is a sacred honor...



When you're stopping in to donate items for the upcoming yard sale.

The Blessing Box, the food bank, etc...take a personal journey. Our Prayer Labyrinth is a peaceful (and peace promoting) walk of faith, designed to help you focus your thoughts. From the start in the center to the final step, allow the journey to take its own time - as long as your prayers to heaven.

Advent Event

The Annual ADVENT EVENT for our children will be Sat. Dec. 16th 1-3 p.m. in the Wesley Hall.

We will have the Christmas crafts, frost cookies, decorate a tree and of course—Eat!

Fiber Fellowship

To finish up 2023, Fiber Fellowship will meet once on Monday evening, the 4th beginning at 6:30 p.m. and wrapping up by 8 p.m. We'll have both an in-person opportunity to join others in the Lawhorn Room at church or via a zoom link for those who find that an easier way to join.

Feel free to reach out to Jo Anne Hayden at (907) 903-5025 via text or call for any questions.

For those would like to join us via zoom, here is your connecting information:

Computer: <https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/225718367>

Smart Device/App Meeting ID: 225 718 367
Meeting ID: 225 718 367#

Call In/Audio only: 301-715-8592

The link should be live by 6:25 p.m.

On what would have should be our second Fiber Fellowship evening, Monday, December 18th, starting at 6 p.m., all interested persons are welcome to join us for the gift wrapping we'll be doing for our Adopt-A-Family program. This is when we get everything ready for pick up the next day.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>   </div>						
3. Youth meeting after Church service. Goodie bag for AK Child and Family	4. Strong Women Strong Bones 10-11 AM Tongan Room	5. Strong Women Strong Bones 1-2PM Tongan Room 6:30 PM Charge Conference	6. Strong Women Strong Bones 10-11 AM Tongan Room	7. Strong Women Strong Bones 1-2PM Tongan Room	8.	9. Christmas Children Youth Silent Auction Christmas White Elephant 4:30-8:30PM
10. AK Child and family Meeting after Church Services Youth Meeting after church Services	11. Strong Women Strong Bones 10-11 AM Tongan Room	12. Strong Women Strong Bones 1-2PM Tongan Room 6:30 PM Finance Meeting	13. Strong Women Strong Bones 10-11 AM Tongan Room	14. Strong Women Strong Bones 1-2PM Tongan Room	15.	16. Advent Event Youth Christmas Party @ APUMC in the Wesley Hall
17. Christmas Cookie Exchange Youth Meeting after Church Service	18. Strong Women Strong Bones 10-11 AM Tongan Room	19. Strong Women Strong Bones 1-2PM Tongan Room 6:30 PM Church Council	20. Strong Women Strong Bones 10-11 AM Tongan Room	21. Strong Women Strong Bones 1-2PM Tongan Room	22. James Leaves Office until Jan. 6	23. Youth Christmas Party
24.	25. Strong Women Strong Bones 10-11 AM Tongan Room	26. Strong Women Strong Bones 1-2PM Tongan Room	27. Strong Women Strong Bones 10-11 AM Tongan Room	28. Strong Women Strong Bones 1-2PM Tongan Room	29.	30.
31.						



United Women in Faith/Anchor Park

Adopt a Family

Anchor Park United Women in Faith is sponsoring an outreach for the neighborhood schools- Russian Jack, Rogers Park and Airport Heights. The ASD staff worked with United Women in Faith to select families in need. Families have shared a Holiday wish list with us. The wish list sign-ups for each family will be in the West Wing starting the week of December 2nd. Please return wrapped or unwrapped presents to the West Wing by Sunday, December 17th. On Monday, December 18th at 6pm all are welcome to help with the wrapping party. United Women in Faith will coordinate delivery of presents with the families. **Cash donations can be given to this effort: mark memo line on checks UWIF Family Adoption and United Women in Faith will purchase gifts.** If you have questions, contact JoAnne Hayden @907-903-5025.



Airport Height family's situation:

The family has moved to Anchorage from a rural village. They are trying to get stable housing. Both parents are working as Door Dash delivery people. Currently, they are living in a trailer and are trying to purchase it which is taking all their funds.

The make-up of the family is:

Father, mother, girl age 7, girl age 5, boy age 14, boy age 16

Russian Jack family's situation:

According to ASD staff: "This amazing family has had a very tough year. Mom works outside of the home and dad is blind. Over the past year, they have been battling legal problems stemming from false allegations of child support payments and unlawful tax filling. They have had to have the home they owned foreclosed and auctioned off. They are in the process of legally disputing all the charges and pay garnishment, but they are having a tough time keeping up with all the expenses, including legal aid. They are currently doubled up living with another family. I believe in their strength, and I know they can get through this. They only want their kids to see this holiday as a bright spot to a really rough year."

The make-up of the family is:

Father, mother, girl age 12, girl age 11, boy almost 9.

Rogers Park Family situation

Mom's partner and father of the children died in late September. The family is still dealing with that trauma and loss. The mom had been stay-at-home. Now, she is trying to figure out life, and how to provide for her kids now that circumstances have drastically changed.

The make-up of family is

Mother, boy age 14, boy age 9, girl age 21 months



Staff Appreciation

The Anchor Park Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) invites all within the congregation to join us in recognizing our staff and pastors during this season of advent for the work that they do regularly all throughout the year.

With a desire to make their holidays a bit brighter, starting on December 3rd and for the next two weeks (10th and 17th) we encourage all in the congregation who would like to help us express our appreciation to do so by either or both of the following:

1) Write a note of appreciation and Best Wishes to each staff member and put it in the container with their name on it in the Robinson Room. (Blank cards and envelopes will be available for your use should you find that helpful or desirable.)

Pastor Dan

Pastor Murray

Administrative Assistant James

Music Ministry Coordinator Sherri

Building Custodian Tai

Nursery Worker Tania

2) Make a financial donation to Anchor Park identified for "Staff Appreciation" which will then be divided among our six staff.

Following worship on the 17th, we'll be sure each staff member receives our collective expressions of gratitude.

Please join us and be a part of extending warm words of thanks and encouragement to them during this busy and wonderful time.