



### Show Mercy

I prepared my sermon on Sunday, June 26th, days before RvW was overturned but I didn't rewrite it, as much as I added to it. It was from the lectionary text: Luke 9:51-62. There was much that I read and had preached on before, but what struck me, in this reading, was how Jesus rebuked James and John for wanting to call down fire/judgement from heaven on the Samaritan village who rejected Jesus.

Jesus rebuked them. He let them know they were wrong and this is not how God works. And then they went to next village. Later, he sends out the 70. (Luke 10:1-24) He tells them if they are rejected, to knock the dust off you're their shoes as judgment. No fire from heaven needed. God will take care of that in God's timing. Then Jesus turns around and uses a Samaritan as the example of one who showed mercy (25-37).

Like many other people, abortion has touched my life. For me, as a pastor, it has touched my life in ways unique to my role as a servant of God and the Church. I had the opportunity to attend seminary with a student from China, a woman even, for whom God opened doors to come to the USA to attend Asbury. I recall conversations on the subject of abortion that she entered into where she couldn't understand how the issue had become a "tea-strainer" or the litmus test for faith. You see, for her, and millions of Christians in China in the underground church coming out of the cold war, abortion wasn't the litmus test - it was whether Christians showed mercy in the face of tyranny and persecution.

On this and a multitude of other issues, I disagree with other Christians. That doesn't make them any less part of the Church. The Moody Bible Institute is not who I answer to, sorry - not sorry. The Bible canon we use today was established by the Jews and by the Catholic Church, and I'm not sure that the protestant church narrowing things further was the best thing. Making the Bible a "paper pope," doesn't help (I believe Karl Barth said this).

After many years, The United Methodist Church has come to affirm the sanctity of life, both the child and the mother, in these two statements in the Social Principles:

1. Our belief in the sanctity of unborn human life makes us reluctant to approve abortion.
2. But we are equally bound to respect the sacredness of the life and well-being of the mother and the unborn child.

To learn more about the UMC and our standing on the subject of abortion, you can read our Social Principles here: (<https://www.umc.org/en/content/social-principles-the-nurturing-community#abortion>)

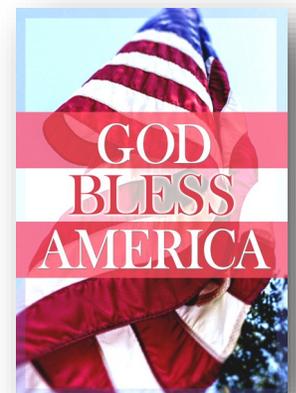
It isn't that I don't welcome debate or disagreement, it is that I expect mercy and humility. You have no idea what journey people have been on to get to where they are now.

You don't always have to prove you're right. Jesus could have by letting James and John call down fire. He didn't and this should tell us something important about how to deal with disagreements and rejections...

Show mercy.

Ken Hagler

"Do No Harm, Do Good, and Stay in Love with God."





visit our website: [www.anchorpark.org](http://www.anchorpark.org)



We Worship on Sundays at 11:00am

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

<https://tinyurl.com/svcxjaq>



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



Services are uploaded the following week to our YouTube channel.

Our Church Family grows and changes like the seasons



Birthdays

- Cindy Kirkham 01
- Siaosi Ulukivaiola 01
- Valentina Morales 03
- Emma Knapp 06
- 'Ofa Pulu 07
- Mike Knapp 08
- Joyce Lund 12
- Cindy Vea 17
- Mya Watson 17
- Scott Sims 19
- Josefina Del Rosario 19
- Nancy Mattson 24
- Julia Todd 26
- Julia Vea 27
- Steve Deckert 28
- Sue Averill 29
- Amanda Todd 31

Anniversaries

- Vasco & Julia Vea 03
- Thomas & Crystal Feaster 11
- Henry & Michelle Saafi 31



Our oldest member, Elnora Ouding, celebrating 102yrs with our youngest attendee, baby Emma Hayden.



Spring "Arrivals"

The Shaffers were visited by a stork this spring (no, it didn't deliver the puppy). But it did bring smiles and a splash of color. Good fun EPIC Youth!

This year we are offering an exciting one-day VBS on Sat. July 16th from 9-4 pm. The theme is "A Food Truck Party on a roll with God". The emphasis will be on the Bible verse from Matthew 6:11, Give us this day our daily bread. We are looking for an actual Food Truck to provide lunch that day if anyone has contacts or information. We will need many volunteers so please sign up on the Connect if you can help in any way. Pre-register your child (ages 3yrs - 6th grade) as soon as possible. Forms are available in Church Office or can be mailed to you. Vicki Packer



The VBS Mission Project will be the collection of food for the Blessing Box. We welcome the congregation to join us by donating food as well.



You can now contact the Financial Secretaries by email.



Their email is [Finance@anchorpark.org](mailto:Finance@anchorpark.org).  
If you asked for an emailed quarterly contribution statement, it will now be coming from this address.  
Sandra, Chair, Finance

Loose Change - It all Adds Up



Have you ever wondered why your pockets or purse are so heavy? It's all that loose change you carry around. Think how much that weighs you down. You can lighten your load and bring that change to church and let us put it to good use. Bring your loose change to church and place it in the "mini-Church" up front or in the Change for Change can at the entrance to the sanctuary.

EPIC Youth...Our EPIC Youth...Our EPIC Youth...Our EPIC Youth...Our EPIC Youth...O



We will not be volunteering at AK Child due to COVID restrictions at the facility. We will be assembling and distributing activities and gifts to the families at AK Child.



EPIC Youth Ministry's



First Sundays at Noon @ Anchor Park UMC

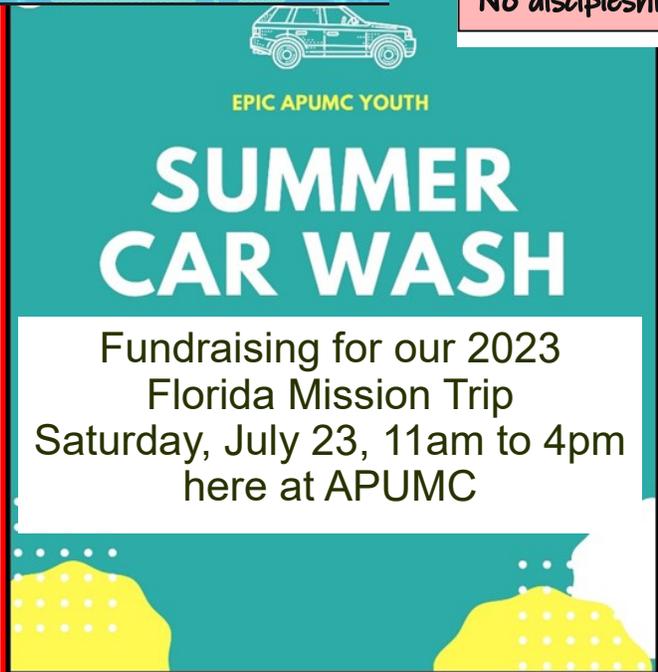
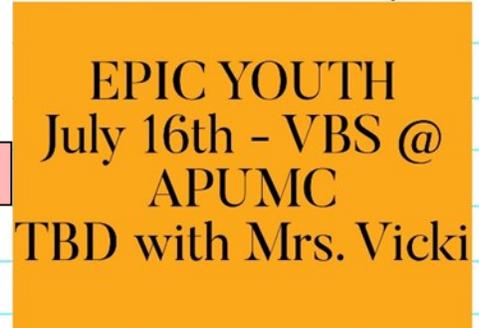
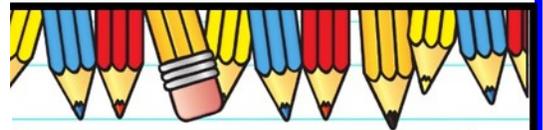


We're fund raising so we can go!



Discipleship with Pastor Ken  
First Sunday of the month.  
Join us the Youth room.  
All youth ages 11 thru 18  
are welcome!

No discipleship on July 3





**Stephen Ministry** started in 1975 when an Episcopal pastor recognized there was more care needed in his congregation than he could provide on his own. So he trained a handful of people, and they began their ministry of distinctively Christian care. This idea quickly spread to other congregations and denominations. Today Stephen Ministers provide confidential, care and support for those experiencing a crisis, after the crisis and those with long-term health care needs.

Stephen Ministers are there after the flowers have died, the casserole dishes have stopped coming, and so have your friends. But you are not “over it.” You still have a long way to go before you feel like a person again, and you are afraid you will be doing it all on your own. A Stephen Minister continues to walk through the difficult situation with you until you both decide that formal, caring relationship can close.

Stephen Ministers also care for those who are dealing with parenting their parent(s), a medical issue, adult children who have moved back in with you, or never left in the first place, moving to an assisted living home or long term care residential home, and/or other issues of aging.

The Stephen Ministry program goal is to provide confidential, Christian care to those hurting and in need of the physical presence of Christ as they deal with whatever life has flung their way.

Stephen Ministers provide confidential care, meaning they cannot discuss the specifics of what goes on in the caring relationship, not even with each other.

**If you want to know more about Stephen Ministry, either as a Care Receiver or as a Stephen Minister, please contact Mary and Jack Britton, or Sandra Woods. You can do this through the church office.**



**Our Virtual prayer sessions** last from 20 to 30 minutes. Our voices gather from across the planet (Alaska, Australia, Washington state, and...). I encourage you to adjust the time for wherever you are, set an alarm, and join us to check this out for yourself. You can find us at this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88936069552pwd=ZDQwNFJpMnVJMnFPbW8zTjIybnFNUT09>

### Our Prayer Ministry



We have a most beautiful **prayer room** at church. It 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.



### Take a Walk

It is easy to find calmness and peace when walking the **Prayer Labyrinth**. Start from the middle. **Take your time.** Allow each step to be a breathe, to be a prayer. Let the spirit move as you lift your cares and petitions to your Heavenly Father. Enjoy the journey, travel it often.

**Judy Pendleton is our Prayer Leader. Please contact Judy @ 907-337-5023 for more information regarding this ministry.**



### How Can You Serve?

**There are sign-up sheets in the front entrance. Take a look and pick your week(s).**

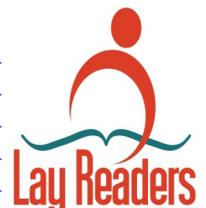
Speak to Susan Williams regarding the Coffee Ministry

**Pull Weeds**  
Stop by and pull a weed or two. Pick up trash, help our church stay as beautiful on the outside as it is on the inside. On your time, at your pace.

**Our Coffee Ministry after the service**

Speak to Pastor Ken about being a Lay Reader

**God's Word is power. Give voice to the power.**





United Women in Faith

Anchor Park's United Women in Faith had their annual retreat June 23-26, 2022. It could be described as Fun, Fellowship and Food. Fifteen women gathered in Girdwood,

ranging in age from 12 years old to our 70+ dames (not counting our youngest UWif member 6-week-old Emma). The weather was just incredible. The Ashlock family offered their "cabin", and it was a spectacular setting. The group hiked, played games, watched movies, mastered their pool skills, rode bikes, read books, did drawing, completed puzzles, quilted, plus we talked and talked. The ladies took turns cooking meals.

Highlights of the menu included "Make Your Own Pizzas", Cinnamon rolls, Lasagna Soup, and a wide array of baked goods. The snacks were a favorite of the younger women. Some participants celebrated Sunday worship at Girdwood Chapel. The retreat ended with a formal tea presented by Jane Bedwell. We sampled a variety of hot teas in individually selected fine China teacups. A wide variety of cookies and cucumber finger sandwiches were shared. All participants got to know each other in new and special ways. It was hard to leave. Discussions have already pointed towards next year and what we might do.



United Women in Faith

**Sunday, July 17**

**Chicken Pasta Salad**

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>

**P**astor Ken has a variety of postings throughout the week on Facebook and Instagram designed to keep you connected with Anchor Park.

**W**eekly: 60 Second Sermons and Breathe Prayers to encourage your spiritual growth.

**On Wednesdays: Join Pastor Ken @ 12noon**

**Upper Room Wednesdays** LIVE on **ZOOM** each week, and recorded and replayed on the Anchor Park UMC YouTube channel. Use the link or numbers: <https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/98682022441>

**Meeting ID: 986 8202 2441** One tap mobile +16699006833,,98682022441# US (San Jose) +12532158782,,98682022441# US (Tacoma)

**We Welcome:**

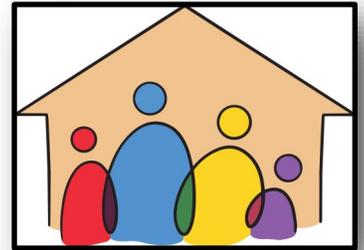
*all races, class or lifestyle to experience God's love through all ministries of our church.*

**We Love:**

*God and neighbors knowing that love will encourage our diversity and span our differences.*

**We Serve:**

*our community and world through serving the poor, homeless, orphaned, addicted and imprisoned.*



United Methodist Church

2300 Oak Drive  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

**Worship with Us!!** Visit [www.anchorpark.org](http://www.anchorpark.org) for available in person, on-line, and smart-phone options.

Office Phone: 907-277-0152 Email: [office@anchorpark.org](mailto:office@anchorpark.org) Office Hours: 9-2 Mon-Thur.