



We are right in the middle of the holiday seasons. Unfortunately for Thanksgiving, it is sandwiched between the two holidays we spend more on than any others -Halloween and Christmas. I have noticed too, most of us express disappointment that Thanksgiving does not get its due any more. I am not so sure about when it really ever did.

It has been difficult, I know, to find things to be thankful for over the past two years. With so much of our world and lives being forever changed by the pandemic and the unprecedented upheaval, giving thanks has not been at the forefront of our thoughts. I know. Anxiousness and worry seem to be at an all time high.

So how do we change it?

Charles Dickens, the 19th century author of "A Christmas Carol," said we are somewhat mixed up. He told an audience that instead of having one Thanksgiving Day each year we should have 364. "Use that one day just for complaining and griping. Use the other 364 days to thank God each day for the many blessing He has showered upon you."

Dickens was right: we have got it backwards. Now, more than ever, we are in a time when we need to give thanks. No matter how many "things" we are facing, there are more things to be thankful for than not. Maybe you need help with figuring out where to start, then start with a friend . . . that is something to be thankful for right there!

Do you see someone struggling with being thankful? Stand up for them! There are always "things" and people who enjoy feed the "things" in other peoples' lives. When we were kids, they were called bullies. Do not let others get bullied—take a stand, cheer others on.

"Count it all joy," wrote James in his letter (1:2). I ran across a poem that seems to nail down, in a simple way, what "things" we really need to count



Count your **joys** instead of your woes;
Count your **friends** instead of your foes.
Count your **smiles** instead of your tears;
Count your **courage** instead of your fears.
Count your **full years** instead of your lean;
Count your **kind deeds** instead of your mean.
Count your **blessings** instead of your crosses;
Count your **gains** instead of your losses.
Count your **health** instead of your wealth;
Count on **God** instead of yourself.

May I ask? Have you started your Christmas list yet?

May I suggest? If you haven't, don't. If you have, set it aside. Start a **Thanksgiving list** instead. Use the poem to guide you through it. Then, on Thanksgiving, read over all you wrote. Do it as a family and share it at the table.

Pastor Ken



Returning to in person worship!
November 7th at 11am. Communion Sunday.

See inside for details
about our safe
re-opening plans.

This is also the end of Daylight Savings Time—so get an extra hour of sleep and join us on Sunday Morning!

Anchor Park Updates . . .



Communion Sunday November 7 at 11am

We will be worshipping INSIDE together to partake of this sacrament. Social distancing and masks are required in the church during and after worship.

Elements are
self-contained/pre-packaged
for your protection



Everyone is Welcome

Safe Return to In Person Worship

These last 2 years have been hard in many ways. One way has been the unpredictability of the continuing outbreaks and the public's response to any public health measures to slow down the number of people sick at any one time.

From June through August we enjoyed being together again for worship and communion.

But in August, when the number of people getting sick and needing hospital and ICU beds began to increase again the Safe Opening Task Force met and decided we needed to go back to our "on-line" format. What we as a congregation quickly learned was this "retreat" was harder than the original "hunker down" period. We'd come back together with safety measures in place and were re-gaining our footing as a faithful community of Jesus in this place. The community of Anchor Park reached out to Pastor Ken, our Lay Leader Susan Williams and me asking for a safe way to be together again.

At the October Church Council meeting I presented some options for coming back into the building for worship. Church Council (the official decision-making body for the congregation) selected an option that would allow us to return to the sanctuary in early November. The Task Force recognizes that this option will be acceptable for most but not all of us. We support you in your decision to join worship in person or continue to worship at home.

Beginning November 7, we will be back in the sanctuary for worship with the service being "broadcast" on Face Book Live and thru Phone a Sermon. We will continue to wear masks and maintain 6-feet distance between "bubbles." We will keep our sanctuary maximum of 65, as there is adequate space for this number of people. We will not be able to sing in the sanctuary, but will encourage anyone wanting to participate in this music minister to contact Carolyn Downie or Pastor Ken to learn how to join the St. John choir.

To address the issue of potentially circulating COVID virus, we will be adding fans and filters to the sanctuary to remove any virus particles. It may take a couple of weeks to find the perfect placement for the filters, but limit the noise these devices may make.

Church Council also discussed the opportunity to continue a time of fellowship inside as it's now too cold to enjoy this time outside. For the time being we will not be serving food or drink but want to gather and visit in the Robinson room until we reach 20. Then we either need to split out and go to the Lawhorn Room or go down to Wesley Hall.

The Safe Re-Opening Task Force will look for and recommend metrics where we can safely add coffee/tea/water and food to our time together.

This has not been an easy or perfect process, but I thank you for your trust and support as we navigate this together.

**Humbly Yours,
Sandra Woods, Chair, Safe Re-Opening Task Force**

Anchor Park Updates . . .



“Year End” report from Finance Committee



The Finance Team meets on the second Tuesday of the month and reviews the income and expenses of the church. In 2020, we were a dedicated and committed congregation, knowing that without money, the congregation wouldn't survive. But as the pandemic wore on into 2021 our personal finances may have become more restricted. Our giving to Anchor Park definitely dropped off. We were able to return to the building in June of 2021 and we saw an increase in giving. Pastor Ken highlighted our missions and ministries in the month of August and the need for financial gifts to continue the work of the church; and our giving increased.



Our faithful givers have allowed Anchor Park to continue to pay our staff and utilities, but there have been months we have “deferred” some payments. This includes our Apportionments, our contribution to the financial operation of the Alaska Conference and the United Methodist Church at Large. As of the middle of October, we have only paid 21% of our Apportionments.

Most of us received a payment from the Alaska Permanent Fund in October. And those 70 ½ and older have the opportunity to send a portion of their IRA distribution to Anchor Park. Hopefully, you have also received an insert in your 3rd quarter giving statement about where your money was spent over the year. In November you will receive a letter from the Finance Committee asking you to estimate how you will participate in the missions and ministries of Anchor Park in 2022.

I ask you to prayerfully consider your financial gifts to Anchor Park as we continue to be in ministry with our neighborhood of Airport Heights and the people of Anchorage.

Blessings,
Sandra Woods, Chair, Finance Committee

Fred Meyer Rewards

For July 2021 thru September, 19 households helped to contribute \$30.37 to Anchor Park through the reward program. Listing Anchor Park on your rewards does not take from your total. A check is sent to us each quarter. Consider adding our code to yours—and make the check grow!

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Anchor Park Activities . . .

Fiber Fellowship: Nov 1 and 15th



Fiber Fellowship will be meeting the first and third Monday evenings of the month – November 1st and 15th. Those who feel comfortable gathering in person with masks and social distancing are welcome to gather at Anchor Park while others who prefer to gather by zoom (or find it more convenient) are also welcome as we

always have that option available as well. During our time together we'll share some sort of devotional and enjoy each other's company as we work on projects of love and warmth to be shared with others as an expression of God's love. This group is open to anyone who may be interested, so consider joining us. Have questions? Feel free to reach out to Jo Anne Hayden at hayden@alaskan.net or 903-5025. It is helpful if you plan to join us in person to let Jo Anne Hayden know so that you are kept updated on current information for that evening.

Zoom information: **The link should be live by 6:25pm**
 Computer: <https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/225718367>
 Smart Device/App Meeting ID: 225 718 367
 Call In/Audio only: 301-715-8592
 Meeting ID: 225 718 367#

Let's Pray Together: Thursdays at 5pm



Pray they have prime rib for dinner!

Coming together in this sacred prayer time has been one of the blessings from the COVID 19 year(s) of isolation. The prayer sessions seem to last 20 or 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 join us at this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88936069552?pwd=ZDQwNFJpMnVJMnFPbW8zTjlybFNhUT09>



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...

Judy Pendleton is our Prayer Leader. Please contact Judy for more information regarding this ministry.



Come join the fellowship of quilters. Bring your own project, machine, and tools needed. Tables, ironing boards, irons and cutting mats provided. All Anchor Park Covid protocols will be followed. Masks are required. Bring your own bag lunch. Questions? Contact **Susan Williams at 907 317-0406**

Fellowship of Quilters
 First Saturday **November 6th**
10am to 4pm
at APUMC

Anchor Park life events



Crystal Feaster	02	Ethan Knapp	16
Micah Miller	02	Lant Platner	17
Ruth Durr	05	Melissa Todd	27
Larry Hayden	07	Eva Ulukivaiola	28
Robert Benton	09	Michael Stichick	30
Mike Todd	09		
Nicki Hardwick	11		
Kathrine Miller	12		
Dechenton Malupo	13		
Finau Malupo	13		
Jenn Miller	15		

This Month's Birthdays

Anniversary Celebration

Larry & Pam Swanson	04
Rick & Virginia Dixson	15
Dawson & Autumn Hash	19
Tania & Jecith Morales	20

Dr. Rev. John E. Washburn died February 11 at the age of 71 in Vermont. He was a pastor for Anchor Park, Sitka, and Fairbanks. He served Anchor Park from October 1984 to June 1986.

EPIC Youth helped raised \$25.00 for Beans Cafe and \$25.00 for other local charities as well.

3:39



FashionPact

1 hr · 🌐

Thank you for coming to FashionPact today and volunteering and shopping. Your purchases raised \$25.00 for @beanscafeak and \$25.00 for other local charities! #communitycomingtogether #anchorage #anchoragealaska



Our Cupboards are Bare....

Please remember the Blessing Box when you shop at Carrs, Fred's, Costco or wherever. You can bring your gifts during office hours, Monday through Thursday 9:00-2:00pm. If you are at the church for a meeting and cannot get into the office to get the key

to the storage closet just outside of the church office, put your bagged gifts of food on the table by the kitchenette in the Robinson room with a note that indicates that it is for the Blessing Box and Cris can put them in the closet when she comes in the next day. (She does not work on Friday).



The members of Anchor Park UMC and especially the EPIC Youth would like to thank Jade Hayden for the enthusiasm with which she has lead and grown our Youth Group. Her leadership and energy will be missed.

Thank you Jadel



FashionPact is at FashionPact.

1 hr · Anchorage · 🌐

@epicapumcyouth YOU ARE AMAZING! Thank you for coming in today and volunteering with us! We are beyond grateful for your help sorting, organizing, and building shelving! #communitycomingtogether



facebook.com — Private

THANKS TO OUR DONORS FOR SUPPORTING OUR WINTER AUCTION 2022! PLEASE SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES.

We're having a virtual auction in January 2022, Here are some of the local business that are supporting us

Opportunities to Serve & Give



Give hope to the hopeless



DOWNTOWN HOPE CENTER.....

is collecting winter clothes drive for men and women. Anything you would need to stay warm walking outside is what they need....**warm socks and footwear, jackets, warm pants, gloves, hats, neck scarves, long johns, sweaters & sweatshirts. Toiletry items are always needed and welcomed!** The grey bin and the basket are still under the table in the coffee room. You can drop items off during church hours through the week.



We'd love to have you as part of the **Virtual Choir.**

In partnership, each week choir parts are available to sing with and record for each Sunday. We'll be playing the Anthem part in our worship and it will feature the faces and voices of everyone who can join! Visit the website for more information: <http://wardlawbailey.com/stjohnchoir/>



United Methodist Women

shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole

persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

Anchor Park UMW Events

Nov	14	World Thank Offering
Nov	13 - 20	Holiday Auction (virtual)
Dec	12	Cookie Exchange
Jan	09	Racial Justice Faith Talk
Feb	13	Bearing Witness to the Kin'dom (book study continues weekly Feb 20 and 27 and Mar 6)
Mar	13	The Alaska Innocence Project
Apr	10	Climate Justice Faith Talk
May	15	BBQ Social Gathering



Meetings may be at Anchor Park UNC, virtual, or a combination of the two.

Check future LINKs for updates.



Chili and all the fixins November 21

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>

UMW Anchor Park Adopt a Family

Anchor Park UMW is sponsoring an outreach for the neighborhood schools. The ASD staff worked with the UMW to select a family in need. Families will share a Holiday wish list. The wish list sign up for each family will be posted online and in the West Wing. More information will be contained in up coming Mini Links and the December newsletter. Cash donations can be given to this effort: mark Memo line on checks **UMW Family adoption** and United Methodist Women will purchase gifts.





Anchor Park's UMW will be offering the "Lights of Love at Christmas" project again this year. In exchange for each donation of \$5, UMW will create a card that will be sent to the person the buyer designates and the card will identify that the buyer made a contribution toward mission either in honor of "them" or in memory of "a person the buyer identifies."

It is our plan to have the specifics for placing orders for these cards available starting on Sunday, November 14th – December 12th. Watch for more specific information then and plan to be a part of sharing "Lights of Love" with special people you know who would appreciate your expression of Christmas love conveyed through this mission project.



World Thank Offering: Embracing Change, Sharing Grace
November 14, 12:15pm
Sandra Woods, presenter

One frequently acute form of grief is the grief that accompanies any change—change is both one of the most constant things in life, and something we consistently struggle with. This program we will learn to listen to Jesus' message about embracing change and newness even in the midst of inevitable loss, and practice embracing new ways of doing things within ourselves and our communities that might help us experience more healing and more joy when things change. Grief is not linear and is never over, so these themes will return throughout the year and throughout all of our lives. But hopefully some of what we learn and practice now can accompany us into those future experiences of loss and change, and help us to weather them in faithful community and share God's grace in the world through our gifts.



Anchor Park UMW Holiday Auction United Methodist Women of Anchor Park are pleased to continue the Annual Holiday Auction. Like last year, the auction will be on-line. The bidding will open at noon **November 13 and close at noon November 20**. Winners can pick up items between 2pm and 4pm on November 20 and on Sunday November 21 until

1pm. Notify Susan Williams or Sandra Woods to make other arrangements. This year's auction will also provide the opportunity to order "lunch." Susan Williams is creating 2 scrumptious soups, bread and dessert. You can pick these up on Saturday November 20 between 2 and 4pm. Orders for lunch are due **November 17**. Lunch is ordered through the auction website.

We will have a credit card payment option this year as many of our past winners have asked for it. Start your wish list now and **look often**, as new items will be added as they come in. And don't forget to register to bid! As a bidder, you will get notices when someone outbids you. The auction website with additional information is **charityauction.bid/APUMW2021**

Do you have something to donate to the Auction? Get it in now.

UMW Holiday Auction Organizing meetings

Our Holiday Auction is approaching quickly and we need help. Fellowship with us as we take pictures and brainstorm descriptions of the items. Bring your creative genius and marketing skills to entice more competitive bidding. Additionally, we will need to make and wrap caramels. We have set aside the following times to gather:

- Tuesday November 2 4-7pm
- Thursday November 4 4-7pm
- Tuesday November 9 3:30-6:30pm includes making caramels
- Thursday November 11 3-6pm includes wrapping caramels



Nicaragua Pie Auction



Bidding begins November 21, at 2pm

charityauction.bid/APUMCPies

Anchor Park Women come with me to ASSEMBLY 2022 in Orlando, Florida.

Early registration cost is \$330 by November 30

ASSEMBLY 2022 will take place **May 20 – 22, 2022** at the **Orlando Convention Center**. There we will reflect on today's challenges and together find comfort and strength to move forward, building new ways for faith-filled women to make a difference in their communities and the world.

We will recommit to our purpose, but also more.

For such a time as this we will **TURN IT UP!**

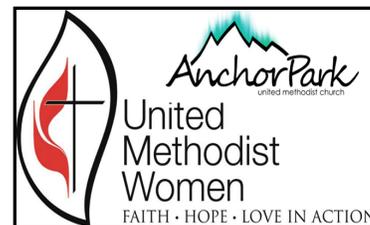
At ASSEMBLY 2022:

We will **TURN IT UP!** for spiritual healing and renewal.

We will **TURN IT UP!** for rebirth in a new time.

We will **TURN IT UP!** for women leaders.

We will **TURN IT UP!** for justice for women, children and youth.



This is our chance to continue building on our more than 150-year heritage as women leaders who know how to organize and serve. We are women who are willing to be challenged to grow in our faith as we build deeper connections with one another, community leaders and partners in the work of justice for all of God's children.

Bold action, like faith, takes courage. Our bravery is inspired by God's love and driven by our powerful commitment to improve the lives of women, children and youth. We're a sisterhood acting in faith to tackle the hard work of the world without hesitation. We show up, we take action, we get it done. Our passion is boundless. And it all begins with you. Come to Orlando with me to care for your spirit, worship with your sisters and celebrate the positive impact women create in the world. It's time to **TURN IT UP!**

For further information contact Susan Williams 317-0406 or JoAnne Hayden 903-5025