

# LINKED

December 2011

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## Our Pastors:

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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](mailto:office@anchorpark.org)

## LETTER FROM THE IOWA VIM TEAM

Hello East Anchorage and Anchor Park,

It was a delight to feel so welcome in your church home. From the time you picked us up from the airport til "O dark 30" on the day we left, we knew we were in the right place at the right time.

The Vacation Bible School team has many fond memories of your children making crafts, singing and dancing and listening intently to the word of God. The work team enjoyed watching them play on the new equipment they put together. It felt good as we drove up to the church and saw the new siding. I cannot imagine being there without "Beluga" (the big white van) and "Skippy" (the little green van) it was like

they too became part of our family. We appreciated having the use of the washer and dryer right on site. The kitchen was well stocked and easy to navigate. The rooms housed us all well and the cots were a blessing.

Everyone we came in contact with was helpful and kind.

Anchorage was beautiful and we enjoyed walking on the trails on our time off. Pattie helped us find wonderful things to see and do and even printed us off maps to follow! Vicki was very organized and enjoyable to work with. Harry was a great overseer of the work projects. And the building was spotless. Pastor Jon took us out to "The Moose's Tooth" for pizza, and I am still thinking about how delicious it was! Speaking of delicious,

most of us had never fresh salmon of halibut. It was such a blessing to have the fish donated for our evening meal. It was a feast!

The week spent with you was a very memorable part of our journey. We hope that your ministry continues to bring people into the church and that they would be uplifted in Christian love.

Since we cannot just stop by and help out whenever we want, we would like to continue to be in ministry with you through this offering of \$2000.00.

Iowa VIM team

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

**Christmas Isn't Your Birthday** *croached into Christmas, and we Christians have bought into it.*

Over the past 30-plus years in church leadership as a choir director, youth leader and pastor, I've heard several slogans urging Christians to remember "the reason for the season" and to "put Christ back in Christmas." Yet another slogan has emerged in an effort to move us from a consumerist understanding of Christmas. Coined by United Methodist pastor Mike Slaughter, it reflects his ability to get to the heart of the matter in his book: "**Christmas Is Not Your Birthday.**"

In a recent article, Slaughter explains:

*One of the things that has bothered me for a long time is how Christians have gotten so caught up in the spirit of consumerism. Jesus came to break the chains of oppression and bondage; I believe that debt driven by the spirit of materialism is one of the greatest forms of bondage in the Western culture today. Not only does it create incredible economic challenges for families, but in 2005 for the first time in U.S. history, Americans reached a negative savings rate. Americans were spending a \$1.22 for every \$1 earned...This total spirit of materialism has en-*

Biblically, the focus of the birth of a Savior is God's ongoing plan to redeem/transform the world by first redeeming/transforming God's people. Two years ago we engaged upon an "Advent Conspiracy" in which families in both the East Anchorage and Anchor Park UMC's were invited to simplify their gift-giving and set aside the money saved for a clean water mission in Nicaragua. Though participation was totally voluntary, we raised enough money that Christmas to dig a well in Nicaragua. In doing that, we became a real part of God's ongoing plan to redeem/transform the world.

In the coming days and weeks, may God reveal to each of us ways in which we can again be a part of this plan.

God's blessings for a meaningful Advent and joyous Christmas,  
Pastor Jon

### APUMC MEETINGS

Tuesday, December 6

- ◆ Trustees Meeting at 6:00 PM

Tuesday, December 13

- ◆ Finance Committee at 6:00 PM
- ◆ Church Council at 7:00 PM



## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

All are invited to a special Christmas Celebration of music and fellowship at Anchor Park UMC, **Sunday, December 11**. The evening begins with a soup supper potluck (if you would like to bring something the theme is soup and bread) at 5 pm. At 6 pm, the program fea-

turing music by our Sunday School children, Chancel Choir, Bell choir, Engage Band and others. Pastors Jon and Jenny will read the Christmas Story with kids and adults in costume. All are welcome to attend this special night.

## Bean's Café

Sign up at church to serve breakfast at Bean's Café on December 19 at 7:45 AM.

## LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

The holidays aren't always the happiest or most peaceful time of the year. Maybe you've lost a loved one and the holidays are especially difficult. Or maybe you're looking for some quiet space in the midst of a busy season to center yourself on Christ. Maybe the darkness and cold make this time of year difficult

and you want to be reminded of the light and hope of Christ. Whatever the case may be, you're invited to a Longest Night service on **Wednesday, December 21 at 7:30pm** at Anchor Park downstairs in the Tongan Room. Childcare will be provided.

## CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE AT THE DISBURG'S

You are invited to a Christmas Open House at the Disburg's on **Sunday, December 18, 3-7 pm**. The Parsonage is located at 2008

Dimond Drive. Come and enjoy some Christmas treats and fellowship. All are welcome.

## PASTOR JENNY'S MATERNITY LEAVE

Under our United Methodist Discipline, Pastor Jenny is able to take eight weeks of paid maternity leave. She plans to take five weeks off once the baby arrives and then come back part

time. Jenny should be back at full-time around the end of March. Visitors will be welcome but we ask that you call Jenny & Aaron at 717-9357 before hand.



## CLARE HOUSE

Thanks to those who contributed to the generous amount of food for Clare House earlier this month. Monday, December 12 is the day for Anchor Park to provide the next monthly meal. Please sign up in the Connect if you can help with a meat dish, salad, dessert, or bread.

## 3RD GRADER COLLECTING WINTER CLOTHING

Emma Paavo, one of Anchor Park's third graders, will be work-



ing on a community service project for the month of November for Frontier Girls Troop 150. She and her mother, Rebecca, will be collecting winter clothing items: boots, coats, sweaters, etc., to be donated to the Clare House by Emma's troop in early

December. You're invited to help Emma and the other Frontier Girls make a difference in their community by donating clothing to keep others warm through the winter season. Items can be dropped off at Anchor Park.

## DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### December 4, 2011

- ◆ Scripture – Matthew 1:18-25, Micah 5:2-4
- ◆ Theme – Joseph & history of Bethlehem
- ◆ Message Title: Joseph of Bethlehem

### December 11, 2011

- ◆ Scripture – Luke 1:39-56
- ◆ Theme - Mary's Visit to Elizabeth and the radical message of the Magnificat
- ◆ Message Title: Mary and Elizabeth

### December 18, 2011

- ◆ Scripture – Luke 2:1-7
- ◆ Theme – the historical context of when Jesus was born and a look at the trail Mary and Joseph took to Bethlehem
- ◆ Message Title: From Nazareth to Bethlehem

### December 24, 2011

*Anchor Park Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 PM*

- ◆ Scripture – Luke 2:1-20, Isaiah 9:2-7
- ◆ Theme – the incarnation is the beginning of new life for the world
- ◆ Message Title – God Showed up

*East Anchorage Christmas Eve Service at 10:00 PM*

- ◆ Scripture – Luke 2:1-20, Isaiah 9:2-7

Theme – the incarnation is the beginning of new life for the world

- ◆ Message Title: A Shepherd's Tale

### December 25, 2011

- ◆ Scripture – Luke 2, Matthew 1
- ◆ Theme – Christmas stories

## ANCHOR PARK LAUNCHES MILITARY CARE PACKAGE PROJECT

The Military Care Package Project has been established to provide deployed military with items that can be hard to find while overseas, and a way to let them know we are thinking about them from home. Suggested items can include, but are not limited to:

Footballs, soccer balls, frisbees, hackie sacks  
Baby wipes  
Lotion or shaving cream, razors  
AT&T Phone cards  
Thank you cards  
Stamps, paper, and envelopes  
Amazon gift cards

“Junk food” and candy  
Beef jerky  
Canned soup  
Sunflower or pumpkin seeds  
Coffee  
Playing cards  
Board games  
Crossword puzzle books or Sudoku  
Books or magazines

Any donations are welcome, and can be collected throughout the next year. We will begin assembling the first set of packages in December. For more information about this project, please contact Domika Tomm, Brittany Crowell, Alison Kattelmann, or Pam Bell.

## WINTER YOUTH BREAK-AWAY CAMP

Teens come to Winter Youth Break-Away for an adventure getaway that guarantees lots of winter fun! Spend 4 days and 3 nights at Birchwood Camp to end 2011 the best way possible!! It's December 27-30. The days packed with sledding, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, broom ball, worship, games, fellowship, food, and a full day of skiing/boarding at Alyeska resort or doing

other fun things in Girdwood (for our non-skiers). Campers have the option to rent gear, take lessons or go out on the mountain with their friends—this event is friendly to all levels and abilities. Campers loved this event so much last year that we've added on an extra day this year. There will be more opportunities for fun and fellowship as well as an opportunity to experience a winter

sweat in our sweat lodge. Be sure to join us! More info at [www.birchwoodcamp.org](http://www.birchwoodcamp.org)



# December

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday   |
|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| <p><b>27</b><br/> <b>9:00 AM</b> EAUMC Worship<br/> <b>10:15 AM</b> EAUMC Adult Study<br/> <b>10:15 AM</b> Samoan Worship EAUMC<br/> <b>11:00 AM</b> Blended Worship Anchor Park<br/> <b>11:15 AM</b> Samoan Sunday School-EAUMC<br/> <b>6:30 PM</b> Finance Committee Meeting at EAUMC<br/> <b>7:00 PM</b> Church Council EAUMC<br/> <b>7:00 PM</b> Tongan Bible Study APUMC</p> | <p><b>28</b><br/> <b>5:30 PM</b> Boy Scouts APUMC</p>   | <p><b>29</b><br/> <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal EAUMC</p>  | <p><b>30</b><br/> <b>6:30 PM</b> Hand Bell Rehearsal APUMC<br/> <b>7:00 PM</b> Samoan Choir EAUMC<br/> <b>7:15 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal APUMC</p>   | <p><b>1</b><br/> <b>10:00 AM</b> Chester Park Bible Study<br/> <b>8:00 PM</b> Men's AA APUMC</p>                                       | <p><b>2</b><br/> <b>6:00 PM</b> Al Anon APUMC</p>  | <p><b>3</b><br/> <b>10:00 AM</b> Quilting Group APUMC<br/> <b>7:00 PM</b> Tongan Choir/APUMC</p>   |
| <p><b>4</b><br/> <b>9:00 AM</b> EAUMC Worship<br/> <b>10:15 AM</b> EAUMC Adult Study<br/> <b>10:15 AM</b> Samoan Worship EAUMC<br/> <b>11:00 AM</b> Blended Worship Anchor Park<br/> <b>11:15 AM</b> Samoan Sunday School-EAUMC<br/> <b>12:15 PM</b> Potluck Luncheon APUMC<br/> <b>7:00 PM</b> Tongan Bible Study APUMC</p>  | <p><b>5</b><br/> <b>5:30 PM</b> Boy Scouts APUMC<br/> <b>6:30 PM</b> Prayer Shawl APUMC</p>   | <p><b>6</b><br/> <b>6:00 PM</b> Trustees Meeting APUMC<br/> <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal EAUMC</p>  | <p><b>7</b><br/> <b>6:00 PM</b> Engage Band Rehearsal/APUMC<br/> <b>6:30 PM</b> Hand Bell Rehearsal APUMC<br/> <b>7:00 PM</b> Samoan Choir EAUMC<br/> <b>7:15 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal APUMC</p>  | <p><b>8</b><br/> <b>10:00 AM</b> Chester Park Bible Study<br/> <b>12:00 PM</b> Potluck at EAUMC<br/> <b>8:00 PM</b> Men's AA APUMC</p> | <p><b>9</b><br/> <b>6:00 PM</b> Al Anon APUMC</p>  | <p><b>10</b><br/> <b>1:00 PM</b> Christmas Advent Event<br/> <b>7:00 PM</b> Tongan Choir/APUMC</p>   |
| <p><b>11</b><br/> <b>9:00 AM</b> EAUMC Worship<br/> <b>10:15 AM</b> EAUMC Adult Study<br/> <b>10:15 AM</b> Samoan Worship EAUMC<br/> <b>11:00 AM</b> Blended Worship Anchor Park<br/> <b>11:15 AM</b> Samoan Sunday School-EAUMC<br/> <b>5:00 PM</b> Christmas Potluck<br/> <b>6:00 PM</b> Christmas Music Program<br/> <b>7:00 PM</b> Tongan Bible Study APUMC</p>               | <p><b>12</b><br/> <b>12:00 PM</b> Donation pick-up for Clare House meal<br/> <b>5:30 PM</b> Boy Scouts APUMC<br/> <b>7:00 PM</b> Trustees Meeting EAUMC</p> | <p><b>13</b><br/> <b>6:00 PM</b> Finance Committee APUMC<br/> <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal EAUMC<br/> <b>7:00 PM</b> Church Council APUMC</p> | <p><b>14</b><br/> <b>6:30 PM</b> Hand Bell Rehearsal APUMC<br/> <b>7:00 PM</b> Samoan Choir EAUMC<br/> <b>7:15 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal APUMC</p>   | <p><b>15</b><br/> <b>10:00 AM</b> Chester Park Bible Study<br/> <b>8:00 PM</b> Men's AA APUMC</p>                                      | <p><b>16</b><br/> <b>6:00 PM</b> Al Anon APUMC</p> | <p><b>17</b><br/> <b>7:00 PM</b> Tongan Choir/APUMC</p>  |
| <p><b>18</b><br/> <b>9:00 AM</b> EAUMC Worship<br/> <b>10:15 AM</b> EAUMC Adult Study<br/> <b>10:15 AM</b> Samoan Worship EAUMC<br/> <b>11:00 AM</b> Blended Worship Anchor Park<br/> <b>11:15 AM</b> Samoan Sunday School-EAUMC<br/> <b>12:15 PM</b> UMW Cookie Exchange APUMC<br/> <b>3:00 PM</b> Open House @ Disburgs<br/> <b>7:00 PM</b> Tongan Bible Study APUMC</p>        | <p><b>19</b><br/> <b>7:45 AM</b> Bean's Cafe<br/> <b>5:30 PM</b> Boy Scouts APUMC</p>   | <p><b>20</b><br/> <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal EAUMC</p>  | <p><b>21</b><br/> <b>6:00 PM</b> Engage Band Rehearsal/APUMC<br/> <b>6:30 PM</b> Hand Bell Rehearsal APUMC<br/> <b>7:00 PM</b> Samoan Choir EAUMC<br/> <b>7:15 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal APUMC<br/> <b>7:30 PM</b> Longest Night Service</p> | <p><b>22</b><br/> <b>10:00 AM</b> Chester Park Bible Study<br/> <b>8:00 PM</b> Men's AA APUMC</p>                                      | <p><b>23</b><br/> <b>6:00 PM</b> Al Anon APUMC</p> | <p><b>24</b><br/> <b>7:00 PM</b> Christmas Eve Service at APUMC<br/> <b>7:00 PM</b> Tongan Choir/APUMC<br/> <b>10:00 PM</b> Christmas Eve Service at EAUMC</p> |
| <p><b>25</b><br/> <b>9:00 AM</b> EAUMC Worship<br/> <b>10:15 AM</b> EAUMC Adult Study<br/> <b>10:15 AM</b> Samoan Worship EAUMC<br/> <b>11:00 AM</b> Blended Worship Anchor Park<br/> <b>11:15 AM</b> Samoan Sunday School-EAUMC<br/> <b>7:00 PM</b> Tongan Bible Study APUMC</p>   | <p><b>26</b></p>  | <p><b>27</b><br/> <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal EAUMC</p>  | <p><b>28</b><br/> <b>7:00 PM</b> Samoan Choir EAUMC</p>   | <p><b>29</b><br/> <b>10:00 AM</b> Chester Park Bible Study<br/> <b>8:00 PM</b> Men's AA APUMC</p>                                      | <p><b>30</b><br/> <b>6:00 PM</b> Al Anon APUMC</p> | <p><b>31</b><br/> <b>7:00 PM</b> Tongan Choir/APUMC</p>  |

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Many thank to all those who crafted, baked, planned, donated, cooked, served, set-up, cleaned up, and bid at the UMW Holiday auction. We raised over \$3300 for mission. The mission projects to receive the money will be chosen at the December Joint Circle meeting

on December 18. A luncheon will be served following the morning worship service. Childcare will be provided, and a donation is requested to cover the costs of food and childcare. After lunch, we will choose the mission projects, sing a few carols, and have a cookie exchange. To

participate in the cookie exchange, bring a batch of cookies (3-4 dozen) to share and take home an assortment.

All women are invited to attend, and it is always fun. Please indicate that you plan to come and if you'll need childcare on the Connect by Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>.

## UAA CARE PACKAGES

If you'd like to put together a care package for a UAA student during finals, please contact Pastor Jenny. Possible ideas include gift cards to local restaurants, snacks, drinks or an encouraging note.

## DECEMBER LUNCHEONS

### EAUMC

Pot Luck Luncheon, Thursday, 10 December 12 noon. All are welcome to join.

Galloping Gourmet, Saturday, 17 December, 5 pm, Don Jose' Northern Lights Blvd.

### APUMC

December 4, after worship in the Wesley Hall.



### ANCHOR PARK UMC

#### **Birthdays**

- 2 Mary Lou Lawhorn  
Craig Valentine
- 3 Gregory Todd
- 5 Patti Butcher
- 8 Loleini Saafi
- 10 Susan Williams
- 13 VJ Vea
- 14 Bob Mitchell
- 18 Jaxon Huettmann
- 19 Holly Stene
- 21 Joe Talbott  
Bob Shaffer
- 23 Lupe Saafi
- 24 Roen Shawback  
Mike Taylor
- 26 Robbie Robinson
- 30 Pastor Jon Disburg

#### **Anniversary**

- 8 Robbie & Marianne Robinson
- 10 Fred & Judy Maldonado
- 30 Joel & Dina Russ

### EAST ANCHORAGE UMC

#### **Birthdays**

- 2 Natalya Pearson
- 3 Edward T. Mana
- 4 Logan Coker  
Alex Lima  
Johnny Lolo
- 6 Cheryl Cullen  
Celeste Benson
- 9 Jimmy Tavita
- 10 Helen Coker
- 12 Rosemary Havens
- 15 Sale Lolo
- 17 Mary Cassell  
David Pratt
- 18 Bill Parkhill  
Angelicka Lima
- 19 Ronald Thompson
- 24 Alison Bodewitz
- 29 Janet Stiles
- 30 Pastor Jon Disburg

#### **Anniversary**

- 30 Jasper & Louise Hart  
Bill & Wilma Keller



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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

A Joint Newsletter of East  
Anchorage and Anchor  
Park United Methodist

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at:

[www.anchorpark.org](http://www.anchorpark.org)

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

"Open Hearts, Open Minds,  
Open Doors"

## CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Dec. 21 – 7:30pm – Longest Night  
Service at Anchor Park UMC, in  
the Tongan Room

Dec. 24 – 7pm – Christmas Eve  
Service at Anchor Park UMC; 10  
pm Christmas Eve Service at East  
Anchorage UMC. Both services  
will feature candles and Com-  
munion.

Dec. 25 – 9am - A time of singing,  
storytelling and prayer at East  
Anchorage UMC – No Sunday  
School

Dec. 25 – 11am – A time of sing-  
ing, storytelling and prayer at An-  
chor Park UMC – No Sunday  
School

Please Note: The worship services  
at both churches on Christmas  
Day will be brief and very infor-  
mal. Come as you are and bring a  
Christmas story or tradition from  
your family. Worship services on  
Sunday, January 1, 2012 will be  
as usual, but there will be no Sun-  
day School.

