

LINKED

February 2012

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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

NEW SMALL GROUPS STARTING IN FEBRUARY!

Small Group Immer- sion

We have another round of small group opportunities during February and March! Check out the list, look at your schedule and prayerfully consider committing to one of them. There's something about sitting down with a small group of people and discussing our faith that makes it real in our lives. We're able to dig a little deeper in a small group than we can during Sunday morning worship. Maybe there's a friend from work or your social circles that you could invite to join you.

I Am Second - Sundays

East Anchorage UMC,

Sundays, 5-6:30pm
Soup supper provided
Pastor Leila
Stories from everyday people of life-changing encounters with Jesus. We'll explore their stories and see how God is working in our lives today.

Crazy Love - Wednesdays

Anchor Park UMC Li-
brary, 1:30-2:30pm
Pastor Jenny
We'll explore a book by Francis Chan on the deep, life-altering love God has for us and how we respond. It's more than following a list of do's and don'ts - it's falling in love with God.

Lenten Study - Wednesdays

Anchor Park UMC,
Pastor Leila

I Am Second - Thursdays

Starbucks on Tudor &
Lake Otis, 6-7pm
Pastor Leila

Missional: Joining God in the Neighbor- hood - Thursdays

Kaladi Brothers Coffee
on Tudor, 7-8pm
Pastor Jenny
Church is much more than a building. We are the church - wherever we go. We'll encourage each other to reenter our neighborhoods and communities to discover what God is already doing there and how we can be a part of it.

This is our tentative list of groups there may be more added. Watch the bulletin for an insert with all the groups in several weeks. These groups will run from the week of February 19 - April 1.

Jesus was in a small group.



life change happens in small groups

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

And, Finally...

The human mind – or, at least, my mind – has an almost infinite capacity for denial. Even as I write these words, I cannot fathom that I have less than a week serving as your Pastor at the Anchor Park and East Anchorage UMC's. I would like to share with you some of the thanksgivings I have been offering up in my prayer life in the past few weeks.

I am thankful to God for the many powerful and, sometimes, life-changing encounters with the Holy Spirit that members of these churches have had during my time in your midst. Some have happened in small groups or Bible study; some have even happened in worship! I thank God that I was there to witness the power of the Holy Spirit working in your lives.

I am always thankful to God for and consider it a privilege when someone addresses me as "Pastor." It is a role and responsibility I neither take for granted nor lightly. I am thankful for the privileged access you have given me as your Pastor. I have held your newborns and prayed over the bodies of family members who have just passed. You have allowed me the deep privilege of baptizing you and serving you Communion. I have tried to share with you my visions for God's will for our churches. I have labored in providing you interpretations of Scripture that are both understandable and applicable.

As of January 31, I will surrender those pastoral duties that I have cherished for the past 4 ½ years to Pastors Leila and Jenny as I become "Pastor" to a new community. "Pastor" is a title/role that belongs to no one person, but is passed from one to another. I have cherished each and every moment of being your pastor.

Please join me in thanking the wonderful staff members who are a large part of any pastor's daily life and work. Please thank Patti Butcher for her excellent work and steadfast ability to give pastors a 'heads up' when needed. Please thank Tai for the personal pride in and care for the building. Please thank David Hagen, Sherri Criley, Tafa Fulumua, Cheryl Cullen and all choir members whose music enhance so greatly our worship life. Please thank Vicki Packer, LaVerne Beck and the myriad of other volunteers at the churches whose labors may not be always recognized, but without whom, our church life would be much poorer. And, please join me in prayer for Pastors Leila and Jenny as they shepherd the churches through this time of transition.

Finally, thank you all for your hospitality, your support, your love and your prayers. You will never know how much they have meant.

May the Lord watch between you and me, when we are absent one from the other (Gen 31:49).

Peace, Pastor Jon



FEBRUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE TO INCLUDE ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

February 5, 2012

*David Beckett, Conference Superintendent will bring the message

*Sermon: Say What?

February 12, 2012

*Scripture: 1 Corinthians 9.24-27

February 22, 2012

*Ash Wednesday

11 a.m. East Anchorage UMC
6:30 p.m. Anchor Park UMC

February 19, 2012

Transfiguration Sunday

*Scripture: 2 Kings 2.1-12 and Mark 9.2-9

*Theme: Responding in God's presence

February 26, 2012

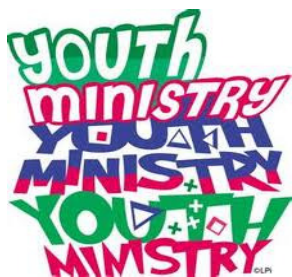
1st Sunday in Lent

*Lenten Theme: Mosaic: When God Uses All The Pieces



NEW YOUTH TEAM AT ANCHOR PARK

As Chris and Sheri Huettmann prepare to move south this spring, we're assembling a new team for youth ministry at Anchor Park. Several people have stepped forward and will begin working with Pastor Jenny to lead youth Sunday School.

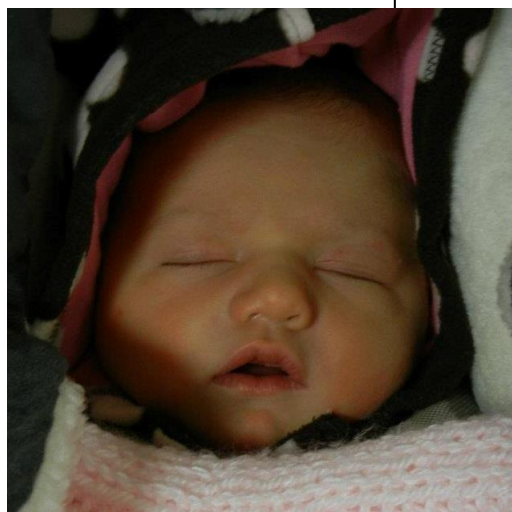


If you feel called to build relationships with youth in our church and want to be trained in everything you need to know to feel effective, please contact Pastor Jenny.

FROM PASTOR JENNY...

It's January 18 and I'm sitting here with my 2 1/2 week old daughter peacefully sleeping next to me. It's -12 outside and the sun is streaming in through the windows. My beagle, Zoe, is at the other end of the couch sleeping the day away. In this moment, I find myself very thankful for maternity leave. I've received this gift of time to simply be present with my family. My days are filled with diaper changes, play time, naps, visitors, cries, laundry, kisses and hugs.

I catch myself wanting to play on my computer or get a little work done and I quickly set it aside. I know these days will pass quickly and she'll be walking before I know it. Then I'll blink and she'll be a teenager. I'm so thankful for this time at home with Isabella. It's as if I've gotten eight weeks of Sabbath - time to simply be. Thank you church for all the ways you've supported us during this new season in our lives. The meals, gifts, notes and prayers mean so much. I look forward to being with you again soon! God is good.



FIRST SUNDAY TUNA!

Through the effort of many volunteers, Anchor Park has supported the F.I.S.H Food Pantry for many years. F.I.S.H. delivers emergency food aid to people in need in Anchorage. You can read more about F.I.S.H (Fellowship in Serving Humanity) at www.fishcharity.org. Anchor Park has committed to providing cans of tuna fish each month. Currently, Chris & Sheri Huettmann, have collected and delivered the tuna each month. They will be moving

south this spring and we're putting together a new team to continue this important ministry.

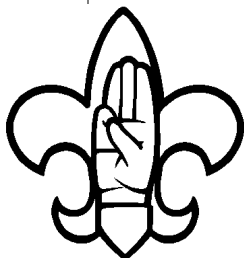
Beginning on February 5, you're invited to bring cans of tuna fish to worship on Communion Sundays. This will happen the first Sunday of each

month. As we celebrate the sacrifice Christ made for us, we're called to serve those in our community who are in need. You can put the cans in the F.I.S.H. basket in the gathering room. We thank Chris, Sheri and their family for all the ways they've continued this important ministry!



Please bring cans of tuna on Sunday, Feb 5

BOY SCOUT TROOP 119 NEWS



Troop 119 went on a winter campout January 13-15, staying at Camp Carlquist, the Cub Scout Camp near Camp Gorsuch. There were 12 scouts and 5 adults. Temperatures ranged from minus 7 to

minus 20 but Camp Carlquist is an indoor heated facility. Grant went Nordic skiing Saturday and Sunday and Tommy went ice fishing on Saturday (no fish). The scouts enjoyed basketball, foosball and dodgeball and plenty of good hot food. A good time was had by all-at least the scouts, in spite of the frozen pipes.

Troop 119 has a service project during January of gathering school supplies for Airport Heights school, a Title 1 school.
Omer Carey, Troop Leader

The Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl group will meet 6:30-8:00pm in the Lawhorn room on the 1st and 3rd Mondays in Feb, March and April. This group is open to anyone who wants to make a prayer shawl.

If you do not knit or crochet bring yarn and needles and someone will teach you. This is a very special group who spend a short time

in the evening fellowshiping and praying. Each shawl is made with love, each stitch is a prayer. Shawls are then given to someone who is in need of encouragement, comfort, support or is celebrating a special event.

THE JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM 2011

17,263.82 miles! That's how many miles were submitted by East Anchorage and Anchor Park participants in the 2011 Journey to Bethlehem.

Evaluations were summarized and the information shared at the faith based nurse ministry celebration on January 16th. Comments included:

- Amazement at how much sodium is listed on nutrition labels of everyday foods
- Individuals who have increased physical activity as a daily habit
- Good display of nutrition labels that included corresponding pages of the booklet
- Appreciation for combining spiritual and healthy activities as each are important
- Thank you for the gift cards
- Motivation to help through the (for some people) dark, depressing season
- Booklets were easy to understand and people were allowed to do

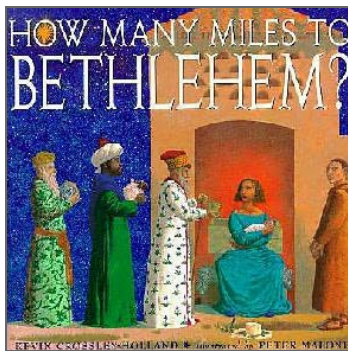
the program without reporting miles earned

- Friendly competition between small groups
- Prominent display of a map noting the miles walked each week
- Encouragement by participating clergy
- Availability of blood pressure measurements
- Consider having weekly small reflection groups

Thank you for being a part of the Journey to Bethlehem 2011. Please give a word of appreciation to the ladies who brought this program to you; Jodi, Lee, Diane and Brenda at East; and Kim, Hope and Patti at Anchor Park. What comments

or suggestions do you have for making the Journey to Bethlehem 2012 work better for you? Please share your ideas with one of us.

Cathy Feaster
Parish Nurse



**NO POTLUCK
LUNCH AT
APUMC ON
SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 5**

FEBRUARY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9:00 AM EAUMC Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School/APUMC 10:15 AM EAUMC Adult Study 10:15 AM Samoan Worship EAUMC 11:00 AM Blended Worship Anchor Park 11:15 AM Samoan Sunday School-EAUMC 12:15 PM Farewell Potluck Lunch for Pastor Jon APUMC 1:00 PM Tongan Worship APUMC 7:00 PM Tongan Bible Study APUMC	30 5:30 PM Boy Scouts/APUMC	31 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal EAUMC	1 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal/APUMC 7:00 PM Samoan Choir EAUMC 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal/APUMC	2 10:00 AM Chester Park Bible Study 6:00 PM Tongan Choir/APUMC 8:00 PM Men's AA	3 6:00 PM AI Anon	4 10:00 AM Quilting Group APUMC
5 9:00 AM EAUMC Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School/APUMC 10:15 AM EAUMC Adult Study 10:15 AM Samoan Worship EAUMC 11:00 AM Blended Worship Anchor Park 11:15 AM Samoan Sunday School-EAUMC 1:00 PM Tongan Worship APUMC 7:00 PM Tongan Bible Study APUMC	6 5:30 PM Boy Scouts/APUMC 6:30 PM Prayer Shawl Group	7 1:00 PM Strong Women Exercise Group APUMC 6:00 PM Trustees Meeting APUMC 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal EAUMC	8 Winter Meetings @ APUMC 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal/APUMC 7:00 PM Samoan Choir EAUMC 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal/APUMC	9 Winter Meetings @ APUMC 10:00 AM Chester Park Bible Study 1:00 PM Strong Women Exercise Group APUMC 6:00 PM Tongan Choir/APUMC 8:00 PM Men's AA	10 Winter Meetings @ APUMC 6:00 PM AI Anon	11 Winter Meetings @ APUMC
12 9:00 AM EAUMC Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School/APUMC 10:15 AM EAUMC Adult Study 10:15 AM Samoan Worship EAUMC 11:00 AM Blended Worship Anchor Park 11:15 AM Samoan Sunday School-EAUMC 1:00 PM Tongan Worship APUMC 6:30 PM EAUMC Finance Committee 7:00 PM EAUMC Church Council 7:00 PM Tongan Bible Study APUMC	13 5:30 PM Boy Scouts/APUMC 6:00 PM Finance Committee APUMC 7:00 PM Church Council APUMC 7:00 PM Trustees Meeting EAUMC	14 1:00 PM Strong Women Exercise Group APUMC 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal EAUMC	15 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal/APUMC 7:00 PM Samoan Choir EAUMC 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal/APUMC	16 10:00 AM Chester Park Bible Study 1:00 PM Strong Women Exercise Group APUMC 6:00 PM Tongan Choir/APUMC 8:00 PM Men's AA	17 6:00 PM AI Anon	18 1:00 PM Tongan Room in use
19 9:00 AM EAUMC Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School/APUMC 10:15 AM EAUMC Adult Study 10:15 AM Samoan Worship EAUMC 11:00 AM Blended Worship Anchor Park 11:15 AM Samoan Sunday School-EAUMC 12:15 PM Potlatch UMW Lunch /APUMC 1:00 PM Tongan Worship APUMC 7:00 PM Tongan Bible Study APUMC	20 Church Office Closed 7:45 AM Bean's Cafe 5:30 PM Boy Scouts/APUMC 6:30 PM Prayer Shawl Group	21 1:00 PM Strong Women Exercise Group APUMC 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal EAUMC	22 11:30 AM Ash Wednesday EAUMC 6:30 PM Ash Wednesday APUMC 7:00 PM Samoan Choir EAUMC 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal/APUMC	23 10:00 AM Chester Park Bible Study 1:00 PM Strong Women Exercise Group APUMC 6:00 PM Tongan Choir/APUMC 8:00 PM Men's AA	24 6:00 PM AI Anon	25
26 9:00 AM EAUMC Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School/APUMC 10:15 AM EAUMC Adult Study 10:15 AM Samoan Worship EAUMC 11:00 AM Blended Worship Anchor Park 11:15 AM Samoan Sunday School-EAUMC 1:00 PM Tongan Worship APUMC 7:00 PM Tongan Bible Study APUMC	27 5:30 PM Boy Scouts/APUMC	28 1:00 PM Strong Women Exercise Group APUMC 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal EAUMC 7:00 PM Reading Group/ Barnes & Noble	29 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal/APUMC 7:00 PM Samoan Choir EAUMC 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal/APUMC	1 10:00 AM Chester Park Bible Study 1:00 PM Strong Women Exercise Group APUMC 6:00 PM Tongan Choir/APUMC 8:00 PM Men's AA	2 6:00 PM AI Anon	3 10:00 AM Quilting Group APUMC

HEALTH and WELLNESS MINISTRY

An email came to me last week reminding me about the Church Council meeting on Tuesday evening. I called Patti and discovered that Health & Wellness has been added as a standing committee for the Church Council with my name as the spokesperson. So I attended the meeting in which it was very obvious that our leaders want the best for Anchor Park. The main focus of this meeting was approval of the budget and planning for the transition of Pastors and I encourage everyone to complete the survey form to assist in this process.

Following is a brief history of the committee to date. In order to represent you at the Church Council meetings please contact me with health & wellness issues and activities at 243-1971 or jimncathy@acsalaska.net.

In the spring of 2007, Pastor Bonnie Campbell held a meeting of interested church members to discuss introducing Parish Nursing activities at East Anchorage and Anchor Park United Methodist Churches. Parish nursing or faith community nursing is a nursing specialty, recognized by the American Nurses Association. A Parish Nurse functions within their li-

censed scope of practice to facilitate the connection of community resources in order to meet the needs as identified by members of the congregation. Health Ministers are interested individuals who work collaboratively with Parish Nurses as advocates, educators, coordinators, counselors and navigators to support the well being of the body, mind and spirit of the church family. Together they use their talents, skills, intelligence, passions, experiences and personal gifts in providing support and encouragement within the church and community.

The group decided to name the committee Health & Wellness Ministry Team to emphasize a promotion of wellness and to encourage all health care professionals or interested congregational members to join in the ministry. This team has organized various wellness related activities since then, such as:

- Blood drives
- BP sessions
- CPR classes
- Health Fair
- Prayer shawl group
- Volunteers to visit cancer patients
- Walk to Bethlehem

- Red Barrel
- Guest speakers on health topics
- Saturday walking group

Other suggested activities include:

- Healing services (tracking congregational health related needs, BP checks)
- Visitation Ministry (prison, hospital, home)
- Information series (death & dying, Medicare issues, connecting people with resources, uninsured)
- Pastor education/support regarding health/wellness issues
- Patient advocates (transportation, note taker)
- Promoting healthy food choices at church functions
- Kids exercise programs
- Participate as a shelter in the Municipality of Anchorage Disaster Plan
- Health related articles in Mini Link

This is an opportunity for additional people to join the committee; just contact me, Cathy Feaster

20s & 30s DINNER & MOVIE

All young adults are invited for dinner & a Rob Bell movie, "The Gods Aren't Angry" at Turnagain UMC on **Saturday night, February 4 at 5:30pm.**

The church is located at 3300 West Northern Lights Blvd. *Bring a side dish or dessert to share.* Child-care will be provided. Visit www.facebook.com/alaska20s30s to see a preview video and RSVP.

Invite your friends!



UNITED WAY'S WALK FOR WARMTH

On Saturday, February 18th the United Way of Anchorage



will host a one-mile walk to help raise money to help our most vulnerable neighbors stay warm in these harsh winter months. The event times are 9 AM - 11:30. For more information, please visit their website at www.liveunitedanchorage.org or call 263-4696.



Health
&
Wellness



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

APUMC

The Potlatch Circle will meet for lunch after morning worship in Wesley Hall on February 19th. All women are always invited and childcare is provided. A donation is requested to cover the cost of food and childcare. If you plan to attend, please indi-

cate in the Contact by Sunday, Feb. 12th.

Forget-me-not Circle has cancelled the meetings scheduled for February, March, April, and May of this year.

EAUMC

The United Methodist Women will meet on Saturday, February 18 at 10am.

All women are always welcome !



Women's Fellowship

MISSION SUPPORT

The proceeds from the annual Holiday Auction have been distributed to the mission projects chosen in the December meeting.

They helped support:

Safe Harbor,
Alaska Children's Services,
Children's Lunchbox,
the 4-H Pillow Patrol,
Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center,
Fistula Foundation,
the Haiti Clean Water project,
Child in Transition,
AWAIC,
Alaska Cares,
Kid's Kitchen,
and the Eva Foundation.
UMW would like to thank everyone who helped make the auction a success.

VOLUNTEER— CALL TO ACTION!

Come and *spend one day* building with Habitat and you will *change a life forever!*

Winter is here and we need hearty souls who don't mind the weather to come out and help us build. You can make a tremendous difference in our Partner Families lives by volunteering with construction, being a house or crew leader, or acting as a jobsite host. We can find space for you, no matter what your preference is.

The ReStore is also in need of regular, weekly volunteers. If you like helping customers, organizing, don't mind getting dirty then volunteer at the ReStore.

If you want to know more about the building project talk with Harry Ricker @ 727-0313 or if you want to schedule a time to volunteer call Chris Mabeus @ 272-0800. Volunteers are needed Wednesday-Saturday.

For more information check out their web site:
www.hfhanchorage.org



QUILTING RETREAT XXXI

Quilt Retreat XXXI Thursday, February 23 through Sunday, February 26 at Laverne Griffith Youth Camp Wasilla .
Sponsored by the United Methodist Women (UMW)

This winter has been hard. Snow and cold is taxing our energies. Come join us for

fun weekend, laughing, good food plus undisturbed sewing... what could be better? We will return to Camp Lavern where a smiling faces wait to greet you. If you are not familiar with the camp visit their website to see facilities: **WEB: LGYRC.ORG** It is beautiful camp located on a lovely lake.

Registration form and flyer are posted on the UMW Bulletin Board and also available by contacting Susan Williams @ 337-6741.

ANCHOR PARK UMC

Birthdays

- 2 Jobe Berry
- 3 Zara Eckton
- 7 Dean Hyatt
Liliane Vea
Sue Gaston
- 8 Geneva Smith
- 9 Marta McCracken
- 10 Deanna Platner
Don Hadley
- 12 Macy Whitaker
- 13 Raven Hamilton
- 14 Judy Pendleton
- 16 Kaylin Kirkham
- 17 Maria Shawback
- 19 Brian Hayden
- 21 Debbie Warner
Dina Russ
Tsuguo Arai
Alexander Linton
Nicholas Linton
- 24 Cathy Feaster
- 24 Jo Michalski
- 25 Sione Tu'uholoaki

Anniversary

- 10 Michael & Kim Taylor

EAST ANCHORAGE UMC

Birthdays

- 3 Andrew Smith
- 5 Marilyn Hanson
Rob Gaiser
- 6 Kenny Williams
Marguerote Hoa
- 10 Diane Kent
- 13 Delores Hawkins
- 15 Melelega Moevao
- 17 Betty Russell
- 18 Tim Loidolt
Nicole Lolo
- 19 Matthew Sumida
- 24 Vicki Smith
Roger Storrs
- 27 Trinity Saglao
- 28 Feleti Lolo

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

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
Anchorage, AK
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

A Joint Newsletter of East
Anchorage and Anchor
Park United Methodist

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Fax: 907-258-6038
E-mail: office@anchorpark.org

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1660 Patterson St.
Anchorage, Alaska 99504
Phone: 907-333-6611
Email: eaumc@gci.net

View the LINKED online in color
at:

www.anchorpark.org

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

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



ARE YOU CONNECTED?

There are many ways the families of the Anchor Park and East Anchorage United Meth-

odist Churches stay connected. In the event you're new to our churches or may not be aware of the opportunities to connect with one another, here's a list.

Websites & Emails:

Anchor Park UMC: www.anchorpark.org;
office@anchorpark.org

East Anchorage UMC:
www.eastanchorageumc.org;
office@eastanchorageumc.org

Facebook:

Go to your Facebook account and search for Anchor Park United Methodist or East Anchorage United Methodist and "like" us! We post events, announcements, updates and other news.

e-Link:

The churches have a weekly update that is sent out each Tuesday with event reminders, articles and links to the pastors' blogs. If you are not yet receiving the e-Link, contact Pastor Jenny at pastoriennysmith@gmail.com.

Blogs:

Pastor Jenny: www.jenniferkaysmith.com
Pastor Jon: www.jondisburg.com

Newsletter:

If you do not receive our monthly newsletter in the mail, please contact Patti at office@anchorpark.org and ask to be placed on the mailing list. If you have misplaced your newsletter, you can always see it online by going to one of the church websites and following the "Newsletter" link.

Listen to Sermons Online:

Miss a Sunday or want to send a message to someone? You can listen to the sermon or download it for later at <http://anchorparkeast.podomatic.com/>.