

the outreach

**JANUARY
2021**

WORD FROM THE PASTOR



Happy New Year! I have seen people looking forward to 2021 since summer! The last year did not go as anyone planned. As we pray and hope for this next year, I invite you to make New Year resolutions. Goals, or resolutions, are helpful in a couple of ways. They can help give focus, purpose and direction. They can help us accomplish things and thus feel productive. They also can push us to make health or life changes we would like or would be beneficial for us to make. Resolutions are important and can help us be physically, emotionally and spiritually healthier—if we follow through. Why New Year resolutions are sometimes said as a joke is not because they are useless. Rather, it comes from our struggle to stay true to them. This struggle is a spiritual struggle that Jesus talked about with the crowds he ministered with. Jesus was talking about one specific resolution- becoming his disciple.

²⁵Now large crowds were traveling with him; and he turned and said to them, ²⁶“Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ *Luke 14:25-30*

Why would Jesus be so harsh? Doesn't Jesus welcome everyone to know the love and grace of God found in being Jesus' disciple? Jesus does. Jesus wants us to “succeed” in becoming his disciples. For that to happen it is important to understand what Jesus asks of us. If we proceed without understanding what it will take, we are more likely to be overwhelmed and feel like a failure or a fool for trying. To succeed, knowing the cost will prepare us to take the steps forward. Jesus does offer love and grace. Jesus also calls us out of what we would consider normal life to a life governed by the direction to love God and love our neighbor. This requires changes in what we do, what we say, and how we act to transform our life to honor God and shines the light of Jesus to our neighbors. If 2020 taught me anything it is that making major changes to what is normal is incredibly difficult. There is a natural push back against changing the normal even if it is recommended for your health or recommended for the health and support of others. Change is hard which is why we need to set resolutions. I invite you take stock of where you are physically, emotionally, and spiritual and ask where do I feel called to change. Set some goals on what you would like to achieve. And remember, Jesus does offer forgiveness. The goal is not to fail but to move closer to the person Jesus calls us to be in all areas of our life.

God Bless,

Ryan Lynch

2021 Planning meeting

On Sunday Jan 10th at 11am, Pastor Ryan will lead a zoom gathering to brainstorm, dream and plan what we as a faith community feel called to serve, support and study in 2021. This zoom gathering will be open to anyone who wishes to contribute and help our faith community live out our beliefs. We will answer three questions:

Who or what cause would you like to help?

How can AUMC connect with our locally community?

What is something you want to learn more about?

It is can be difficult to make plans for this next year after such a tumultuous year we just experienced. Yet, God will be at work in 2021 and so will AUMC. Join us as we plan how we will be part of the movement of Jesus.

Connection Opportunity

For months, Pastor Ryan has suggested that one way we can stay connected is by sending out cards. This January he challenges you to send a card every day! To make this happen the church has sets of 31 postcards and postcard stamps to give out. Send the postcards to your neighbors, friends, church members, family, anyone!

You can either pick up the postcards at the church office starting Jan 4th or contact pastor Ryan to coordinate a time in which he can safely drop them off.

Join him as we start of 2021 connected by love of Jesus, power of the Holy Spirit and postcards!!



➤➤➤ **Worship and other opportunities**

Worship in January

Credo- I believe

What is a credo? A credo is a statement of belief. In the Christian faith the most common statement of belief is the Apostles Creed. In January we are going to examine what is the Apostle's Creed, what it says, and how it helps us from our own credo.

1/10 What is a credo?

John 14:1-7, Exodus 20:2-6

1/17 I believe in God, righteous creator and father

Genesis 1:20-31, Exodus 3:1-15

1/24 I believe in Jesus, redeemer and challenger

Mark 8:27-38, Matthew 7:24-28

1/31 I believe in the Holy Spirit, former of community

Romans 8:1-17, Proverb 8



Fellowship opportunities in January around Credo sermon series:

Credo Small group:

Pastor Ryan will be offering two small groups that meet via zoom to discuss how to write a credo or your own statement of faith. The only material required for the study is a bible and something to write on. Join him each week to refine your own statement of belief.

Week 1: What God do I believe in?

Sun 1/17 11am; Thursday 1/21 7pm

Week 2: Who is Jesus?

Sun 1/24 11am; Thursday 1/28 7pm

Week 3: How am I connected to other believers?

Sun 1/31 11am; Thursday 2/4 7pm

➤➤➤ FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Mary Robey, our office manager, was quarantined because of Covid. Pastor Ryan put together the list as accurate as he could. Please let the church office know if he missed a birthday or have one down wrong.



05 Denise Christian
06 Karen Kealey
06 Matthew Voth
09 Paul Robinson
09 Rhonda Warren
09 Todd Bumgarner
10 Betty Carter
10 Lori Seidl
10 Zachary Isenhower
10 Leon Xu
10 Julia Primm
11 Marjorie Snyder
11 Gracie Cook
12 Connie Hendrix
15 Tyler Grimm
15 Abbie Fulghum
17 Margot Kelman
17 Whitney Watson
18 Bess Hinz
19 Karol Hastings
19 Lois Hendrix
20 Connie Hale
21 Christine Eney
23 Merle Craig
23 Lauren Durano Smith
23 Derek DeHass
25 Myrna Craig
26 Courtney Riddle
26 Olivia Brown
28 Karey Padding
30 Lee Nygaard
30 Thomas Snyder

09 Neil & Eileen Hodges
20 Michael & Kathryn Halfman
21 Andy & Audra Heinze
28 Carl & Janet Knight

***Contact the church office, (316) 733-1644 or churchoffice@andoverumc.com for any additions or edits to the birthdays & anniversaries.

THANK YOU!

We collected over a hundred pairs of socks and underwear plus t-shirts and hats as well! Thank you for your giving heart!

We also thank everyone who gave to Ember Hope/Youthville for our Christmas eve offering. Donations are still coming in as the printing of this newsletter. We will celebrate our gift in January!



To our great Church family,

Thankyou is not enough for all the get-well cards, Birthday card and prayers you sent our way. It is such comfort. Thank you volunteers and Anita for the lovely gift bag. We love the sweets, bierocks and turnips! Dick and I are very thankful and wish everyone a very blessed Christmas.

Dick & Hardy Wasson

A note from pastor Ryan-

I apologize for not getting the other thankyou's and the prayer request in this newsletter. I know there were many others. When Mary is back in the office I will work with her to get an letter lifting up all the thank you notes as well as the prayer requests. If you have any questions you can contact pastor Ryan at ryanl@andoverumc.com or 785-545-6837.

Happy January!

I know we've all been praying that 2021 will bring a new hope and energy to our lives after the crazy year that we've been through! Although change may come more slowly than we would like, I still feel that hope coming!

I mentioned in the last email I sent to the Crossfit parents and volunteers that we would be rolling out plans for Crossfit in 2021, and those are in the works. The first thing that I would like to do for our students is bring back our Zoom meetings. I know this isn't the most ideal way of meeting, but with limited planning and the hesitancy to attempt meeting in person in any context, this is the best way that we can foster interaction with our Crossfit students.

These Zoom meetings will be on Wednesday evenings at 7:15pm starting on January 6, 2021!

I will send the meeting information to parents, volunteers, and students through all of our digital platforms in hopes that we can reach as many students as possible. Any in-person meeting possibilities will be assessed in the coming weeks and we will let everyone know of any changes to the schedule, but those Zoom meetings will remain consistent until there is no longer a need to meet virtually.

Thank you for your flexibility and dedication to our Crossfit students. Your support is so appreciated and you are in my prayers constantly!

Peace,
Melissa Connell
Director of Youth Ministries
Cell: (316) 650-5933
Email: melissac@andoverumc.com

	Visit our Facebook page View our calendar at bit.ly/1KmUhYm
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2021! We pray this year will be full of changes, like being able to see family and friends. 2020 was full of challenges and hopefully, we all grew and got to know ourselves better.

In 2021, I am going to give you and your children a challenge that will change you and your hearts! You get to know people by talking with them, spending time with them, sharing and listening to their thoughts and ideas. 2020 has proven to be a challenge in this aspect. It is the same with God. To grow in our relationship with God, we must talk with Him, spend time with Him, share our thoughts and ideas, and find out what are His thoughts and ideas are. The Bible calls this “coming near to God.” Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:16.)

I challenge you and your children to take 20 minutes to read the Bible, discuss your reading and prayer about your day. Goggle One Year in the Bible: A Reading Plan for Families (from Children’s Ministry Magazine) or Super-Simple Family Bible Study Plan for Busy Families.

I would love to see what you and your families are doing at home during our time apart! Keep posting photos on our new Andover UMC Kids’ ministry Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/AUMCKidMin>

We miss all of you at church! I am praying that I can see you again very soon!

Blessings,

Erin

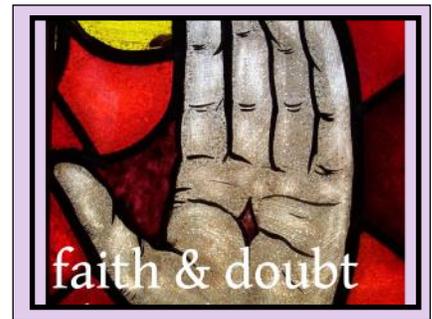
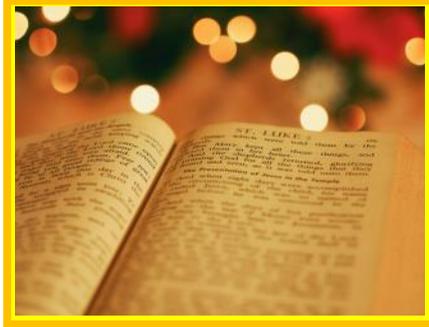
Family ideas

Have a pajama day. Perfect for a day when you have no plans. Aren’t those days the best? They’re few and far between these days.

Try a new flavor of hot chocolate.

Family Fitness Night

IMPORTANT EVENTS TO NOTE



**Pick up Postcards to
mail out at
Church office starting
Jan 4th**

**2021 Planning Meeting
Jan 10th 11am
Zoom call**

**Jan Sermon Series:
Credo— I believe**

OUR STAFF

Pastor—Ryan Lynch ryanl@andoverumc.com

Youth Ministry—Melissa Connell melissac@andoverumc.com

Children's Ministry—Erin Murray erinm@andoverumc.com

Music Ministry—Justin Petersen justinp@andoverumc.com

Nursery Cor.—Mary Vaughters churchoffice@andoverumc.com

Financial Secr.—Marcia Haskins marciah@andoverumc.com

Organist—Irene Martin churchoffice@andoverumc.com

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Admin/Treasurer— Mary Robey maryr@andoverumc.com



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Return Service Requested

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