

THE MESSENGER

The monthly newsletter of Antioch Community Church

February 2026



ANTIOCH
COMMUNITY CHURCH



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DIRECTORY UPDATE

This is our final plea to get pictures for the directory. If you have not yet submitted a photo (or do not remember if you have), please forward one no later than February 15th. They can be sent directly to Jennifer at jenandt@aol.com or here at office@acckc.org. Hard copies can also be mailed to the church office at 4805 NE Antioch Rd, KCMO 64119. We appreciate your help in getting this overdue project completed. Thank you!

MISSION MOMENT

One of the outreach ministries our church is proud to support is the KC Shepherd's Center. During January and February, we collect soup donations for their Meals on Wheels program, which provides nourishing meals and meaningful connection to older adults in our community.

For more than 50 years, KC Shepherd's Center has served seniors across the Kansas City area with compassion and dignity. Their mission is to empower older adults to age independently while staying connected and engaged in their communities.

Through volunteer-led programs such as meal delivery, friendly visits, senior companionship, and lifelong learning, the Shepherd's Center addresses food insecurity, social isolation, and everyday challenges faced by seniors. Each meal and visit reminds older adults that they are valued and not alone.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support as Antioch and the Shepherd's Center partner to make a lasting difference in the lives of our neighbors.
<https://kcshepherdscenter.org/>

PASTOR'S POINT

The Lenten season is quickly approaching. I can't even believe I'm saying that. 2026 is full speed ahead. Before we know it, it'll be Easter. But first... Ash Wednesday. We will be having an Ash Wednesday service on February 18th at 7:00pm.

If Ash Wednesday is something foreign to you, let me help with a few quick explanations.

Question: What is Ash Wednesday?

- It marks the first day, or the start of the season of Lent, which begins 40 days prior to Easter.
- Ash Wednesday gets its name from the practice of placing ashes on the foreheads of the faithful as a sign of repentance.
- There is no Biblical description of Ash Wednesday in either Roman Catholic or Protestant Bibles.
- Ashes represent humility, sacrifice, repentance and/or mourning
- References to ashes in the Bible: Esther 4:1, Daniel 9:3, Matthew 11:21.

Question: What is Lent?

- Lent has long been a practice in the Christian Church, and it is thought that the tradition of the 40 days recalls the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, fasting and being tested by the devil.
- Lent is a 40-day liturgical season that begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes at Easter
- Some Christian traditions pause their Lenten fasts on Sundays, hence the 40 days from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday.
- In many languages, the word "Lent" actually means "fast." This is where the custom of giving up something for Lent originated.

Question: Do I have to give up something for Lent?

- No, but...
- Think differently. Giving up something for Lent is about making space—for God to speak, space to notice what controls you, and space to realign your desires with God's desires.
- When you remove something—a specific food or drink, social media, TV, shopping, etc.—you suddenly see how much you seek it for comfort.
- When you feel the tug of what you gave up, that moment becomes a cue to turn your attention toward God. You let go so you can receive.

Lent is only as powerful as we let it be, as we intentionally pursue it and all God wants us to learn through it.

The Ash Wednesday service is where it all begins. And we will give you the opportunity to come forward and receive ashes on your forehead (or the back of your hand if you prefer). It's a visible expression of an inward repentance. One that says, "I don't have it all together. I need grace. I need Jesus."

Let me help with one more explanation.

Question: Why should I go to the Ash Wednesday service?

- It's a chance to reset your heart at the start of Lent.
- It's a way to practice humility and be honest with God.
- It's an opportunity for spiritual reflection that you might not otherwise take time for.
- It's collective and communal—you're not doing the journey alone.
- It helps you begin Lent with intention and forethought, not by accident.
- You're free to come without any pressure—your participation is optional.

I would highly recommend doing a focused Lenten Bible study along with your spiritual journey over the 40 days. Be paying attention to the weekly ACC Connect email as we get closer to Ash Wednesday. We will provide a couple of online options for you.

Friends, we are all on a spiritual journey together. Not just during the Lenten season, but in this life. And as we will find out in the upcoming sermon series, WE > ME. We're better together than we are apart.

I look forward to beginning the Lenten season with you.

Blessings,
Beth Armstrong
Senior Pastor



THIS MONTH AT ANTIOCH

Sunday, February 1

9am Sunday School
10am Worship Team Practice
10:30am Worship and Holy Communion

Monday, February 2

6-8:30pm Scouts

Tuesday, February 3

10am Bible Study with Beth

Friday, February 6

Scout Troop Lock-In

Saturday, February 7

Scout Saturday
8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Corner Cafe
4:15pm Worship Team Practice
4:30pm Coffee Fellowship
5:00pm Worship

Sunday, February 8

9am Sunday School
10am Worship Team Practice
10:30am Worship

Monday, February 9

6-8:30pm Scouts

Tuesday, February 10

10am Bible Study with Beth

Thursday, February 12

12:00pm Daughters Luncheon in the library
6:15pm Elder Meeting
7:00pm Church Council

Saturday, February 14

4:15pm Worship Team Practice
4:30pm Coffee Fellowship
5:00pm Worship

Sunday, February 15

9am Sunday School
10am Worship Team Practice
10:30am Worship

Monday, February 16

6-8:30pm Scouts

Tuesday, February 17

10am Bible Study with Beth

Wednesday, February 18

8am Men's Breakfast @ Big Biscuit
7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service

Saturday, February 21

4:15pm Worship Team Practice
4:30pm Coffee Fellowship
5:00pm Worship
6:00pm Dinner and Bingo in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday, February 22

9am Sunday School
10am Worship Team Practice
10:30am Worship

Monday, February 23

6-8:30pm Scouts

Tuesday, February 24

10am Bible Study with Beth

Wednesday, February 25

10:30am Property Team Meeting

Saturday, February 28

4:15pm Worship Team Practice
4:30pm Coffee Fellowship
5:00pm Worship & Holy Communion



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Raye Sanders 9th

Shirley Watkins 12th

Judy Parker 13th

Tom Bricker 14th

Cletus Hart 22nd

Donna Phillippi 23rd

BY THE NUMBERS

Monthly Giving

January 3-4	\$4817
January 10-11	\$2326
January 17-18	\$5411
January 24-25	\$ <u>0</u>
Total January	\$25,203
Year To Date	\$236,014.16

Monthly Attendance

	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Total</u>
January 3-4	46	28	74
January 10-11	44	18	62
January 17-18	41	17	58
January 24-25	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total December	131	63	194

LET'S PRAY

- Julia Saunders - recovery from back surgery
- Barb & Fred Vanecek - continued health concerns
- Larry Ball- recovering from a fall and continued mobility issues
- Carol R. Smith- health concerns
- Pray for a contemporary worship leader for Antioch's Saturday evening service
- Pray that God would bless our congregation with new folks, new families, & new faces in 2026

CONTACT US

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NEWS & NOTES

A note from Tony McCanna about Betty's memorial Service on January, 16th.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you.

Pastor Beth was right on, Jeanie Jones's music was wonderful as usual. The turn out of neighbors, friends and the congregation members was so appreciated. We had 35 family members attend from California, Arizona, Georgia and also Springfield, Sedalia, Liberty and Kansas City, Missouri. The contributions given in Betty's memory will be used to support the churches AV program.

"Miss Betty will be missed- but not forgotten."

Tony



Prayer is more than a wish; it is the voice of faith directed to God.

Billy Graham

quotation

SCHOLARSHIP THANK YOU

I am truly honored to have been selected as a recipient of your scholarship. Thank you for your generosity and believing in me. Your support means more than I can express, and it will help me continue my education.

Thank you again for this incredible blessing,

Carson Gardner

Thank you so much for choosing me as a recipient of your scholarship! I truly appreciate your generosity and support. This scholarship will help me as I continue my education at Auburn University. I'm so grateful for the kindness you've shown me, and I can't thank you enough.

Sincerely,
Grace Gardner

I cannot thank you enough for the scholarship award of \$1000 to continue my pursuit of education at Missouri State University. This will allow me to access critical items of need like books and technology for upcoming semesters.

Thank you again and have a blessed new year.

Mckenna Armstrong

Thank you for selecting me as a recipient of the Antioch Community Church scholarship. This scholarship opens doors that may have previously been closed due to funding limitations. From textbooks to plane tickets, this scholarship will increase my educational opportunities and success.

Sophia McCanna

Thank you very much for accepting my scholarship application. It means the world to me to have your support while I study at the University of Michigan and pursue what I love.

Thank you again,
Nate McCanna

Thank You

Thank you so much for awarding me the \$1,000 scholarship. I am truly grateful for your generosity and support as I continue my studies in business and pursue my passion for coaching baseball.

I give thanks to God for placing a church like Antioch in my life. This scholarship feels like a direct answer to prayer and a blessing that has encouraged me greatly. Your support reminds me of the importance of loving God and serving others.

I am sincerely thankful for each of you and will continue striving to honor God as I move forward in this next chapter of my life.

Gratefully,
Brian Chandler

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for the Antioch Community Church scholarship. I am truly honored to receive this support and excited for the upcoming semester.

I am currently an undergraduate majoring in Information Technology/Cybersecurity at Missouri State University and am approaching my final semester. During my time in college, I have stayed involved by serving as a project leader in the Association of Business Information Technology Students (ABITS), where I have mentored and led over 20 cybersecurity students in developing their skills. I am also grateful to share that I will be leading Missouri State's 2026 Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (CCDC) team.

Additionally, this summer I will be working as an Associate Cybersecurity Analyst at CrowdStrike. Your support has played a meaningful role in helping me reach these milestones, and I am excited to continue using my knowledge to help make the internet safer.

Thank you again for investing in my education and future. Your generosity truly means a great deal to me.

Kind regards,
Tyler Olson