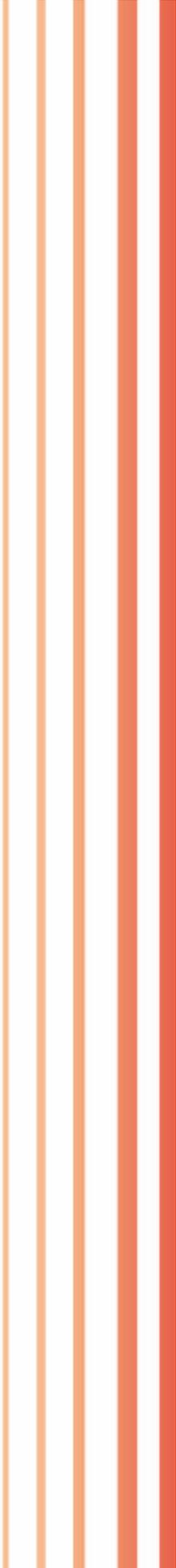


BECOMING MORE



**For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,
plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future
with hope. Jeremiah 29:11**

When I sat with our stewardship team to develop this special edition of our Anona Magazine, we talked about the past year and all we have faced. As we talked about inviting our congregation into pledging and giving to the church in the upcoming year, the theme of “change” arose that spoke to our experience since Covid struck. We looked at all that happened because of Covid-19 and how we adapted to things like lockdowns, social distancing, and, quite frankly, living with fear. However, as we continued talking, we felt the word “change” wasn’t enough to explain what we were experiencing this past year. There was something more, something deeper.

Within our Judeo-Christian tradition, we can find many moments when individuals, families, and communities faced overwhelming challenges. Abraham and his family had to leave their home to follow God’s calling. Moses and the people of Israel were persecuted in Egypt. David had to hide in caves to avoid conflict with King Saul. The disciples rightfully realized their lives might be in danger as Jesus faced the cross. The apostle Paul found himself imprisoned. Story after story within the Bible shows people facing challenges because things changed.

Change happens to and around us all the time. When significant change comes, however, the question is, what will we do? How will we handle it? Even better, who will we become? Therein lies the deeper part of change. The apostle Paul put it like this:

*We boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,
and endurance produces character, and character produces hope. Romans 5:3-4*

That is our “deeper” story! When change comes, even change that causes suffering, Christ-followers become something, and someone, better because of it. We decided that the word to describe our journey was not “change,” it was “become.”

This past year I have watched so many of us become something different, something more, something better because of the challenges we have faced. I watched our church stand against the storm of Covid, hoist its sails, and ride the waves to new ways of doing ministry. Trunks full of food were delivered to the hungry, an entire community driving through an experience of Jesus’ birth, classes filled with more people because they were online and our northern friends could stay connected with their friends the entire year long. We couldn’t have done these things, and so many more, without your generosity, your love for Christ’s church, and its mission to love God and make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, expressed through your giving.

God has a plan for you and your church...a plan for what we can become. When you pledge to the church, you step courageously into God’s plan for you and for us. Anona is not just changing; we are becoming more and more of what the church is called to be! Will you prayerfully consider committing to pledge to the church? Let’s live deeper into that plan together and continually seek to become a more hope-filled and hope-giving people of Jesus Christ known as Anona United Methodist Church!

Yours in Christ,

Richard



Families are celebrating Palm Sunday and Easter with an outside picnic! Everyone enjoyed games, Kona Ice, and just being together again after a long year of isolation. We give thanks to God for our faith, good friends, and fun, it was much needed!

FUN TIMES, TOGETHER AGAIN!



BECOMING MORE AVAILABLE



Last year was very difficult for our families as school and church became online only programs. After a few weeks of shut-down, our Little Kids ministry found new ways to share Jesus' stories of love with children.

Families got activity bags to go along with weekly videos and monthly drive-thru events to stay connected. It was really exciting to be able to deliver birthday packages too. The kids and staff would not have felt this level of support without your regular contributions to the church.



Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

Proverbs 22:6



BECOMING MORE **TEACHABLE**



How do you teach little kids online? It was quite a new challenge the pre-school was faced with! But with a dedicated staff, the ACDC children continued learning and they experienced new forms of social connection!

Thank you to the teachers and staff who tirelessly learned new systems and ways to teach in preschool and beyond!





Anona Kids transitioned in the midst of a pandemic like many of our ministry areas. Our focus on 3 things: Faith, Friendships, and Fun. Really...this is the focus in all of our ministry areas but kids and fun just seem to go together!

Every Sunday morning, your tithing helps Anona's Children Ministry program pour into the faith of children (K-5th grade).

Kids are learning more about their faith through Bible stories and it is reinforced with large and small group discussion and activities. Games, Confetti, and Laughter is what every family can expect for their child while growing at Anona!

Sundays @ 9:30AM



Kids celebrate Jesus & being together again!

BECOMING MORE FAITHFUL





Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith and your purity.

1 Timothy 4:12

Anona Youth has, and always will, find ways to stay connected!



BECOMING MORE INDEPENDENT

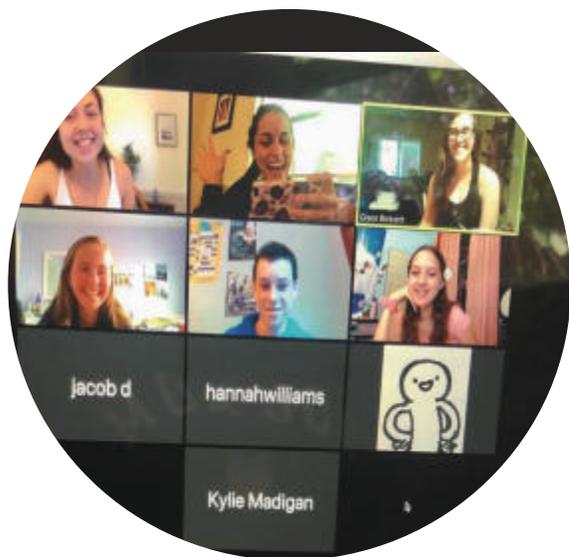


Our Anona Youth have been through a lot of change in the last 18 months. The senior class had a socially distanced, outside celebration with drive-by honks and shouts of congratulations.

Our Student Ministry team quickly decided to transition from in-person to online in March 2020 so students had the ability to connect with friends and continue their faith walk with online devotions, ZOOM hangout time, outside small groups gatherings, and drive-thru mission collections for Change 4 Change. Thankfully, students are back to indoor youth group with small group time, large group worship, games, and dinner once more.

Students, 6-12th grades, join us on Sunday, 5-7:30 pm.

Your gifts have and continue to support these teens as they develop a faith of their own to take into adulthood.

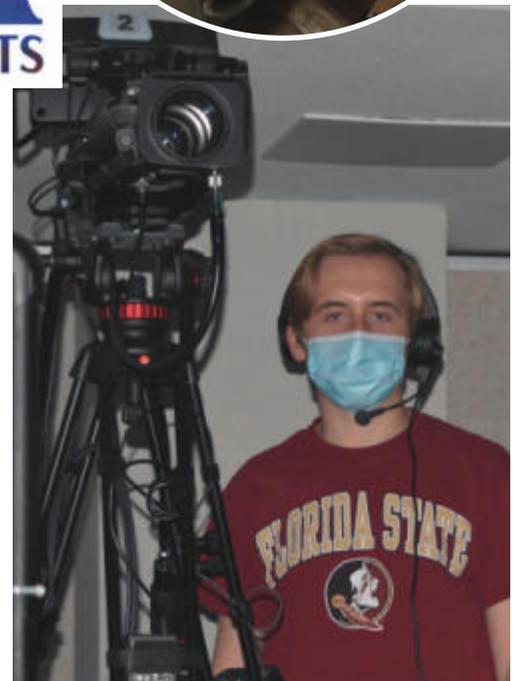


*For God gave us a spirit
not of fear but of power
and love and self-control.*

2 Timothy 1:7



BECOMING MORE **INNOVATIVE**



The Anona Media Arts team was a critical part of allowing Anona to stay connected during the isolation of COVID-19. When we weren't meeting in-person, we could still meet online. We were able to hear the Sunday message and sing in our own homes with the choirs and worship leaders as our guide.

Your weekly contributions have allowed Anona to upgrade the main presentation and editing computers. This upgrade has made an impact on efficiency and allowed the Anona Media Arts team to better produce weekly content. As you know, technology is always changing, so your gifts are critical. We don't only buy new, we take care of what we have with repair and maintenance of audio, visual, and lighting equipment.

Are you interested in volunteering with the Anona Media Arts team? Prior knowledge and skills are not required.

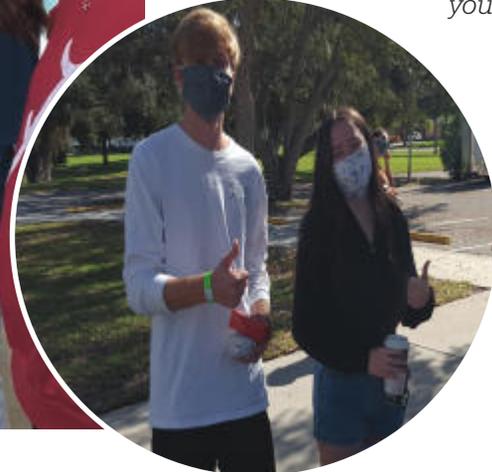
BECOMING MORE LIKE FAMILY



 **ANONA
YOUNG
ADULTS**
18-24 YEARS OLD

*Don't be afraid, for I am with you.
Don't be discouraged, for I am your
God. I will strengthen you and help
you. I will hold you
up with my
victorious
right hand.*

Isaiah 41:10



While you may not see the Young Adult group on campus too often, it doesn't mean they aren't an active and ever-amazing group of college-aged adults. This group is actively involved in missions on and off of campus, expanding their knowledge of Christ to those around them on their college campus' and enjoying time together - wherever that might be!

These young adults, make the church proud and can continue growing in Christ. Your giving will help promote the young adult ministry and expand our reach into the community.



WORSHIP WAS TRANSFORMED. ALL WERE ABLE TO WATCH LIVE, ON-LINE WORSHIP WITH CHAT FEATURES!



Choir found themselves in an odd situation but where there is a will, there is a way. Singing in-person became singing over ZOOM and practicing in a 'garage', girls. Your dedication to the church continues to inspire the congregation each week during worship.

Your tithing to the annual budget allowed your church to quickly begin online worship when the shut-down was extended and your giving continues to support a growing worship program and more!

*Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
Psalm 95:1*



BECOMING MORE INSPIRED

In Contemporary worship, the Anona praise band found new ways to inspire and be inspired which included the creation of this cross to celebrate Easter.

Jesus is Risen



*Let everything that has
breath praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord.*

Psalm 150:6

**BECOMING
MORE** *through Praise*



BECOMING MORE OF A FREIND



Let's Stay Connected!

Some of you may have received a call from a church member as part of the Anona Care Team. With our seniors experiencing a heightened level of loneliness, the Legacy Center and Stephen Ministers set out to help with hundreds of phone calls. These weekly calls became a precious gift that turned random conversations into lasting friendships.



MEET THE LADIES BEHIND THE MEMORIAL GARDEN!



We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 1:3 NIV





RAISING DISCIPLES AND LEADERS

Anona makes disciples for the transformation of the world. That is our calling from Christ and it is our mission as a church.

It is lived out by our Sunday school teachers, youth group leaders, and adult small group leaders.

Throughout our history, Anona has also made disciples that have become ministers and leaders of the Church. These people experienced a call from God right here at Anona. Many have gone off to serve other churches and some are serving Anona right now.

Where are you being discipled? Where are you discipling another? Another way to put that is, where are you becoming more like Christ? Where are you helping another become more like Christ?

Around this page are names of the leaders Anona has helped through the seminary process. Many are now ordained or are employed by churches around the country.

Please take a moment to pray over these names and celebrate their successes. We are a church that will never stop our mission; we will always continue making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Amen!

Jad Denmark

Carole Rooks

John Legg

Shelly Denmark

Mat Hotho

We call this multiplication; our congregation making disciples that go into ministry and make more disciples and ministers wherever they serve. That is how the Church keeps on becoming the church generation after generation...by raising up new leaders with a heart and passion to make disciples.

Keri LaBrant

Rachel Davis

Chris Hayden

Jacob Davis

It is symbolize in this moment, where Jack (who discipled me into ministry) lays his hands on me at my

Pam McMillan

Bailey Schreiner

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

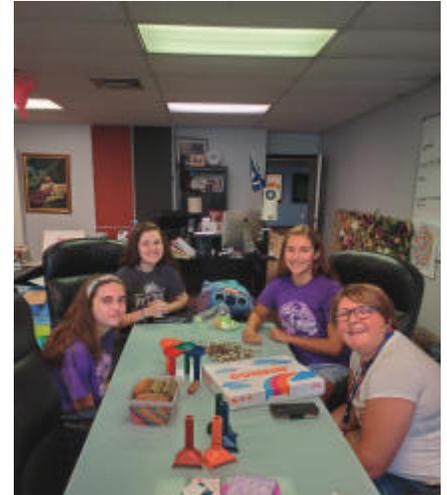
Romans 8:28

Richard Landon

Casey McKinney

Jeremy Herrington

BECOMING MORE *through Service*



Change 4 Change & Anona Thrift Shoppe are making a difference in the community!

Food insecurities are scary and Anona wants to help! Families participate in Pack a Sack & we pack 100,000 Meals of Hope!



*With a strong
hand and an out-
stretched arm,
For His loving
kindness is ever-
lasting.*

Psalm 136:12

POP THE TRUNK!

COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE



From January 1, 2020 to Present Day, Anona's Congregation and mission partners have donated over 20 TONS to food and \$118,265.95 to RCS/HOPE Villages of America.

**Thank you to everyone
who participates in these
food drives!**

1 TON PROVIDES 1,666 MEALS OR FEEDS 555 PEOPLE, 3 MEALS, FOR ONE DAY.
1 TON WILL FEED A FAMILY OF 4, 3 MEALS A DAY, FOR APPROXIMATELY 5 MONTHS.



BECOMING MORE GLOBAL

Although the Pandemic caused us to push pause on many of the missions trips we had planned, we were still able to make a difference globally thanks to your generosity. For the first time in Anona's history we became sponsors of a Missionary couple in Angola, Dr Leo and Cleivy Garcia. They serve the Methodist Mission in Quessua and have impacted the newborn survival rate and general health for villagers in the area. The school preps the children for careers in farming, business etc. as well as College and Seminary.

We helped send the first ladder truck to Guatemala for the Bomberos (firefighters/paramedics) as well as equipment and medical supplies. Extra money for food and medicine above our budgeted support of churches in Cuba. Although we had hardship and loss these poor countries have suffered even more with food/medicine shortages and loss of communication in some cases. We were able to send funds to UMCOR for disaster relief, again thanks to your generosity.



Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

Psalm 96:3



STAND UP WITH ANONA

Anona is Becoming Anti-Racist

Watching George Floyd die under the knee of Derek Chauvin made me realize it isn't enough to say you are against racism, you have to do something about it. That thought led to the launch of a group (Stand Up With Anona) that would keep racism regularly at the forefront of our church's thoughts, prayers, and actions.

That group has created classes, rethought our mission work with Ridgecrest, coordinated events with other organizations and looked more closely at our Anona culture all with a heart to address racism where and when we see it. Racism is real and you're invited to Stand Up with Anona to address it. Join us and learn how to become anti-racist by contacting Pastor Richard - richard@anona.com



I WILL BE THE BRIDGE



BECOMING MORE *through Community*

**Anona events
and gatherings
transformed and grew
into new traditions!**

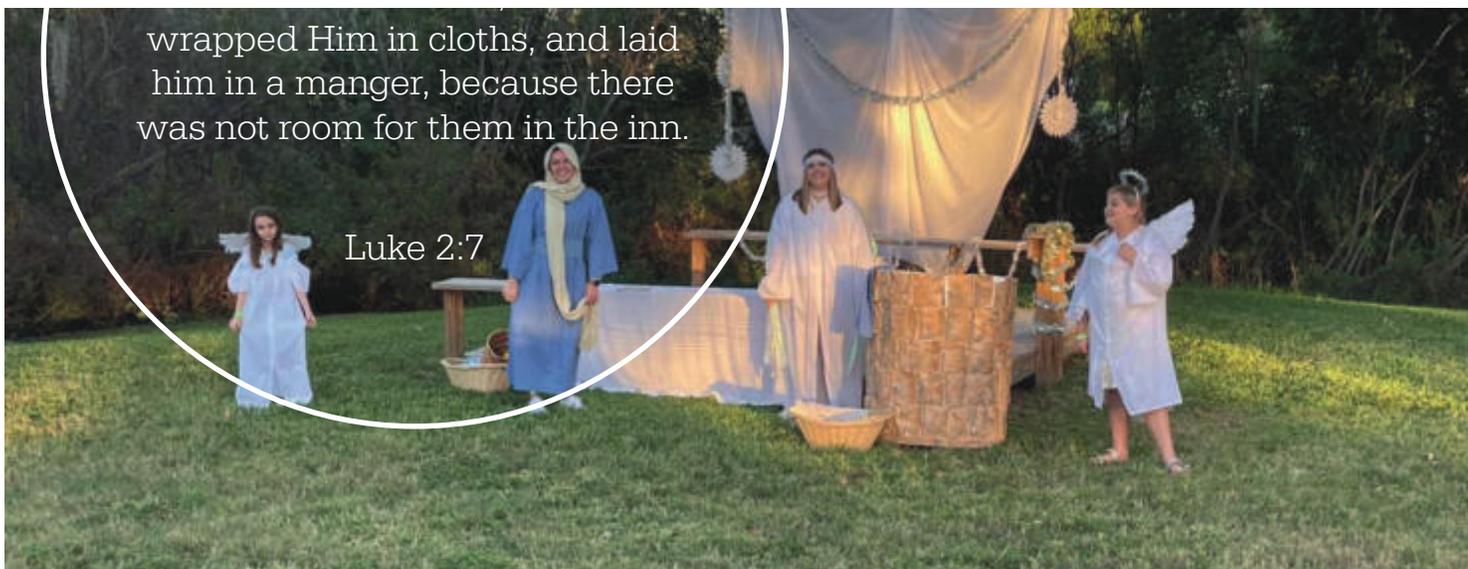


**And She
Gave Birth**



wrapped Him in cloths, and laid
him in a manger, because there
was not room for them in the inn.

Luke 2:7



BECOMING MORE WITH YOU



How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!

Psalm 133:1



ANONA UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
A MULTI-SITE Community
13233 Indian Rocks Rd.
Largo, FL 33774

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #4000
St. Petersburg, FL

VOLUME 2021
Commemorative
Issue

150 years!



ANONA
United Methodist Church

Join us in 2022 for a year of celebrations as we look back on 150 years of growing in Christ, serving in missions, and living in community!

anona.com