



# The Voice

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*Celebrating 180 years*

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## The Rev. John Wortinger Will Join us in June as our New Senior Pastor



The Rev John Wortinger will be joining us in June as our Senior Pastor. John, and his wife, Linda, are coming to us from First United Methodist Church in West Lafayette. Their first Sunday with us will be June 17.

Linda is a registered nurse currently working at Home Hospital. They have two children. Melinda, and husband, Andy Grismer live in Frankfort, IN and have two children, Annaka and Drew.

Mark and wife Amy Wortinger live in Greenwood, IN and have three children, Benjamin, Joanna, and Abigail.

John grew up in Northern Indiana. His early work

experience was in the construction industry where his father was a home construction contractor. John received his BA from the University of Indianapolis with a double major in history and philosophy. John's Master of Divinity degree was received from the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH in 1971. While in Dayton, John directed a teen center at an inner city site. The Wortingers returned to Northern Indiana in 1971, appointed to the Rochester Larger Parish as associate pastor. John has also served as pastor of Star City, Butler United, and Bremen Salem United Methodist Churches.

The last 20 years, John has served as Senior Pastor of Lowell First, St Matthew in Frankton, and West Lafayette First.

John also teaches in the Area Course of Study in Indianapolis on reformation and Wesley Theology. He is a member of the United States Chess Foundation and enjoys tournament play. Christian Art, particularly in its depictions of Christ, has been a fascination the last few years.

The Wortingers are looking forward to coming to Anderson to share with us in our ministry as we serve together as disciples of Jesus

## Special Event *The Pilgrim's Progress*

Utilizing nearly **thirty hand-carved marionettes**, the presentation highlights the classic Bunyan visions of the Slough of Despond, Vanity Fair, the River of

Death, battles with demons and dragons, imprisonment by a giant and colorful discourse with an array of wise men and fools.

This elaborate full-length production is not only an exciting introduction to this timeless story, but a vivid illustration

of the very essence of Christian Faith.

**What:** The Pilgrim's Progress  
**Where:** Anderson First United Methodist Church  
**When:** Sunday, March 25 at 7:00 p.m.  
**Cost:** Freewill offering  
**Contact:** 643-6977



## *On the Horizon!*

### *A message from Pastor Derek*

between art and faith. I hope to see you there. See another announcement elsewhere in this newsletter for more details.

That's the kind of thing that I have done from time to time. I am an advertiser of sorts, a promoter. We often provide opportunities for growth in all sorts of ways here at First Church and I am keen to make sure you don't miss them because you were uninformed.

After that marionette performance we have another performance to attend. The next week is Palm/Passion Sunday, and then Holy Week and then Easter. This is one of the highlights of our cycle of worship and celebration. This retelling, this reenactment of the passion of the Christ and the miracle of Easter is the center of who we are as Christians, the reason for being the church. Therefore, we need to experience the whole story.

You know how some theatres have the sign "no one will be seated after the opening curtain"? I have often wanted to put up a sign that said "no one can come to worship on Easter unless they have attended Holy Week services!"

*Easter loses some of the power if it doesn't follow Good Friday. And Good Friday is well nigh impossible to comprehend without the Holy Thursday remembrance. And Holy*

*Thursday loses some of its poignancy without the excesses of Palm Sunday. It is all one drama, one story from beginning to glorious end. And I don't want you to miss it, any of it.*



Palm Sunday is April 1st, Holy Thursday (or Maundy Thursday for us traditionalists) is April 5th, Good Friday is April 6th and Easter is April 8th. Mark your calendars. Weekday services at 7pm, Sunday mornings at 9:15 and 11:30am.

It's on the horizon. Don't miss it. Please. But then I can hear you saying, "Been there, done that." How many Easter mornings have you seen? How many tortured walks to the foot of the cross have you made? How many bits of bread soaked in juice have you eaten? And will one more make any difference at all?

Well, maybe not. Unless you believe in the ever present power of the Risen Lord. It may be one more example of same old, same old. Unless you decide this year open your arms to welcome back from death the one who poured himself out for you. This Easter season might be a case of tired old hymns and oddly repetitious sermons.

Unless you choose to bring your whole self, the healthy whole parts and the darker, hidden and hurting parts of yourself and ask for a light to shine in you and then from you, the light of dawn, of Easter.

It is just possible that this season will be the performance that brings tears to your eyes. And you'll be the performer. You will be the reason why it becomes so meaningful. It might even be that because of you, someone near you – or even far from you – experiences Easter in a whole new way.

Easter, like dawn, like the horizon before us, speaks of possibilities -- of transformation, of renewal, of hope. That what I want you to know is coming. That is what I want you to be present to receive. That is what I want you to come and expect. That's what is on the horizon.

Oh, I know there are other things, other changes coming. And there will be time to talk about those. There will be time to celebrate those other changes. But now is not that time. Now is the time to stand together, one more time, and look to the rising Son.

Look there! Can you see it? He comes. Risen with healing in his wings.

Join us this Easter.

Shalom,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Derek".

As I think back over the many articles I have written for this space I realize that what I do most of the time is look ahead. What's next? What's coming up here at First Church? Those are the questions that I think you want answered. So my first thought this week was to do more of the same. Tell you what is on the horizon.

I have often wanted to put up a sign that said "no one can come to worship on Easter unless they have attended Holy Week services!"

I want to commend an event to you in this space. I hope that you can clear your calendar for **March 25th** and come and see a very unique performance in our sanctuary. Marionette Artist, **David Simpich**, will bring his version of **Pilgrim's Progress** to our chancel at 7pm on that Sunday. I promise you an unforgettable evening. I have assurances that this presentation will help you see that classic work in a whole new light. Please come and support this new venture into the intersection

## *Loaves and Fishes Lenten Gathering*

The Discover! Sunday School class of 4th and 5th graders would like to invite the congregation to join them in a food gathering during Lent. They will have a LOAVES AND FISHES offering for the food

bank. Please bring canned fish and boxes of crackers and place them in the baskets in the narthex (on Sundays) or in the church office (during the week). The class hopes to have the Biblical 12 baskets

of loaves and fishes collected by Easter morning. Thanks for sharing!!



## *Grief Recovery Workshops*

*New Series begins: Wednesday, March 21*

First United Methodist Church, 12th and Jackson in Anderson, will begin a six week workshop series on Grief Recovery on Wednesday, March 21, from 6:00pm-8:00pm in the church parlor, located on the first floor. The sessions will be held each Wednesday evening through April 26.

The series is facilitated by Linda Madagame. Linda has worked as a professional in social services for many years and also has facilitated a grief recovery group in Valparaiso, Indiana.

The series is open to those who have suffered a loss through death. There is no charge to attend. If

you know someone who would benefit from the sessions or if you wish to obtain more information, please contact Pastor Donna Goings in the church office (643-6977). Registration is required, as space is limited.

## *Bon Amis*

### *Travel to Wesley Manor & LaComedia*

**Where:** Wesley Manor  
**When:** Wednesday, March 28  
**Location:** Frankfort, Indiana  
**Cost:** \$5  
**Depart:** 10:30 am - 2:30 pm  
**Call in your reservation:** 643-6977.

Bon Amis is headed to Frankfort on March 28 to visit Wesley Home, a retirement community sponsored by the United Methodist Church. We will have lunch (no charge!) and a brief

tour. The bus will leave at 10:30 and return at 2:30 or thereabouts. The **cost for the day is \$5** (for the bus).

**Where:** LaComedia  
**When:** Wednesday, April 19  
**Location:** Springboro, Ohio  
**Cost:** \$48  
**Depart:** 10:30 am - 2:30 pm

On April we are headed down to Springboro, Ohio, to the LaComedia dinner theater. This is a trip we

usually take in November, but we decided to alter our schedule. The scheduled play is that great musical, "Oklahoma." Dinner is always an incredible dining experience and includes the salad with papaya chutney dressing, chef-carved meats, Norwegian cod, a variety of pastas and fresh vegetables, sweet potato soufflé, and dessert! The bus will depart at 8:30am and return by

5:30pm or so.

The cost for the day is \$48. We have to give our final count soon, so it is critical that you sign up immediately if you are planning on going. You do not have to pay until April, but we need to know as soon as possible how many are planning to go.

# God is in the changes

## *Musings from the office at the end of the hall*

My musings are so disjointed today. So many changes are happening around me and I'm having trouble controlling my thoughts. Actually, I'm having trouble controlling the changes too!

None of the changes I've been thinking about are happening just because "we need a change!" They are all important; often life changing; good for life; exciting; scary and necessary. Even when I remind myself of all the positive-ness coming because of those changes I often get sad and worried. Shame on me, I know better.

He (John Wesley) said to be grounded in the Bible ..... people who were experiencing the change would find themselves surrounded by people of faith.

Some of the changes are easy ones like it's so close to spring I can just feel it but it's just not there yet. Some involve others more than me

such as the fact that out of a group of seven grad school friends (3 married couples +1), we'll have 4 children under 5 the next time we gather together. (We had no children when we gathered in October!) Some involve work – the summer calendar is being planned and it's already so filled I'm not looking forward to June (okay, so I dread June for several reasons). But I know better than to worry.

The Bible says we are not to worry. Time after time after time we are told to relax in God. We are to gather together and support each other and lean on God with the help of those around us. Who I might add are often going through the changes with us and thus need our support as much as we need theirs!

I know in my head how useless it is to be afraid of changes. John Wesley, the founder of our United Methodist Church, knew people were afraid of change. He said to be grounded in the

Bible but he knew people would want more; therefore, he gave us order so we could be prepared when changes happen. He set up health care centers for when medical changes happened so there would be places where people who were experiencing the change would find themselves surrounded by people of faith. People who know the Great Physician. He set up education centers because the world changes so fast and the world needs places where people could go to learn how to use those changes the way the Great Teacher would want. He set up procedures whereby people of faith would be lead by differing ministers who had the different gifts and graces diverse communities needed at the time they needed them; ministers who could show the Master Pastor. Those places are around like Methodist Hospital and University of Indianapolis and the North Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church. I

know all that in my head. In my head, I know not to worry.



Thankfully, God knows my head AND my heart and even the pit of my stomach. He supplies the community of faith and asks me to look beyond myself to those who are worried and He asks me to see how I can support them.

I still am not controlling the changes or even finding my thoughts more focused but I'm finding it easier to stop worrying about tomorrow. I pray God will find the space in your worries whereby He can insert the reminder YOU need to remember that God is in the changes and not to worry.

## **IMPORTANT - Kid's Night Out Reminder**

**What:** Kid's Night Out  
**When:** Friday, March 16  
5:30 pm - 9:30 pm  
**Where:** Anderson First UMC  
**Cost:** \$5.00 per child if you pre-register or \$6.50 at the door.  
**Pre-Register:** Call 643-6977



*Don't forget to register your child(ren) for the KNO March 16.*

It's all about David, the Shepherd Boy! Remember KNO is a gentle and fun way for us all to learn more about the Bible stories that undergird our lives! KNO begins at 5:30 p.m. and ends at 9:30 p.m.

ADULTS – If you want to learn more about David, the Shepherd Boy you are very cordially invited to be a part of the leadership team. Contact Mrs. Heather Rusche at 765-534-4122 as soon as possible.

## Saturdays at the Park

### Q&A - Everything You Wanted To Know About Church

Join us at 5 p.m., Saturday, March 24 at Davis Park for worship and this unique Q & A session with pastor Derek.

What are your burning questions about church and Christianity?

*How old was Jesus when he*

*was crucified? Why did Christ die and how does that affect me? Why do bad things happen, if Christ is in all things?*

Write down your questions and bring them with you.

Dinner provided following

service. Don't miss this opportunity to hear the answers to your questions and the many other questions others have about church and Christianity.



**What:** Lift High the Cross, Quest opportunity

**When:** Wednesday Nights at 6:30 p.m.

February 28 - March 28

**Where:** Fellowship Hall

**Study led by:** Rev. Dr. Derek C. Weber

## Thank You!

Thank you very much for donating supplies and money to make our Saturday At The Park services so special. We had a lovely birthday party in

January and a time for a good laugh in February.

If you feel a special call to support the Saturday At The Park services, we'd love to be able to call on you to

donate supplies for the next service. The March service will be on Saturday, March 24, so please contact the church office to let us know of your availability.

**What:** Lenten Bible Study: "The Last Supper"

**When:** Tuesday Nights at 6:30 p.m. February 27 - March 27

**Where:** East/West Parlor

**Study led by:** Rev. Dan Motto



## Let's bake a cake!

You may not think 1 Kings has much to offer you as you seek to raise your child in a godly manner. You'd be surprised! For instance, 1 Kings talks about David who was a good king but not a great father. He didn't discipline his sons when they needed it. Because of this his sons lived bad lives and did some things that were wrong. When you as a parent have to discipline your child for something they have done wrong,

teach your child to remember it is good and godly for them to learn to do right. 1 Kings also talks about David's sons and grandsons. Solomon's son, Rehoboam, listened to the wrong kind of friends and they gave him bad advice. Remind your child to be careful when his friends tell him to do something he's not sure is right. Just a couple of ideas!

And here's a fun way to

introduce truths from the book of 1st Kings.

Mix and bake a cake that requires vegetable oil as an ingredient. After the cake has baked, enjoy eating a piece together as you tell the wonderful story of the kind lady and God's amazing miracle from I Kings 17:8-24. Be sure to thank God for giving you food and drink every single day, and not just the cake!

### Worship Opportunities

#### Sundays

9:15 am—Traditional Worship

10:30 am—Sunday School for Everyone

11:30 am - *ensemble*

#### Modern Worship

11:30 am - Connections - Prayer & Praise Worship

#### Saturdays

March 24—Saturdays at the Park—5 pm

## *Ichthus* *“Uprising”*

*The Lord replies, “I have seen violence done to the helpless, and I have heard the groans of the poor. Now I will rise up to rescue them, as they have longed for me to do.” - Psalm 12:5*

The word “uprising” is most often applied to unjustly oppressed people reaching the point that they are willing to risk life and limb to change their condition...a revolt. It implies furor—zeal for an outcome.

Uprising is an enthusiastic response to those things with which God has an issue. First, rise up against spiritual poverty—in yourself and in your friends—by looking for heavenly things (Colossians 3:1). Then, turn and fight against the things that oppress others...injustice, lack, loneliness.

Be a part of the solution. By giving you're part of the UPRISING.

**What:** Ichthus Music Festival

**When:** June 13 - 16, 2007

**Where:** Wilmore, Kentucky

**Cost:** To Be Announced

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

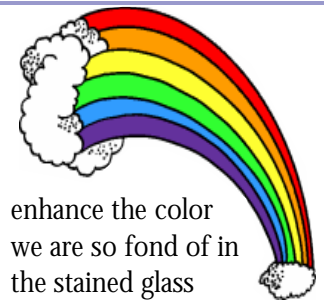
[www.andersonfirst.org](http://www.andersonfirst.org)

For more information, contact Steve or Mary Kay Thomas at [steve@andersonfirst.org](mailto:steve@andersonfirst.org) or [marykay@andersonfirst.org](mailto:marykay@andersonfirst.org) or call 765-643-6977

## *De Colores*

De Colores is a familiar term to those who have been on a Walk to Emmaus, Great Banquet, or similar event. De Colores is a children's folk song, giving thanks for the joy of colors in God's creation. We see evidence of this wherever we look. For example, early in the morning, certain parts of our sanctuary are lit up with many colors from the

sun shining through the stained glass. Some people in the congregation thought it would be nice to see this display of color more than just a few hours a day and just in a few places. Having seen how banners could bring light and color into other facilities, an investigation was started on how First United Methodist might use banners to



enhance the color we are so fond of in the stained glass windows. This started a journey that is almost over; the banners are close to completion. The next few issues of the voice will chronicle the progress and community of people who have helped bring this to pass.

## *Hold or Fold*

Many of us remember “The Gambler” by Kenny Rogers that had the famous line.... “Ya gotta know when to hold em, and when to fold em.” So what does that have to do with our church you may ask; I’ll get to that in a minute. I wrote a recent article about how Peg and I are committed to staying in the same place as long as possible to provide stability for our grandchildren. We believe they need that and also believe God has called us to provide it. As a contrast though, it would be selfish to want them to never grow up because we want stability for ourselves, or because we fear what the

coming years will reveal. There are certain positions we hold for very long times, parent, grandparent, and best friend are good examples. There are certain positions that are held for short periods, such as teacher or coach. To hold these positions for longer than needed is usually dysfunctional. I see the same pattern in the Bible. It appears some groups are almost lifetime relationships, but leadership is seldom a long term thing. As Americans we usually put term limits on leadership positions. Paul rarely stayed in one place for more than a couple years

at best. As hard as it is sometimes, I believe there is merit in the Methodist appointment system. Our relationship to one another as a church is long term, our relationship to our pastor probably not so long term. When it comes to what Pastor Derek has taught me by example, by teaching, and by friendship, I hope to hold on to as long as I live. When it comes to selfishly keeping Pastor Derek here and thereby keeping him and our church from growing, as painful as it may be, I’m gonna fold.

Dave Peter

## *Spring Box Luncheon & Style Show*

The Isabel Society presents their annual Spring Box Luncheon & Style Show by Gina’s of Muncie.

**Where:** Harter House, 600 Main Street, Anderson, IN

**When:** Wednesday, April 18

**Time:** 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

**Tickets:** \$15 available at Harter House 765-642-7600 or from any Isabel Society board member.

## Check it Out!

*A Man Named Dave*, the third in a trilogy by Dave Pelzer, continues his life story. Horribly abused by his alcoholic mother, Dave writes about his early adulthood, following a time of living with a series of foster parents who helped free him from a childhood replete with evil and traumatic experiences.

Enlisting in the U.S.

Airforce proved to be a godsend to Dave, and his marriage and the birth of his son became the focus of his life. Eventually his life's focus was on speaking and volunteering in organizations which gave hope to abused persons.

It was refreshing to experience the gradual healing of a troubled and confused adult, eventually

resulting in his forgiveness of his emotionally disturbed mother. After reading the first two books of this series, you need to read this latest volume. You will find it in the biography section of our church library. Check it out!

## NEW In The Library

*Home to Big Stone Gap* - Adriana Trigiani (F)

*The Time Traveler's Wife* - Audry Niffenegger (F)

*Red River* - Lalita Tademy (F)

*In the Heart of the Sea* -

Nathaniel Philbrick (NF)

*Songs of the Humpback Whale* - Jodi Picoult (F)

*The Alchemist* - Paulo Coelho (F)

*When the Heart Waits* - Sue Monk Kidd (NF)

*River Rising* - Athol Dickson (F)

*Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* (F)

*Caddy for Life: the Bruce Edwards Story* - John Feinstein (B)

## United Methodist Women

### Bible Study Circle

**April 5, 2007 at 9:30 a.m.**

Hostess: Joyce McNeil

Co-Hostess: TBA

Program: Nola Amos

Lesson 8: A Pattern for Dynamic Prayer

Matthew 6:7-15

*Meetings are scheduled the first Thursday of each month.*

### Action Circle

**April 11, 2007 at 9:30 .m.**

Conference Room #125

*Meetings are scheduled the second Wednesday of each month.*

### Lydia Circle

**April 10, 2007 at 7 p.m.**

North/South Parlor

Hostess: Alice Baker

Program: *Rise & Shine for Christ is Risen!*

*Meetings are scheduled the second Tuesday of each month.*

## Memorials given in February 2007

### Gregory Kent Berry

Marilyn and Jim Ault  
Lois Reed

Sue and Gene Wright  
Maxine and Jack Crandall  
Mildred Gustin

Eleanor Hickman and Family

Margaret Franzen and Family

Mary Jane Buxton and Family

Kathryn Allison and Family

### Gregory Kent Berry to Community Dinners

Harriett Wheeler

### James Hickman

Eleanor Hickman

### David Hilburt to Organ Fund

Rosemary McGuire

## Honorium

In February, a gift was given to the community dinners in honor of all volunteers by Deardra and Bill Roesch.

### Friendship Circle

**April 5, 2007 at 9:30 a.m.**

Hostess: Betty Jean Clem, 4123 Round Hill Drive

Devotions: Virginia Musser

Program: *Music* Betty Hart

### Book Club

Morning Book Club meets the first Tuesday of every month in the church library from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, April 3, 2007

*Sweetwater Creek* by Anne Rivers Siddons



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**Visit us on the web at**  
**[www.andersonfirst.org](http://www.andersonfirst.org)**

## Coming Events

- |   |                                    |  |
|---|------------------------------------|--|
| Mar 16 JOY Luncheon                                     | Apr 1 Palm/Passion Sunday          | May 18 JOY Luncheon  |
| Mar 16 Kid's Night Out                                  | Apr 5 Holy Thursday                | May 20 Children's Sunday   |
| Mar 17 AAYC Festival                                    | Apr 6 Good Friday                  | May 20 Heritage Sunday   |
| Mar 24 Saturdays at the Park Worship                    | Apr 8 Easter Sunday                | May 27 Praise in the Park  |
| Mar 25 Marionette Presentation - The Pilgrim's Progress | Apr 28 Women Alive in Faith Brunch | June 13-16 Ichthus 2007  |
| Apr 1 - Beginning of Holy Week                          | May 13 Choir Sunday                | For updated and current calendar information, visit us on the web at |
|   | May 18 Kid's Night Out             |  |

### Lenten Worship Schedule

Join us each Sunday during Lent as we study Jesus final words from the cross.

**March 18** "My God, My God" Matthew 27:45-49

**March 25** "Finished / Into Thy Hands" John 19:30, Luke 23:46-49

### Holy Week Schedule

April 1  
**Palm/Passion Sunday**

April 5  
**Holy Thursday**

April 6  
**Good Friday**  
*First Church Tenebrae*

April 8  
**Easter Sunday**

### Anderson Area Christian Men's Lenten Breakfast Series

**8:00 to 9:30 a.m.**

**March 24** St. Mary's RCC  
 1115 Pearl Street, Anderson

**March 31** North Anderson COG  
 2604 N. Scatterfield, Anderson

**For complete details visit us on the web at: [www.andersonfirst.org](http://www.andersonfirst.org)**