



## First United Methodist

FAITH FIRST. FAMILIES FIRST. ANDERSON FIRST.

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# THE VOICE

A Newsletter of First United Methodist



Time to  
Spring  
Ahead!  
Remember to change your clocks!  
Sunday, March 8!



## LENT

You are invited to ALL we offer during this time of  
preparation for Easter and our Easter Celebration.

Lenten Breakfast Series—Saturdays

Lent Studies: "An Unlikely Lent"

Six Sundays of Lent

Egg-stravaganza—Downtown

Holy Week: Maundy Thursday and Good Friday

Easter Sunrise Service and Breakfast at Davis Park

Easter Traditional Celebration in Sanctuary

Indoor Easter egg hunt in the Fellowship Hall at 11:15 a.m.

### OVERNIGHT WARMING CENTER

Available to help our homeless community?

Anderson First UMC will again open its doors overnight during below  
freezing temperatures. If you are available for a 4 hour shift, please  
sign up to be contacted by Pastor Corinne Boruff (text or call  
317-902-1843) or Susan Selby.

We will follow the Madison County Emergency Management guidelines  
for a Warming Center rather than "shelter." This mean we are offering  
a heated space – no food, bedding or cots. Our shifts will be 8 p.m.-12  
a.m., 12 a.m.-4 a.m. and 4-7a.m. + 1 hr. of clean up. We will open  
when instructed to open. Winter is not over yet. Please be prayerful  
and consider helping others in need.

# Adult Ministries

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE – March 2026

### “AN UNLIKELY LENT”

by Rachel Billups

Notice the Unexpected in Easter

“The crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus are at the heart of the story of Easter. But the resurrection was not witnessed in isolation; it unfolded before a crowd. Walk through this season with eyes wide open, ready to see where God is moving, even in the margins. Since the cross is not the end of the story, embrace every unlikely moment along the way.”

- March 1           SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT  
“Unlikely Opposition: The Servant Girl”  
John 3:11-17; Mark 14:66-72 (NLT)  
Music: Wesley Chorale
- March 8           THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT  
Rev. Dale Mendenhall preaching  
“Unlikely Freedom: Barabbas”  
Luke 23:13-25 (NRSV)  
Music: Wesley Bells
- March 15          FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT  
“Unlikely Companionship: Simon of Cyrene”  
Mark 15: 20-24; Matthew 5:39-42 (NLT)  
Music: Handbell Quartet
- March 22          FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT  
Rev. Dr. Brian White preaching  
“Unlikely Courage: The Women at the Cross”  
Music: Sanctuary Choir
- March 29          PALM SUNDAY  
“Unlikely Allies: Joseph of Arimathea & Nicodemus”  
Matthew 21:1-11; John 19:38-42 (NLT)  
Music: Sanctuary Choir
- Holy Thursday, April 2 @ 7 p.m.
- Good Friday, April 3 @ 7 p.m.
- April 5           EASTER SON-RISE SERVICE @ 7 a.m., Lodge, Davis Park  
Music: Michele Murray  
Easter Breakfast @ 7:30 a.m. at Lodge, Davis Park  
EASTER TRADITION CELEBRATION @ 10 a.m. Downtown  
Holy Communion  
Music: Sanctuary Choir & Brass

number of guests we serve and they are a blessing to our Pantry and our guests.

Our next Helping Hands Non-Food Pantry will be **March 11, 2026** from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. For that Pantry, we are requesting donations of toilet paper, a toothbrush, or deodorant for a man or woman. These items appreciate your help.

Thank you!

Sincerely—Linda Verhulst, Juanita Slattery and Karen Ambler

## Music Ministry

### Good Friday/ Tenebrae Service

What is a Tenebrae Service?

It is a solemn service that uses the gradual extinguishing of candles to symbolize the darkness of Jesus' death. Originating in the 9<sup>th</sup> century, this “service of shadows” is a meditation on the passion, suffering, and death of Jesus.

The service include Scripture readings, hymns and music from the choir in the balcony which creates a somewhat haunting experience.

At the conclusion of the service everyone leaves in silence to reflect on the death of Christ before the anticipation of Easter.

Many have said that this has been a profoundly meaningful service and experience for them.

We hope that you will join us on this journey toward Easter and the Resurrection.

**The service will be Friday, April 3 at 7:00 p.m.**

## Outreach Ministries

### OUTREACH NEWS

During this Lenten season, I'd like to pause to reflect on those who make our internal ministries function through your kind Christmas offerings. Johanne Coleson leads Buddy Bags. Her dedicated group of volunteers delivers 500 nutritional bags to elementary students monthly. Linda Verhulst directs Helping Hands Non-Food Pantry along with her faithful team. The work they put in throughout the month is remarkable as they are faithful servants to Christ's call to help the least of these. Jim Wessar and Sandy French have guided our Utility Assistance team throughout the years, providing help to our neighbors in need. These are the internal ministries that you supported through your generous Christmas offerings. 2 Thessalonians 3:13, "But as for you brothers and sisters, do not grow tired or lose heart in doing good." Again, thank you.

Now to focus on the upcoming Easter offering. (A letter will be mailed explaining details.) Easter Offerings fund external ministries which include a variety of local ministries that we review annually along with our commitment to the Africa University. Hebrews 13:16 reminds us, "And do not forget to do good and share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Thank you in advance for your prayer support for our external ministry program.

On the topic of Easter offerings, we just received a message from Susan Bennett at the United Methodist Children's Home. She graciously informed us that our external ministry donation assisted 111 children and 7 young adults last year. This is a wonderful example of what your kind contributions can do for others.

Sincerely, Susan

### HELPING HANDS NON-FOOD PANTRY

Our February 11th Pantry was very well attended. We were able to provide a bag to 125 people. We gave each person two large rolls of toilet paper, a bottle of shampoo, a bottle of conditioner, lotion, a bar of soap, and a bottle of laundry detergent. We continue to have people come to our Pantry for the first time.

We let them know the date of the next Pantry and that they are welcome to come again. Our regular attendees have been increasing in numbers as well. We appreciate the support of our congregation and the supplies they donate to us. Their generosity helps us serve the increasing



### Holy Week

Palm Sunday, March 29 @ 10 a.m.  
Holy Thursday, April 2 @ 7:00 p.m.  
Good Friday, April 3 @ 7:00 p.m.

EASTER, April 5  
Easter Sunrise Service @ 7 a.m. at Lodge, Davis Park  
Music: Michele Murray  
Easter Breakfast @ 7:30 a.m. at Lodge, Davis Park  
Easter Traditional Celebration @ 10 a.m. Downtown Sanctuary  
Holy Communion  
Music: Sanctuary Choir & Brass  
Indoor Easter Egg Hunt in the Fellowship Hall @ 11:15 a.m.

### UMCOR SUNDAY

March 15

(United Methodist Committee on Relief)

Special Sundays give us a chance to focus our prayers and support on important ministries—uniting our gifts to multiply our impact. Your generosity helps the Church be prepared before disaster strikes—and able to stay for the long haul afterward. It supports behind-the-scenes work that makes on-the-ground response possible. Some of the major areas UMCOR serves include:

- U.S. Disaster Response: Helps communities in the U.S. recover after floods, fires, tornadoes, and more.
- International Disaster Response: Offers emergency food, shelter, hygiene kits, and support after global crises.
- Global Migration: Assists vulnerable refugees and migrants with necessities, legal aid, and safety.
- Environmental Sustainability: Partners with churches to care for the earth and prepare for eco-disasters.
- Yambasu Agriculture Initiative: Trains and equips churches in Africa to improve food security and self-sufficiency.

As you feel God's call to give, you may:

- Give through our church or donate online at [donate.gcfa.org/umcor](https://donate.gcfa.org/umcor).
- Send a check to General Commission on Finance and Administration at P.O. Box 340029, Nashville, TN 37203.

100% of your gift goes directly to relief efforts, not administrative costs. Your gift will change lives.

### LENTEN STUDY

#### "An Unlikely Lent" by Rachel Billups

There is still time to join a study!

Don't miss out on this powerful opportunity!

Multiple Days, Times, Locations and Leaders are available:

#### Pastor Brian White

Mondays, February 23-March 30 @ 10:30 a.m. in NS Parlor & Online

#### Pastor Corinne Boruff

Wednesdays, February 25-April 1 @ 6 p.m. in NS Parlor

#### Peg Peter

Fridays, February 27-April 3 @ 9 a.m. in NS Parlor

#### Susan Selby & Judy Whitney

Wednesdays, February 11-March 18 @ 5 p.m. at Susan's home  
(2647 E. 100 N., Anderson)

#### Richard & Dorinda Cassidy

Tuesdays, February 17-March 24 @ 7:00 p.m.

Cassiday Cottage (5396 S 100 E, Anderson)

#### Pat Walker

Weds., Feb.18-March 25 @ 10:30 a.m. at Pat's home (310 Ravenview Ct.,  
Anderson -- Longfellow Woods condos)

### WHAT IS A METHODIST?

Ever wonder what makes us – the people of Anderson First United *Methodist* – unique? John Wesley (founder of this denomination) wrote an article entitled, "The Character of a Methodist." In this article he writes:

"What then is the mark? Who is a Methodist, according to your own account. I answer: A Methodist is one who has "the love of God shed abroad in his heart by the Holy Ghost given unto him;" one who "loves the Lord his God with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his mind, and with all his strength. God is the joy of his heart, and the desire of his soul; which is constantly crying out, Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee! My God and my all! Thou art the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever!... Thou art the strength of my heart, and my portion forever! He is therefore happy in God, yea, always happy, as having in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life, and overflowing his soul with peace and joy. Perfect love having now cast out fear, he rejoices evermore."

This means that as Methodist we are called by God AND our church to love God with all that we are, and live our love for God in joy by sharing it with others – all others, whether we know them or like them or agree with them.

How is your love for God showing up in your life?

### INDOOR EGG HUNT

Join Us for an Egg-citing Easter Sunday at First Kids!

Hop on over to First Kids this Easter Sunday for a fun-filled celebration the whole family will love! Starting at 10:00 a.m., all of our First Kids Classes will be open as we celebrate the joy of Easter with exciting confetti poppers!

But the fun doesn't stop there! Stick around after worship for a free indoor Easter egg hunt in the Fellowship Hall at 11:15 a.m.

Don't miss out on this joyful Easter Sunday. We can't wait to celebrate with you and your family!

### SUMMER CAMP

Do you have a child or student interested in attending an Impact summer camp? Check out their website and let Ally Hall know if you would like to participate. You will receive a special code to use during registration. Spots are limited, so please let us know soon! Early bird registration ends on **April 20th**.

<https://impact2818.org/summer-camps/>



## MOVIE NIGHT

Lights, Camera... MOVIE NIGHT!

Get excited for a Movie Night at Anderson First Kids on Wednesday, **April 1st!** We invite all kids to wear their coziest pajamas and bring pillows and blankets for the ultimate viewing experience. Together, we'll enjoy a movie and delicious snacks. We can't wait to spend time with you on Wednesday from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. the Fireplace Room!

## EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Egg-stra, Egg-stra!

March 21, 12-2 p.m. Downtown

Anderson First UMC is excited to host a new version of our Easter Eggstravaganza! We will be offering a Drive-thru experience and a sensory-friendly Easter event at our downtown location! We will offer egg hunt kits, crafts, games, and pictures with the Easter Bunny. This free event is perfect for all ages, offering a sensory-safe environment where everyone can celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.

We are currently accepting non-chocolate candy, stickers, and toys small enough to fit inside easter eggs. Additionally, we are seeking volunteers to assist in stuffing eggs, welcoming guests, managing craft and game stations, and setting up and taking down the event. If you're interested in volunteering for this reimagined community outreach event, please scan the QR code to sign up! For any questions regarding the event or volunteering, feel free to reach out to Ally Hall.



## CANDY DONATIONS—EASTER CANDY DONATIONS NEEDED!

We invite you to contribute individually wrapped, non-chocolate candies or small toys for Anderson First's Easter Event! Please make sure that donations are able to fit inside of Easter eggs! You can drop off your donations in the designated buckets or in Ally Hall's office by **March 15th**.

Here are some ideas for what you can donate:

- Skittles
- Tattoos
- Stickers
- Swedish fish
- Nerds
- Laffy Taffy
- Bubble gum
- Tootsie Rolls
- Lifesavers
- Sour Patch Kids
- Twizzlers
- Starbursts
- Small erasers
- Gummy bears
- Fruit snacks
- Bouncy balls

## 2026 LAITY MANUSCRIPT CONTEST

The Indiana Conference Board of Laity is pleased to sponsor the 2026 Laity Sermon Manuscript Contest again this year. The contest is **open to all laypersons** in the Indiana Conference.

Following the theme of the 2026 Indiana Annual Conference Session, the theme for this year's manuscript contest is ALL IN: Multiplying Love based on John 15:9-17, with a focus verse of John 15:12: "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." The author of the winning manuscript will present his or her manuscript at one of the sessions of Annual Conference, which will take place at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Indianapolis **June 3-6**.

Rules for the contest are as follows:

- Manuscripts must be original and based on the theme stated above.
- Manuscripts should be no more than 10 minutes in length when presented.
- Entries will be judged based on clarity, originality, relationship to the theme and composition.
- Manuscripts must be accompanied by a cover sheet that includes the writer's name, phone number, email address, local church name and district.
- Entrants are asked not to include any personally identifying information in the manuscript itself since the manuscripts will be judged anonymously.
- Previous winners are ineligible for 3 years.
- All entries **MUST** be received no later than Sunday, **April 26**.
- The winner will be notified on or before Friday, **May 8**.

Entries should be submitted to Kim Arnott, Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries, at kimarnott@mac.com. For additional information about the contest, please contact Kim Arnott at the above email address

## STEWARDSHIP

Your faithfulness and trust of God and God's work through Anderson First UMC is apparent. Thank you to those of you who have returned a pledge card for the 2026 budget. For those who have not yet returned a card, you are encouraged to do so.

Returning a pledge card allows us know how to assist God in God's work through this church this year.

Pledges cards are available from the church office.

## Devotion for February

by Steve Anderson

*Be kind to another and tenderhearted. Forgive one another as God in Christ has forgiven you. Ephesians 4:32*

The first warm day in March is like the soft warm kiss that your mother gave you in waking you up to a new day. The warm March Day like that kiss is temporary and fleeting as the unpredictable realities of the month and day are revealed.

The unfinished business of winter lingers during the month as does the baggage of our transgressions and perceived failures. They remain to be reflected upon during the season of Lent which began February 18 and ends on Easter April 5.

The purpose of Lent may be summed up by Catherine Doherty, a religious social justice activist (1896-1985) when she wrote that "Lent is a time of going deeply into ourselves. What is it that stands between us and God? Between us and our brothers and sisters? Between us, life and the spirit? Whatever it is let us relentlessly tear it out".

Pope Francis stated that "God never tires of forgiving us. We are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy". Lent gives us the opportunity to make a course correction that will enable us to step into a sea of mercy.

The month of March and Lent gives us hopeful signs of new beginnings such as forgiveness and the emergence of crocuses and daffodils.

Like the spring rains and storms of March that wash away winter; repentance and forgiveness cleanses us so that we once again in April we focus and remember the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus Christ.



## Family Ministries

### FIRST KIDS

Do you know what? Your kids are meant to know God! And that is the Simple Truth we are teaching this March with our Theme "Plugged In." First Kids will learn that God is holy, God never changes, God is both just and kind, and God is wise. We also have a special Game Changer on Palm Sunday, where kids will learn that God leads us to hope. We can't wait to see you at Anderson First UMC on Sundays at 10am and Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.!

### YOUTH GROUP

Anderson First Students is meeting on **March 8th and 22nd** for youth group. AFS is for people in 6th-12th grade to find a place to learn, serve, and have fun together. We currently worship and serve together on Sundays at 10:00 a.m., and on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month from 11:15 a.m.-1:15 p.m., we gather in the Youth room. During our time together, we play games and use Nua Origins curriculum to lead discussions about the Bible and how it applies to our lives.

### GAME NIGHT

Join Us for a Super Fun Game Night at First Kids Club! We're thrilled to invite all kids aged 3 to 12 to our next Game Night on **Wednesday, March 11th**, from **6 p.m. to 8 p.m.** This event promises to be packed with games, laughter, and endless fun. We can't wait to share this amazing evening with our awesome Anderson First Kids!

### KIDS CHOIR

Do- Re-Mi-Fa-So-La-Ti- Do.... you know that the Kids Choir is performing on **March 29th** for Palm Sunday! Everyone from 3 years old to 6th grade is invited to join our Kids Choir!

Choir Details:

**When:** Sunday mornings, 9:25 a.m. to 9:55 a.m.

**Where:** Upstairs in the Choir Room

Come for a fun time filled with singing, musical games, and worship. We'll have several performances throughout the year, with the next one on **March 29th** at 10:00 a.m.

If your kiddo is excited to join, just swing by the Kids check-in on Sunday mornings. We'll take them to the Choir room and bring them back to their classrooms after rehearsal.

**Got questions?** Feel free to reach out to **Sue Finger** or **Ally Hall!**