



First United Methodist

FAITH FIRST. FAMILIES FIRST. ANDERSON FIRST.

First United Methodist Church
1215 Jackson Street
Anderson IN 46016
Phone: 765-643-6977
Fax: 765-642-5232
E-mail: mail@andersonfirst.org

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 909
Anderson, Indiana

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Visit us on the web at
andersonfirst.org and
follow us on Facebook



THE VOICE

A Newsletter of First United Methodist



Congratulations Graduates!

We would like to congratulate all our high school and college graduates! It is an honor to share this important moment in their lives. Their graduation is certainly an achievement, but there's much more to come and we look forward to watching as they embark on their next adventure!

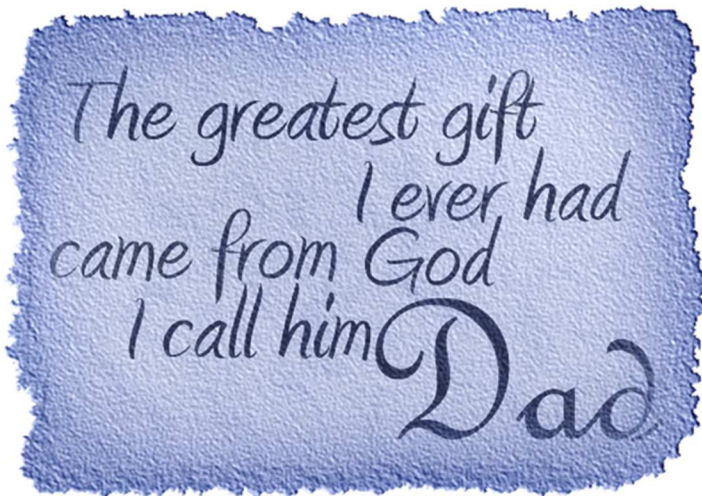


Claire Fenwick is graduating from Cathedral High school where she was a cheerleader, a member of the competitive cheer team, received high academic honors all 4 years and served as a peer mentor her this past year. Claire will be attending Butler University where she plans to study Health Science and plans to apply to the dental school.



Madeleine Fenwick is a 2021 graduate of Cathedral High school. Madeleine was a cheerleader, a member of the competitive cheer team, received high academic honors all 4 years and served as a peer mentor her senior year. Madeleine will be attending Butler University to study Health Sciences and plans to apply to the physicians assistance studies masters program.

Shelby Gray is a 2021 graduate from Anderson University. Shelby has loved her time at AU and in the Anderson community. She has had such wonderful opportunities to sing in AU chorale, First United Methodist Sanctuary Choir and Wesley Chorale. She directed our Children's choir before COVID hit, directed music and choreographed at Highland Middle School, participated in AU theatre productions, and studied voice. Shelby graduated from Anderson University in Music Education and will be teaching elementary music in the fall.



Happy Father's Day!!!

We Worship Together

Worship Schedule for June, 2021

PARABLES OF JESUS

Earthly stories with a heavenly meaning. These are the parables that Jesus shared in Matthew, Mark and Luke. During this month we will learn from Jesus through his parables.

- June 6 Second Sunday after Pentecost
Pastor Don Deena Johnson preaching
Pastor Peggy Nunley officiating Communion
Outdoor Service – 9 a.m.
Music: Resolution (Vocal Group)
Sanctuary Service – 10:45 a.m.
Music: Sheryl Monnier
- June 13 Third Sunday after Pentecost
Matthew 20:1-16 (NLT)
The Scandal of Grace
Outdoor Service – 9 a.m.
Music: Matt Finger
Sanctuary Service – 10:45 a.m.
Music: Michele Murray
- June 20 Father's Day
Luke 15:3-7 (NLT)
Lost, Found, Restored
Outdoor Service – 9 a.m.
Music: Ernie Coleson's Trio
Sanctuary Service – 10:45 a.m.
Music: Michele Murray
- June 27 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Pastor Don Deena Johnson preaching
Outdoor Service – 9 a.m.
Music: Director's Jazz Orchestra
Sanctuary Service – 10:45 a.m.
Music: Michele Murray

EXPANDING WORSHIP

Worship options:

9:00 a.m. Outdoor at Davis Park.

This Service is live-streamed on Facebook and YouTube
In case of rain, there will only be a live-stream service.

FM In-Car worship at Outdoor service (FM 88.5)

10:45 a.m. Downtown Sanctuary

Recorded online (YouTube, Facebook and Website)

CD delivery (by request)

Stay "tuned in" to hear God at work!

BLESSED BE THE CHURCH United Methodist Office of Public Information

May 4, 2021

Nashville: The United Methodist Church has continued to carry out its mission despite the unique challenges and uncertainties of 2020. That's according to the new 2020 State of the Church Report produced by the Connectional Table and United Methodist Communications, themed "Blessed is the Church."

The report uses the framework of the Beatitudes to share a compilation of stories that provide an inspiring look at the ways the church responded in an unprecedented year – which included a global pandemic, renewed calls to end racism, a delayed General Conference and the possibility of a denominational split.

The stories share how United Methodists looked to God for hope and guidance in the face of extraordinary challenges, shared resources and wisdom, offered comfort in the face of grief, practiced spiritual disciplines, provided physical aid and spiritual support, continued to be a force for peace and reconciliation, stood up for the persecuted and oppressed, sought justice and stayed true to the denomination's mission.

"This was hardly a year of blessing. Yet we have chosen to use these Matthean blessings (Mt. 5:1-14) — these Beatitudes — as the framework for this report. That is because they describe our identity as a church, not our circumstances," said the Reverend Kennetha J. Bigham-Tsai, Chief Connectional Ministries Officer...

"All of our people have had to deal with the loneliness and isolation that has come with this pandemic. Yet, United Methodists have still done the ministry to which we are called," said Bishop Harvey. "We have found ways to continue ministering to one another and to reach out, beyond the walls of the church, to engage the community as never before."

Bishop McKee noted church members gave almost \$40 million to apportionments to support ministry around the globe in December 2020. "It was the highest rate of giving in one month in the history of The United Methodist Church. And it came during a global health crisis. It came during a time of economic stress. It came because United Methodists are faithful in their mission and ministry," he said.

The State of the Church report is available in its entirety online, along with previous reports, at ResourceUMC.org/church-report.

Thank You

DeWayne & Gail Landwehr would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and words of comfort that offered encouragement and comfort following the death of DeWayne's sister last week.

Other Church News

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Sharon Dotson joined AFUMC by transfer from another UMC on Sunday, May 23.

Barbara Jean Lovell Cox will join AFUMC by profession of faith on Sunday, June 13.



ANNUAL CONFERENCE June 11-12, Digital Conference Only



Voting members for Anderson First UMC are

Matt Stout, Lay Representative

Sarah Taylor, Equalizing Delegate

Vicky Strock, Equalizing Delegate

Pastor Peggy Nunley, UMC Local Pastor

Rev. Corinne Boruff, UMC Clergy

Prayers for these and all making decisions on behalf of the Indiana Conference of the UMC.

For additional information: www.inumc.org

WHY ARE WE STILL WEARING FACEMASKS?

We at Anderson First UMC will continue, for now, to wear facemasks when gathering even though the CDC/IDPH removed masking requirements for fully-vaccinated people because there are among us:

- People who have cancer,
- People with autoimmune diseases,
- People with unvaccinated children at home,
- People with high-risk loved ones they are protecting,
- People who have asthma,
- People who are expecting or nursing a baby,
- People who are unvaccinated.

We believe EVERYONE is important and worthy of our protection. Let's practice what we profess!

Adult Ministries



United Methodist Women

Bible Study Circle

Circle Leader: Merrilyn Vance

Meeting Date: June 3, 1:00 pm

Location: North/South Parlor

Friendship Circle

Mary Falkenberry

No meeting

Lydia Circle

Peg Peter

Bon Amis

Wednesday, July 14



Beef and Boards is now open at 50% capacity and special safety accommodations have been made to ensure that this is not only a wonderful experience but that it is a safe one as well. The cost per person is \$70. You will need to register and pay at the church office by Wednesday, June 16. We will leave the church parking lot at 10 a.m. and return around 5 p.m.

Sunday, August 15

"Take me out to the ball game..." Baseball is back in Indianapolis. There are limited tickets available in the stadium but we have our reservations secure which includes four handicap accessible seats and shaded seating. Indianapolis plays St. Paul this Sunday afternoon at 1:35 p.m. We will leave the church parking lot at noon. The cost per person is \$30. You may register and pay at the church office by July 30.



J.O.Y. Luncheon

Friday, June 18

Our first JOY lunch of the year is coming right up. **Mark and Michele Murray** will bring us the **Sounds of Summer** on trumpet and piano. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. in the North/South Parlor with the program following at noon. The cost is \$10 per person. As is our custom, you need to sign-up in the church office by Wednesday, June 16 in order to make sure that there is plenty of food for all.

Next Generation Ministries



During the month of May, the children and I discussed that if we want to become more like Jesus, we need a plan. AND we need commitment to put that plan into practice. We talked about how important it is to practice HEARING God; to practice PRAYING; to practice TALKING about God; and to practice LIVING for God!

Over the summer, we are going to keep on working to put our plan into practice! Each week the during our Davis Park worship service Pastor Peggy will share a short Children's Message and provide Worship Activity Bags for the children. These bags will include items that will help the children focus on what is taking place during worship, to process and respond the the children's message and can be used later in the week to reflect on what they learned. We will continue to provide opportunities on our First Kids' Facebook page for families to keep the faith conversations going all week long.

So be sure to join us this summer as we continue to practice our plan to become more like Jesus!



Bible Reading Challenge

Kids, are you up for another Bible reading challenge? Be watching your mailbox! I am sending you another one. When you complete this new 27 day challenge, let Pastor Peggy know to receive your prize!

Youth and young adults, there's still time to join us in these important discussions! Your voices matter! As we kick off the ADAPT small group studies, we want to hear from you! Actually, we NEED to hear from you! Please plan to join me for this 10 week study where we will look at where we as a church have been, where we are and where God is calling us! For more information or to register for the group, please email Peggy Nunley at peggyn@andersonfirst.org or text to (219) 308-8412.



Outreach Ministries

EASTER OUTREACH OFFERING

Anderson First United Methodist folk are awesome! You have generous hearts and you have demonstrated that once again by giving \$8,202 for outreach ministries in our communities. We say that we are "Anderson First" and live that by Serving our Communities. You have done that once again through your generous giving. Your Outreach Committee says, "Thank you."

HELPING HANDS PANTRY

The Helping Hands pantry will only be open once a month on Wednesday. This month is June 9 from 8:30-11:00 am. Items needed include toilet paper, paper towels, household cleaners, dish soap, and hand sanitizer.

COMMUNITY CAFÉ GRILLE

Beginning Sunday, June 6 and continuing throughout the summer months, we will once again be serving a hot meal to our neighbors at 4:30 p.m. This summer there will be tables outside for those who want to sit and eat. Our Food at First bag of groceries ministry will be expanded and a bag will be given to each person who comes to eat a burger, hotdog and the fixins'. Our cooking and serving teams are being gathered together again.



You can participate by donating non-perishable food for our give-away bags. If you would like to be part of a serving team, please contact Pastor Don Deena or Sandy French. Come, check us out. Enjoy eating a burger with our neighbors.

COMMUNION OFFERING

Yes, we are still receiving the communion offering the first Sunday of every month. How? We are not walking forward to take communion and place offerings in the baskets. The Loose Cash Offering deposited in the collection boxes (blue at Davis Park, wooden in the sanctuary) serves as the communion offering. This offering funds the Emergency Utility Assistance that is offering the 2nd Wednesday monthly. Cash, checks designated "communion offering" or envelopes marked the same will be set aside for this important ministry.