



First United Methodist
 FAITH FIRST. FAMILIES FIRST. ANDERSON FIRST.

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THE VOICE

A Newsletter of First United Methodist

**BEING A PART OF GOD'S WELCOME
 GREETERS, USHERS AND YOU!**
How important are these ministries?

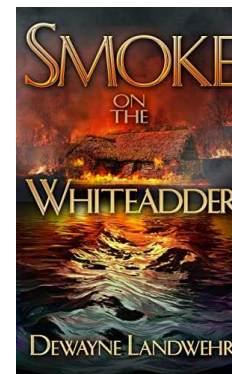
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

1. Greeters, Ushers, Security and YOU are ministers of hospitality.
2. Greeters and Ushers have a very public ministry which profoundly affects the quality of each worship experience.
3. Both roles play a vital role in the long-term health of the church. (Guests have the ability to detect lack of sincerity in the people they encounter. Newcomers decide in the first 5 minutes whether to return.)
4. Greeters and Ushers are expected to participate in worship.
5. Greeters and Ushers behavior before, during and after the service communicates information about the church to guests.
6. Good hospitality does not simply happen – it is prayed for, planned for, organized, evaluated and celebrated.
7. Greeters, Ushers and Security Staff need to be identified clearly – Blue Vests are available on Sunday morning and all should wear a vest throughout the morning.
8. Positive eye contact and a smile should greet each person new or returning.
9. Greeters and Ushers are not expected to know everyone. If a person is not known to you, offer this simple introduction, "Welcome! My name is _____. I'm not sure we have met before." Follow the introduction with "Are you new to town," or "How did you hear about Anderson First UMC?"
10. Introduce guests to other members of the congregation.
11. Direct persons with questions to the Welcome Center or a pastor.
12. Hand them one of Pastor Corinne's business cards -- on the Welcome Center (in the usher's closet for your pockets!).
13. Greeters are the first members of the congregation that people meet upon arrival at church.
14. Ushers are the first representative of Christ for a worship service.



BOOK SIGNING



DeWayne Landwehr has recently published a new book entitled **Smoke on the White Adder**. This book follows his maternal ancestors as they struggle to survive in the Borders area of Scotland in the 16th century, and is the first volume of what is planned to be a trilogy. He will be signing books after the morning service on October 16th in the Narthex. If you have already purchased a book, bring it for him to sign. If you haven't purchased one yet, he will have copies for sale at \$15.00 each. Profits will be donated to the church.

We Worship Together

Worship Schedule for October, 2022

October 2	World Communion Rooted in Love: Bearing Fruit John 15:1-17 (NLT) Music: Arrows of the Almighty
October 9	Celebration Sunday Rooted in Love: Harvest John 4:31-38 (MSG); Matthew 9:35-38 (NLT) Music: Joyful Sound
October 16	19th Sunday After Pentecost Restart a Heart Ezekiel 36:22-27; Romans 5:1-5 (NLT) Glimpse of Giving – Ron McNabney Music: Wesley Bells
October 23	Children's Sunday Third Grade Bible Presentation-Maizen, Grace & Sydni Pastor Peggy Nunley preaching Music: Sanctuary Choir
October 30	23rd Sunday after Pentecost Pastor Don Deena Johnson preaching Music: Alpha Brass

Adult Ministries

United Methodist Women



United Women in Faith

	Bible Study Circle	Friendship Circle
Leader:	Merrilyn Vance	Mary Falkenberry
Meeting Date:	Thursday, 10/6/22	Thursday, 10/6/22
Time:	1:00 pm	10:00 am
Location:	North/South Parlor	North/South Parlor

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Will meet Saturday, October 15 at 8:00 am in the North South Parlor. Rod Autrey will be giving a presentation on Friends of Madison County (FOMC). The FOMC interviews candidates and decide which one is the better candidate.

WIRED WORD

The Fall Wired Word Bible study series will be meeting this season at a different time and place. A scheduling conflict requires that for these six weeks, Wired Word will meet on Sunday morning at 9 a.m. We will meet in Room 220 beginning Sunday, October 9 and conclude on November 13. Pastor Don Deena will facilitate this discussion as we consider current events in the light of God's word.

- f. Ministry area expenses will be review and tightened by staff in those areas.
- g. Investigate the church's relationship with Gateway
- h. Continue to creatively consider other cost saving measures
- i. Madison Co. UMC pastors and congregations will be contacted by Pastor Corinne inviting them to prayerful enter into a conversation about joining us in making an unprecedented ministry change.
This may appeal to congregations struggling financially to continue worship/ministry in their current facility. An alternative to closing would be
 1. Maintain their current identity (name) and appointed clergy;
 2. Release their property to the Conference;
 3. Worship at an individual time at AFUMC downtown building/sanctuary.
 4. Share ministry resources – people & finances.
- j. Create a 5-year Ministry/Budget Plan. This includes what ministries we envision and the resources – staff and financial – needed to achieve the plan.
- k. Create stewardship awareness and motivation: monthly Glimpse of Giving moment in worship by members of the congregation.
- l. Stewardship Campaign theme "Rooted in Love" begins Sept. 18 – October 9. Pitch-in meal will follow worship to conclude the celebration

"So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up." Galatians 6:9

SUPPORTING CHRIST'S WORK

The power of your giving to Christ's work through Anderson First UMC can continue even after your death. Plan now to include your ongoing gift to the church in your will or trust.

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." Hebrews 13:8

Treasurer's Minute for: August 2022

	AUGUST ACTUAL		2022 YEAR TO DATE	
	2022	2021	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Monthly Contributions	\$20,711	\$32,629	\$288,871	\$289,342
Endowment Earnings Distribution	\$13,896	\$7,878	\$111,166	\$111,165
Other Income	\$2,710	\$3,558	\$63,127	\$70,072
Total Income	\$37,317	\$44,065	\$463,164	\$470,579
Total Expense	\$50,119	\$49,871	\$444,088	\$447,304
Excess (Deficit)	(\$12,802)	(\$5,806)	\$19,076	\$23,275

Thru August, 67% of the year and 67% of budget spent; YTD Income is 76% giving & 24% endowment

ADAPT REPORT September 2022

1. HOSPITALITY FOCUS

- A. Hospitality Training: Equip the congregation, greeters, ushers and security staff for Sunday morning hospitality and ways to effectively connect guests to more than worship.
- B. Congregational Care Team has launched as of Jan. 30, 2022 with these ministries with current members:
 - i. Care Connections
 1. Those unable to join in person gatherings (shut-ins) coordinated by Pastor Don Deena; Vicki Snyder & Betsy Bachman; Ida Campbell sending cards
 - ii. Prayer Bear ministry is a simple way to offer care, compassion, and connection to those hurting emotionally and physically.
 - iii. Continue weekly postcards, JOY lunches, Bon Amis trips
- c. Engaged Gateway families and staff in summer 2022 with sack suppers in June and July 2022.
- d. Advertise in Herold Bulletin – Full page advertisement is about \$750 – Outdoor Summer Worship at Davis Park in June (May Ad.); will submit an Advent & Christmas Events Advertisement (Dec. 1 Ad.)
- e. Expand our online connections. Tom Shriver-McGrevy has set up online prayer requests on our website; Tom will continue and Pastor Peggy will connect regularly through Instagram; exploring additional ways to offer ways for online worshipers to give.

2. FAITH DEVELOPMENT FOCUS

- a. Worship
- b. Sermon Talk-Back (Pastor Don Deena)
- c. Develop additional Sunday morning small groups (Sunday School) for Bible Study.
- d. Establish a long-term Bible Study group (i.e. Disciple Bible Study).
- e. Develop additional weekday small groups for Bible Study
- f. Prayer
 - i. Develop online Prayer Request collection and response.
 - ii. Maintain the Christian Service (Outreach) ministries currently thriving
 - iii. Offer a Prayer Table at the YMCA. Pastor Corinne is in conversation with the YMCA leadership and Board.

3. FINANCE FOCUS

- a. Continue to monitor the financial health of the congregation through monthly Finance Committee reports.
- b. Treasurers Report will be included in monthly VOICE beginning Oct. 2022.
- c. Creatively encourage stewardship & financial giving among all members & affiliates even those connecting online
 - i. Explore "Text" giving
 - ii. Explore placing a kiosk in the building
- d. Legacy Seminar continues encouraging person to include the church in their will and estate planning as endowments. Next free opportunity to learn is Tuesday, Sept. 27 at 6 p.m. in NS Parlor.
- e. Review staff positions, job descriptions and resources vs. needs. Propose recommended changes. Begin by re-acquainting congregation with staff – monthly staff highlight in newsletter.

BON AMIS

November – Martinsville Candy Cane Kitchen Tour and Lunch at Gray's Cafeteria

Scheduled for Wednesday, November 16, our day trip will take us to the iconic candy cane kitchen in Martinsville where we will see the red and white peppermint (and other flavors) treat being made. Lunch at Gray's Cafeteria is included in the event price. Registration and payment of \$45 must be made by October 14.

December - Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra Yuletide Concert



Featuring Frankie Moreno as host and Jack Everly as conductor, the Yuletide Celebration is a yearly favorite for Bon Amis. We have reserved 30 tickets for the Friday, December 9 matinee. Registration and payment must be made by November 11. The cost is \$75 per person. Sign-up early. Tickets will go quickly.

J.O.Y. LUNCH

"Experiencing Paul's Journeys" – October 21

Pastor Peggy Nunley will share with us some of her experiences as she traveled to many of the locations that the Apostle Paul traveled while on his missionary journeys. Please sign-up in the church office by Wednesday, October 19. The cost for lunch is \$10.

SMALL GROUPS

Step by Steppers Walking Group

Saturday, October 8 Mounds State Park.

We will meet at the Visitor's Center at 9 a.m. for a walk around the perimeter of the park. This walk is rated moderately easy. All are welcome. Come once, come often.

Saturday, October 22 Cardinal Greenway McCulloch Trailhead.

We will meet in the Church parking lot at 9 a.m. to carpool to the trailhead in Muncie. This is an old railroad bed that has been turned into an asphalt trail. The walking is easy. We plan to out and back, 5 total miles. All are welcome. Pastor Don Deena leads this group.

Sermon Talk-Back

On Sunday, October 30 following worship at 11:30, pick up a coffee and a donut and join Pastor Don Deena in the North/South Parlor, for fellowship and conversation about that Sunday's sermon. What did you hear or wonder about? What did you learn? What questions came to mind? What difference does it make or not make in your life? All are welcome.

NURTURING FAMILIES

Each week we begin our worship by stating our Pathway. One of the key pillars of our Pathway is "Nurturing families." Well... We need **YOU** in order fulfill this part of our Pathway! We are in need of additional people to help care for our youngest children. Here are a few ways **YOU** can help us in this vital ministry...

- Serve one Sunday morning each quarter in Nursery (birth-3 year olds)
- Contact Pastor Peggy with the name of someone who might be a good fit for our nursery staff as a paid childcare provider.

Please prayerfully consider how you help us to "Nurture families" and then contact Pastor Peggy!



Next Generation Ministries

**"WHENEVER I AM AFRAID I PUT MY TRUST IN YOU."
PSALM 56:3**



Kids today are under stress like never before and constant anxiety has become a fact of life. Children need practical help to overcome those feelings while looking to God in times of distress. Using popular fidget toys as our jumping off point, we will look at scripture to help us learn how to connect with Jesus and how to trust God when we face anxiety.

- **Peas in a Pod- Believers need each other to strengthen each other. Ruth 1:1-18**
October. 9- Older Students
- **Squeezy Putty- God molds us to be more like Jesus Jeremiah 18:1-6**
October 16- Younger Students
October 30- Older Students



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY

The children are hard at work preparing to lead us in worship on Sunday, October 23rd. Be sure to mark your calendars, invite a friend and be sure to join us for worship that day. You won't want to miss this special day!



CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING

All persons who are working with children at AFUMC or think you might like to in the future, mark your calendar for Sunday, November 6 for Child Protection Training. If you are currently serving in Children's Ministry, be watching for additional

Outreach Ministries

HELPING HANDS PANTRY

The Helping Hands Pantry will be open on October 12 from 8:30 am to 11:00 am. This month the Pantry is requesting donations of toilet paper, toothpaste and hand sanitizers. *Thank you for your giving—Sincerely, Linda Verhulst and Juanita Slattery.*

UTILITY ASSISTANCE OFFERING

Beginning Sunday, October 2, we will begin once again putting offering baskets on the floor at the Communion Table as well as the center aisle at the front pew to collect your offering for Emergency Utility Assistance. You may also continue to place your loose change in the offering boxes located at the entrance to the sanctuary. During the past few months, we have provided assistance to the maximum number of people (40) we are able to help in a given month. The need is great and your help in meeting that need is very much appreciated. Help us help our neighbors who are unable to meet the high cost of their utilities. And, thank you.

COMMUNITY CAFÉ

Community Café is coming back inside on Sunday afternoons following a wonderful summer of grilling under the portico. An average of 140 meals were served each Sunday and 75 bags of grocery items were given away. The fall schedule will repeat the pattern established last year. On the first and third Sundays of the month, one of our cooking teams will prepare a hot meal for our guests. On the second, fourth and occasional fifth Sundays, donuts, coffee and hot chocolate will be provided in the narthex and each guest will receive a bag of groceries. Every Sunday will be an opportunity for our neighbors to come inside, warm-up, and linger awhile in a safe and welcoming space.

If you would like to serve on one of the cooking teams or just come on by to get acquainted with our neighbors, you are encouraged to do so. There is always a place for you. Contact one of the pastors or drop by the church office, if you would like to serve in this way.

Other Church News

STAFF HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

**Peg Peter
Church Publications**

- Publish the weekly bulletin (2 in the summer)
- Publish the VOICE monthly
- Publish the weekly postcard
- Maintain the announcement screens on a weekly basis
- Church Wedding Coordinator
- Publish and mail any church wide letters
- Cover the volunteer desk as needed
- Special publications (Poinsettia or Lily Book)
- Monitor the IT contract with LEAP for computer equipment and copiers
- Special projects as assigned

WEATHERING THE DENOMINATIONAL STORM

¹² The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. ¹³ Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. ... ¹⁴ Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part. I Corinthians 12:12-14

Anderson First UMC is a group of people who are diverse theologically, racially, economically, and spiritually. Yet we are all a part of the single Body of Christ. Acknowledging that we represent a broad spectrum of Christians, we worship together, serve beside one another and fellowship in love because we remain focused on our primary reason for existing at all — Jesus Christ.

To our denomination and community, we offer the stability of Christ and the security of God's eternal welcome no matter a persons theology, race, economic status, or spiritual maturity. In this place, we join God in welcoming all!