



First United Methodist

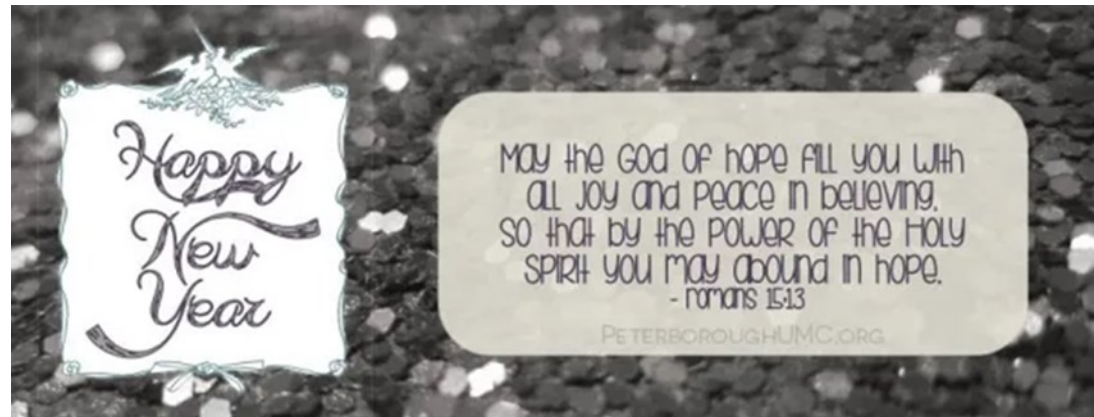
FAITH FIRST. FAMILIES FIRST. ANDERSON FIRST.

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THE VOICE

A Newsletter of First United Methodist

MOVING FORWARD INTO 2023

Each New Year we make resolutions to do things differently. Because cultures from around the world understand that the New Year is an opportunity to spiritually begin anew and is the perfect time to look at areas in our lives that need adjustment. Here are some suggestions that you may find helpful in beginning a New Year with meaning and intentionality.

1. Spend December 31st taking some time to be quiet and reflect on the year that is drawing to a close. Think about the people that mattered most to you, your greatest accomplishment, challenging difficulties and the lessons you learned. Ask yourself these questions: "What am I most satisfied about doing, saying, being in the past year?" "Would God be proud of who I have become?" "What changes do I need to make in the coming year?" (Be realistic with all your answers.)
2. Contemplate the patterns in your life that keep you stuck. Write down the limiting beliefs or habits that you wish to leave behind with the old year. In a fireproof bowl or fireplace, safely burn the paper. As the paper burns, be aware that you have just made space for new ideas, people, and opportunities to enter your life. Carefully, throw out the ashes when they cool.
3. Light a candle for those loved ones who have passed on into eternal life. Recall loving memories. Light a candle for your new potential in the coming year. Envision what good the New Year holds. Light a candle to acknowledge a need. Offer a prayer for God's help.
4. Serve another person by...Visiting shut-ins or those at a nursing home; Bake cookies for someone to say thank you; Make a phone call, text or email to someone that needs to hear you appreciate them; Find a need and fill it!
5. Forgive: End the old year by opening your heart to forgive a person of causing past wounds, pain and anger.
6. Contemplate the past year and any transgressions you have committed. Ask forgiveness of anyone you have harmed in words, deeds or action in the past year. Some traditions suggest that you ask the person personally three times. If they do not respond, then turn it over to God.

These are only a few suggestions. Whatever way you choose to bring in the New Year, remember that the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace of Christmas is with you every day in every way. HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We Worship Together

Worship Schedule for January, 2023

- January 1 Epiphany & Communion
New Year's Day: HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Be Astonished
Matthew 2:1-12
Music: Brass Quintet
- January Sermon Series
Our series of messages will be taken from scriptures that reveal to us all the good things God has for us as we move into the new year together.
- January 8 First Sunday after Epiphany
Good Timing
Theme: God's perfect timing in our lives
Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:22-40
Music: Elizabeth Murray
- January 15 Second Sunday after Epiphany
The Good Things
Theme: The important things in life.
1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20
Celebration of Appreciation: Trustees
Music: Sanctuary Choir
- January 22 Third Sunday after Epiphany
A Good Fear
Theme: What it means to have a good fear (awe, reverence) of God
Psalm 111; Mark 1:21-28
Music: Sanctuary Choir
- January 29 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Pastor Don Deena Johnson preaching
Music: Wesley Chorale

Adult Ministries

Wired Word

Our Winter Wired Word Bible study begins January 6 and continues for four weeks through February 6. Wired Word is a study that uses a national or international current event to explore God's word, discovering what we can learn that applies to our own lives. **PLEASE NOTE:** There is a change in the day of our study. We will meet on **Monday evenings at 6 p.m. in the library.** Everyone is welcome. Come and enjoy meaningful conversation that can have significant impact for you in this new year. Pastor Don Deena Johnson leads our discussion.

POWER OF PRAYER

The power of prayer does not flow from us; it is not special words we say or the special way we say them or even how often we say them. The power of prayer is not based on a certain direction we face or a certain position of our bodies. The power of prayer does not come from the use of artifacts or icons or candles or beads. The power of prayer comes from the One who hears our prayers and answers them. Prayer places us in contact with Almighty God, and we should expect almighty results, whether or not God chooses to grant our petitions or deny our requests. Whatever the answer to our prayers, the God to whom we pray is the source of the power of prayer, and He can and will answer us, according to His perfect will and timing.

CHALLENGE FOR THIS CHURCH

Understanding the power we have available to us in prayer, let us collectively pray daily for our church.

Pray that Anderson First United Methodist Church will:

1. Lead more people to become disciples for Jesus Christ.
2. Connect and build more community relationships.
3. Train new leaders.
4. Raise stewardship awareness and participation.
5. Most importantly, to hear what God is calling us to do and be in 2023.

CELEBRATION OF APPRECIATION

Each month we will celebrate a group of persons who serve this church and community. On January 18 the Board of Trustees will be honored. The 2023 member include:

Tim Kline, Chairperson, DeWayne Landwehr, Secretary
Cliff Ambler, Richard Cassiday, Tom Cullopp,
Dick Falkenberry, Karen Ambler, Lee Robinson
Debbie Manifold and Frank Later

Treasurer's Minute for: November 2022

	NOVEMBER ACTUAL		2022 YEAR TO DATE	
	2022	2021	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Monthly Contributions	\$15,647	\$28,107	\$370,462	\$382,727
Endowment Earnings Distribution	\$13,895	\$7,878	\$152,853	\$152,853
Other Income	\$3,548	\$3,047	\$75,505	\$82,377
Total Income	\$33,090	\$39,032	\$598,820	\$617,957
Total Expense	\$57,286	\$50,901	\$610,740	\$609,588
Excess (Deficit)	(\$24,196)	(\$11,869)	(\$11,920)	\$8,369

Thru November, 92% of the year and 92% of budget spent; YTD Income is 74% giving/other & 26% endowment

Other Church News

STAFF HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

Eddie Stephens

Downtown Campus custodian/maintenance person

As of December 7, 2022 I have been a custodian/maintenance person at FUMC for 7 years. I do cleaning as well as a lot of the maintaining of the equipment that goes into the building. Before then, I worked at Marsh Supermarkets for almost 32 years.

Over the past 25 years I have been a softball/baseball umpire. I umpired at the High School level for almost 7 years of the 25 years. Currently, I mostly umpire softball rather than baseball.

I have 2 kids and 2 grand children. Jacob is 37 and Hannah is 25. Jacob works at a bank and Hannah is a 6th grade special education teacher in Muncie. Jacob has two children—Teddy is 8 and Winston is 3 We also have a 5-year-old Shih Tzu and poodle mix, named Homer Bailey.

I have been married 26 years this year to my loving wife Tammy who I met through Marsh, Tammy and I attend Northview Church.

Welcome to the Leaders for 2023

Check out your chairpersons for 2023. The 2023 Official Directory of Lay Leadership is posted on the bulletin board in the office hallway. This lists all leaders (all persons serving on committee, boards and teams). These are the Administrative and Program Committees and Boards of Anderson First UMC. Your chairpersons for the coming year are:

Joe Snyder ~ Administrative Board	<i>pending</i> ~ Staff Parish
Debbie Millikan ~ Finance	Jim Ault ~ Investment Committee
Tim Kline ~ Board of Trustees	Peg Peter ~ UMW President
Jim Ault ~ Lay Leader	Dick Falkenberry ~ Security Team
Don Deena Johnson ~ Outreach & Gateway Board Chair	
Matt Stout & Brian Jones ~ Lay Members to Annual Conference	
Sarah Taylor ~ Alternate to Annual Conference	

THANK YOU!

**For all those who served faithfully and creatively in the past year.
You are greatly appreciated!**

STILL IN THE MIDST OF CHRISTMAS

Christmas Day itself ushers in 12 days of celebration, ending on January 6 with Epiphany. These days are important because they give us a way of reflecting on what the Incarnation means in our lives. Christmas commemorates the most momentous event in human history—the entry of God into the world he made, in the form of a baby. Christmas decorations remain in the sanctuary thru January 1, the Sunday we celebrate Epiphany.

SMALL GROUPS

Step by Steppers Walking Group

Saturday, January 14 – Mounds State Park. This group will meet at 9 a.m. at the Visitor's Center. All ages are welcome. Begin a new habit. Come and enjoy a walk with friends throughout the coming year. Pastor Don Deena Johnson is the contact person for this group.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



United
Women
in Faith

	Bible Study Circle	Friendship Circle
Leader:	Merrilyn Vance	Mary Falkenberry
Meeting Date:	First Thursday	First Thursday
Time:	11:00 am	11:00 am
Location:	North/South Parlor	North/South Parlor

There will be no UMW Circle Meetings in January. It's a great time to begin the 2023 UWF Reading Program—We have many of the books in our own library.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

The Men's Fellowship Breakfast will meet Saturday, January 21 at 8:00 am in the North South Parlor. David Cagley will be giving the program about the Historic Gruenewald House.

Friday Morning Bible Study

We will begin a new study on January 13, 2023, at 9:00 am in the North/South Parlor. Beth Moore has written a 5 week study of Philippians. All are invited to join us and enjoy studying the Bible with Beth. It is sure to be an interesting and revealing study.

From Christianbook.com: "Come along with Beth and Melissa Moore in this four-week, five-session study of Philippians. By the power of the same Holy Spirit who took the gospel to Europe by way of Philippi, discover what Paul magnificently called, The Surpassing Value of Knowing Christ.

The apostle Paul was an extraordinary individual by any measure. From the moment he was introduced to Jesus by name in a blinding flash of light to his final days chained like an animal in a Roman dungeon, he relentlessly pursued Christ and preached the gospel entrusted to him. Paul's fervor could not be starved, smothered nor drowned."



Next Generation Ministries



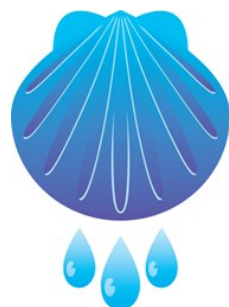
From Pastor Peggy Nunley

There simply aren't words to express my gratitude to all of you. So, I will just say Thank You! Thank you for welcoming me; for loving me; for nurturing me; for shaping me and growing me into the pastor I am becoming. Thank you for serving along side me. I am leaving but the children and youth of AFUMC still need you! Mentors, Pen Pals, Prayer Partners; keep connecting with your kiddos! You are doing important work! There is still a great need for adults to serve in the First Kids' Ministry! So prayerfully consider how God might be calling YOU to step up and step into the lives of our children through this ministry. If you feel God calling you, reach out to Pastor Corinne. I am sure she will help you find the perfect place to serve! As I say, "see you later," I want you to always remember and never forget... YOU are loved! God loves you and there is nothing you can do to cause God to every stop loving you! God loves you no matter what! I also want you to always remember and never forget that you are called to love others. Who are you called to love? Everybody... Always!

Love,
Pastor Peggy

BAPTIZED

We celebrate with and welcome our newest members to the Body of Christ. Skylar Raine St. Laurent & Sydni Jo McCleery were baptized by Pastor Peggy Nunley on Sunday, December 18. We praise God for you!



SEVERE WEATHER CLOSINGS

In the event of severe weather, you can find information about church closing in the following ways:

Monday thru Friday: The church's activities will be canceled if Anderson Community Schools are closed.

Weekend closings: Closings will be announced on

TV Channels: NBC, CBS, ABC and FOX. The scroll will read "Anderson First United Methodist Church."

Facebook: Anderson First United Methodist Church

E-NEWS: Information will be sent directly to your email. To register for E-NEWS please contact Peg Peter at peg@andersonfirst.org for information directly to your inbox!

Outreach Ministries

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

This is likely going to be a very cold winter. While we are enjoying the warmth of our homes surrounded by people who love and support us, let us not forget those thousands of folk in our town who are not so fortunate. The Outreach Ministries of this congregation provide several ways to remember and care for our neighbors. Placing non-perishable food and plastic bags in the Food Bin is one great way to remember and say we care. Contributions to Buddy Bags and Utility Assistance and Helping Hands, all make such a difference in our community, especially at this time of year. Thank you for remembering our neighbors. Thank you for caring.

HELPING HANDS PANTRY

The Helping Hands Pantry will be open on January 11 from 8:30 am to 11:00 am. This month the Pantry is requesting donations of toilet paper, and hand sanitizers, and bars of soap. Unfortunately the need for the assistance we provide has increased in the last few months—the number of guests served has increased significantly—in the first six months of 2022 we were averaging about 62 guests per month, while the average from this last six months is 86.

The generous donations of our congregation have helped us meet that need. We are very grateful to have such a caring congregation.

Thank you for your giving—Sincerely, Linda Verhulst and Juanita Slattery.

POINSETTIAS GIVEN IN 2022

In Memory of	Given By	In Memory Of	Given By
Our Parents	Cliff & Karen Ambler	Ed & Gail Brant	Kathy Kean
Audrey & George Ambler		Russ Stewart	Kathy Kean
Phylliss & Roy Bieberich		Fred M. Kean III	Kathy Kean
Christy Briles	Richard & Beverly Briles	Leah McNabney	Ron & Sharon McNabney
Our Parents		Josephine Shaw	Ron & Sharon McNabney
Marion and Stella Briles	Richard & Beverly Briles	John, Cindy & Tom Miles	Carol Miles
Edward and Lois Frischer		Our Parents	Steve & Candy Short
Joann Burand	Jerry Burand	Kirk Watson	Ron & Carol Watson
Our Parents	Horace & Evelyn Chadbourne		
Brooks May (Brother In Law)	Johanne Coleson	In Honor Of	Given By
Frank Cramer		Dan & Becky Ball	Carol Miles
Marge Dyer	Doris Cramer		
Bob Dyer	Jeff Dyer		
Bill Hardacre	Jeff Dyer		
Mark & Carlene Buffington	Ann Hardacre		
	Charlie & Miriam Jones		