



## 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](mailto: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](http://andersonfirst.org) and  
follow us on Facebook



# THE VOICE

## A Newsletter of First United Methodist

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE for FEBRUARY

- February 5 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany & Communion  
Scrabble: The Power of Words  
Matthew 12:33-37 (MSG)  
Music: Arrows of the Almighty
- February 12 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany  
Checkers: Discipleship  
Luke 9:18-24 (NLT)  
Music: Children's Choir & Sanctuary Choir
- February 19 Transfiguration Sunday  
Pictionary: Seeing What God Sees  
Glimpse of Giving  
Music: Sanctuary Choir

Wednesday, February 22 – Ash Wednesday Service, 7 p.m.

#### LENTEN SERIES

Consider the following quotation: "I AM. Two of the most powerful words; for what you put after them shapes your reality." This Lenten series helps us imagine what Jesus puts after "I AM" in the Gospel of John and how it shapes our reality.

- February 26 First Sunday of Lent  
"I AM the Bread of Life"  
John 6:35-40  
Pastor Don Deena Johnson preaching  
Music: Scott Freeman

#### ASH WEDNESDAY

February 22 at 7 p.m. in Sanctuary  
Begin this season of Lent by acknowledging your need for Christ and his sacrificial grace by attending this service. Receive ashes in the sign of a cross. Hear God's Word which points us into Lent and ultimately Easter.

#### WHY DO WE PUT ASHES ON OUR FOREHEADS?

Ashes are a biblical reminder of our mortality: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). The spreading of ashes on foreheads is a visible reminder of this. The way to Easter is the way of the cross. "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?" (Romans 6:3). New life with Christ involves a daily surrendering of the old life. Ash Wednesday, the first step of this Lenten journey, invites us to acknowledge our mortality and our sinfulness by the imposition of ashes.



# We Worship Together

## Adult Ministries

### Wired Word Bible Study

There is one more session of Wired Word in our winter series. We will meet on Monday, February 6 at 6:00 p.m. in the Church Library. Pastor Don Deena Johnson facilitates this discussion. If you haven't yet attended, come and check it out to see if you might enjoy attending during the spring session. You will be informed on those dates in a future VOICE.

### Lenten Study

#### HE CHOSE THE NAILS

by Max Lucado

Every gift from God reveals his love, but no gift reveals his love more than the gifts of the cross. Have we taken time to open these? As we do, we find that Jesus did it all just for us.

Lent Study is Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in North South Parlor.

March 1 -- Session 1: He Chose to Become One of Us

March 8 -- Session 2: He Chose to Forgive Us

March 15 -- Session 3: He Chose to Invite Us into His Presence

March 22 -- Session 4: He Chose to Love Us Forever

March 29 -- Session 5: He Chose to Give Us Victory

Materials provided. All are welcome to join Pastor Corinne.

### STEP BY STEPPERS WALKING GROUP



**Saturday, February 11** – Shadyside Park. If you enjoy walking in the fresh air, come on out for an easy walk around Shadyside Lake. The group will meet at Bobber's parking lot at 9 a.m. Everyone of every age is welcome. Pastor Don Deena Johnson is the contact person for this group.



### NIGHTS OF LIGHTS PROJECT

I know, I know, the holiday season just ended and here I am asking for help for next year, BUT... I have a good reason.

I don't know how many of you got out to

Mounds State Park to drive through the Nights of Lights, but it was a wonderful display of decorations, displayed by several organizations in our community, including churches, organizations and businesses. It was well worth the donation to go through it. The nice part of the display is that it is offered free of charge to the decorating participants, so it's a good advertising venue. This year, I would like to thank Tim Kline, Debbie Milliken, Charlie Jones, Jerry Hardacre, Dick Falkenberry and Dave Peter for helping to get the decorations down, installed and removed. They now are back in the barn at Davis Park.

If you recall, we used these decorations for "A Walk In The Lights" at Davis Park several years ago. The majority of the items were made by members of our congregation. Many of them are in need of repair—especially replacing the lights. We will need help in order to do this. If you are interested in helping out, please email me at the church—Peg@andersonfirst.org and let me know.

Most of the work will be replacing lights that have been hot glued into the Chrismons.

Thanks, Peg



### ANDERSON AREA LENTEN BREAKFAST SERIES 2023

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>	<u>MUSIC</u>
February 25	Pendleton First UMC	Steve Jackson	
March 4	Lapel Trinity UMC	Kal Rissman	Matt McClintick
March 11	Cross Roads UMC	Bob Preusz	Kim Mitchell
March 18	St. Ambrose RCC	Louis Jackson	J T Sifwentes
March 25	East Main Street Christian Church Elwood	Sam Seibels	
April 1	Anderson First UMC	Dale Mendenhall	Michele Murray Elizabeth Sherron

# Other Church News

## STAFF HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH Susan Finger

Ah! The joy of music! Whether exhilarating, comforting, calming or creating joy, it is something we all share. I am blessed to be in the position of Director of Music and Organist

In my role as Director of Music, I create the music schedule – which group will share their gifts each Sunday morning. I do this for three “seasons” of the year September-December, January-May, June-August. I contact the director or individual to arrange each schedule. Our church is enormously blessed with talented individuals and ensembles giving us a wide range of musical styles to enhance our worship each week.

In addition to scheduling various groups, I spend a lot of time listening to music from different publishing houses to choose music that is well suited to that specific season such as Advent or Lent. I place orders for new music or choose songs from our church library. I plan for weekly rehearsals held with the choir from late August to early May.

I am responsible for planning for two special services each year – Lessons and Carols and Good Friday. I also hire extra musicians throughout the year as needed- Return Sunday, Ash Wednesday and Lesson and Carols.

As organist, I also work to choose music that fits a particular time of year and works with the themes of the service whenever possible. I practice several hours each week.

In addition to leading the overall music program, I also play in Wesley Handbells, Handbell Quartet, and Joyful Jazz. I also work on a Community Café team.

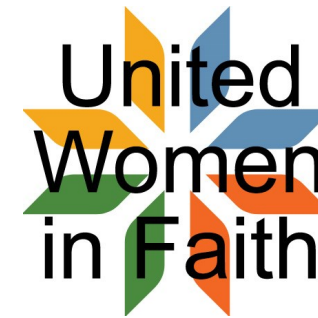
I would be remiss not to mention my deep gratitude for the other members of the music “team” who help bring great quality music each week: Sarah Taylor, conductor of Wesley Bells, Mark Finger, founder and conductor of Alpha Brass, and Chris Taylor, director of Joyful Jazz, and Mark and Michele Murray who share their gifts throughout the year.

I especially want to acknowledge Michele whose outstanding musicianship is a gift for us all

I am grateful for the words of kindness and support I receive throughout the year!

## BLACK AND WHITE

In an attempt to be good stewards of your gifts to this church, we are going black and white for our bulletins and newsletters beginning this month. A color version of weekly bulletins and monthly newsletters is uploaded to the website: [www.andersonfirst.org](http://www.andersonfirst.org). There will be color on special occasions, i.e. Easter.



## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

	Bible Study Circle	Friendship Circle
Leader:	Merrilyn Vance	Mary Falkenberry
Meeting Date:	First Thursday	February 3
Time:	1:00 am	10:00 am
Location:	North/South Parlor	North/South Parlor

## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

The Men's Fellowship Breakfast will meet Saturday, February 18 at 8:00 am. The program will be given by Bill Brown and Richard Cassiday.

## BON AMIS

It's that time again to begin planning for the wonderful variety of Bon Amis day trips that are being scheduled for 2023. A brochure will be coming out during February which will give you an overview of the year. We begin in March with a Pacer Game at the newly renovated Gainbridge Field House.



## Indiana Pacers vs. Philadelphia 76ers – Saturday, March 18 – Tip-Off at 7 p.m.

This is a Family Night, so your ticket comes with a hot dog, chips and drink as well as a Pacer cap. We will leave the church parking lot at 5:00 p.m. and return about 11 p.m. The cost for this event is \$55 per person. You must sign up and pay in the church office by Friday, February 17 at noon. Our seats are reserved on a corner in the balcony section. Come out and cheer on our great young Pacers who are playoffs bound.

## JOY LUNCHEON

JOY Lunch begins 2023 on Friday, February 17 at 11:30 a.m. with a musical program we're calling: "Love Songs Through the Ages." Kirby Gilliam and Andrea Bliscik of PlainSong Music Services will invite us to participate with them in a musical tribute to "love." Lunch will be prepared and served by our friends of Psi Iota Xi. Due to rising costs everywhere, the cost for lunch this year will be \$12 per person. Please sign up in the church office by Wednesday, February 15 so the lunch team will know how many people to prepare for.





## Next Generation Ministries

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Skylar St. Laurent will celebrate his 10<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Skylar is in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade at 10<sup>th</sup> Street Elementary. Happy Birthday, Skylar!

### GODLY PLAY

Feb. 5 – The children will remain in worship with their families.

Feb. 12 – Parable of the Sower with Pastor Don Deena and Ingrid Childs

Feb. 19 – Parable of the Mustard Seed with Pastor Don Deena and Candy Short

Feb. 26 – Faces of Easter: Jesus' Birth & Growth with Joe Snyder and Richard Cassidy

### FIRST KIDS ON WEDNESDAY

The children gather together from 6 – 8 p.m. on Wednesdays for Children's Choir, games, creative activities, stories and conversation, and of course, a snack. Our theme for February will be God's love.

### DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

An individual who loves Christ is invited to serve with this congregation in ministry to the children and youth. This position is a part-time position and we are eager to meet and interview the next member of our staff. A full job description is available on our website or from the church office.

### 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](mailto:peg@andersonfirst.org) for information directly to your inbox!**

## Outreach Ministries

### OUTREACH MINISTRIES 2023 Outreach Committee

Your Outreach Committee: Marilyn Ault, Johanne Coleson, Sandy French, Pastor Don Deena Johnson, Candy Short, Juanita Slattery, Joe Snyder, Linda Verhulst, and Jim Wessar is a faithful group of folk who not only volunteer in the outreach ministries of this congregation but commit to overseeing the use of the thousands of dollars that you so generously give to those in need in our community and around the world. When you see them, offer your thanks for faithfully following our pathway: living our faith, nurturing families and serving our communities.

### CHRISTMAS OUTREACH OFFERING

Your Outreach Committee wishes to thank you for your generous giving through the Christmas Outreach Offering. You helped us reach our goal with an offering of \$8,191.12. Those dollars will be applied to our in-house ministries: Buddy Bags, Blessing Bags, Community Café, Discretionary, Helping Hands and Utility Assistance. Thank you for bringing a bit of joy into the lives of our neighbors.

### HELPING HANDS PANTRY

The Helping Hands Pantry will be open on February 8, from 8:30 am to 11:00 am. This month the Pantry is requesting donations of toilet paper, and hand sanitizers, shampoo and Kleenex. The generous donations of our congregation have helped us meet that need. We are very grateful to have such a caring congregation.

Thank you so much for your generous contributions. They allow us to serve the increased number of people who are seeking our help each month.

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

### Treasurer's Minute for: December 2022

	DECEMBER ACTUAL		2022 YEAR TO DATE	
	2022	2021	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Monthly Contributions	\$32,862	\$47,965	\$403,324	\$413,822
Endowment Earnings Distribution	\$13,896	\$7,878	\$166,749	\$166,749
Other Income	(\$2,073)	\$9,565	\$73,432	\$85,712
Total Income	\$44,685	\$65,408	\$643,505	\$666,283
Total Expense	\$60,272	\$61,115	\$671,012	\$666,860
Excess (Deficit)	(\$15,587)	\$4,293	(\$27,507)	(\$577)

Thru December, 100% of the year and 100% of budget spent; YTD Income is 74% giving/other & 26% endowment