



## First United Methodist

FAITH FIRST. FAMILIES FIRST. ANDERSON FIRST.

First United Methodist Church  
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# THE VOICE

## A Newsletter of First United Methodist

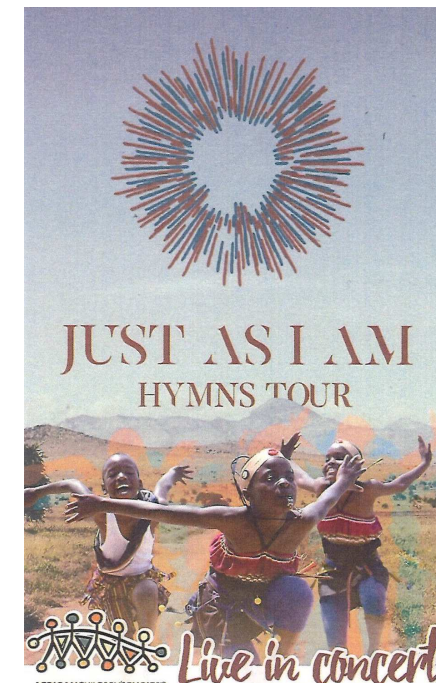
### AFRICAN CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Anderson First UMC is excited to announce the African Children's Choir, scheduled to perform in our sanctuary on April 2, 2023 at 7:00 pm. This enthusiastic and energetic group will be offering a wonderful concert. The concert is free, but a freewill offering will be taken.

The African Children's Choir is composed of African children, aged 7 to 10 years old. Many have lost one or both parents through the devastation of war, famine, and disease. They represent all the children of a continent and they demonstrate the potential of African children to become strong leaders for a better future in their land.

The group will be in Anderson Sunday, April 2 to Tuesday, April 4. Sue Finger and Pastor DonDeena Johnson are coordinating this event.

You are invited to join us in attending this concert. We will have postcard flyers for you to use, so that you might invite your friends to attend as well.



JOIN US FOR AN IMMERSIVE WORSHIP  
EXPERIENCE THROUGH SONG, DANCE &  
VIDEO STORY TELLING!

The Just As I Am tour combines traditional hymns with African cultural sounds and a stunning visual story of God's faithfulness. Don't miss out on this uniquely immersive experience through song, dance and video story telling.

Sunday, April 2, 2023 | 7:00 pm  
Anderson, Indiana

First United Methodist Church  
1215 Jackson St  
(765) 643-6977

AFRICANCHILDRENSCHOIR.COM



### 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.

# We Worship Together

## Adult Ministries

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE for MARCH

#### LENTEN SERIES

Consider the following quotation, circulating on Pinterest boards and throughout social media: "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.

March 5	Second Sunday of Lent "I AM the Light of the World" John 8:12-20 Music: Wesley Chorale
March 12	Third Sunday of Lent "I AM the Door" John 10:1-10 Celebration of Appreciation: Outreach Committee Music: Sanctuary Choir
March 19	Fourth Sunday of Lent Bishop Julius Trimble, Indiana Conference, UMC Glimpse of Giving Music: AU Chorale
March 26	Fifth Sunday of Lent "I AM the Resurrection and the Life" John 11:17-27 Pastor Don Deena Johnson preaching Music: Wesley Bells
Looking ahead:	
April 2	Palm Sunday 7 p.m. Concert by African Children's Choir
April 9	Sunrise Service & Breakfast at Davis Park – 7 a.m. Traditional Easter in Sanctuary – 10 a.m. Pastor Corinne Boruff preaching



### UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

	Bible Study Circle	Friendship Circle
Leader:	Merrilyn Vance	Mary Falkenberry
Meeting Date:	March 2	March 2
Time:	1:00 am	10:00 am
Location:	North/South Parlor	North/South Parlor

### THE FAST LIFE

#### Prepare for Easter by Fasting

Fast from judging others; Feast on Christ dwelling in them.  
 Fast from fear of illness; Feast on the healing power of God.  
 Fast from words that pollute; Feast on speech that purifies.  
 Fast from discontent; Feast on gratitude.  
 Fast from anger; Feast on patience.  
 Fast from pessimism; Feast on hope.  
 Fast from negatives; Feast on encouragement.  
 Fast from bitterness; Feast on forgiveness.  
 Fast from self-concern; Feast on compassion.  
 Fast from suspicion; Feast on truth.  
 Fast from gossip; Feast on purposeful silence.  
 Fast from problems that overwhelm; Feast on prayer that sustains.  
 Fast from anxiety; Feast on faith.  
 - Author Unknown

### GIVE WHAT YOU CAN

. "Give something, however small, to the one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God, if we have given what we could." — St. Gregory Nazianzen

### LEADERS MET WITH SUPERINTENDENT

Your committee chairpersons and and other lay leaders were treated to lunch by our Conference Superintendent, Dr. Rev. Sanita Maiko. This gift is a gesture of appreciation for answering God’s call to serve in the local church.



### ANDERSON AREA LENTEN BREAKFAST SERIES 2023

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

Breakfast begins at 8:00 am.



# Other Church News

## STAFF HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH Dick Falkenberry

My role on the staff of our church is to coordinate the activities of the security team. The purpose of our security team is to keep everyone safe when they are on church property. My responsibility is to make sure there is a security person at church any time the doors are open and the office is closed. The exception to this would be if there is a special event that occurs during office hours. We have a highly effective team that consists of Juanita Slattery, Ann Bull, Bonnie Belangee, Joe Snyder, Andre Streaty, Cameron Mendel and myself. We have offered various training to security and others, that training was defibrillator operation and the Stop the Bleeding, and interactive shooter training. My goal that I hope to achieve as a member of the staff is to improve communications.

My second responsibility is Field Manager at Davis Park. I coordinate the mowing at the park. We have a very dedicated crew of people that mow, that consists of Phil McDonald, Jim Hudson, Keith McFall, Lee Robinson, Kurt Leach, P.T. Morgan, and myself. Other responsibilities are scheduling the soccer fields and Cross-Country meets. The three city high schools all run and play soccer at Davis Park, in addition some of the County Schools also run and play soccer. We also have a Latino League that plays soccer here. One more service is offered at Davis Park and that is having parking attendants available for various events. Jim Hudson, Jim Olive, Lee Robinson and Jerry Hardacre are fulfilling this service.

I'm also a trustee, usher and part of Buddy Bags.

## PASS THE PLATE

Beginning March 5 the you will be invited by our ushers to  
Pass-the-Plate

during the offertory. This is an in-your-seat way to give your tithes and offerings on Sunday morning. Wooden boxes at the sanctuary entrances remain available to receive your Attendance/Prayer cards and your Offering, if you prefer.

## CONNECT@FIRST Sunday, March 26 @ 11:30-1 p.m.

ALL who want to know more about  
Anderson First UMC are encouraged to join  
your Pastors for lunch, information and a tour of the building.

Whether you are a long-time member or a new attendee.

Please RSVP your participation with a text or call to 317-902-1843 (Pastor Corinne) or a sign up at the office window.

YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO BE MORE CONNECTED!

## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

The Men's Fellowship Breakfast will join the Anderson Area Lenten Breakfast on Saturday, March 18 at 8:00 am at the East Main Street Christian Church in Elwood. All are invited to join this group. The next meeting of the Anderson First Men's Breakfast will be Saturday, April 15 at 8:00 am at Primrose. Jim Wessar is scheduled to tell his story.

## STEP BY STEPPERS WALKING GROUP



Saturday, March 11 – East Maplewood Cemetery

Come on out for an easy late winter walk in the cemetery. The group will meet at the main office parking just inside the main gate at 9 a.m.. Everyone of every age is welcome. Pastor Don Deena Johnson is the contact person for this group.

## BON AMIS



A small group of intrepid fans are off to see the Indiana Pacers go up against the Philadelphia 76ers on Saturday, March 18. The registration for this event is now closed but you are welcome to contact Pastor Don Deena if you would like to be put on a waiting list should someone who registered not be able to come.

## Beef and Boards: An American in Paris

Wednesday, April 12 – Registration and payment for this event is due by Friday, March 24. The cost for this event is \$90 per person.



## JOY LUNCHEON

Friday, March 17 – “The Not-So-Newly-Wed Game” with your host, Pastor Don Deena Johnson. Enjoy the fun as Dan and Becky Ball, Tom and Ann Cullop and Dick and Mary Falkenberry find out just how much they really know each other. In honor of St. Patrick's Day, we will be enjoying Reuben sandwiches from Arby's. The cost is \$12 per person. Please sign up in the church office by Wednesday, March 15 so the lunch team will know how many people to prepare for.



## Next Generation Ministries

### March Birthdays

Kaylyn McConnell will celebrate her 8<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 21<sup>st</sup>, the first day of spring. Kaylyn is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade at North Webster Elementary.

### Godly Play and First Kids on Sunday

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

March 12 – First Kids with Chris Tupling

March 19 – Faces of Easter: Jesus' Desert Experience with Pastor Don Deena Johnson

March 26 – Faces of Easter: Jesus as Healer and Parable-Maker with Joe Snyder

### 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 March is "Traveling with Jesus Toward Jerusalem."

### 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 has just been approved by Staff Parish and is now available on our website or from the church office.



### Betty Church's 100th Birthday

Betty Church will celebrate her 100th birthday on March 23, 2023. Help us celebrate Betty's birthday by sending her a shower of Happy Birthday Cards!

Betty's address is: 6210 Glen Hill Road  
Louisville, KY 40222

## Outreach Ministries

### OUTREACH MINISTRIES

#### Community Café and Food at First

Our cumulative totals for this year are: Meals served – 329; Hot chocolate, coffee and donuts, and a small bag of groceries: persons served - 232.

In addition to our security team of Ann Bull and Juanita Slattery, a community resident, Chris Long, David and Susan Selby and your pastors, Food at First welcomes our neighbors to get in out of the cold and warm up with refreshment and some groceries to carry away.

Our expert cooking team leaders are: Kathy Kellams (Crossroads United Methodist), Steve and Amy Alt (Eastside Church of God); Joe and Vicki Snyder (FUMC) and Chris Taylor (FUMC).

Your prayers, your used plastic grocery bags, your monetary gifts designated for Community Café as well as your gifts of non-perishable food, are always appreciated. Thank you for your love and faithful giving.

### HELPING HANDS PANTRY

The next Helping Hands Pantry will be March 8<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 am to 11:00 am. For this Pantry, we would like to request donations of toilet paper, hand sanitizer and toothpaste. Each month we include toilet paper and hand sanitizer in the items we distribute, and we vary the other items each month to help provide a few much needed personal hygiene items and cleaning items such as dish soap or laundry detergent. Those we serve are always very grateful for our help. The donations that our congregation so generously give help us make the lives of those we serve a little easier.

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



### CHANGING THE WORLD TWO FEET AT A TIME

Thank you to Sandy French and Anne Long for taking the shoes our congregation has donated to Changing Footprints in Rushville, IN, where they will be redistributed to those who are in need.

Another example of the outstanding generosity of our congregation as well as the willingness of our volunteers.