



First United Methodist

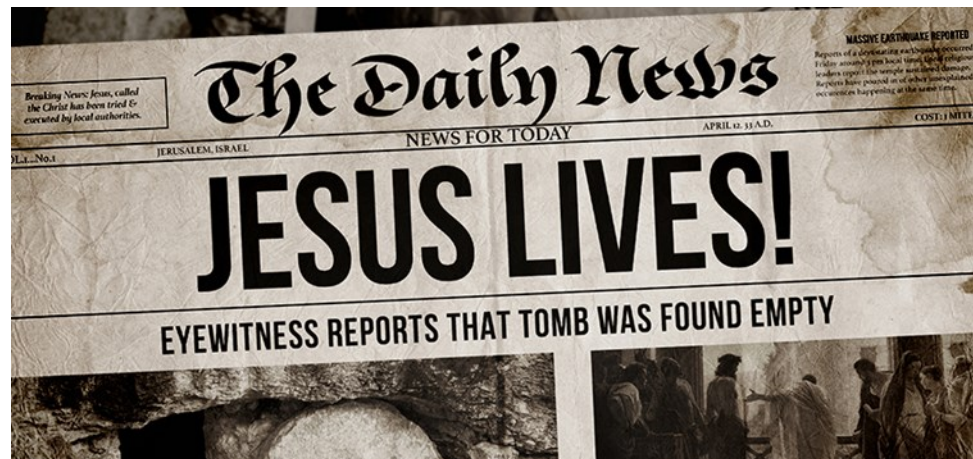
FAITH FIRST. FAMILIES FIRST. ANDERSON FIRST.

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THE VOICE

A Newsletter of First United Methodist

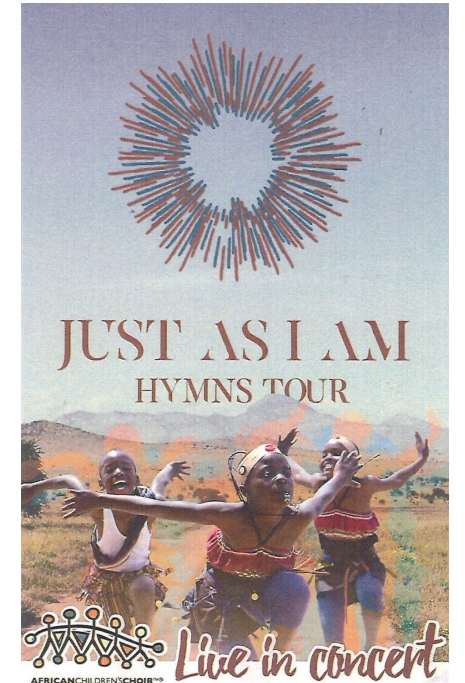
AFRICAN CHILDREN'S CHOIR

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 BREAKFAST

Men and Women Welcome!

Anderson First UMC hosts the final Lenten Breakfast

Saturday, April 1 @ 8 a.m.

Rev. Dale Mendenhall will bring an message,

Michele Murray and Elizabeth Murray-Sherron will bring the music.

Breakfast prepared by Community Café — Corinne's team.

We Worship Together

Adult Ministries

Worship Schedule for April 2023

April 2	Palm Sunday John 15:1-13 (NIV) I AM the Vine Music: Sanctuary Choir 7 p.m. Concert by African Children's Choir
April 6	Maundy Thursday Service @ 7 p.m.
April 7	Good Friday Tenebrae Service @ 7 p.m.
April 9	EASTER Sunrise Service & Breakfast at Davis Park @ 7 a.m. Pastor Don Deena Johnson preaching Music: Michele Murray Traditional Easter Service @ 10 a.m. John 11:25-44 (NIV) I AM the Resurrection and the Life Pastor Corinne Boruff preaching Music: Sanctuary Choir
April 16	Second Sunday of Easter John 20:19-31 (NIV) Getting Out of the House Music: Arrows of the Almighty
April 23	Third Sunday of Easter Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-5 (NIV) Living the New Life Music: Anderson Area Children's Choir
April 30	Fourth Sunday of Easter Pastor Don Deena Johnson preaching Music: Joyful Jazz



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

	Bible Study Circle	Friendship Circle
Leader:	Merrilyn Vance	Mary Falkenberry
Meeting Date:	April 6	April 6
Time:	1:00 am	10:00 am
Location:	North/South Parlor	East/West Parlor



WHY ATTEND HOLY WEEK SERVICES?

Observing Holy Week is to remind Christians of all that Christ went through and shared during the final week of his life on earth. It completes Lent, a season of preparation. In doing so, these services fulfill a longing in your heart that may have gone unnoticed and unsatisfied. What Jesus experiences this week was for you!

Maundy Thursday – Last Supper with His Disciples
Institution of the Lord's Supper (Holy Communion)
April 6 at 7 p.m.
Special service of Bread
Rev. Dr. Byron Kaiser preaching

Good Friday – Suffering and Death of Jesus
April 7 at 7 p.m.
Tenebrae Service

Easter Sunrise Service – Celebration of the Resurrection!
Outside (tentatively) at Davis Park April 9 at 7 a.m.
Continental Breakfast
Inside Coyner Lodge at 7:30 a.m.
Rev. Don Deena Johnson preaching

Easter Traditional Service – Celebration of the Resurrection!
April 9 at 10 a.m.
Rev. Corinne Boruff preaching

Other Church News

AN EASTER PRAYER

Christ, death could not hold you. And because of your resurrection, we, too, can live. Thank you that the grave is only a journey into the presence of God. You have removed the sting of death and empowered this thing called life. Now we may live in your presence forever.
Halleluiah! Amen!

BISHOP TRIMBLE'S INVITATION

On Sunday, March 19 Bishop Julius Trimble invited you to give to further the ministry of Africa University. Additional information on Africa University can be found at the Welcome Center. If you wish to give, please designate your offering for "Africa University."

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.

FRIDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

On Friday, April 14, the Friday Morning Bible Study will begin a new study on Elijah, written by Melissa Spolestra. We have studied other Bible studies by Melissa and found them to be encouraging and enlightening. We invite you to join us for this journey in the Old Testament. We meet at 9:00 am in the North/South Parlor. Study books will be available on April 14

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

The Men's Fellowship Breakfast will meet on Saturday, April 15 at 8:00 am at Primrose. Jim Wessar is scheduled to tell his story.

STEP BY STEPPERS WALKING GROUP



Saturday, April 8 – Mounds Park. We will meet at the Visitors Center at 9 a.m. for an early spring walk around the park. Walk rating: Moderately easy.

Saturday, April 22 – Ft. Harrison State Park. We will meet at 9 a.m. in the church parking lot to carpool to the state park on the east side of Indianapolis. We will return by 1 p.m. This is a trail walk and is rated: Moderately challenging.

BON AMIS

Beef and Boards: An American in Paris

Wednesday, April 12 – This event, scheduled for April has closed. However, if you missed the registration deadline and would still like to go, please check with Pastor Don Deena who can put you on the waiting list. Occasionally, spots become available.



Traders' Point Creamery



Thursday, May 11 -- Tour a working farm and dairy and enjoy a delicious "farm to table" lunch. Vans leave at 9 a.m. and we will return by 3:30 p.m. Registration and payment are due by Friday, April 28. The cost for this event is \$70

JOY LUNCHEON

Friday, April 21 – Madison County Historian Steve Jackson will be with us this month. His unique and informative presentation this month is entitled: "Old Township Schools in Madison County: The Survivors." Lunch will begin at 11:30 at a cost of \$12. Mr. Jackson will begin his presentation at noon. Please sign up in the church office by noon on Wednesday, April 19.

WIRED WORD BIBLE STUDY – Spring Series

Our 6-week spring series of Wired Word Bible study conversations begin on Monday, April 17 at 6 p.m. in the church library. Pastor Don Deena facilitates this conversation of the themes that are pulled from current news events in the light of God's word. Through our conversation together, we listen to one another and to God and discover anew ways of best living together in our world as God's beloved children. Everyone is welcome to attend. Come and share in our conversation together.



Next Generation Ministries

April Birthdays

Leland Hochstetler is 7 on April 2.

Connor Falkenberry is 7 on April 4.

Lucas Tupling is 10 on April 10.

Aiden Parsons is 2 on April 21.

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY to each one.

GODLY PLAY AND FIRST KIDS ON SUNDAY

April 5 – It's Palm Sunday! The children will remain in worship with their families.

April 9 – It's Easter! Faces of Easter: The One Who Was Easter & Still Is

April 16 – The Crosses

April 23 – The Legend of the Easter Eggs

April 30 – Jesus & the Twelve

Pastor Don Deena and Joe Snyder will lead the Godly Play sessions. Chris Tupling will lead First Kids on Sunday.

First Kids on Wednesday

The children gather together from 6 – 8 p.m. on Wednesdays for Children's Choir, games and creative activities, stories and conversation. Our theme for April is "Knowing Jesus in a New Way."

WE ARE HIRING!

Interested in a part-time paid position as the Director of Next Generation Ministries? This person will coordinate children's ministries. A Job Description can be found at www.andersonfirst.org or in the church office. A great opportunity for that special person who loves children and loves God!

Outreach Ministries

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Easter Outreach Offering

As is our custom, we receive a special Easter offering for the Outreach Ministries of our local community and for missionary support to Africa University. For the first time in many years, the list of local ministries we will support in 2023, has been reduced from ten to four. Your Outreach Committee has chosen this year, to concentrate our giving on four excellent and very important ministries in our community, four ministries that do not receive large local or area support. In addition to our regular gift of \$2,500 toward missionary support at Africa University, we have chosen to support:

The Christian Counseling Center of Madison County

Gateway Association

Heart For Kids

Literacy Coalition.

These four ministries serve our community in unique ways as they focus on mental health, family support and the special needs of children and literacy. By supporting these organizations with our financial gifts and our active participation, we bring help and hope to many individuals, adults and children alike, we nurture families and we serve our community. Thank you for generously supporting once again, ministries in our community and in Kenya that make a significant and positive difference in the lives of many children and families.

HELPING HANDS PANTRY

The next Helping Hands Pantry will be April 12 from 8:30 am to 11:00 am. For this Pantry, we would like to request donations of toilet paper, hand sanitizer and shampoo. The number of guests we had for the March Pantry was down slightly, but it was a very cold day. In spite of the cold, every one of our guests was thankful for the items they received. Some of the guests we had were at our Pantry for the first time, and they were glad to know we provided some of the items they needed. Each time we check our donation bin, we are reminded of the generosity of our congregation. We are blessed to have your help serving our communities.

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

SUPPORTING GOD'S WORK

Your giving continues feeding the hungry – physically, emotionally and spiritually. You are invited to give during Sunday morning worship, online at www.andersonfirst.org/GIVE, through the mail, from your bank, or whatever way is most convenient for you. Your stewardship of time, talents and treasures make an eternal difference.