



First United Methodist

FAITH FIRST. FAMILIES FIRST. ANDERSON FIRST.

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THE VOICE

A Newsletter of First United Methodist

HONORING OUR 2023 GRADUATES

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD,
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

Nathan Wyatt Walker

Nathan Wyatt Walker was born on July 17th, 2004 and has been a member of Anderson First most of his life. He was baptized and confirmed under Pastor Jeff Taylor. Most of you remember him as a little firecracker that whether on the steps for children's time or at the lectern to read a scripture, it was always a gamble of what he was going to do. His favorite things growing up in the church are giving out hugs and reminding Pastor Don Deena that he's taller than her. It was a real triumph for him when he first figured out he was. He appeared in one of Bishop Coyner's epistles as the "Storm Trooper in the manger" when he refused to wear anything remotely normal and came to church decked out in his favorite costume.

Nathan struggled early on with many medical issues and had a difficult start in school. By 2nd grade we had multiple meetings with teachers and the principle and they all told us he wouldn't amount to a hill of beans. In 5th grade Nathan joined the school band playing a baritone and his world changed instantly. He found his passion and he found his people. He loves music and now plays trombone, acoustic, electric, and bass guitar as well as drums. His Senior year he lead the marching band as their Drum Major. Nathan's Junior year he began welding courses at the John Hind's career center. He progressed so fast that his last semester he interned at MoFab in Anderson where you must pass the same welding test as an employee. He's only 1 of 2 students to do so. Upon graduation he will begin working at Neturen (Nehtoorhen), in Noblesville where his skills will be utilized as well as being cross trained on CNC machines. Take THAT Mr. Principle!

They say it takes a village to raise a child and I agree 100%. I'm so grateful for the open, loving, and kind congregation that has helped Nathan become the wonderful young man that he is today. To know him is to love him and we most certainly feel the love here at our church home. Submitted by Ruth Parker, Nathan's mom.

Leisa Jones

I graduated from Ball State University on May 6, 2023 with an AA in General Studies. I've been a member of AFUMC since 1978 - before I started college the first time. My post-graduation plans are to continue working at my current job as Manager of Contract compliance for The GEO Group, Inc.® for a few more years. Eventually I want to find my way back to a reawakened interest in food science and nutrition.

Jocie Strock

I received a bachelor's degree in chemistry with a focus in pre-medical studies! I am currently working as an EMT with IU Health Lifeline in Indianapolis while I work through the medical school application process, and I hope to start medical school in the fall of 2024. I have been involved with AFUMC for my whole life, along with my parents, Jim and Vicky Strock, and my sibling, Basil.

Vicky Strock

I graduated from McKinney School of Law on the IUPUI campus with a Master of Jurisprudence degree. I have been a member of AFUMC since 1988. I introduced my husband Jim to this congregation after we were married in 1992. Both of our children - Basil and Jocie - were raised in this church. Post-graduation I plan to use what I learned to enhance my current position and possibly look for Risk Management positions with my current employer.

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

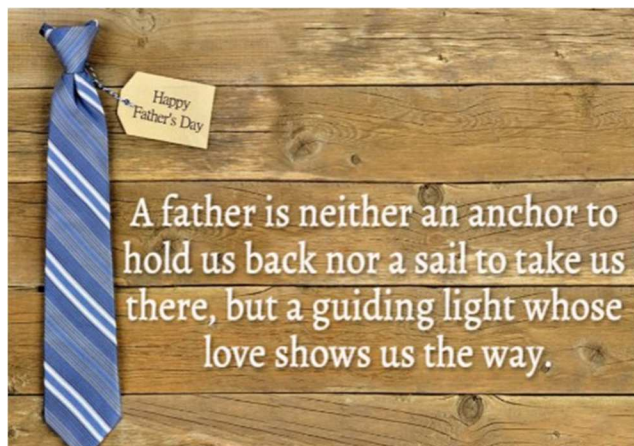
DOWNTOWN & DAVIS PARK

On Sunday, May 28 the Summer Worship Schedule begins.

9:00 a.m. Outdoors at Davis Park
4507 Nichol Avenue

10:45 a.m. Downtown in NS Parlor
1215 Jackson Street
See you Sunday!

Don't just **GO** to church,
BE the church!



Adult Ministries

We Worship Together

June 4	HOLY COMMUNION John 17:13-23 (NLT) Out of Place
9 a.m.	<i>Outside at Davis Park</i> Recognition of Graduates Music: Jazz Combo
10:45 a.m.	<i>Downtown in NS Parlor</i> Music: Michele Murray
June 11	SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Luke 13:1-9 (MSG) In the News
9 a.m.	<i>Outside at Davis Park</i> Music: Rachel Lashbrook
10:45 a.m.	<i>Downtown in NS Parlor</i> Music: Sheryl Monnier
June 18	FATHER'S DAY Psalm 32:1-5 (NLT); 2 Corinthians 3:13-14, 16-18 (NIV) A Religion Worth Having
9 a.m.	<i>Outside at Davis Park</i> Covenant of Baptism – Adeline Stremming (Parents: Tucker and Erin Stremming; Grandparents: Dick and Mary Falkenberry) Music: Elizabeth Murray-Sherron & Michele Murray
10:45 a.m.	<i>Downtown in NS Parlor</i> Music: Elizabeth Murray-Sherron & Michele Murray
June 25	FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Pastor Don Deena Johnson preaching
9 a.m.	<i>Outside at Davis Park</i> Music: Mark & Michele Murray
10:45 a.m.	<i>Downtown in NS Parlor</i> Music: Mark & Michele Murray

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

The Men's Fellowship Breakfast will meet on Saturday, June 17 8:00 am at Primrose. George Smith will be telling his story.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



	Bible Study Circle	Friendship Circle
Leader:	Merrilyn Vance	Mary Falkenberry
Meeting Date:	June 1, 2023	no meeting in June
Time:	1:00 am	
Location:	North/South Parlor	



Want people to know about your ministry?
Want to invite others to join you?
YOU NEED TO WRITE for the bulletin (weekly Wednesday deadline) and the newsletter, VOICE (by third Sunday each month). Submit your articles to Peg Peter in the church office at peg@andersonfirst.org

SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

with Pastor Corinne at the Parsonage
Relax with conversation, study and dessert at the parsonage for 4-weeks using "Life From the UpSide" by J. Ellsworth Kalas to guide our discussions.

Tuesdays, June 28, July 5, 12 and 19 at 7 p.m.
Topics to help us "see god at work in the world" will include:
Don't Blame the Donkey – Capitalize on Your Adversity
Party Gone Flat – When Life Loses Its Flavor
Color Her Moses – Never Give Up. Never.
Strange Victory – The Gains in Our Losses
Materials provided the first night.

Rummage Sale Thank you

Many thanks to all who donated to our Master Gardener Rummage Sale. It was a **GREAT** success. Thank you for your help
Ann Bull

Treasurer's Minute for: April 2023

	APRIL ACTUAL		2023 YEAR TO DATE	
	2023	2022	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Monthly Contributions	\$41,063	\$44,473	\$162,712	\$162,744
Other Income	\$3,716	\$2,767	\$14,238	\$16,675
Total Income	\$44,779	\$47,240	\$176,950	\$179,419
Total Expense	\$51,708	\$60,587	\$205,595	\$212,546
Excess (Deficit) Prior to Endowment Draw	(\$6,929)	(\$13,347)	(\$28,645)	(\$33,127)
Endowment Earnings Distribution	\$12,264	\$13,896	\$49,056	\$49,056
Remaining Excess (Deficit)	\$5,335	\$549	\$20,411	\$15,929

DID YOU KNOW: That 145 members of your church have pledged to financially support FUMC during 2023?

Other Church News

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE UMC 2023

June 8-10, 2023 at Ball State University, Muncie, IN

The Indiana Conference comes together annually over multiple days for worship and to collaborate on the business of the Church. Each year, we honor retirees, remember the lives and ministries of those who have joined the Church Triumphant, and celebrate those who have answered God's call to serve the Church as licensed, commissioned, and ordained clergy persons. In 2023, our focus is Praying Forward as we embark on all God has for us this year. Please keep your representatives and the work of the Conference in your prayers.

WELCOME NEWEST MEMBERS

**Susan Selby,
David Selby and Yvonne Selby**

Susan made her profession of faith as well as her commitment to the United Methodist Church and this congregation on May 21, 2023. Susan's husband David and his mother Yvonne we received by transfer from Cross Roads Church. Susan and David have already become involved in the church through Food @ First and Community Café Grill. Be sure to welcome Susan and David!

Yvonne is homebound and would appreciate your cards of welcome. Send mailings to: 5626 Orlena Drive, Anderson 46013.

PLUG INTO WORSHIP!

Worship with us at
9:00 a.m. Outdoor at Davis Park
(Lodge for Rain)
10:45 a.m. Downtown Sanctuary
Live stream & recorded online
(YouTube, Facebook and
Website)
2 p.m. Primrose Worship
Stay "plugged in" to hear God at
work

HOW CAN YOU GIVE TO GOD'S WORK HERE?

Weekly offering on Sundays
Online at www.andersonfirst.org/give
Mail
Bank Issued Checks
If you have questions about any of these,
please contact the church office or Pastor
Corinne directly at
corinne@andersonfirst.org; 317-902-1843

KING'S BRASS CONCERT!!!

Tim Zimmerman and the King's Brass will be giving a **free concert in the sanctuary on Sunday evening, June 4 at 6:00 pm.**

Tap your toes to a variety of music from Gabrieli to hymn classics, Handel to jazz spirituals and other inspirational tunes from the oldies, the popular and the classic. They will also do a "Children's Section" for younger members of the audience.

Reviews of this outstanding group include the following:

..."God-given talents, their heart for worship and their integrity in ministry is a wonderful blend which glorifies God."

..."An unforgettable concert experience of music and ministry".

You will not want to miss this evening of great music and faith. Put the date on your calendar and invite all of your friends and family. Let's fill the church for this great concert!

STEP BY STEPPERS WALKING GROUP



Saturday, June 10 – East Maplewood Cemetery. We will meet in the parking lot next to the Cemetery Office at 9 a.m. This is an easy walk. Everyone is welcome.

Saturday, June 24 – Summit Lake State Park. We will meet in the church parking lot to call pool to Summit Lake State Park. We will hike the lakeside trail, a moderately easy trail. Everyone is welcome. Come out and enjoy the warmth of spring just turned to summer.

BON AMIS



**Kokomo Opalescent Glass
Factory**

This event, scheduled for June 13 has closed. However, if you missed

the registration deadline and would still like to go, please check with Pastor DonDeena who can put you on the waiting list. Occasionally, spots do become available.

Monday, July 3

Join us for our annual trip to Connor Prairie Farm to enjoy the Star Spangled Symphony, a Celebration of our nation's 247th birthday. Tables are reserved for our group "down front." A box supper and beverages will be provided. The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, singers, Honor Guards from the various Services, and fireworks are all part of a wonderful evening of celebration. The vans will leave the church parking lot at 5 p.m. We will return by 11:30 p.m. The cost for this event is \$90 per person.



Registration and payment must be made in the church

office by Friday, June 23.

Bon Amis Coordinator Needed

Bon Amis events are scheduled through August of this year. With Pastor Don Deena's retirement, coordination of these events must change hands. We are on the lookout for a volunteer who enjoys organizing and participating in these kinds of events for groups. If you think that you might be the one and would like additional information, please contact Pastor Don Deena for a conversation

JOY LUNCHEON

Friday, June 16

Candy Short loves to travel and she took a trip of a lifetime to Ireland last year. Candy will share with us some of her experiences through pictures and story. Lunch will begin at 11:30 at a cost of \$12. The program begins at noon. Please sign up in the church office by Wednesday, June 14.



Next Generation Ministries

June Birthday

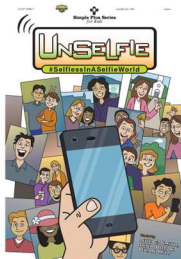
Jackson Taylor will be 3 years old on June 15. When you see him, "give him five," wish him a "Happy Birthday," and ask him to tell you what he loves to do with his family.



Offering for Outreach

Each Sunday when the children follow the banner to Godly Play or First Kids, they bring with them an offering which they place in a basket just inside their worship space. One day early in the year, they learned of all the ways their offering could be used to help with the ministries of the church. They chose to give their offering to Emergency Utility Assistance "to help people keep their lights on and to keep warm in winter." Since January, the children have given \$68.81, all of which was designated for Utility Assistance.

CHILDREN'S MUSICAL –UNSELFIE SAVE THE DATE!!



On July 23 children of our church and community will present a musical called "UNSELFIE" Rehearsals will begin July 12-14 from 6- 8 p.m. and July 17-21 from 9 am.-2:30 pm each day. All rehearsals will be at the church and **the performance will be held in the sanctuary on July 23 at 10:00 a.m.**

WE NEED HELP! We don't know how many children will be involved yet as registration will be in June, but here are some things that will help:
Donations of snacks for the week
Lunches provided each day
Donations for t-shirts for the kids
Bottled water
Some help on simple set design
If you are willing to help contact Sue Finger at sfinger@acsc.net.

Seeking a DIRECTOR OF FAMILY MINISTRIES

As we look ahead at the ministries of this church and the appropriate staff to fill those positions we have decided to seek a full-time Director of Family Ministries who will be responsible for development, administration, supervision, and leadership of programs for children, youth and families in the areas of Christian education, discipleship, mission, and outreach. This person will work with your Senior Pastor. Job Descriptions are available at the church office and the website (www.andersonfirst.org). Interested and qualified persons should send a resume to corinne@andersonfirst.org and ddawillia@gmail.com. Please keep this in your prayers!

Outreach Ministries

EASTER OUTREACH OFFERING

Thank you once again for your generous support of the Outreach Ministries of this congregation. Your gifts of \$6,321 were added to \$1,278 of designated Outreach funds that were carried over from last year for a total of \$7,599.

This total will be distributed to United Methodist Missionaries to Africa University, and to these local ministries: Christian Counseling Center, Gateway Association, Heart For Kids and the Literacy Coalition.

Thank you for making a difference in our community and around the world.

COMMUNITY CAFÉ GRILLE

Community Café moves outdoors under the portico beginning June 11 for grilled burgers with cheese, chips, dessert and Gatorade. We regularly host 80 – 100 people, each Sunday during the summer, June – September. Once a month, a small bag of groceries will also be provided. You are encouraged to come on by – check it out – and make some new friends.

MEIJER AND OPERATION LOVE COME TOGETHER FOR THE HUNGRY IN OUR COMMUNITY



As many of you are aware if you shop at Meijer, there are "Simply Give" cards at each check-out line. Picking one of those cards up and adding it to the items you are purchasing, will provide Operation Love \$10 toward the purchase of goods from Meijer that they can use to help families in our community.



On Saturday, June 17 – one day only – if you pick up one of those cards, Meijer will "double match" it. Your \$10 becomes \$30. Your \$20 becomes \$60. Even if you don't regularly shop at Meijer – this might be just the day to stop in,

HELPING HANDS PANTRY

Our Helping Hands Pantry in June will be on June 14th from 8:30 am until 11:00 am. We would like to request donations of the following items: Toilet Paper, Bar Soap and Women's or Men's Deodorant. We served 81 guests at our May 10th Pantry and for the first five months this year, we have averaged 76 guests per month. Most of our guests visit our Pantry each month and we usually have several new guests as well. There continues to be a need for the products we provide to each guest. We are very thankful for the continued donations of our congregation that allow us to help so many people.

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