



First United Methodist

FAITH FIRST. FAMILIES FIRST. ANDERSON FIRST.

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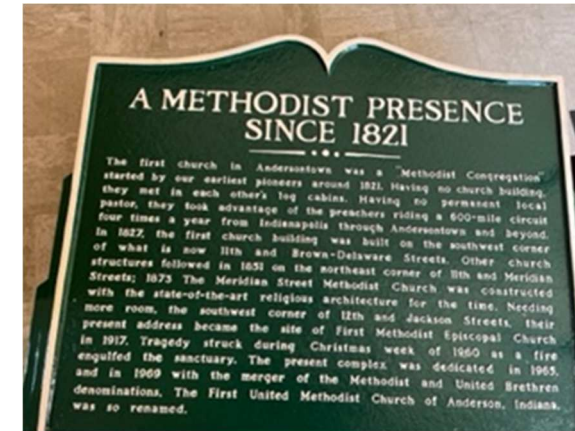
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THE VOICE

A Newsletter of First United Methodist



HISTORICAL MARKER

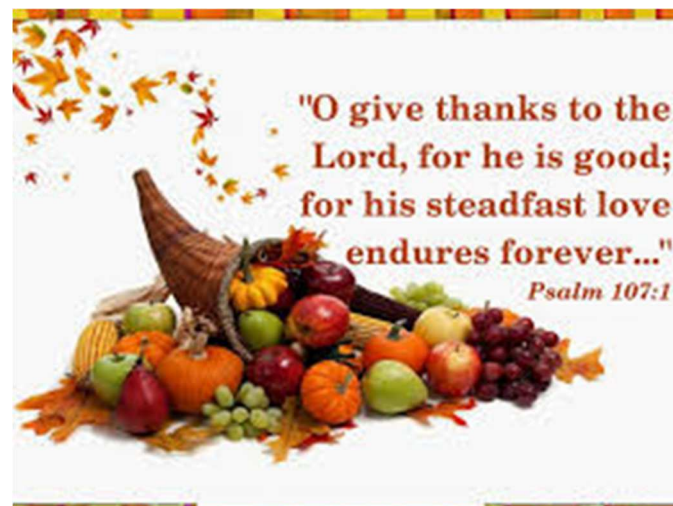
Thank you to Ron McNabney, Steve Jackson, Peg Peter and the United Women of Faith (UMW), Men's Breakfast Fellowship, Anderson Morning Rotary, Madison County Bicentennial Committee, and Anderson First United Methodist Church for the vision and resources to have the Historical Marker set on the Jackson Street side of the church.

TIME CHANGE

On November 5 be sure to move your clocks back one hour!
Enjoy the extra hour of sleep that Sunday morning!

REMEMBERING OTHERS

O God, when I have food,
help me to remember the hungry;
When I have work,
help me to remember the jobless;
When I have a home,
help me to remember those who have no home at all;
When I am without pain,
help me to remember those who suffer,
And remembering,
help me to destroy my complacency;
stir my compassion,
to be concerned enough to help;
By word and deed may I remember
those who cry out for what I take for granted. Amen.



Adult Ministries

We Worship Together

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER 2023

November 5	All Saints Sunday & Communion Sacrifice Hebrews 9:11-14 (NLT) Music: Sanctuary Choir
November 12	25 th Sunday After Pentecost Rev. Dale Mendenhall preaching Matthew 25:1-13 (NRSV) Music: Joyful Jazz
November 19	Thanksgiving Sunday Naaman's Thanksgiving 2 Kings 5:6-16 (MSG) Reception of New Member – Lori Smith Music: Sanctuary Choir
November 26	Christ, the King Sunday Blessing of the Blankets Parable of The Participants and The Spectators Matthew 25:31-45 (MSG) Music: Michele & Mark Murray

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

November 5

On All Saints Day, United Methodists publicly remember and honor those who have passed away. Celebrated on the first Sunday in November, many congregations light candles, ring bells of remembrance, and call the names of those lost in the previous year as a way of honoring the impact their lives have had on us. We also give you an opportunity to remember and honor all your loved ones now residents of heaven.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

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

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

The Men's Fellowship Breakfast will meet on Saturday, November 18, at 8:00 am at Primrose where Jim Ault will be presenting the program.



BAND CONCERT

Saturday, November 18 at 7 p.m.
in the sanctuary
The Fall Creek Valley Band (formerly known as the Lapel Band) will offer music you will not want to miss!

DECORATE THE CHURCH

We are looking forward to decorating the church for Christmas. Be sure to watch for more details of when and how you can help!
Decorating will occur November 27-December 1.



GIVING THANKS FOR OFFICE VOLUNTEERS!

Your Pastor and Staff GREATLY appreciate the time you give your presence and talents to the church front office!
Our wonderful team currently includes Dan Ball, Merrilyn Vance, Mary Brown, Betsey Bachman, Beth Furnish-McFall and Dee Ann Williams.
God has truly blessed us with you!

Treasurer's Minute for: September 2023

	SEPTEMBER ACTUAL		2023 YEAR TO DATE	
	2023	2022	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Monthly Contributions	\$17,804	\$21,266	\$311,444	\$306,279
Other Income	\$2,668	\$5,135	\$30,555	\$38,350
Total Income	\$20,472	\$26,401	\$341,999	\$344,629
Total Expense	\$47,279	\$53,954	\$441,707	\$447,239
Excess (Deficit) Prior to Endowment Draw	(\$26,807)	(\$27,553)	(\$99,708)	(\$102,610)
Endowment Earnings Distribution	\$12,264	\$13,896	\$110,377	\$110,377
Remaining Excess (Deficit)	(\$14,543)	(\$13,657)	\$10,669	\$7,768

DID YOU KNOW: That FUMC has saved over \$3,000 in postage costs so far in 2023 as compared to the prior year?

Other Church News

POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias may be purchased for \$15 in honor or memory of a loved one by December 15. You may place your order by using the website to pay, or drop your form and payment in the sanctuary wooden boxes, provide information and payment in the church office or mail information and payment to the church. To use the website to pay go to www.andersonfirst.org/GIVE and email your information to Peg@andersonfirst.org. Forms are available at the Welcome Center or Office.

MOUNDS PARK NIGHT OF LIGHTS

Anderson First UMC will again decorate a campsite at Mounds State Park at the park to express the true meaning of Christmas through the outdoor Chrismons designed by our members.
Entry fee is \$10 per vehicle
Open every Friday & Saturday of December

THERE IS NO US WITHOUT U

*"Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of Christ's body."
Romans 12:6 (MSG)*

Join us in God's work here!

Estimate of Giving Cards for 2024 pledges are available at the Welcome Center, at the sanctuary entrance tables and in the church office.
They may be returned in the wooden boxes or the church office.
Thank you for giving to God!

ASSISTANCE NEEDED!

On Saturday, November 18, after the Men's Fellowship Breakfast, a group of people are needed at the Davis Park Barn to help bring down the Chrismons in the loft to be used for Night of Lights at Mounds Park. We will also be replacing the incandescent bulbs currently used in the Chrismons with LED bulbs to provide a brighter light. EVERYONE will be able to help. Once we've replaced the bulbs, and tested the lights, we will plan to decorate our campsite on the Friday or Saturday after Thanksgiving, and help will be needed there as well. We will determine a specific time when we meet on November 18.

In addition—if any of you happen to have the outside metal shepherd's crooks used to display flowerpots in your yard that you will not be using for Christmas decorating we'd like to borrow them to hang our Chrismon stars on.

In either case, please contact Peg Peter at peg@andersonfirst.org or at the church office to let her know you are interested in helping.

J.O.Y LUNCH

Join us to celebrate a "Tribute to Thanksgiving" with the music of Mark and Michele Murray on Friday, November 17. Lunch is served at 11:30 a.m. and the program will begin about noon. Make your reservation in the church office. Lunch costs \$12 and may be paid at the door.

NAMES FOR THE MESSIAH

An Advent Study

by Walter Brueggemann

In Isaiah 9:6, a divine utterance is given to us using four royal titles-- Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. Names for the Messiah ponders each title and how the people understood it then, how Jesus did or did not fulfill the title, and how Christians interpret them today.

YOU ARE INVITED

to join Pastor Corinne on Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

November 29 – December 20 in NS Parlor

Week 1 Wonderful Counselor

Week 2 Mighty God

Week 3 Everlasting Father

Week 4 Prince of Peace

BLANKET COLLECTION

Blankets will be collected on Sundays

November 5, 12, 19 and 26

Blankets will be dedicated during worship
on Nov. 26 and then distributed to St. Vincent De Paul, Anderson.

Give the gift that comforted Jesus...

*"...A Savior has just been born in David's town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master. This is what you're to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger."
Luke 2:12 (MSG)*

Music Ministries

LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING!

On Sunday, November 19 the choir will sing an arrangement of Lift Every Voice and Sing. If you have EVER sung in the Sanctuary Choir, Wesley Choral, King's Men, or Joyful Sound you are invited to join us on this anthem! Please come to the Wednesday evening rehearsal November 15 from 7:40-8:00 pm and also on Sunday, November 19 from 9:15-9:40 am to prepare for this celebration anthem! We would love to fill the choir loft with all who have been part of the music program at any time. If you have any questions, contact Sue Finger at sfinger@acsc.net.



Family Ministries

This month at Anderson First Kids, our Simple Truth for the month is, "I am Forgiven!" and this month our theme is *Flipped!* We want your kids to know that God forgives us because He is merciful and kind! Over the next several weeks, kids will discover that God is kind to us, He's ready to forgive, He sent Jesus for us, and He will always love us. So, this month, make a point to show forgiveness and help our kids see how wonderful it is that God flipped things around and made us new!

We believe that we can be better together!

As we head into a new season, we are in need of people willing to serve in Anderson First Kids. In order to ensure that every child who walks through our doors can fully experience the level of excellence and love that we strive to offer, we need people who are willing to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Are you interested in serving in our Nursery, Preschool, or Elementary Small Groups? We need help at the 9:00 hour as well as the 10:00 worship service so there are plenty of opportunities to serve. All materials and training are provided, and we strive to make it as easy as possible to serve.

If you are interested head over to the Better Together wall and pick out a volunteer card! If you are interested in learning more, please reach out to Ally Hall at Ally@andersonfirst.org.



On December 2nd from 4-6pm in Fellowship Hall, people of all ages are encouraged to join us for our first annual Anderson First UMC Gingerbread House Competition! We will provide basic supplies but make sure to bring anything you need to make your house extra festive! We will play some Christmas games and will be giving away awesome prizes for the Best Traditional, Most Creative, and Fan Favorite Houses. You are encouraged to bring friends, family, and neighbors to the event. This is also a great opportunity for small groups and circles to engage with the Family Ministry and get into the holiday spirit. Please reach out to Ally Hall to reserve a table...or two... or three so we make sure to have enough materials for everyone. Then share this event with your friends and start planning your Gingerbread House! We can't wait to kick off the Christmas season with you at this new Anderson First Tradition!

Outreach Ministries

HELPING HANDS PANTRY

This month's Helping Hands Pantry will be on November 8th from 8:30 AM until 11:00 AM. For this Pantry, we would be grateful for donations of toilet paper, toothpaste and dish soap. These items, along with a toothbrush, men's or women's deodorant, and a kitchen sponge/scrubbie, will be given to our guests at the November Pantry. We served 102 guests at our October Pantry and our average number of guests for the last four months is 95. Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, we have been able to help the increasing number of guests we have had with their personal hygiene and cleaning needs. We are truly blessed to have such a giving and caring congregation.

Sincerely, Linda Verhulst and Juanita Slattery

NOVEMBER OUTREACH 30 Days of Thanksgiving

Matthew 10:42 "Give a cool cup of water to someone who is thirsty, for instance. The smallest act of giving or receiving makes you a true apprentice."

Thank you for your acts of kindness towards our guests. Your love of our Lord is evident. We will have a donation list at the Welcome Desk in the Narthex throughout November. Thank you in advance for donated items to later be distributed at our Helping Hands and Food # First ministries.

ANGEL TREE

DATES TO KNOW:

November 3rd –An Angel Tree will be placed outside the sanctuary.

December 4th - Deadline for wrapped gifts to be returned.

We have the wonderful opportunity to again help bring a joyous Christmas to the Gateway children -- those children who are cared for and taught each day in our building. The Angel Tree will be located in the narthex. This year there will be two "angels" for each child. One will be returned with the gifts you have purchased as usual. The other will have only the child's name on it. You are encouraged keep this second angel any place you see regularly and pray for your child and their family. Your gift can then be given, not just on one day but throughout the year.

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH OFFERING

Our budgeting process has begun as we look toward 2024. This congregation has always been faithful and generous in giving to the outreach needs of our community and around the world. Begin thinking about what you are able to give this year to our Christmas Outreach Offering. You will be receiving a letter just after Thanksgiving inviting you to give. An article in the December VOICE will detail how the offering will be used to serve our community in 2024. Please pray for your Outreach Committee as they meet to prepare next year's budget.