



First United Methodist

FAITH FIRST. FAMILIES FIRST. ANDERSON FIRST.

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THE VOICE

A Newsletter of First United Methodist

CELEBRATING GOD-WITH-US

We are planning on your presence!

SPECIAL SERVICES & EVENTS

Gingerbread House Contest – December 3 @ 4-6 p.m.
Lessons and Carols – December 10 @ 10 a.m.
Longest Night Service – December 21 @ 7 p.m.
4TH Sunday of Advent --December 24 @ 10 a.m.
Christmas Eve Service – December 24 @ 7 p.m.

CONCERTS

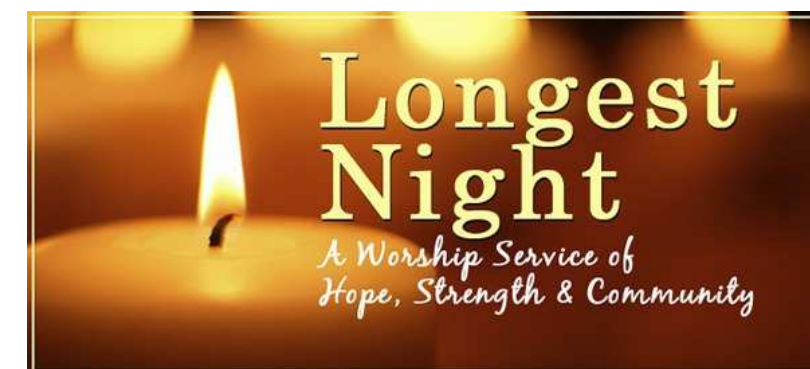
AACC & AAYC Concert – December 3 @ 6:30
Director's Jazz Orchestra & Alpha Brass – December 10
@ 3 p.m.

PARTICIPATING IN

Night of Lights Mounds State Park –Every Friday/Saturday in December
Cost \$10 per car
Winterfest – December 1 from 5-7 p.m.

ADVENT STUDY

"Name for the Messiah" by Walter Brueggemann
Wednesday at 6 p.m. November 29-December 20
Led by Pastor Corinne Boruff



LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

Thursday, December 21 at 7 pm in the sanctuary.
This service is for those for whom these long nights remind them of separation from loved ones, burdens of illness, anxiety or fear or the loneliness of being alone. This reflective service reminds us of the Healing and Hope of Christ. Elizabeth Murray-Sherron and Michele Murray will offer their beautiful selections on the violin and piano.

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Dear Everlasting Father, love brought Jesus to the earth, and love brings us to this celebration. Today as we share time with loved ones, may we also share with one another joyful hearts and warm smiles. May our Christmas be filled with kindness. And may the memories of today warm our hearts for years to come.
Amen.



Adult Ministries

We Worship Together

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 2023

Advent Series: Experience the Miracle of Christmas
As we prepare for Christmas, we will explore the miracle of Christmas from different viewpoints. You will be asked to consider how the miracle of Christ's coming into the world changed history, brought peace and hope, and how it affects you personally. Only then can we truly experience the Miracle of Christmas.

December 3	First Sunday of Advent Holy Communion Isaiah 9:2, 6-7; Galatian 4:4-7 The Miracle of the Moment Music: Alpha Brass 6:30 p.m. AACC/YC Concert
December 10	Second Sunday of Advent Lessons and Carols 3 p.m. -- Alpha Brass & DJO Concert
December 17	Third Sunday of Advent Romans 11 The Miracle of the Method Music: Wesley Bells Offering Invitation – Susan Selby
Thursday, Dec. 21	Longest Night Service @ 7 p.m. Music: Elizabeth Murray-Sherron & Michele Murray
December 24	Fourth Sunday of Advent John 1 The Miracle of the Manger Music: Piano/Organ 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Service Music: Sanctuary Choir
December 31	New Year's Eve Isaiah 61:10-11a; Luke 2:22-35 (NLT) Expectations Music: Brass Quartet

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, Christmas Eve, is a Sunday this year. The 10 a.m. service will focus on the Fourth Sunday of Advent. 7 p.m. is the Christmas Eve Service that will celebrate Christ's Birth with music, candles, a special children's message with Ally Hall, and a search for Baby Jesus! Bring family and friends so that Christ is a part of your Merry *Christmas*!

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Anderson First UMC is active 7-days a week with our ministries and programs, as well as, those groups we host from the community:

AACC/YC
Girl Scouts
Isabelle Society
Budget Benders
AARP
AA and AA Big Book Club
Primrose Memory Care
Exercise Group (Davis Park)
Soccer (Davis Park)
St. Anne's Episcopal Church (Davis Park)
Anderson Morning Rotary
Tuesday Quilters
Madison County IEHA
Redbud Quilt Guild

PRIMROSE CONGREGATION

Every week Anderson First leads worship at Primrose Retirement Community on Cross Street. With a congregation that averages 20 we sing together, pray, hear scripture, hear a message and receive communion. Rev. Don Deena Johnson shares the preaching with Rev. Corinne Boruff by rotating monthly. George Smith beautifully accompanies the congregation. Guests are welcome any Sunday at 2 p.m. in the second floor activity room. Your love and support for this congregation is felt deeply!

Treasurer's Minute for: October 2023

	OCTOBER ACTUAL		2023 YEAR TO DATE	
	2023	2022	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Monthly Contributions	\$31,794	\$44,678	\$343,237	\$333,186
Other Income	\$2,783	\$3,695	\$33,338	\$42,075
Total Income	\$34,577	\$48,373	\$376,576	\$375,261
Total Expense	\$50,022	\$55,412	\$491,728	\$492,467
Excess (Deficit) Prior to Endowment Draw	(\$15,445)	(\$7,039)	(\$115,153)	(\$117,206)
Endowment Earnings Distribution	\$12,264	\$13,896	\$122,641	\$122,642
Remaining Excess (Deficit)	(\$3,181)	\$6,857	\$7,489	\$5,437

DID YOU KNOW: That Total Pledges for 2024 has exceeded the 2023 amount by over 7%?

Other Church News

POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias may be purchased for \$16 (slight increase) 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 has decorated campsite 43 at Mounds State 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

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

Thank you to ALL of you who donated Shepherd's hooks to use at the Night Of Lights at Mounds Park.
We were able to use all we received, and could still use several more. They made set up at Mounds much easier, and do a wonderful job of displaying our Chrismons!!!



DAVIS PARK

The Board of Trustees would like to thank the mowing crew for their service this year at Davis Park—Jim Hudson, Curt Leech, Keith McFall, PT Morgan, Lee Robinson, Dave Selby and Dick Falkenberry.

The Trustees would also like to thank Joe Spaur for the work that he does at Davis Park.

GET THE NEWS!

Want to know the current church news? Want to receive a timely notice if severe weather closes the church? Received the e-NEWS on Thursdays or for special notices each week. Send your email to Peg@andersonfirst.org.

VIDEOS AND STUDY MATERIALS

You are encouraged to visit and claim (take with you) the many materials from the tables near the North/South Parlor. You may take materials 1. For your personal use, 2. To equip you to lead a small group, OR 3. Fill a bag, hand it to Pastor Corinne and say, "This is a study I would attend if you lead it." And I will!

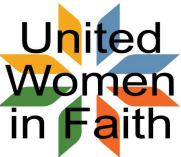
May God be glorified in the study of God's Word!

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Are available on a table in front of the church office.
Help yourself to your box!

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

The Men's Fellowship Breakfast will meet on Saturday, December 16, at 8:00 am at Primrose where Charlie Jones will be presenting the program.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Bible Study Circle

Friendship Circle

Leader:

Merrilyn Vance

Mary Falkenberry

Meeting Date:

December 7

Time:

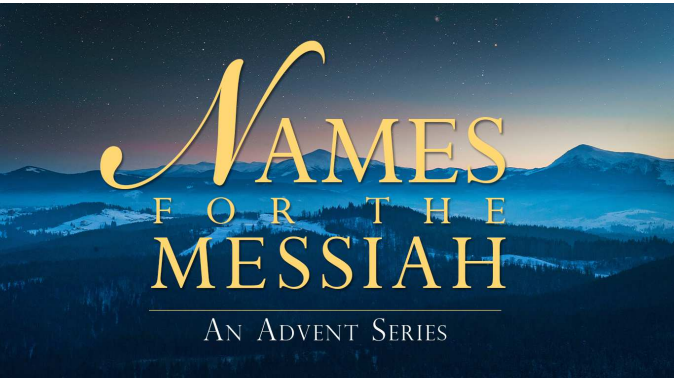
11:00 am

Location:

North/South Parlor

J.O.Y LUNCH

Give yourself the gift of fellowship, great food and entertainment on Friday, December 15 at 11:30 a.m. Don Deena Johnson will be presenting "Joy to the World: Food, Photos and Fun."
Make a reservation by Wednesday, December 13 in the church office.
Cost: \$12 can be paid as you arrive.
Next JOY Lunch will be in February 2024.



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



Family Ministries

Hey Anderson First Family!

We had so many wonderful changes take place over November and are looking forward to an equally exciting December. We have opened two new classrooms and welcomed additional childcare workers to lead those classes. We also finished our Flipped Series on forgiveness, and you can check out some pictures from those lessons below.

In December, our First Kid's Ministry, get ready to "Light the Night!" This Christmas, we are learning the simple truth, "I Am Never Alone" We want your kids to know that God is always with them. Kids are going to learn this December how God gives us hope, comforts us, gives us peace, and is near to us. So, this month, let's "Light the Night" as we look forward to Christmas!



NURSERY CARE EXPANDED

We now offer two fully staffed nursery care options on Sunday morning — Infant (non-walkers) Nursery and Toddler Nursery (walker-3 yrs. old). Nurseries can be found in the staff office hallway.

Y.A.

Young Adults have chosen to meet together bi-weekly for food, fellowship and fun on Sundays at 11:15 in the Game Room upstairs. Currently there are 8-10 young adults enjoying this ministry.

Outreach Ministries

HELPING HANDS PANTRY

December 13, 2023 is the date of our last Helping Hands Pantry for this year. It will be held from 8:30 AM until 11:00 AM. We try to give our guests something extra in December, and in addition to requests for donations of toilet paper and bar soap, we would like to request hand/body lotion, which is appreciated by our guests during the cold Winter weather. We served 66 guests at our November Pantry, and even though our numbers were down from October, we still had guests who came to our Pantry for the first time. Our monthly attendance for 2023 through November has been an average of 80 guests. It is very kind of our congregation to choose items on the donation list at the Welcome Desk in the Narthex throughout November. When added to the other donations made throughout the year, our guests surely feel the love our congregation has for them. We and our other faithful volunteers also feel the love of our congregation and are grateful to be members of such a giving congregation.

Sincerely, Linda Verhulst and Juanita Slattery

OUTREACH UPDATE

Greetings! We have been blessed with contributions for Helping Hands. Thank you for your heartfelt support. Buddy Bags is able to provide a nice Christmas bag for the school children this season. Community Cafe, Food at First and the Grille have had record breaking guest attendance for us this year. We are truly blessed. Thank you for your service and support.

Sincerely, Susan and Dave Selby

ANGEL TREE ~ THANK YOU!

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

Your generosity has brought joy to the 71 children of Gateway and shown them the love of Christ. Please continue to pray for your child in the coming year. Children will receive your gifts to them at the Gateway Christmas Party on Friday, December 15.

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

"Today is next year's Christmas memory. Make it one that you will always cherish, and be sure to enjoy every single moment." (Unknown author)
Make Christmas memories by enjoying the amazing music at the concerts
Anderson First UMC is hosting.

Anderson Area Children's Choir and Youth Chorale

Sunday, December 3 at 6:30 p.m.

Director's Jazz Orchestra and Alpha Brass

Sunday, December 10 at 3 p.m.