



## First United Methodist

FAITH FIRST. FAMILIES FIRST. ANDERSON FIRST.

First United Methodist Church  
1215 Jackson Street  
Anderson IN 46016

Phone: 765-643-6977  
Fax: 765-642-5232  
E-mail: [mail@andersonfirst.org](mailto:mail@andersonfirst.org)

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# THE VOICE

## A Newsletter of First United Methodist

### A NEW YEAR, A RE-NEWED YOU

2024 (MMXXIV) will be a leap year, meaning there are 29 days in February. It is the 24<sup>th</sup> year of the 3rd millennium, the 24<sup>th</sup> year of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and the 5<sup>th</sup> year of the 2020s decade. Yet this new year is no different from any other year as far as Christ is concerned. For us, however, the very idea of throwing out an old calendar and starting with clean pages is a poignant reminder that the pages, like our lives, quickly become messy. Let the *new* of the year be a time of resetting hearts, which have wandered, and of restoring and growing in a relationship with Jesus every day.  
*"And the one sitting on the throne said, 'Look, I am making everything new!'" Revelation 21:5.*

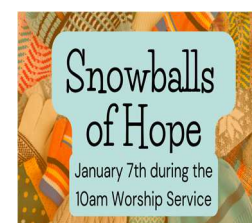
### WIRED WORD

Are you looking for a positive and open way to discuss current world events? In our Wired Word small group setting, we address topics, such as the Israel - Hamas conflict and how biblical verses and their wisdom weave together for our understanding.

Our first meeting will be held on **January 10th at 6:30 P.M.** in the church library.

We will meet every Wednesday at that time for 6 weeks. We look forward to sharing our thoughts and experiences, as we relate to the important issues of the day. Please consider joining us!

If you have questions, please contact [patriciaawalker786@yahoo.com](mailto:patriciaawalker786@yahoo.com)



### SNOWBALLS OF HOPE!!

The whole church is invited to join Family Ministries on January 7th for Snowballs of Hope!

It's time to loosen up your throwing arm and donate new gloves, socks, and hats for adults and children in need this winter. Ball them up and "deliver" them to Ally and Pastor Corinne with your best shot during our indoor snowball fight in the 10 am worship service.

Donations benefit our community members in need. If you have additional questions, please reach out to Ally Hall.

Adult Ministries

WORSHIP SCHEDULE JANUARY 2024

January 7	Epiphany Sunday Communion Matthew 2:1-12 & Ephesians 5:8 (NIV) Be Radiant! Snowballs of Hope Music: Elizabeth Sherron & Michele Murray  Sermon Series: CrossFit Let's us focus on getting our souls in shape!
January 14	UMW Sunday Romans 10:9-15 (NIV) CrossFit: Basics Music: Jazz Combo
January 21	Second Sunday After Epiphany Joshua 1:7-9 (NIV) CrossFit: Strength Music: Scott Freeman Trio
January 28	Third Sunday After Epiphany 1 Corinthians 4:14-21 (NLT) CrossFit: Balance Music: Sanctuary Choir

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

The Men's Fellowship Breakfast will meet on Saturday, January 20, at 8:00 am at Primrose where DeWayne Landwehr will be presenting the program.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



<b>Bible Study Circle</b>	<b>Friendship Circle</b>
Leader: Merrilyn Vance	Mary Falkenberry
Meeting Date:	
Time: There will be no circle meetings in January	
Location:	

UMW SUNDAY

United Women in Faith  
This year's UMW theme, Let Us Break Bread Together, calls to mind that we are created to be in community and to welcome all to God's table.  
We will celebrate and commission our UMW 2024 leaders on Sunday, January 14 during worship.

A Note from Sue Finger:

2023 was a busy year! In the music ministry, in addition to the "normal" music contributions in helping make our worship services meaningful, there were several extra significant events that happened as well. In April we hosted the African Children's Choir, in June we hosted King's Brass and in July we had our Children's Musical "Life is Good". And, life IS good! All of this was in addition to the regular routine as well as special services such as Return Sunday, Lessons and Carols, Lent, Easter, and Choir Sunday. But due to many extra responsibilities, organization and time spent, I was unable to take my allotted vacation time. I am NOT complaining! Each of those special events was very meaningful to me.

I have asked Pastor Corrine for a short break from my responsibilities and she has agreed. So, I will be gone for the month of January. Not to worry... I have already made arrangements for the music in January and the choir will be part of that as well. And, I will be back by the end of the month. It is my sincere hope that you understand this and would give your blessing for this short break. I will be keeping all of you in prayer.  
With love,  
Sue

Treasurer's Minute for: November 2023

	NOVEMBER ACTUAL		2023 YEAR TO DATE	
	2023	2022	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Monthly Contributions	\$20,938	\$15,647	\$364,175	\$362,093
Other Income	\$2,511	\$3,548	\$35,849	\$45,800
Total Income	\$23,449	\$19,195	\$400,025	\$407,893
Total Expense	\$45,603	\$57,286	\$537,331	\$539,469
Excess (Deficit) Prior to Endowment Draw	(\$22,154)	(\$38,091)	(\$137,307)	(\$131,576)
Endowment Earnings Distribution	\$12,264	\$13,895	\$134,905	\$134,906
Remaining Excess (Deficit)	(\$9,890)	(\$24,196)	(\$2,401)	\$3,331

DID YOU KNOW: That FUMC is projected to receive nearly 99% of its 2023 member pledge amount of \$382,000?

# Other Church News

## 2023 Poinsettias

### In Memory of

Our Parents  
Audrey & George Ambler  
Phyliss & Roy Bieberich  
Our Friends  
Thommy Brown & Carolyn  
Goldsmith  
John Bachman  
Rev. Bill & Betty Kaiser  
Christy Briles

Shirley Fischer  
Bill & Reed Conrad  
Our Parents  
Frank Cramer  
Barbara Cox  
Jennyfur French  
Bill Hardacre  
John E. Mendel  
Keith & Andy Millikan  
My Parents & Grandparents  
Paul McConnell  
Leah McNabney  
Josephine Shaw  
John, Cindy & Tom Miles  
Forest Todd  
Our Parents  
Lee & Leah Jemison  
Howard Williams

### In Honor Of

Andrew, Rebecca, Ben &  
families  
Dan & Becky Ball

### Given by

Cliff & Karen Ambler

Betsey Bachman  
Rev. Corinne Boruff  
Richard & Beverly Briles  
Mat & Susan Daoust  
Johanne & Ernie Coleson  
Pat Conrad

Doris Cramer  
Sandy French

Ann Hardacre  
Mary Mendel  
Debbie Millikan

Kay McConnell  
Ron & Sharon McNabney

Carol Miles  
Jackie Todd  
Linda Verhulst, Marcia Bryer,  
Patti Hopkinsons  
Dee Ann Williams

### Given By

Rev. Corinne Boruff  
  
Carol Miles

## YOU PUT THE "MERRY" IN CHRISTMAS!

You blessed many lives during December, showing others the love of Christ by supplying a need. You provided Christmas gifts for 71 children at Gateway, 74 blankets for needy donated to St. Vincent De Paul, 90 gift bags and gift cards distributed to our Community Café guests, and your generous donations to the Outreach Christmas Offering. Thank you for who you are and all you give!

giving /giviNG/ (adjective)  
providing love or other emotional support; caring.  
"You are very giving and supportive."

# Church News

## WELCOME NEW MEMBER

We welcomed Lori Smith as a new member by transfer from the former St. Matthews UMC congregation on Sunday, Nov. 19, 2023. Lori had already become involved in the life of Anderson First by singing with the Sanctuary Choir, participating in Bible Studies, and joining the Fellowship Circle of the UMW.

## NEW CHILDREN'S CHOIR DIRECTOR ABBEY MERCER

We welcome Abbey and offer our support to her as she works weekly with our children's choir. Abbey transitioned into this position on December 3. Abbey also shared her talent with the Sanctuary Choir by singing in Lessons & Carols.

We offered God's blessing to Ella Miller our former Children's Choir Director who has begun a new music ministry position. We greatly appreciate her talent and love that was shared with our children as well as each of us.

## FEELING GOD'S NUDGE?

God may be calling you to facilitate a book study or Bible study.  
No prior experience is needed!  
God equips those God calls.  
Contact Pastor Corinne for ideas, to schedule your day/time,  
and getting your materials.

## SEVERE WEATHER CLOSINGS

In the event of severe weather, you can find information about church closing in the following ways:

**Monday thru Friday:** The church's activities will be canceled if Anderson Community Schools are closed due to weather.

**Weekend closings:** Closings will be announced on  
**TV Channels:** NBC, CBS, CW4, ABC, FOX and WISHTV. The scroll will read "Anderson First United Methodist Church."  
**Facebook:** Anderson First United Methodist Church  
**E-NEWS:** Information will be sent directly to your email. (To register for E-NEWS please contact Peg Peter at [peg@andersonfirst.org](mailto:peg@andersonfirst.org).)





## Family Ministries

### Hey Anderson First Family!

This month with our new theme "All In" we are learning that "I am made for community!" We want your kids to know that God gives all of us a place to belong. Kids are going to learn over the next few weeks about how Jesus invited good friends, that anyone can be God's friend, how God connects us to each other, and that God wants us to work together. Community is something we do really well at Anderson First and we are so excited to include our kids in that. Our kids will be participating in not one, but two service projects this month. Want to engage with the Family Ministry in January? First, as you go about this week, point out and celebrate how God invites us to be "All In" when it comes to community and connection. Secondly, check out the details below and join us for Snowballs of Hope!



## Outreach Ministries

### HELPING HANDS PANTRY

Our first Helping Hands Pantry for 2024 will be January 10, 2024 from 8:30 AM to 11:00 AM. We would be grateful to receive donations of toilet paper, women's deodorant and toothpaste. Your donations will help us to serve more guests. At our December 13<sup>th</sup> Pantry, we distributed 90 bags of personal hygiene items and 90 bottles of laundry detergent. Our monthly attendance for the last six months of 2023 averaged 89 guests. We look forward to continuing to help members of our community in 2024. We are blessed to be part of a congregation that helps us serve the needs of others. Thank you for your generosity.

*Sincerely, Linda Verhulst and Juanita Slattery*

### OUTREACH UPDATE

Greetings and gratitude from the Outreach Committee. You, our generous congregation, have kindly provided 20 full bags of non-perishable items for Helping Hands. You provided Angel Tree Christmas gifts for over 70 Gateway children, and 70 blankets to help warm people this cold season. Also the UMW Friendship and Bible Study Circles made Christmas bags to give to our dining guests this Christmas Eve. You helped prepare and or fund meals for Community Cafe and Food at First. Your gifts aid our Outreach programs through your continued generosity. Your actions display the love of Christ to those in need. Thank you for actively loving our guests in this manner.

*Sincerely, Susan and David Selby*

### CONFIRMATION 2024

Confirmation is a chance for youth 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade to take a step of faith in making firm the promises made or the promises they will make at their baptism. Students will have their own mentor (an adult member of the church) to learn with you each Sunday.

Orientation is Feb. 4 at 11:30 a.m. with youth, mentors, and parent(s)/guardian.

8 youth have received an invitation and more are welcome! If you know of a youth who might be interested, please contact Pastor Corinne Boruff at 317-902-1843 or [corinne@andersonfirst.org](mailto:corinne@andersonfirst.org).