



## First United Methodist

FAITH FIRST. FAMILIES FIRST. ANDERSON FIRST.

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# THE VOICE

A Newsletter of First United Methodist

## LENT



The 40 days leading up to Easter can be the most  
life-giving,  
perspective-changing,  
hope-filled  
days of the year.

Purpose of Lent is to hunger for God and grow closer to him...  
by recovering the space and freedom from the many activities and desires  
that normally rule our lives.

### ASH WEDNESDAY AND VALENTINE'S DAY

The impending collision of Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day on the  
calendar this year might seem like an insurmountable conflict to some.  
However, upon reflection it seems, the two events do have a lot in common.  
In a simple equation, Ash Wednesday is to God, what Valentine's Day is to  
lovers. The goal of both is to renew our passion for the one we love.

**Ash Wednesday Service is Wednesday, February 14 at 7 p.m**

#### 2024 Schedule > On Saturdays from: 8:00 to 9:30 a.m.

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Location:</u>	<u>Featuring</u>
<b>February 17</b>	<b>Frankton Christian</b> 206 N. Church St Frankton	Rev. Roger Brooks
<b>February 24</b>	<b>Ford St.UMC</b> 925 Ford St. Lapel	Jimmy Howell The Cochenower Family
<b>March 2</b>	<b>St. Mary's</b> 305 E. 11 <sup>th</sup> St. Anderson	Bob Blume Garri George
<b>March 9</b>	<b>Alexandria Nazarene</b> 1401 S. Harrison St. Alexandria	Dr. George & Joanie Killian
<b>March 16</b>	<b>New Horizon UMC</b> 611 E. 53 <sup>rd</sup> St. Anderson	Louis Jackson III Rondale Broom dedicated to youth
<b>March 23</b>	<b>Anderson 1st UMC</b> 1215 Jackson Street Anderson	George Smith Chelsea Bentley





Adult Ministries

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FEBRUARY 2024

- February 4

Holy Communion  
Christ's Community  
Mark 1:29-39  
Music: Wesley Chorale
- February 11

Transfiguration Sunday  
Butterflies and Jesus  
Mark 9:2-13; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6  
Music: Sanctuary Choir

LENT

Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday, is a season of being invited by God in a deeply personal way. "Come back to me, with all of your heart," our Lord calls. It is an extraordinary invitation to each one of us. In a personal, individual way, God invites us to drop the defenses that we hold up between ourself and God. God offers an entire Lent season, an entire lifetime, of loving us unconditionally, no matter what we have done or left undone or how good we think we are.

- Wed. Feb. 14

Ash Wednesday Service at 7 p.m.  
Ashes at Starbucks  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21  
Music: Sanctuary Choir
- February 18

Lent 1  
Things That Open  
Mark 1:9-15  
Music: Sanctuary Choir
- February 25

Lent 2  
Jesus' Business Card  
Mark 8:31-38  
Music: Brass Quartet/Quintet

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

The Men's Fellowship Breakfast will not meet in February or March, 2024. You are encouraged to attend the Saturday Anderson Area Lenten Breakfast instead.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS



- Leader:

Merrilyn Vance
- Meeting Date:

February 1,
- Time:

10:00 am
- Location:

North/South Parlor
- Bible Study Circle

Friendship Circle

COFFEE WITH CORINNE  
AND DOWNTOWN DEVOTIONS

Began in 2020 as a ministry during the pandemic shutdown, our online weekly devotions continue to serve 100s each month. Pastor Corinne Boruff offers a weekly moment inspired by her coffee mug of the week during Coffee with Corinne on Wednesdays at 3 p.m. on Facebook. Downtown Devotions enjoys messages from Chris Taylor, Rev. Dale Mendenhall, Richard Cassidy and Ally Hall on Fridays at noon on Facebook. All devotions are archived on our website for your inspiration at anytime.

POINSETTIA

Regretfully these names were omitted from the original list and we want to honor them at this time.  
In Memory of parents: Harold and Ruth Wood  
And loving husband, Hubert Hinkle  
by Carol A. Hinkle

TRIMMING TEAM "THANK YOU!"

The efforts of those who give of their time and talents to adorn the sanctuary and areas of fellowship with Christmas decorations, AND then return those decorations to storage after Epiphany are GREATLY APPRECIATED!

Thank you to Debbie Millikan, Dorinda & Richard Cassidy, Bill & Mary Brown, Kay McDonnell, Debbie Manifold, Mary Bean, Johanna Coleson, Merrilyn Vance, Candy Short, Nancy Upchurch, Becky Ball, Francie Seybert, Ann Bull, and Eddie Stephens.

Treasurer's Minute for: December 2023

	DECEMBER ACTUAL		2023 YEAR TO DATE	
	2023	2022	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Monthly Contributions	\$47,099	\$32,862	\$411,274	\$391,000
Other Income	\$2,716	(\$2,073)	\$38,565	\$51,200
Total Income	\$49,815	\$30,789	\$449,839	\$442,200
Total Expense	\$57,456	\$60,272	\$594,787	\$589,370
Excess (Deficit) Prior to Endowment Draw	(\$7,641)	(\$29,483)	(\$144,948)	(\$147,170)
Endowment Earnings Distribution	\$12,265	\$13,896	\$147,170	\$147,170
Remaining Excess (Deficit)	\$4,624	(\$15,587)	\$2,222	\$0

DID YOU KNOW: That FUMC received 99.5% of its 2023 member pledge amount of \$328,000?



# Other Church News

## LEAP YEAR

Nearly every four years, we add an extra day to the calendar in the form of February 29, also known as Leap Day. Put simply, these additional 24 hours are built into the calendar to ensure that it stays in line with the Earth's movement around the Sun. People born on Leap Day are called 'Leaplings.'

As Christians, we believe that our time on earth is a gift from God, and we are called to use it wisely. In Ephesians 5:15-16, we are instructed to "Watch your step. Use your head. Make the most of every chance you get." So, as we enter this leap year, let us make the most of this extra day and all the days that follow, using them to serve God and others, living a life that is pleasing to Him.

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

The purpose of this ministry is to demonstrate care, compassion and the love of Christ toward our existing congregation by "Living our Faith" and "Nurturing Families."

The primary goal of Congregational Care is to establish a personal presence thru phone calls, visits, emails, cards, etc with individuals or families regularly (at least monthly). These contacts include persons who are regularly present for church activities and those who are unable to be present either because they choose not to for safety reasons, health limitations or otherwise.

Your current Congregational Care Team includes Ida Campbell, Betsey Bachman, Vicki Snyder, DeeAnn Williams, Judy Wessar, and Sarah Later.

## A "WARM" THANK YOU!

A huge "thank you" to those who gave of their presence so that others may be warm – warm physically and spiritually.

The only Overnight Warming Center in Anderson and surrounding area, Anderson First UMC gave a warm space, a cup of coffee and security during the recent extremely, dangerously cold temperatures.

Ann Bull, Joe Snyder, David Crane, Susan Selby, David Selby, Bill Brown, Dick Falkenberry, Cindy Shortridge, Liz Farmer, Randy Farmer, Tim Kline, Bob Jones, Neal Rector, Jeff Dyer, Gary McCaslin, Jaimie Boruff, Debbie Millikan, Lynn Eden, Steve Harny, and Corinne Boruff gave their presence.

Thank you, also, for the unending work of Jeff Dyer, Director of Madison Co. Emergency Assistance and Homeland Security. Thank you for the prayers and support of this congregation!

Using our diverse gifts, we became the Body of Christ to a community in need. *"I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!" Matthew 25: 40*  
Jesus thanks you!

## TAX REFUND?

**Donate to your favorite ministry at AFUMC!**

## MEETING JESUS AT THE TABLE

*A Lenten Study*

Lent is a season in which we are invited to reflect on the immensity of God's love made known in Jesus and his victory over sin, evil, and death. In Lent we are invited to recall what it means to be disciples, followers of Jesus, each and every day. Join Pastor Corinne Boruff in a study of the "table stories" as we draw closer to Christ and one another.

### Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in N.S. Parlor

#### February 21

Dining Alfresco: The Feeding of the Multitude

Mark 6:30-44

#### February 28

The Welcome Table: "He Eats with Tax Collectors and Sinners!"

Matthew 9:9-13

#### March 6

Surprised by Grace: Dinner Interrupted

Luke 7:36-50

#### March 13

Excuses and Invitations: Empty Chairs at the Table

Luke 14:15-24

#### March 20

A Meal of Memories: Not the Last Supper

Matthew 26:17-30

#### March 27

Easter: Revived by the Breaking of Bread

Luke 24:13-35

## J.O.Y. LUNCH

(Just Older Youth)

We are launching our new year of being fed with a delicious meal and with enriching programs! If you are older than a youth, you are invited to join us the 3rd Friday of each month except December at 11:30 a.m. for the meal followed by the program. We are located in the North South Parlor. Cost of the lunch remains \$12 which is paid at the door. Reservations should be made by the Wednesday prior.

Friday, February 16, Darla Saltee, President of AIMS (Anderson Indiana Main Street) and Executive Director of Anderson Symphony Orchestra will share exciting upcoming events. Lee's Chicken will be served for lunch. Make your reservation by Wed. Feb. 14 by notifying the church office, 765-643-6977.





## Family Ministries

This month in First Kids, we are focusing on the Simple Truth, "I Am Secure," and our theme is *Unshakable*. We want our kids to know that they are secure in God because He is in control. God controls our circumstances, our stories, our world, and our future. I hope that this month, you can reflect on the ways God has been faithful to you and trust that He will continue to be faithful because He is in control.



### First Kids Movie Night!

Join us at Anderson First Kids on Wednesday for a special Movie night! All kids are invited to attend, wear PJs, and bring whatever pillows and blankets they need to get comfy. We will watch a movie and eat a popcorn snack during our time together. Kids Choir will still rehearse at its normal time, and we will take a short intermission from our movie. We can't wait to hang out with you on Wednesday, February 7th from 6-8 in the

Fireplace Room!

God Bless,  
Ally Hall  
Director of Family Ministries



## Outreach Ministries

### HELPING HANDS PANTRY

Our next Helping Hands Pantry will be on February 14<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 AM to 11:00 AM. Valentine's Day is a perfect day to show our love for our guests! At our January 10<sup>th</sup> Pantry, we gave bags of personal hygiene items and a bottle of dish soap to 53 women and 35 men. The weather was very cold and windy that day and we were happy to provide needed items to the guests who braved the cold to attend the Pantry. We continue to be blessed by the donations of our congregation that help us serve so many members of our community. Thank you for your generosity.

*Sincerely, Linda Verhulst and Juanita Slattery*

### OUTREACH MINISTRIES

We would like to take time to thank the United Women of Faith for their organization of the Christmas gift bags for the Community Cafe guests. As noted, during service, some of the guests took the opportunity to don their new socks upon receiving them that night. The gift bags made for a very bright mood with spirits lifted. Thank you to Bible Study Circle and Friendship Circle for coordinating these gifts.

Allie planned the Snowball of Hope which included our youth and adults in a fun filled after service event. This not only promoted goodwill among the congregation, but provided warm attire for our Food at First and Community Cafe guests. Both of these events came in perfect timing to help protect our guests from this cold front. This body of believers is amazing. Proverbs 19:17. Next we note that Easter comes early this year. Thank you for these and future gifts to continue our ministries.

### 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).)