

LENT 4
March 10, 2024 – 10 a.m.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We fulfill our Mission to "make disciples for Jesus Christ"
by following our Pathway:

Living our faith. Nurturing families.
Serving our communities.

***GREETING**

MUSIC FOR GATHERING

Susan Finger
"Were You There"

CANDLES OF LENT

Tim & Sheryl Monnier

At about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' (Matthew 27:46)

Silence

As we extinguish this light we remember those who feel alone or abandoned in our world.

Candle is extinguished

God of Mercy, we pray for those who are troubled by thoughts of fear, sickness or anxiety, for those living with depression and those who feel lonesome. Awaken in us a spirit of Christian love and support for them in their time of need. We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Children of God, welcome!

ALL: **Welcome to this place of love and grace,**

ONE: Welcome to this place of hope.

ALL: **God invites all of us to be a part of the beloved community,**

ONE: God invites all of us to share in the good news:

ALL: **We are welcome, just as we are. We are loved, just as we are. In gratitude for all of this, let us worship God!**

***HYMN**

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" #381

1. Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
much we need thy tender care;
in thy pleasant pastures feed us,
for our use thy folds prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
Thou hast bought us, thine we are.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
Thou hast bought us, thine we are.

3. Thou hast promised to receive us,
poor and sinful though we be;
thou hast mercy to relieve us,
grace to cleanse and power to free.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! We will early turn to thee.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! We will early turn to thee.

4. Early let us seek thy favor, early let us do thy will;
blessed Lord and only Savior, with thy love our bosoms fill.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!

Thou hast loved us, love us still.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!

Thou hast loved us, love us still.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Ally Hall

INVITATION TO KIDS WORSHIP

Children ages 3 yrs. old through 5th grade are invited to First Kids.

OFFERING TO GOD

**HOSPITALITY MINISTRIES
OFFERTORY**

Kathy Kean
Wesley Bells

"Ah Holy Jesus"

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Kathy Kean

ANTHEM

"It Is Finished"

Wesley Bells

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Ryan Falkenberry

LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

***GOSPEL**

John 3:1-21 (NLT) Ryan Falkenberry

There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. ² After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. "Rabbi," he said, "we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you." ³ Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God." ⁴ "What do you mean?" exclaimed Nicodemus. "How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be born again?" ⁵ Jesus replied, "I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. ⁷ So don't be surprised when I say, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where

it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit." ⁹ "How are these things possible?" Nicodemus asked. ¹⁰ Jesus replied, "You are a respected Jewish teacher, and yet you don't understand these things? ¹¹ I assure you, we tell you what we know and have seen, and yet you won't believe our testimony. ¹² But if you don't believe me when I tell you about earthly things, how can you possibly believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ever gone to heaven and returned. But the Son of Man has come down from heaven. ¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. ¹⁶ "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ "There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God's one and only Son. ¹⁹ And the judgment is based on this fact: God's light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. ²⁰ All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed. ²¹ But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants."

This is God's Word for God's people today.

Thanks be to God!

***HYMN**

"Open My Eyes, That I May See" #454

1. Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.

Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

2. Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready,
my God, thy will to see.

Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

SERMON

Embarrassing Visits

Rev. Boruff

HYMN

"Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross" #301

1. Jesus, keep me near the cross;
there a precious fountain,
free to all, a healing stream,
flows from Calvary's mountain.

Refrain:
 In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever,
 till my raptured soul shall find rest beyond the river.

4. Near the cross I'll watch and wait,
 hoping, trusting ever,
 till I reach the golden strand just beyond the river.
 (Refrain)

RESPONSE

May we live with the joy of the Spirit, who sees the good, the real, the true within us, and helps us bring it to life in God's realm.

May we be born again and again as God's people, always more deeply into our faith.

MUSIC OF SENDING

Susan Finger
 Voluntary on "Ein Feste Burg"

***BENEDICTION**

**Please stand as you are able*

WELCOME

Weekly Prayer Requests

- Pray for the children & staff at Gateway Childcare

.Announcements

- **CORRECTION:** March 23 is the Lenten Breakfast hosted at AFUMC. NO breakfast is offered on March 30 as listed in the VOICE.
- **EGG HUNT:** Volunteer your time on March 23 or donate non-chocolate candy at the Welcome Center.
- **GUESTS:** All guests have a gift waiting for you at the Welcome Center. We are glad you are here today. Let us know how we can help you.
- **COMMUNITY CAFE:** 63 guests were served at Community Cafe last Sunday. It was a blessing to serve the community.
- **LENTEN BREAKFAST SERIES** continues Saturday, March 16. This Saturday's meeting will begin at 8:00 am at the New Horizon UMC, 611 E, 53rd St., Anderson. Men women & families are welcome!
- **"MEETING JESUS AT THE TABLE":** Join Pastor Corinne for this unique Lenten Study Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in NS Parlor.
- **CONNECT@FIRST:** All persons (new to the church or long-time attenders) are welcome to join Pastor Corinne **next Sunday** for lunch and conversation about AFUMC and the UMC denomination. Opportunity will be available to sign up to become a member.

We give thanks for today's:

Ushers: Bill Kahle, Bob Ballenger, Kathy Kean
Greeters: Becky Ball, Kay McConnell, Kaylyn McConnell
Fellowship Time: Charlie, Miriam Jones

Weekly Schedule

| | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Sun 3/10 | | | |
| 10:00 am | Worship | Sanctuary | Downtown |
| 11:15 am | Family Ministry Team Meeting | Conference Room | Downtown |
| 2:00 pm | Worship | | Primrose |
| 4:30 pm | Food @ First | | Downtown |
| Mon 3/11 | | | |
| 8:00 am | Memory Care Meeting | North/South Parlor | Downtown |
| 11:30 am | Central Christian Buddy Bag pack | Fellowship Hall | Downtown |
| 1:00 pm | AARP Meeting | Fellowship Hall | Downtown |
| 5:00 pm | Exercise Class | | Davis Park |
| 6:00 pm | Big Book Study | East/West Parlor | Downtown |
| 6:30 pm | Alpha Brass Rehearsal | | Downtown |
| Tues 3/12 | | | |
| 4:30 pm | AACC rehearsal | Sanct, Choir Rm | Downtown |
| 5:15 pm | AACC small choir | Room 220 | Downtown |
| 6:00 pm | Girl Scouts | Fellowship Hall | Downtown |
| Wed 3/13 | | | |
| 8:00 am | Rotary | North/South | Downtown |
| 8:00 am | Energy Assistance | Door #2 | Downtown |
| 8:30 am | Helping Hands Pantry | Door #3 | Downtown |
| 3:00 pm | Coffee with Corinne | | Facebook |
| 5:00 pm | Exercise Class | | Davis Park |
| 6:00 pm | Wesley Bells | | Downtown |
| 6:00 pm | Lenten Study | North/South | Downtown |
| 6:30 pm | Children's Choir | | Downtown |
| 7:00 pm | Sanctuary Choir | | Downtown |
| Thurs 3/14 | | | |
| Fri 3/15 Church Office Closes at Noon | | | |
| 9:00 am | Bible Study | North/South Parlor | Downtown |
| 11:30 am | J.O.Y. Lunch | North/South Parlor | Downtown |
| 11:30 am | Central Christian Buddy Bag delv | | Downtown |
| 12:00 pm | Downtown Devotion | | Facebook |
| Sat 3/16 | | | |
| 8:00 am | Lenten Breakfast | New Horizons | Downtown |
| 10:00 am | AA meeting | North/South | Downtown |
| Sun 3/17 | | | |
| 9:00 am | Trustees Meeting | Conference Room | Downtown |
| 10:00 am | Worship | Sanctuary | Downtown |
| 11: 15 am | YA Gathering | Youth Area | Downtown |
| 11:30 am | Connect @ First | North/South Parlor | Downtown |
| 2:00 pm | Worship | | Primrose |
| 4:30 pm | Community Cafe | | Downtown |



First United Methodist

FAITH FIRST. FAMILIES FIRST. ANDERSON FIRST.



LENT 4
MARCH 10, 2024 – 10 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. Corinne Boruff
 Director of Family Ministry: Ally Hall
 Ministers: Congregation