



## First United Methodist

FAITH FIRST. FAMILIES FIRST. ANDERSON FIRST.

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The  
**HEAVENS**  
declare the  
glory of God;  
the  
**Skies**  
proclaim the work  
of his **HANDS**  
Psalm 19:1



# THE VOICE

## A Newsletter of First United Methodist

### BECOMING CONNECTED TO THE FAMILY OF GOD MEMBERSHIP PREPARATION

All those wanting to explore membership at Anderson First UMC and those ready to make a commitment are invited to

#### Lunch and Conversation on

**Sunday, April 21 at 11:30-1 p.m.**

in the North South Parlor with your pastor.

We will discuss the meaning of the vows, answer your questions, and if ready, schedule your Sunday!

RSVP to Pastor Corinne at 317-902-184 or [corinne@andersonfirst.org](mailto:corinne@andersonfirst.org)



### WHY BOTHER WITH MEMBERSHIP?

*It is for YOU and your relationship with Christ.*

Everyone can attend church. We welcome all persons to our worship, service and fellowship. Membership into Anderson First United Methodist Church isn't mandatory to attend and participate. However, we believe becoming a member helps you on your journey into becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ. It is making the commitment to not only sit with or work beside children of God but to be one!

Membership is saying, "Yes" to being a child of God in the family Jesus Christ.

United Methodists vow to faithfully participate in the church's ministries by their prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. When you profess your membership at Anderson First United Methodist Church, you are asked to uphold these vows with your UMC brothers and sisters in Christ.

# Adult Ministries

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE – APRIL 2024

- April 7

Holy Communion  
John 20:19-31 (NRSV)  
Room to Doubt  
Guest Preacher – Rev. Dale Mendenhall  
Music: Arrows of the Almighty
- April 14

3<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter  
Luke 24:36-48 (NLT)  
Ghost Stories  
Music: Sanctuary Choir
- April 21

Festival of God’s Creation  
Genesis 1:23-25; Romans 1:19-20  
Creation Celebration  
Music: Sanctuary Choir
- April 28

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter  
1 John 4:7-21  
More Than a Bumper Sticker  
Music: AACC/YC



## FESTIVAL OF GOD’S CREATION SUNDAY

April 21 – 10 a.m.

Everyday creation shouts to us, *God is glorious! God is creator! God is provider! God is love! God is there!* . . . Everywhere I look, everything I feel, hear, smell, and taste transmits the beauty of God through the beauty of creation. He is the beauty behind all beauty.” (*Eyes Wide Open*, 63–64)

On this Sunday we will honor God by celebrating CREATION! HOW?

First

Send your photos of your pets for a media presentation. You are encouraged to be in the photo with them! Send photos and information (name—pet’s and yours, any details you wish to share.)

Send photos to [corinne@andersonfirst.org](mailto:corinne@andersonfirst.org) OR leave in the church office.

Second

Bring a picture of your pet with you on April 21. There will be a special worship experience of praising God and blessing God’s creation.

## SOLAR ECLIPSE

Monday, April 8

As reported to us by Jeff Dyer, Executive Director of Madison County Emergency Management, Anderson will not likely be a destination location for the eclipse, however, we are in the direct line of totality which will occur 3:07:07PM – 3:10:49PM (3 minutes, 42 seconds)

This will be Indiana’s first total solar eclipse since August 7, 1869, with the next one coming on September 14, 2099. That makes this event a once-in-a-lifetime experience for many! (Mad. Co. Visitor’s Bureau)  
Anderson First UMC is not hosting any events during the eclipse.  
Davis Park will be closed.

## A LESSON FROM THE SOLAR ECLIPSE

Don’t Let Your Circumstances Eclipse Your View Of The Son!  
In the midst of a solar eclipse, the radiant glow of the sun is momentarily hidden, casting a shadow that captivates our attention. Similarly, life often throws shadows in the form of challenges, disappointments, and uncertainties. If we’re not careful, these things can eclipse the brightness of the Son in our lives. Meaning we can no longer see Jesus, even though He’s there. Like the sun, He never moved, He’s still near, but like the moon on a solar eclipse, our circumstances have blocked our view of Him.  
Hebrews 12:2 encourages us to fix our gaze on Jesus: "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith." This is an invitation to resist being overshadowed by life's eclipses and to consciously focus on the unwavering light of Christ.

## Treasurer's Minute for: February 2024

	FEBRUARY ACTUAL		2024 YEAR TO DATE	
	2024	2023	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Monthly Contributions	\$26,691	\$19,533	\$95,869	\$103,096
Other Income	\$3,367	\$3,118	\$7,070	\$6,800
Total Income	\$30,058	\$22,651	\$102,939	\$109,896
Total Expense	\$51,397	\$51,180	\$113,961	\$110,463
Excess (Deficit) Prior to Endowment Draw	(\$21,339)	(\$28,529)	(\$11,022)	(\$567)
Endowment Earnings Distribution	\$12,292	\$12,264	\$24,585	\$24,585
Remaining Excess (Deficit)	(\$9,047)	(\$16,265)	\$13,563	\$24,018

DID YOU KNOW: That members pledged \$362,000 for the support of AFUMC ministries in 2024?

# Other Church News

## SOCCER SEASON

Davis Park launches into its Spring Soccer Season on Saturday, April 13 as YMCA leagues begin to practice and compete on Saturday mornings for 6-weeks. The Hispanic soccer league began their in March. These teams compete on Sundays.

### Thank you to Dick Falkenberry and his teams

who maintain the fields, as well as, coordinate parking for the large crowds. Ally Hall and Pastor Corinne will continue to offer devotions prior to each soccer game.

## HOBBY CLUB

Orientation – Thursday, April 11  
6 p.m. in Conference Room

Join David Crane, coordinator and explore a variety of your favorite hobbies.

At the orientation activities center around your interests and a schedule for the group will be determined. If you have a hobby that you enjoy or want to share, this group is for you! Contact David at [r324076@gmail.com](mailto:r324076@gmail.com) or 317-249-7232 for more information.

## SUMMER MUSIC OFFERINGS

Each summer we are blessed with a variety of excellent musical offerings for our Davis Park service. This is due to the generosity of Jim and Marilyn Ault who have supported this ministry for many years. This year the Aults have asked that we remember and honor *Sharon Dotson* as they offer their support once again.

With thankfulness, we honor Sharon and thank Jim and Marilyn.

## GENERAL CONFERENCE

**April 23-May 3, 2024 in Charlotte, NC**

This year's General Conference is the postponed 2020 General Conference. 862 delegates of lay persons and clergy from around the world are voting members and will do the legislative work of the denomination.

General Conference of the UM Church is the only time and place where the Book of Discipline (United Methodist book of doctrine) is updated.

You may read more information and watch live-stream feeds of the important work being done.

Go to <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/general-conference-2020> for information and opportunities.



## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS

### Bible Study Circle

Leader: Merrilyn Vance  
Meeting Date: April 4,  
Time: 1:00 pm  
Location: North/South Parlor

### Friendship Circle

Mary Falkenberry  
March 4  
10:00 am  
North/South Parlor

## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

The Men's Fellowship Breakfast will meet at Primrose on April 20, 2024 at 8:00 am. DeWayne Landwehr will be presenting the program.

## THE ANDREW PARADIGM

Following Jesus is about becoming a Lead Follower, one who both follows and leads. Being a Lead Follower takes practice, skill development, and a new way of living and leading. Bishop Mikael Coyner in his book, *"The Andrew Paradigm"*, describes ten simple ways to become a Lead Follower. The simple ways are not just words or rules, but are practices that shape a way of life and being. They speak to the way we are to be connected to God, connected to others, and connected to God's mission.

**Our 6-week discussion group will begin on April 3, 2024 at 6:00 PM and finish on May 8.** Come join us and discover Bishop Coyner's

recommendations on how to develop healthy relationships that leads to effectiveness for the Lead Follower.

Joe Snyder will facilitate this study.

"Come, follow Jesus with me."

## J.O.Y. LUNCH

(Just Older Youth)

**April 19**

Tatting is defined as "a kind of knotted lace made by hand with a small shuttle." The history of this unique art and a demonstration by Kaye Judt will be the program for the J.O.Y. Lunch on April 19 at 11:30-1 p.m.

Baked Pasta from Mancinos will be served for lunch.

Make your reservation by Wed. April 17

by notifying the church office, 765-643-6977.

Cost of the meal is \$12 per person and is paid upon arrival.





## Family Ministries

Hey there, Anderson First family! This is your Hyfi promo for what's coming up in April. This month, our Simple Truth is, "I Am Meant to Know God" and our theme is *Mission Possible*! We want our kids to understand that knowing God is *possible*! They can know God through the world, the Bible, His Son, Jesus, and His people. This month, we are excited to help kids know some of the amazing ways they can know God.

First Kids Movie Night  
Lights, Camera... 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 from 6-8 in the Fire-place Room!



God Bless,  
Ally Hall



## Outreach Ministries

### HELPING HANDS PANTRY

We were happy to be able to give bags of personal hygiene items and dish soap to 42 women and 28 men at the March 13<sup>th</sup> Helping Hands Pantry. Our next Pantry is on April 10, 2024 from 8:30 AM until 11:00 AM. We would like to request donations of toilet paper and bar soap for that Pantry. The generosity of our congregation makes it possible to continue providing the items our guests need. Thank you for your faithful support.  
*Sincerely, Linda Verhulst, Juanita Slattery and Karen Ambler*

### NEW MINISTRY TIMES

Emergency Utility Assistance – 8-9:30 a.m.  
Helping Hands Food Pantry – 9-11 a.m.  
Both will still be on the 2nd Wed. of the month.

### OUTREACH COMMITTEE UPDATE

It is my pleasure to provide an Outreach Committee update. A special thanks to all of you who prayerfully, financially and physically keep our programs alive. Since we are in the Lenten season, we'll discuss your Easter donations and all that they do for external ministries in Anderson. Your generous donations at Easter assist the following: The Christian Counseling Center of Madison County, Gateway Association, The Literacy Coalition, A Heart for Kids, and Man 4 Man. As you can see, we provide diversity! Your generous Christmas gifts sponsored our internal ministries which we'll discuss with appreciation for those who work so hard to implement them. Thank you Johanne Coleson and all the Buddy Bag packing volunteers. Thanks to Linda Verhulst and her team who lend a Helping Hand to stretch the dollars of those with few. Thanks to Jim Wessar and the Utility Assistance crew who's hard work prevents costly disconnect status. Thanks to the teams and individuals who faithfully plan, cook, chop, deliver, guard, clean, stock and serve our downtown guests at Community Café, Food@First and the Grille. We are celebrating our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Community Café thanks to the vision and initiative of Bill and Deandra Roesch. They started with 12 teams in 2004. During COVID we dwindled to 5 teams. Currently, we have 7 teams. Four of these teams are partnering churches or organizations. Our goal is to reach 12 teams again and to transition to hot meals each Sunday. Dave, my volunteering husband, and I are making it our goal to visit churches and organizations to increase our manpower. Anyone interested in forming a team or having knowledge of others with interest, please see me. Thank you for this opportunity to serve as the Outreach Coordinator. Thank you, Pastor Corinne, for your support. Thank you as a body for all that you do for our Anderson Community. May God bless you—Susan Selby