



First United Methodist

FAITH FIRST. FAMILIES FIRST. ANDERSON FIRST.

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Anderson, Indiana

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Visit us on the web at
andersonfirst.org and
follow us on Facebook

VISITOR BOOKLET

A new booklet has been produced describing the current ministries of the church. Be sure to check it out – you will be amazed at all we do as a family and in the community! Booklets can be found at the Welcome Center, the church office window and on the website. As we continue to expand our ministries this is always a work in progress and will be updated periodically.

STRATEGIC PLANNING RETREAT

As an initiative of the Grant Sub-Committee some leaders of ministry areas will be meeting together September 27 & 28 in Coyner Lodge at Davis Park. It is an exciting time as the next five years in the life of this church take shape! Please pray for this planning and those attending.



THE VOICE

A Newsletter of First United Methodist

RETURN SUNDAY – September 8

Begins ONE SERVICE at 10 a.m. in the Downtown Sanctuary
WORSHIP will include:

Ringling “Joy to the World” (you will receive a bell)
Dedication of the new sanctuary and chapel carpeting
as we praise God together!

Followed by a

BLOCK PARTY to gather us together.

Grilled hamburgers and hotdogs complimented by your side dishes and
desserts. Dining in the parlors or outside under the portico
Bounce House, bubbles, games and more!

LIGHTHOUSE CONGREGATION

Church Council voted to sign the covenant to become a Lighthouse Congregation of the United Methodist Church. Our lighthouse will appear on the map this month (September) and you can check it out at

www.inumc.org/umc-a-place-for-you/

A Lighthouse Congregation in Indiana clearly communicates we have “A Place for You” by being committed to:

- Remaining United Methodist and supporting the mission of The United Methodist Church.
- Providing a vibrant hospitality/welcoming ministry with ongoing training for the congregation and ministry volunteers.
- Offering a safe and hospitable space for healing, peace, and rest for those who have been hurt or wounded by the church as a result of conflict, division, judgement, or abuse.
- Offering opportunities to engage in the congregation’s ministries of worship, discipleship, mission/service, and fellowship without pressure or expectation.
- Offering support through pastoral care and prayer, as well as access to space and resources, including financial.
- Providing information regarding conference and district resources (programs and staff), particularly when needs for support and resourcing exceed what the Lighthouse Congregation is able to provide.
- Providing (and keeping current) a “bio” that can be included on the Conference website to give those seeking a Lighthouse Congregation a better picture of your congregation’s identity and unique ministries.

This is already who we are at Anderson First UMC. Now the rest of the State of Indiana will know it too! Praising God for you and your ministries!

Adult Ministries

Worship Schedule for September 2024

- September 1

Holy Communion (Last Sunday of Summer Schedule)
Labor Day Sunday
Pillar People
Exodus 17:9-12
Music: Mark & Michele Murray (9 & 10:45 a.m.)
- September 8

Return Sunday (One Service at 10 a.m.)
Joyful and Alive in Christ
1 Peter 1:3-9
Dedication of New Carpet
Music: Sanctuary Choir and Brass
Block Party Downtown – Pitch-in Lunch and Outdoor Games for church family and guests.

GOD’S GIFTS TO US

We will spend four weeks celebrating the gifts God has given to Anderson First UMC to enjoy and to share with our neighbors. This celebration will be the heart of our Stewardship Focus 2024. God loves all creation “to death” and showers gifts in our lives to remind us daily. The next four weeks will remind us that we can give without loving, but we *cannot love without giving*.

- September 15

Stewardship Focus: Outreach
God’s Gift of Renewed Lives
2 Corinthians 4:7-18
Music: Sanctuary Choir
- September 22

Stewardship Focus: Congregational Care
God’s Gift of Trustability
John 1:49-51; 20:28-31
Music: Wesley Chorale
- September 29

Stewardship Focus: Music
God’s Gift of Gracefulness
Galatians 2:11-21
Music: Sanctuary Choir
“Caring Hearts” Community Concert – 6 p.m. in sanctuary
- October 6

Stewardship Focus: Family Ministries
God’s Gift of Wonder & Glory
Ephesians 3:2-3, 6, 10-12
Music: Arrows of the Almighty

Celebration Meal – Let’s fellowship together for our meal immediately following worship in fellowship hall. An Italian meal will be provided. Bring your salads and desserts to share.

Sunday, October 13 -- Host Charge Conference 2-4 p.m.

Church News

GOD-SIGHTINGS

God shows up in our everyday lives with gifts of grace, provision, comfort, joy, strength, and so much more! This is where one saw God at work. Thank you for sharing!

Cindy Shortridge shared:
At last Sunday's service (August 11) at Davis Park, I looked toward the top of the hill, which is set back from the stage. The hill is a favorite spot to join the service each Sunday there. I noticed a lady on the end of the top row holding a small baby up in the air. She was looking directly up at the baby, as she gently lifted it up and down a few times. The lady was smiling directly at the baby, and I imagine that she was thrilled to be enjoying the bundle of joy. I felt the joy of God's love, as she must have.

Also, last Sunday we enjoyed a fine trumpeter. The music is always fantastic at our First Methodist Church. However, this song was extra special in that the song played by the trumpeter was "He's got the whole world in his hands". I love that song and felt the song went well with the grandmother (as it turns out) and her grandson (3 months old, I believe).

Later in the week, I was speaking with my mother. She was very excited to have enjoyed a charity event (Jeepin' for Alzheimer's) with a new friend in her senior living community. They had a great time together enjoying each other's company, music and food. Mom loves most any kind of gathering but doesn't wander far from home these days. Her eyes sparkled when she told me of her new friend and the event.
God is at work all around us!

VOLUNTEER RECEPTION CENTER (VRC) TRAINING

In conjunction with Madison County Emergency Management and Homeland Security, Anderson First UMC will host a VRC training on **Wednesday, September 11 from 6-8 p.m.** in Fellowship Hall. Church and community will come together to learn how to process volunteers who come to Madison County to assist in disaster relief and repair. Participants will learn how to register, interview for skills and interests, complete paperwork and make team assignments for tasks needed.

Treasurer's Minute for: July 2024

	JUL ACTUAL		2024 YEAR TO DATE	
	2024	2023	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Monthly Contributions	\$45,266	\$33,889	\$261,421	\$253,009
Other Income	\$3,536	\$3,831	\$25,671	\$25,420
Total Income	\$48,802	\$37,721	\$287,092	\$278,429
Total Expense	\$47,808	\$44,348	\$350,600	\$351,306
Excess (Deficit) Prior to Endowment Draw	\$995	(\$6,627)	(\$63,508)	(\$72,878)
Endowment Earnings Distribution	\$12,292	\$12,264	\$86,046	\$86,047
Remaining Excess (Deficit)	\$13,287	\$5,637	\$22,538	\$13,169

DID YOU KNOW: That FUMC's YTD operating income is 3.2% over budget, while expenses are slightly under budget?

Outreach Ministries

OUTREACH UPDATE

Greetings from the Outreach Teams! We are thankful for Anderson's FUMC 20-year reunion of feeding those in our community through the Community Cafe, Food at First and the Grille. We thank the Roesch's and all the congregation for their vision and faithfulness in preserving their mission. The Grille has served as many as 310 meals to our guests this summer. We are blessed to have our teams grow from 5 teams to 10 teams this year. We are praying and seeking enough for 2 more teams of 8 individuals. We also have weekly volunteers who assist from our congregation and from the community we serve. God is Good!

Helping Hands reports assisting an average of 97 people in the last 5 months. Buddy Bags are delivered to school children monthly to fight against food insecurity. Utility assistance continues to be provided to prevent disconnection status. A heartfelt thank you to all who prayerfully, physically and financially help us continue our mission to serve God's people. Sincerely, Susan and David.

HELPING HANDS PANTRY

Our Helping Hands Nonfood Pantry on August 14th was a busy day. We were able to give bags of needed supplies to 62 women and 33 men, for a total of 95. Our average number of bags distributed for the last five months is 97. We also had five volunteers helping with the Pantry. The items we gave to each guest were two large rolls of toilet paper, hand sanitizer, shampoo, liquid hand soap, a bar of soap, and laundry detergent. We would not be able to help so many people each month without the generous donations of the congregation. We have also had some of our guests give us a cash donation out of appreciation for the help we have given them.

Our next Pantry is September 11, 2024 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Donations that would help us for that Pantry are toilet paper, toothpaste or a toothbrush, and/or deodorant for a man or a woman. Thank you for your continued support for our Pantry!

Sincerely, Linda Verhulst, Juanita Slattery and Karen Ambler

Music Ministry

CARING HEARTS COMMUNITY CONCERT

On Sunday, September 29 at 6:00 p.m. choirs from four local churches will gather at FUMC for a community concert. Choirs from FUMC, First Presbyterian, Christ Lutheran, and St. Mary's will be singing and a spokesperson from each church will share their experiences in Outreach Ministries. The concert is planned to be a community event for the purpose of raising funds for The Christian Center and Willow House. There will be a reception following the concert.

If you are interested in making some cookies for the reception, please contact Sue Finger at sfinger@acsc.net. Each church will be bringing cookies. This is going to be a celebratory event as we work together with other churches. Please mark the date and time on your calendar!

J.O.Y. LUNCH

September 20

Joe Snyder will share with us his experiences working as a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) volunteer. Join us for this month's J.O.Y. Lunch September 20 at 11:30-1 p.m. Lunch will be provided by the Sorority. Make your reservation by Wednesday, September 18 by notifying the church office, 765-643-6977.

Cost of the meal is \$12 per person and is paid upon arrival. All are welcome!



WOMEN UNITED IN FAITH

Beginning September 5, Bible Study and Friendship Circles will become one circle, the Bible Study and Friendship Circle. They will continue to meet on the first Thursday of each month, September-December; and February-May. The time of the meeting in September will be 9:30 am in the North/South Parlor. Several organizational details will continue to be worked on, but the group has decided to study the book: "Isaiah: Trusting God in Troubled Times", written by Howard Pesskett. September's study will be chapter one of the book. If you are interested in this study, please contact Miriam Jones for more details.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

The September meeting of the Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be Saturday, September 21 at 8:00 am at Primrose. The program for September will be presented by Pastor Corinne Boruff.

FRIDAY BIBLE STUDY

On Friday, September 20, the Friday Bible Study group will dig into Melissa Spoelstra's new study "Acts: Awakening to God in Every Day Life. The group, facilitated by Peg Peter meets from 9:00-11:00 am most Fridays. All are encouraged to join us. Contact Peg Peter if you are interested.

CONTINUING TO LEARN

Pastor Corinne is participating in a series of educational event via Zoom with hopes of finding new approaches and avenues for ministry that will benefit this church.

Strategic Planning – Sept. 9

Community Transformative Engagement – Sept. 16

The Mission Belongs to God – Sept. 30

BOOK SIGNING

DeWayne Landwehr has published his fifth book, and the third in his historical fiction series, "From Peasant to Patriot". This latest book is titled "Spark of Revolution" and as the title suggests, portrays issues and struggles of our colonial forbears that led up to the Revolutionary War. On September 15, he will be signing his books in the Narthex before and after the service. All of his books will be available for purchase that day (\$15), or you may bring a book you have already purchased for him to sign. This is a highly-acclaimed and interesting series, and you will want to have your own copy! A double tithe of all proceeds from book sales that day will be donated to our Family Ministries.



Family Ministries

We are officially back downtown and can't wait to worship with you and your family at Anderson First UMC! This September, Anderson First Kids will teach the Simple Truth, "I Am Designed for a Purpose" with our new sports theme, *Let's Go!* This month, kids will learn that they can follow God, speak up for Jesus, love others, and grow in their faith. You won't want to miss the fun happening every Wednesday at 6 pm and Sunday at 10 am. We can't wait to see you there!

Promotion Sunday

Return Sunday is here and that means Anderson First Kids is back in full swing! Join us back at the downtown Anderson location at 10 am for Return Sunday. This will also serve as our Promotion Sunday where kids and students will be promoted into their new classes.

If your child was in the Toddler room and is now 3 years-old and bathroom independent, they will move downstairs into the Younger Kids classroom located in the kids choir room.

If your child is going into the 1st Grade, they will move to the Older Kids classroom in the Fireplace room.

If your child is going into 6th Grade, they are now a part of the Student Ministry and will sit in worship on Sunday morning. We can't wait to see you there!

Return Sunday Block Party

This year, we're celebrating Return Sunday on September 8th in a BIG way!

We are hosting the churchwide Return Sunday Picnic at our Anderson First downtown location immediately following our 10 am Worship Service. We will grill hot dogs and hamburgers while we enjoy the same fun, we had at previous picnics with additional activities like Jenga, bubbles, and a bouncy house. Plus, this year we will have the convenience of staying downtown for lunch! We cannot wait to celebrate returning to our downtown location with our Anderson First family. But don't let the fun end there! This is a great opportunity to invite a family member, friend, or neighbor to join you at church.

We are asking people to bring sides and desserts to church that morning and we will be storing them in the North/South Parlor or the kitchen if they need to be refrigerated. Carts will be available to transport the food if needed. Food will be served in the Parlor immediately after the service, and we will have seating and tables inside the Parlor and outside doors 2 and 3 under the awning. We will have some parking blocked off on Sunday morning, but the awning will be open for people to use before worship starts. We will need a few people to help set up during the 10 am worship service. If you are interested in volunteering or have questions about the Return Sunday Party, please contact Ally Hall via email at ally@andersonfirst.org.

First Kids Choir

Do-Re-Mi-Fa-So-La-Ti-Do...you know that our First Kids Choir is starting up again on September 18th?! All kids ages 3-5th Grade are welcome to join us on Wednesdays at 6:20pm for First Kids Choir rehearsals! We perform several times throughout the year, play musical games, and have lots of fun getting to worship God together. The Kids Choir will be performing again on Family Ministry Sunday, so join us in the Younger Kids classroom on Wednesdays if you want your children to participate in the performance. If you have questions about the kids choir, please contact Sue Finger or Ally Hall at ally@andersonfirst.org.

Game Night

It's our first Game Night of the school year!

All children ages 3-12 are invited to join us at First Kids Club on Wednesday, September 4th for a game night. This is a time for kids to play games, eat snacks, and have fun together. We can't wait to hang out and play games with our awesome Anderson First Kids!

Wednesday Night First Kids Club

First Kids Wednesday nights are coming back, and we will meet for the first time this school year on August 28th at Davis Park for the Choir Kick-off party! During the year, we gather in the Fireplace room and continue our lessons from Sundays through games, crafts, and discussion. We also host Game Nights or Movie Nights once a month and our First Kids Choir practices are offered on the same night. The Kids Choir is not mandatory to attend First Kids Club on Wednesday nights, but it is available every week for anyone who would like to join. We can't wait to see you and your family on Wednesday nights from 6-8 pm!

Sunday Morning Structure

We are getting ready to head back downtown and are super excited to launch a new First Kids worship schedule! After discussion with our parents, leaders, and the Family Ministry Team, we concluded that our kids need more consistent access to lessons and parents need more time to worship as adults. We value kids participating in worship with our entire congregation and we also want our kids to have the time they need to dig into lessons at First Kids. On the first Sunday of the month, all kids in 1st Grade and up remain in the Sanctuary for the worship service with a children's moment just like we have been doing. For the rest of the month, all kids will be dropped off at their classrooms before worship begins and will stay in there for the entire service. We will now incorporate music during our Large Group time, so they maintain that critical component of worship. Having the kids in their classrooms for a full hour allows us more time to go over age-appropriate lessons, complete more crafts and games, and bond as a group. It also allows our parents to worship and/or volunteer. We will not offer a Children's Moment on the Sundays where First Kids programming is offered but worship kits will be available every week for kids who wish to stay in service. We think that this will be an important change as we grow the program and support our current families. If you have questions about our new programming structure, please feel free to contact Ally Hall.

Youth Group

Have you ever looked at Anderson First and wondered.... what about the students? You don't have to wonder anymore because our new Student Ministry is launching this fall!

We are super excited to welcome people in 6th-12th grade to Anderson First Students Ministries. We will meet in the Youth Room upstairs from 11:15-1:15 every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month starting on September 22nd. This will be a time for students to grow in their faith, build community, and connect with Anderson First UMC. Our time together will include a free lunch, games, and Bible Study with discussion time. Students are encouraged to attend worship or serve on hospitality or kids teams during the 10am worship before heading upstairs to the youth room. Or they are welcome to be dropped off at 11:15 and join us for youth group. Friends are more than welcome! If you would like to volunteer in the Student Ministry or if you have questions about the program, please reach out to the Director of Family Ministries, Ally Hall at Ally@andersonfirst.org.

POPCORN

Grace Stout is a member of BSA. She will be selling popcorn to anyone who would enjoy some in the narthex on September 29.

SOCCER AT DAVIS PARK

Thank you to Dick Falkenberry for coordinating all that is required for the YMCA, Liberty Christian and Hispanic Leagues to practice and compete on the Davis Park Soccer Fields. During the YMCA Fall soccer season that begins Sept. 7, Ally Hall is coordinating the devotions for the players and coaches before each game. A powerful witness to God's love and connection to our community! Thank you to all those involved – mowing field, parking cars, cleaning restrooms, offering devotions and so much more!