



First United Methodist

FAITH FIRST. FAMILIES FIRST. ANDERSON FIRST.

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THE VOICE

A Newsletter of First United Methodist

CHARGE CONFERENCE

Anderson First United Methodist Church is hosting Charge Conference on Sunday, October 13 from 2-4 p.m. **SHOW UP** to demonstrate your support for this church.

Want to help? Many Greeters will be needed as well as Hospitality Hosts for the refreshments beginning at 1 p.m.

WHAT IS CHARGE CONFERENCE?

North Central District celebrates Charge Conference in groups of about 5 churches. It will be a worship service with the annual business of recognition, pastor salaries, and the mission and ministry of the church celebrated. This year we will hear from our newly appointed Bishop Tracy S. Malone.

STEWARDSHIP FOCUS: GOD'S GIFTS TO US

We are completing four weeks of celebrating the gifts God has given to Anderson First UMC to enjoy and to share with our neighbors. As our Stewardship Focus 2024 has reminded us God loves all and showers gifts into our lives to remind us daily. We can give without loving, but *we cannot love without giving.*

How are you going to respond to God's love for you?

FALL FEST

Bring the whole family to Anderson First's Fall Fest at Davis Park! Fall Fest will take place on **October 19th, from 12-2**. Entry is FREE and you have access to games, snacks, crafts, inflatables, and more!

Wear your best costume and be prepared for an afternoon of fall-themed fun! We have lots of spaces for people to volunteer and engage in this community event. Head over to our website to find out more. Sign up to volunteer today!

For more information on the event, reach out to Anderson First's Director of Family Ministries, Ally Hall at ally@andersonfirst.org.

FAMILY MINISTRY SUNDAY

Sunday, October 27

Family Ministry Sunday is coming up!

We are super excited to welcome the children and students to participate in our 10am worship service on October 27th. Kids and adults are encouraged to wear their not-so-scary Halloween costumes and help us lead worship. Our First Kids choir will be performing, as well as an opportunity for musical performances, scripture reading, leading the call to worship, and more! We will not have any First Kids classes on that day as we worship together in the Sanctuary. Nursery will still be provided.

If your child or student would like to participate in Family Ministry Sunday, please contact Ally Hall with their information and where they would like to engage with the worship service.



Adult Ministries

WORSHIP SCHEDULE – October 2024

GOD’S GIFTS TO US

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October 6 Stewardship Focus: Family Ministries
God’s Gift of Wonder & Glory
Ephesians 3:2-3, 6, 10-12
Music: Brass Quartet
Sound Tech: Richard Cassiday; Visual Tech: Matt Stout

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

October 13 21st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Living, Active, Sharp
Hebrews 4:12-16
Music: Sanctuary Choir
Sound Tech: Jim Hudson

Host Charge Conference, 2-4 p.m. in the Sanctuary. All are encouraged to come and support your church!

October 20 22nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
On a Collision Course
Mark 10:35-45
Music: Wesley Bells
Sound Tech: Mark Murray; Visual Tech: Matt Stout

October 27 FAMILY MINISTRY SUNDAY
Sound Tech: J. Hudson & R. Cassiday; Visual Tech: Matt Stout

STEWARDSHIP CELEBRATION MEAL

Join us on Sunday, October 6
in Fellowship Hall immediately after the worship service (11:15 a.m.).
An Italian entrée will be provided (spaghetti & bread sticks).
Bring your salads and desserts to share!
We will be celebrating who we are and where we are going in 2025.
Make a REAL celebration by giving all that God is calling you go give!

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

Our loved ones will be remembered on Sunday, Nov. 3
at our 10 a.m. service.

Church News

BEING PART OF GOD’S WELCOME GREETERS, USHERS AND YOU!

Reminders of how important these ministries are!

1. Greeters and Ushers are ministers of hospitality.
2. Greeters and Ushers have a very public ministry which profoundly affects the quality of each worship experience.
3. Both roles play a vital role in the long-term health of the church. (Guests have the ability to detect lack of sincerity in the people they encounter. Newcomers decide in the first 5 minutes whether to return.)
4. Good hospitality does not simply happen – it is prayed for, planned for, organized, evaluated and celebrated.
5. Greeters and Ushers (and Security Staff) need to be identified clearly – Blue Vests are available on Sunday morning and all should wear a vest throughout the morning.
6. Greeters are the first members of the congregation that people meet upon arrival at church. Ushers are the first representative of Christ for a worship service.

BIBLE READING CHALLENGE

Begins again on **October 7** as we read the book of EPHESIANS – one chapter each weekday (6 chapters). If you would like to have the readings via email, please send an email to corinne@andersonfirst.org. Readings will be sent the day prior. This has been so meaningful to those who have participated that reading challenges will continue. Participants are invited to meet together for Q & A about Ephesians on Tuesday, October 15 at 6 p.m. in the Conference Room.

Treasurer's Minute for: August 2024

| | AUG ACTUAL | | 2024 YEAR TO DATE | |
|--|------------|------------|-------------------|------------|
| | 2024 | 2023 | ACTUAL | BUDGET |
| Monthly Contributions | \$19,268 | \$31,031 | \$280,689 | \$284,991 |
| Other Income | \$3,370 | \$2,810 | \$29,041 | \$29,000 |
| Total Income | \$22,638 | \$33,841 | \$309,730 | \$313,991 |
| Total Expense | \$45,427 | \$50,083 | \$396,027 | \$397,577 |
| Excess (Deficit) Prior to Endowment Draw | (\$22,788) | (\$16,242) | (\$86,297) | (\$83,586) |
| Endowment Earnings Distribution | \$12,292 | \$12,264 | \$98,339 | \$98,339 |
| Remaining Excess (Deficit) | (\$10,496) | (\$3,978) | \$12,042 | \$14,753 |

DID YOU KNOW: That even with a sizable budget shortfall in August, operating income is only 1.4% under budget YTD?

Outreach Ministries

OUTREACH UPDATE

Excitement is in the air as we anticipate our upcoming holiday seasons. We have some unique giving opportunities as there are some changes in our giving this year. St. Vincent De Paul has changed their request and this year they are requesting bath towels. Apparently, they are covered up with blankets, pun intended. We are updating our method of Gateway Christmas giving. We will provide a method of monetary donations from the church to meet Christmas needs for their children. This allows the Gateway staff to purchase and prepare the gifts for those in need. Hopefully this helps our congregation to continue its integral part in giving to the children while allowing those who know them best to purchase needed items. Our Advent Outreach Offering continues to support our internal ministries. Buddy Bags and Helping Hands Non-Food Pantry and Community Cafe all strive to remain in budget with rising costs. Changes have been made throughout the year in order to meet our budget and we would like to continue to not only feed but fill the hungry adults and children with quality choices. Cleaning and hygiene products along with food items continue to rise as well as you all well know. Thank you for your kind consideration and participation in this season of giving.

Matthew 25:40 " 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!" Sincerely, Susan

HELPING HANDS PANTRY

We continue to be blessed by the generous donations of our congregation. At our September 11th Helping Hands Nonfood Pantry, with the help of our six volunteers, we were able to distribute needed supplies to 58 women and 37 men, for a total of 90 guests. The average number of guests we served over the last six months was 96. This month we gave each guest two large rolls of toilet paper, hand sanitizer, a toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant and a bottle of dish soap. Each guest was very appreciative of the items they received.

Our next Pantry is October 9, 2024 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Donations that would help us for that Pantry are toilet paper, liquid hand soap or a bar of soap, and shampoo. Your continued support of our Pantry means so much to our guests and to our volunteers. Thank you!

Sincerely, Linda Verhulst, Juanita Slattery and Karen Ambler

BATH TOWELS

Every November we collect for St. Vincent de Paul Society. This year they have requested that we collect BATH towels that they will distribute to the community. We will collect Nov. 3-24. You can begin shopping for this important ministry now!



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Our United Women in Faith Circle will meet on Thursday, October 3, 2024 at 10:00 am in the North/South Parlor.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

The October meeting of the Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be Saturday, October 19 at 8:00 am at Primrose. The program for October will be presented by Rod Autrey and DeWayne Landwehr.

ARE YOU LISTENING....?

God has plans for you to facilitate an Adult Class at a time and location of your choosing.

God is not seeking a person with "all the answers" but the person who has the desire to point others to Christ.

Listen because God is talking to you!

Pastor Corinne will assist in equipping you with material and details.

BE THE CHURCH

Take the next step of involvement in the church by serving on a committee or team.

Administrative Committees include:

Church Council, Staff Parish Relations Committee, Board of Trustees, Finance Committee, Investment Committee and Nominations Committee. Other ways to serve can be found in the Welcome Booklet available at the church office window, Welcome Center and on the website.

WELCOME 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.

PLANNING AHEAD...TIME CHANGE

On Sunday, November 3

Be sure to change your clocks as

Daylight Savings Time will end and we do not want you to miss anything!

Clocks "fall back" one hour.

J.O.Y. LUNCH

October 18

Ellen Rhoades, former pastor Rev. Jack Rhoades' wife, will present an engaging program this month. Join us for J.O.Y. Lunch October 18 at 11:30-1 p.m. Lunch will be individual pizzas from Mancinos. Make your reservation by Wed. October 16 by notifying the church office, 765-643-6977. Cost of the meal is \$12 per person and is paid upon arrival. All are welcome!



Family Ministries

Ready for some *Real Talk* this October? Join us at Anderson First Kids as we learn the Simple Truth, "I Am Known." This month, kids will learn that God knows their real thoughts, real mistakes, real feelings, and real fears. God knows them, and He loves them! We will also have a special Game Changer session, where we get to teach kids how much God values them. I hope to see your family at church this month for some *Real Talk*!

FIRST KIDS CLUB

First Kids Wednesday nights are BACK! 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. It is not mandatory for the First Kids Club to attend the Kids Choir 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 6-8pm!



KIDS CHOIR

Do-Re-Mi-Fa-So-La-Ti-Do...you know that our First Kids Choir is performing on October 27th?! 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.

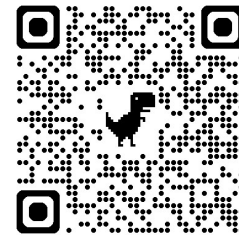
CANDY DONATION

Bring in individually wrapped, non-chocolate candy or small toys for us to use at Anderson First's Fall Fest. Drop off donations in Ally Hall's office by October 13th. Some donation ideas:

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------|---------------|
| Skittles | Tattoos | Stickers | Swedish fish |
| Nerds | Laffy Taffy | Bubble gum | Tootsie rolls |
| Lifesaver gummies | Sour Patch kids | Twizzlers | Starbursts |
| Small erasers | Gummy bears | Suckers | Fruit snacks |
| Bouncy balls | Pencils | | |

BIBLE PRESENTATION

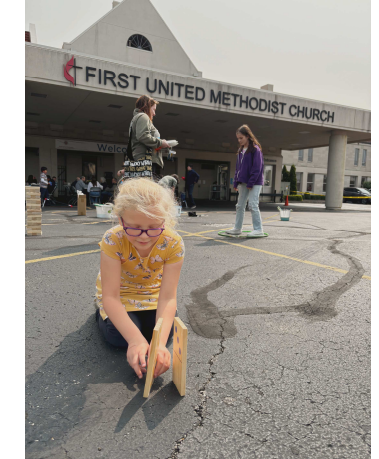
During Family Ministry Sunday, we will be presenting 3rd Graders with their very own Bibles! This is a major milestone in a child's life, and we would love to celebrate it with you and your family. Families will be invited to participate in the presentation. If you plan to attend worship that day and would like for your child to receive a Bible, please reach out to Ally. If you are unable to attend worship that day, we would still love to set aside a Bible for you! Contact Ally Hall at Ally@andersonfirst.org so we know how many Bibles to prepare for the kids.



MOVIE NIGHT

Lights, Camera... MOVIE NIGHT!

Join us at Anderson First Kids on Wednesday for a special Movie night on October 30th! 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. The 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 Fireplace Room!



YOUTH GROUP

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. 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.



Y.A. (YOUNG ADULTS)

We are so excited to offer you a community to belong to and walk with as you discover who you want to be in this exciting season of life. We meet at Anderson First UMC upstairs in the game room on the **1st and 3rd Sundays** of every month. **We meet at 11:15** following our Traditional worship service. We would love for you to worship with us at 10am or you can just join us for the Young Adults gathering. Free Food is provided at every gathering, and it will be a time for community, conversations, games, and lots of fun!

Reach out to Ally Hall if you have questions about the event or want more information on the Young Adult group.