



## First United Methodist

FAITH FIRST. FAMILIES FIRST. ANDERSON FIRST.

First United Methodist Church  
1215 Jackson Street  
Anderson IN 46016

Phone: 765-643-6977  
Fax: 765-642-5232  
E-mail: [mail@andersonfirst.org](mailto:mail@andersonfirst.org)

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# THE VOICE

A Newsletter of First United Methodist

## PICTORIAL DIRETORY



Come one and come all!

Photos for the church directory will be taken before and after services on December 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 9:30-10 a.m. and 11-11:30 a.m.

A Christmas theme backdrop will be in the southwest corner of the Narthex.

ALL individuals, couples and families are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED to have your photo taken and included in the new Pictorial Directory.

Mark, Michele, and Elizabeth Murray will be the photographers.

Not a member? If this is "your church" your photo belongs in this directory!

## CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

Christmas Music sets the tone for the season!  
Come and enjoy some of the BEST music around!

**Sunday, December 8 – 2 concerts!**

3 p.m. – DJO (Director's Jazz Orchestra) & Alpha Brass Concert

6:30 p.m. – AACC/YC Winter Concert  
(Anderson Area Children's Choir and Youth Chorale)



## LESSONS AND CAROLS

**Sunday, December 8 at 10 a.m.**

A spectacular worship experience of scripture and music as we prepare to receive Christ anew! Bring neighbors, family and friends!

## BLUE CHRISTMAS

**Saturday, December 21 at 2 p.m.**

This service is for those for whom these long nights remind them of separation from loved ones, burdens of illness, anxiety or fear or the loneliness of being alone. This reflective service helps us focus on the Healing and Light of Christ. Elizabeth Murray-Sherron and Michele Murray will offer their beautiful selections on the violin and piano.

## CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

**Tuesday, December 24 at 7 p.m.**

Keep Christ as a part of your Christmas!

Join us for special music, candles, children's message, and inspirational worship all in the beautiful setting of the sanctuary.

## POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias may be purchased for \$15 in honor or memory of a loved one by December 15. Forms are at the Welcome Center.



# Adult Ministries

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE – December 2024

### CAROLS

#### An Advent/Christmas Series

This Christmas season we're going to feature some Christmas carols and allow them to be our guide as we head towards Christmas Day. As you sing carols this season, take the time to think about the message of the songs and what they mean. Consider the words you are singing and the truths they proclaim about the Savior you are celebrating.

- December 1      1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent  
"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"  
Psalm 33:1-5, 20-22, Luke 1:39-55 (MSG)  
Music: Mark & Michele Murray  
Sound Tech: Richard Cassiday; Visual Tech: Matt Stout
- December 8      Lessons and Carols  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent  
Sound Tech: Mark Murray; Visual Tech: Matt Stout
- 3 p.m. – Alpha Brass & Director's Jazz Orchestra Christmas Concert  
6 p.m. -- AACC/YC Christmas Concert
- December 15      3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent  
"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"  
Luke 2:8-20 (NLT)  
Baptisms – Cortes family  
Music: Alpha Brass & Salvation Army  
Sound Tech: Jim Hudson; Visual Tech: Matt Stout
- Saturday, Dec. 21 @ 2p.m. – Blue Christmas Service  
Music: Michele Murray & Elizabeth Murray-Sherron  
Sound Tech: Mark Murray
- December 22      4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent  
"What Child Is This?"  
John 1:1-14, 29; Isaiah 9:2-7 (NLT)  
Music: Wesley Bells  
Sound Tech: Mark Murray; Visual Tech: Matt Stout
- Tuesday., December 24 -- Christmas Eve Service – 7 p.m.  
"O Little Town of Bethlehem"  
1 Samuel 17:12-15; John 7:37-42 (NLT)  
Music: Sanctuary Choir  
Sound Tech: Jim Hudson; Visual Tech: Matt Stout
- December 29      1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas  
Looking in All the Wrong Places  
Luke 2:41-52 (NIV)  
Music: Brass Quintet  
Sound Tech: Richard Cassiday; Visual Tech: Matt Stout
- Happy New Year!

# Church News

## PRIMROSE CONGREGATION

Every week Anderson First leads worship at Primrose Retirement Community on Cross Street. With a congregation that averages 20 we sing together, pray, hear scripture, hear a message and receive communion. Rev. Don Deena Johnson shares the preaching with Rev. Corinne Boruff by rotating monthly. George Smith beautifully accompanies the congregation. Guests are welcome any Sunday at 2 p.m. in the second floor activity room. Your love and support for this congregation is felt deeply!

## BAPTISMS

It is with joy that we anticipate the baptisms of Hunter Cortes, Ryder Cortes and Walker Cortes  
Parents: Carlos & Hayley Cortes  
Grandparents: Tito & Rosa Cortes  
Uncle, Aunt and Cousins: Matt and Maria Falkenberry, Ryan and Connor.  
This covenant will be celebrated in worship on Sunday, December 15.

## 2024 FINANCIAL PLEDGES

If you have met your pledge or exceeded your promise for 2024,

### WE ARE TRULY GRATEFUL!

Our children are learning about God, youth are growing in Christ, young adults are sharing Christian fellowship, adults are being fed through study and fellowship, the needy are receiving care, God is being praised in worship, and our outreach knows no boundaries, thanks to you! If you have not met your 2024 promised giving yet, please consider making that current before the end of the year. What you have given and will continue to give furthers God's kingdom on earth!

## 2025 LAY LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

What a joy it is each year to both recognize those persons who have served God faithfully in their roles in the church AND welcome the new leaders for service. 2025 Directories are available at Welcome Center & church office.  
Praising God for our leaders!

## THANK YOU TO SPENCER FENWICK

Spencer Fenwick, a senior at Cathedral High School, was tasked with coordinating a service project in honor of St. Andre Besette. Having grown up in Anderson and attending AFUMC as a kid, he thought this would be the perfect place to come back and get involved. Spencer got in touch with Linda Verhulst, the director of the Helping Hands Non-Food pantry and started to collect donations. He collected many personal hygiene items and even passed them out during the pantry on November 13.





# Outreach Ministries

## OUTREACH NEWS

Christmas is upon us. As we thank God for His gift to us, I'd like to thank God for all of you. It is because of you who volunteer your time and energy, faithfully pray, and offer financial support that we are able to assist those in need. You make this possible!

### COMMUNITY CAFE CHRISTMAS

Our own caring United Women in Faith are working diligently to knit hats and scarves to supplement their donation of gift bags for our Community Cafe guests. These bags include gloves, candy cane, chocolate and gift cards.

### OUTREACH OFFERING

Anderon FUMC's Outreach Ministries include Helping Hands Non-Food Pantry, Buddy Bags, Utility Assistance, Community Cafe, Food @ First and the Grille. As a reminder, all of our internal ministries benefit from your generous contributions to the Christmas offering. Your loving gifts have enabled us to increase and continue our ministries to our homeless population and surrounding neighborhood. Community Cafe has doubled the number of guests this year! Thank you for your heartfelt Christmas offerings in advance. Your actions prove that the heart of Christ and obedience to His work abides in our church.

Susan Selby, Outreach Coordinator

## HELPING HANDS NON-FOOD PANTRY

We had an increase in the number of guests we served at the November 13th Helping Hands Nonfood Pantry. We gave a bag of supplies to 61 women and 36 men for a total of 97 guests served. Our average attendance for the last 6 months has been 94. Several of our guests were also attendees at the Utility Assistance Outreach and they were grateful to have two different kinds of assistance. In addition to the generous donations we receive from our congregation, we received additional donations from Spencer Fenwick this month. He is the son of Jessica and Jason Fenwick and grandson of Nicole Ross. He is a Senior at Cathedral High School and as his Senior Service Project, he chose to request donations to purchase products we use at our Nonfood Pantry. On November 10th, Spencer, Jason, Jessica and Nicole attended First United Methodist. After the service, Spencer and his parents delivered the items Spencer had been able to purchase. These items included shampoo, deodorant, dish soap, toilet paper, laundry detergent, toothpaste and toothbrushes. In addition to donating the supplies, Spencer and Jessica also worked with us at our Pantry on November 13th.

Our next Pantry is December 11, 2024 from 9:00 AM to 11:00. Donations that would help our guests are toilet paper, liquid hand soap, and/or shampoo. The donations we receive from our congregation have enabled us to serve the increasing numbers of guests who have attended our Pantry. Our congregation truly makes a difference in the lives of those we serve. Thank you!

Sincerely, Linda Verhulst, Juanita Slattery and Karen Ambler

## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

The Men's Fellowship Breakfast will not meet in December 2024. Look for more information about the next meeting in the January 2025 newsletter.

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH



Our United Women in Faith Circle will meet on Thursday, December 5, 2024 at 10:00 am in the North/South Parlor. JoAnn Stoops and Nancy Upchurch will be the hostesses, and everyone will participate in a pitchin. The Circle will be focusing on a Community Service Project.

## J.O.Y. LUNCH

December 13

### White Elephant Gift Exchange!

Bring a slightly used "something" wrapped for Christmas. This will be an event full of laughs and fun-for-all. Don't have a gift? There will be extras provided for you to still come and join in the fun! Lunch is served at 11:30 a.m. and served by the Sorority. Make your reservation in the church office by Wednesday, December 11.

## ADVENT STUDY

### "On the Way to Bethlehem"

Mondays at 6 p.m. in North South Parlor

Join Pastor Corinne as we prepare our hearts for Christmas. This study by Rob Fuquay, provides insight into the geographical and historical significance of Rome, Jerusalem, Nazareth, and Bethlehem, along with the important characters through whom the Christmas drama unfolds. Experience the spiritual truths each location holds. As they prepare heart and soul to experience wonder, awe, mystery, and joy.

Dec. 2 – Jerusalem: A Place of Waiting

Dec. 19 – Nazareth: A Place of Simplicity

Dec. 16 – Bethlehem: A Place of Humility

## KEEP MINISTRY ALIVE IN 2025!

Estimate of Giving Cards for 2025 pledges are available at the Welcome Center, at the sanctuary entrance tables and in the church office.

They may be returned in the wooden boxes or the church office.

Thank you for giving to God!

## 2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Are available on a table in front of the church office.

Help yourself to your box!

If you desire envelopes and do not have them assigned OR if you are now paying your tithe online, please contact Gene Brueggen, Financial Officer at [gene@andersonfirst.org](mailto:gene@andersonfirst.org) or through the office.

### ONLINE GIVING

is available and a convenient way to make your gift to the church regularly.

On the website ([www.andersonfirst.org](http://www.andersonfirst.org)) go to the "GIVE" and follow the instructions.

It is easy!



# Family Ministries

### FIRST KIDS

December at Anderson First will be incredible with our Theme Unwrapped. Kids will learn that Jesus is the greatest hope, gift, Son of God, and Light of the world. At the end of the month, we will have a special Game Changer, where we will teach kids that God is always with them. See you on Sundays at 10am and Wednesdays at 6pm!



### YOUTH GROUP

This month, Anderson First Students Ministries will take place in the youth room on December 8th! This is a time for students to grow in their faith, build community, and connect with Anderson First UMC. Our time together includes a free lunch, games, Bible Study, and discussion time. Students are encouraged to attend worship and serve on the hospitality or kids teams during the 10am service before heading upstairs to the youth room. They are also welcome to be dropped off at 11:15 and join us for youth group. Friends are more than welcome!



### MOVIE NIGHT

Lights, Camera... MOVIE NIGHT! Join us at Anderson First Kids on Wednesday for a special Movie night on December 11th! 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 wintery snack and have a hot cocoa station 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!

### GINGERBREAD HOUSE COMPETITION

On December 14th from 4-6pm in Fellowship Hall, people of all ages are encouraged to join us for our annual Anderson First UMC Gingerbread House Competition! We will provide basic supplies but make sure to bring anything you need to make your house extra festive! We will play some Christmas games and will be giving away awesome prizes for the Best Traditional, Most Creative, and Fan Favorite Houses. You are encouraged to bring friends, family, and neighbors to the event. This is also a great opportunity for small groups to engage with the Family Ministry and get into the holiday spirit. Please email or text Ally Hall by December 8th to reserve a FREE table...or two... or three so we make sure to have enough materials for everyone. Then, share this event with your friends and start planning your Gingerbread House! We can't wait to celebrate the Christmas season with you at this Anderson First Tradition!



### PJ PALOOZA

Skip the argument about what to wear to church and wear your favorite pajamas to our PJ Palooza instead! On December 22nd, kids and adults are encouraged to wear their jammies as we celebrate the gift we have in Jesus with games, snacks, and crafts during our 10am Sunday morning First Kids programming. Please direct any questions you have about our PJ Palooza to Ally Hall.



### YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY



It's beginning to look a lot like..... Anderson First Students Christmas Party! And the whole family is invited to attend! Wear your best Ugly Sweater or Christmas PJ's and bring a \$10 or under White Elephant gift for our gift swap. We will have lunch, games, and festive fun! See you on December 22nd at 11:15-1:15 in the youth room. Reach out to Ally Hall if you have any questions

God Bless,  
Ally Hall  
Director of Family Ministries



## Treasurer's Minute

### Treasurer's Minute for: October 2024

	OCT ACTUAL		2024 YEAR TO DATE	
	2024	2023	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Monthly Contributions	\$22,767	\$31,794	\$332,489	\$348,956
Other Income	\$3,509	\$2,783	\$35,945	\$36,210
Total Income	\$26,276	\$34,577	\$368,434	\$385,166
Total Expense	\$50,058	\$50,022	\$495,170	\$500,308
Excess (Deficit) Prior to Endowment Draw	(\$23,781)	(\$15,445)	(\$126,736)	(\$115,142)
Endowment Earnings Distribution	\$12,292	\$12,264	\$122,923	\$122,924
Remaining Excess (Deficit)	(\$11,489)	(\$3,181)	(\$3,813)	\$7,782

DID YOU KNOW: That through the 1st 10 months of 2024, total operating expenses are \$5,000 under budget?