



First United Methodist

FAITH FIRST. FAMILIES FIRST. ANDERSON FIRST.

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12 new
chapters
365 new
chances

GOD'S BLESSINGS IN THE NEW YEAR!



THE VOICE

A Newsletter of First United Methodist



2025 begins the
YEAR OF L.I.F.E.

"Living In Faith Everyday"

We are looking forward to gathering
in small groups, worship, and study
in the church, in our homes or online
to learn how to live our faith everyday!

Anticipate God to work through...

Worship, Small Groups, Outreach and Fellowship
to teach us that who to practice loving like God daily!
Romans 1:17 "The just shall live by faith."

WRITERS, ARTISTS, POETS, STORYTELLERS OF ALL AGES...

Your work is needed for the pages of our



This will be one of the opportunities during the
Year of L.I.F.E. 2025

Share your talents to create a devotional for the Lenten season.
Children, Youth and Adults may submit their work
to Pastor Corinne at corinne@andersonfirst.org, "Subject: Devotional"
by the deadline on Monday, February 17. Begin now!

Adult Ministries

WORSHIP SCHEDULE – January 2025

January 5	Epiphany & Holy Communion Snowballs of Hope Recognition of Peg Peter & Kathy Kean “Mystery Made Known” Ephesians 3:6-12 (NLT) Music: Elizabeth Murray-Sherron & Michele Murray Sound Tech: Mark Murray; Visual Tech: Matt Stout
January 12	First Sunday After Epiphany Baptized in the Spirit Isaiah 43:1-7; Acts 8:14-17 (NLT) Welcome Judy Whitney Music: Jazz Combo Sound Tech: Jim Hudson; Visual Tech: Matt Stout
January 19	Second Sunday After Epiphany Rev. Dale Mendenhall, preaching “Beginnings: Singing the Lord’s Song” Psalm 137; Genesis 1:26-2:3 (NRSV) Music: Sanctuary Choir Sound Tech: Mark Murray; Visual Tech: Matt Stout
January 26	Third Sunday After Epiphany Rev. Dale Mendenhall, preaching “Beginnings: God in Charge” Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-13, 22-24 (NRSV) Music: Sanctuary Choir and Arrows of the Almighty Sound Tech: Richard Cassiday; Visual Tech: Matt Stout

MEN’S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

The Men’s Fellowship Breakfast will meet on January 18 at 8:00 at Primrose. Jim Wessar will be presenting the program.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH



Our United Women in Faith Circle will not meet in January. The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, February 6, 2025. More details will be in the next VOICE.

ASKING GOD

Instead of *telling* God what you want to accomplish in the New Year, *ask* God what He wants from you this year!

Church News

NEW STAFF MEMBER

We welcome as our new Office Manager
Judy Whitney

Judy comes to us from University Heights UMC and Conner Prairie. Her other places of employment include JPMorgan Chase, Indiana Supreme Court, Office of Lieutenant Governor and Consolidated Freightways. She has over thirty-five years of experience in guest services and office administration. Judy’s Community involvement and honors are: Psi Iota Xi, Order of Eastern Star, Sagamore of the Wabash, Indiana Department of Commerce November 2004 Employee of the Month, and Parker City United Methodist Church Lay Delegate to Annual Conference. Beginning January 1, 2025 stop by the church office each weekday, introduce yourself and make her feel welcome!

WELCOME TO THE 2025 LEADERS

Your chairpersons for 2025 are a dedicated group of individuals who have answered “yes” to serving God by leading. The 2025 Official Directory of Lay Leadership is available at the church office window. This lists all persons serving on committee, boards and teams. Your chairpersons, etc. for the coming year are:

Joe Snyder – Church Council
Mary Falkenberry – Church Council/Charge Conf. Secretary
Merrilyn Vance -- Staff Parish
Elizabeth Murray-Sherron -- Finance
Jim Ault -- Investment Committee
Tim Kline -- Board of Trustees
Jim Ault -- Lay Leader
DeWayne Landwehr --- Grant Sub-Committee
Susan & David Selby -- Outreach Coordinators
Ally Hall – Director of Family Ministries
Dick Falkenberry -- Security Team
Dorinda Cassiday – Lay Member of Annual Conference
Sarah Taylor — Alternate to Annual Conference
Peg Peter -- UMW President

THANK YOU!

**For all those who serviced faithfully and creatively in the past year.
You are greatly appreciated!**

THANK YOU!

Thank you for your acts of kindness and Christmas cheer!
Your gifts of Christmas goodies, gifts and remembrances
are truly examples of Christ in our midst!
Thank you for being the presence of Christ to me!
God loves you and so do I!

Pastor Corinne

Outreach Ministries

OUTREACH NEWS

Christmas: the "Birth of Christ". A time when we as followers of Jesus come together to remember the gift of Jesus' birth and his great love for us. During this season we, as a body of Christ, unite with our Advent Outreach Offering which supports our internal ministries. Buddy Bags, Helping Hands Non-Food Pantry, and Community Café all live due to your generosity and vision to help those less fortunate than ourselves. To meet budget, we have made changes throughout the year. During these adjustments we were pressed to decrease services twice and adjusted our purchases to meet budget on other occasions. We diligently compare prices to purchase at the lowest cost. The Outreach team has sought and obtained assistance from external sources as well. God blessed these efforts, and we give Him thanks. "With God all things are possible". Mat. 19:26. This is also made possible because of those who hear and obey His leading. Thank you to all who share a heart for these ministries and support them in prayer, praise, finances and hands on help. Thank you for your continued contributions as a new year brings both known and unknown challenges. With your continued assistance, these ministries will live and thrive.

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 NON-FOOD PANTRY

Although the weather was cold on December 11th, we were very happy to give a bag of supplies to 69 women and 35 men. Each person received two mega rolls of toilet paper, hand sanitizer, liquid hand soap, shampoo, a bar of soap and laundry detergent. I began volunteering at the Helping Hands Pantry in October, 2019, and during that time, this is the first time we have given bags to 104 people. Our average attendance for the last six months has been 95. As mentioned last month, we continue to have guests who have also received assistance from the Utility Assistance Outreach.

Our next Pantry is January 8, 2025 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. At that Pantry, we will be giving our guests two mega rolls of toilet paper, toothpaste, a toothbrush, deodorant for a woman or man, hand lotion, and dish soap. Donations that would help our guests for our next Pantry are toilet paper, toothpaste and /or deodorant for a woman or man. We are blessed to have such a generous congregation. The donations you so freely give help us to make a difference in the lives of the people we serve. Thank you!!

Sincerely, Linda Verhulst, Juanita Slattery and Karen Ambler

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Christmas Day itself ushers in 12 days of celebration, ending on January 6 with Epiphany which we celebrate on Sunday, January 5. These days are important because they give us a way of reflecting on what Emmanuel means in our lives. Christmas commemorates the most momentous event in human history—the entry of God into the world he made, in the form of a baby. Christmas decorations remain in our sanctuary thru January 5.

J.O.Y. LUNCH

Joy Lunch is a fellowship event for Senior Adults and their guests. The cost is currently \$12/person. The cost includes a meal and an inspirational/entertaining speaker.

Here is a list of speakers or topics scheduled in 2025, as well as planned dates:

February 21	Steve Jackson, Historian
March 21	Dr. Brian Dirck, AU History, Professor of Abe Lincoln
April 25	Mounds State Park Rep.
May 16	Marnie Tupling, Greenhouse Specialist
June 20	Magication Station: Magician
July 18	Levi Rinker—A Town Center <i>*yet to confirm</i>
August 15	Dave Peter—Pilot
September 19	Victoria Guild, St. Vincent Hospital
October 17	Sara Krumme, Executive Director, Gateway Asn.
November 21	Rick Jorn, Executive Director, Paramount Theater
December 19	Ladies Choir w/ DonDeena Johnson, Park Place Church of God

Join us and bring your friends each month!

2024 Gingerbread Extravaganza

Winners: Traditional Design: Charly Riddle

Fan Favorite: Hochstetlers Most Creative : Taylors





Family Ministries

SNOWBALLS OF HOPE

Join us on January 5th for Snowballs of Hope! It's time to loosen up your throwing arm and donate new gloves, socks, and hats for adults and children in need this winter. Ball them up and "deliver" them to Ally and Pastor Corinne with your best shot during worship at 10am.

Donations benefit our community members in need. If you have additional questions, please reach out to Ally Hall.



FIRST KIDS

This month at First Kids, we are learning "I Am Forgiven" with the theme *Switch It Up*. Kids will learn that God switches it up when He offers us forgiveness. We will teach about our need for forgiveness, that we can be forgiven, how we can ask for forgiveness, and that we can forgive others. We hope to see you this month as we switch it up!

YOUTH GROUP



This month, Anderson First Student Ministries will take place in the youth room on January 12th and 26th! We will close out our Nua curriculum and discuss the questions, "Has the Church Caused More Harm Than Good?" and "What's Jesus Got to Do With Me?". 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. If you have questions about the Student Ministry, please contact the Director of Family Ministries, Ally Hall.

FIRST KIDS CLUB



After our short winter break, First Kids Club is BACK on January 15th! At First Kids Club, 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!

GAME NIGHT

It is the first Game Night of 2025! All children ages 3-12 are invited to join us at First Kids Club on Wednesday, January 15th, 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!



KIDS CHOIR

Do-Re-Mi-Fa-So-La-Ti-Do...you know that our First Kids Choir will be back in session on January 15th?!

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 worshipping God together. If you want your child to participate, join us in the Younger Kids classroom on Wednesdays. If you have questions about the kids choir, please contact Sue Finger or Ally Hall.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is a time for young people to confirm the vows of baptism – those taken on their behalf if they were baptized as an infant. The Anderson First tradition is for Middle Schoolers to take the confirmation class together. This class runs from February through April and will cover the basics of Christian theology and United Methodist beliefs, history, and structure. Every student will have a mentor, an adult, to help guide them through the classes and to be there for them in the future. We will meet at our regular Youth Group events on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 11:15. We will also have special outings and opportunities for students to participate in worship. If your student would like to participate in Confirmation, please contact the Director of Family Ministries, Ally Hall or Pastor Corinne Boruff.



200 ENVELOPES

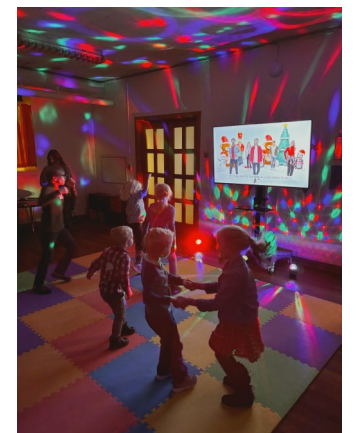
During February, we will kick off a special Family Ministry Fundraiser! The money raised will go directly into our Kids, Youth, and Young Adult programming and help set these ministries up for success. Follow the instructions below for a super simple way to support the Family Ministry in the new year! Grab an envelope off of the 200 Envelope board in the Narthex Fill the envelope (cash or check) with the amount of money listed on that envelope. Bring the envelope back to church by March 2nd. All of the money goes straight to the Family Ministry.



Children's Choir



Giving Manger



Sunday Worship