



First United Methodist

FAITH FIRST. FAMILIES FIRST. ANDERSON FIRST.

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THE VOICE

A Newsletter of First United Methodist



LENTEN STUDY THE MESSAGE OF JESUS

More than three billion people claim to follow Jesus. But aside from a few verses, how many actually know what he taught? In fact, much of what people think Jesus taught, he never said. In this six-week study, best-selling author and Pastor, Adam Hamilton explores six of the most important themes in Jesus's teachings, why they matter, and how they speak to us today. The book explores Jesus's preaching on the kingdom of God, the Sermon on the Mount, the parables, the I Am sayings in John, and more. Jesus's message is not only life-changing, but world-changing

Wednesdays @ 6 p.m. in N.S. Parlor

SESSION 1. The Kingdom of God Has Come Near – March 12

SESSION 2. The World's Most Important Sermon – March 19

SESSION 3. He Spoke to Them in Parables – March 26

SESSION 4. Who Do YOU Say that I Am – April 2

SESSION 5. Final Words – April 9

SESSION 6. The Resurrection and the Life – April 16

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

Your work is needed for the pages of our



Year of L.I.F.E. 2025 Opportunity!

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!

Devotionals will be distributed at the beginning of Lent.

GOD'S BLESSINGS IN THE NEW YEAR!

NEW STAFF MEMBER

WELCOME TO ANDERSON FIRST FAMILY!

Staff Parish welcomes Judy Whitney as our full-time office manager. Judy comes to us from University Heights United Methodist Church in Indianapolis and Guest Services at Conner Prairie.

Judy has over thirty-five years of experience in guest services and office administration environment. She describes herself as diplomatic, loyal, tenacious, sophisticated, responsible, versatile, cooperative, discrete, efficient, result oriented, Christian and an amazing grandma.

Judy's community involvement and honors include:

- Psi Iota Xi – President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Advisor
 - Order of Eastern Star – Worthy Matron, Associate Matron, Conductress, Associate Conductress, 5 Star Points
- Sagamore of the Wabash – Presented by Gov. Joseph Kernan
 - Indiana Department of Commerce Employee of the Month
- Parker City United Methodist Church – Lay Delegate to Annual Conference, where her daughter, Tricia, is serving as the lead pastor. Be sure to introduce yourself!

Adult Ministries

WORSHIP SCHEDULE – February 2025

Worship: Why We Do What We Do

This sermon series explores worship - our attitudes about God and how our hearts should be a part of what we do in worship. Through God's Word and the Holy Spirit's illumination, we will become people increasingly committed to daily worship.

February 2 Communion Sunday
Exodus 33:7-11; John 4:20-26
Presence of Worship
Music: Wesley Chorale
Sound Tech: Richard Cassiday
Visual Tech: Matt Stout

February 9 Fifth Sunday After Epiphany
John 3:5-17 (NLT)
Setting Our Sails
Music: Sanctuary Choir
Sound Tech: Mark Murray
Visual Tech: Matt Stout

February 16 Sixth Sunday After Epiphany
Psalm 100: 1-5 (NLT)
Up Close and Personal
Music: Joyful Jazz
Sound Tech: Jim Hudson
Visual Tech: Matt Stout

February 23 Seventh Sunday After Epiphany
Colossians 3:1-4, 10-17 (NLT)
Setting Worship Free
Music: Joyful Sound
Sound Tech: Mark Murray
Visual Tech: Matt Stout



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Our next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, **February 6, 2025** at 10:00 am. We will meet in the North/South Parlor. Our hostess and Lesson Leader will be Mary Brown. The program topic is Prayer & Self Denial. The Bible Study is Isaiah Chapter 6.

Treasurer's Minute for: December 2024

	DEC ACTUAL		2024 YEAR TO DATE	
	2024	2023	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Monthly Contributions	\$40,847	\$47,099	\$396,343	\$414,321
Other Income	\$2,933	\$2,716	\$99,802	\$43,420
Total Income	\$43,780	\$49,815	\$496,145	\$457,741
Total Expense	\$59,222	\$57,456	\$600,503	\$605,249
Excess (Deficit) Prior to Endowment Draw	(\$15,442)	(\$7,641)	(\$104,358)	(\$147,508)
Endowment Earnings Distribution	\$12,292	\$12,265	\$147,508	\$147,508
Remaining Excess (Deficit)	(\$3,149)	\$4,624	\$43,150	\$0

DID YOU KNOW: Total operating expenses for 2024 came in under budget and FUMC received 96% of its budgeted giving?

Outreach Ministries

OUTREACH NEWS

Happy New Year from the Outreach Program. We would like to take time to thank the United Women of Faith and the FUMC Youth per Ally Hall's direction for the donations to our Community Café guests. The FUMC Women crochet hats, donate gloves, candy canes and chocolate and assemble a nice gift bag for our Community Café guests. The FUMC Youth provide warm hats, gloves and socks which they donate after the first of the year as well. All of this has been a blessing given the plummeting temperatures. We continue to offer these items as we have them. (Any gloves would be appreciated). I would be remiss not to note how very precious these hats were this year as many were lovingly crocheted by our beloved Nancy Upchurch. Utility Assistance continues to provide partial payments for those in need. Helping Hands had increasing numbers monthly. The Buddy Bags are appreciated by students and staff. Thanks for all that you do to support these FUMC ministries.

Sincerely, Susan

HELPING HANDS NON-FOOD PANTRY

Our last Helping Hands Nonfood Pantry was on January 8, 2025. Although the weather was very cold, we were able to provide 72 guests bags of personal hygiene items and dish soap. We continue to be blessed by the donations of our congregation, which have helped us each month to provide items that are needed by our guests. Our guests always express genuine appreciation for the items they receive. Our next Pantry will be **February 12, 2025** from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. We are requesting donations of toilet paper, shampoo and/or lotion to help us provide some of the items our guests will be receiving at that Pantry. Thank you for all of your support!

Sincerely, Linda Verhust, Juanita Slattery and Karen Ambler

THANK YOU

Dear church family and friends,

I am SO GRATEFUL for all you have done for me in the last few weeks and months. Not feeling well most of the fall and then facing surgery was a difficult and scary time for me. Your kind words, cards, gifts and food helped ease those times.

Your prayers sustained me. I could *feel* them as they brought peace and comfort especially as I approached surgery. I was calm and knew I was surrounded by your love and prayer. I am so incredibly thankful.

I am on the road to recovery and plan to be back early in February. I am feeling so much better and look forward to moving forward in our shared ministries.

Thank you, thank you.....with love, Sue

J.O.Y. LUNCH

Join us for great food and delightful fellowship as we kick off a new season of JOY Lunches on Friday, **February 21**. Steve Jackson, Historian will present an engaging program. Lunch will be from Lee's Chicken. Make a reservation in the church office by Wednesday, **February 19**.

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 Assn.
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!

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

The Men's Fellowship Breakfast will meet on **February 15** at 8:00 am at Primrose. The program will consist of discussion regarding topics for future meetings in 2025. There will not be a meeting in March due to Lent. The next meeting will be **April 19th**.

SATURDAY ANDERSON LENTEN BREAKFAST SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION	SPEAKER	MUSIC
March 8	Cross Roads Global Methodist Church	Doug Anderson	Cross Roads Global Methodist
March 15	Lapel Trinity UMC	Chuck Compton	Garri George II
March 22	United In Christ Church	Mark Volk	United In Christ Church
March 29	St. Mary's Catholic Church, Alexandria	Father Tom	Todd Blower
April 5	Pendleton First UMC	Jason Chappel	Jarad Hilligoss
April 12	Anderson First UMC	Shawn O'Connor	Arrows of the Almighty



Family Ministries

FIRST KIDS



This month at First Kids, we're excited to see kids Get Connected as we teach them the Simple Truth, "I Am Made for Community." God didn't make us to be lonely or isolated- we were made for community! We will teach our kids that they can pray for help, cheer on, and learn from their friends and communities. We can't wait to

connect with you and your family this month at Anderson First on Sundays at 10am and Wednesdays at 6pm!

MOVIE NIGHT

Lights, Camera...MOVIE NIGHT!

Join us at Anderson First Kids on Wednesday, **February 5th** for a 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 popcorn 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!

KIDS CHOIR

Do-Re-Mi-Fa-So-La-Ti-Do...you know that First Kids choir will perform on Palm Sunday?

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. 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.

200 ENVELOPES FUNDRAISER

Our Family Ministry Fundraiser kicks off in February!

Follow the instructions below for a super simple way to support the Family Ministry's 200 Envelopes Fundraiser!

- Grab an envelope out of the Narthex
- Fill the envelop (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!

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 year 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.

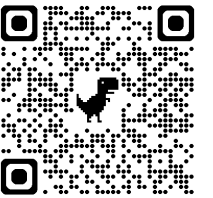
If your student would like to participate in confirmation, please contact the Director of Family Ministries, Ally Hall or Pastor Corrine Boruff.

EGG HUNT

Egg-stra, Egg-stra!

Easter is just around the corner, and Anderson First UMC is excited to host a community Easter Egg Hunt! Join us at Davis Park on **April 5th** from 10:30 AM to 12 PM for a morning filled with free games, crafts, inflatables, and three egg fields! This is a fantastic opportunity to engage with our community and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.

We are currently accepting non-chocolate treats, stickers, small toys, pencils, and similar items for the egg hunt. Additionally, we are seeking volunteers to assist in welcoming guests, managing craft and game stations, and setting up and taking down the event. If you're interested in volunteering for this wonderful community outreach, please use the QR link to sign up! For any questions regarding the event or volunteering, feel free to reach out to Ally Hall.



Candy Donation

Bring in individually wrapped, non-chocolate candy or small toys for us to use at Anderson First's Egg Hunt. Drop off donations in Ally Hall's office by **March 30th**. Some donation ideas:

- | | | |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Skittles | Tootsie Rolls | Suckers |
| Tattoos | Lifesaver Gummies | Fruit snacks |
| Stickers | Sour Patch Kids | Bouncy balls |
| Swedish Fish | Twizzlers | Pencils |
| Nerds | Starbursts | |
| Laffy Taffy | Small erasers | |
| Bubble gum | Gummy Bears | |