



## First United Methodist

FAITH FIRST. FAMILIES FIRST. ANDERSON FIRST.

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# THE VOICE

A Newsletter of First United Methodist



Remember to change your clocks!  
**Sunday, March 9!**



Begin the season of Lent with this service of  
humility and remembering.  
Wednesday, **March 5** at 7 p.m.  
in the Sanctuary  
Receive a cross of ashes as you are invited to remember  
God created you from the dust.



You are invited to ALL we offer during this time of  
preparation for Easter and our Easter Celebration.  
Lenten Study: The Message of Jesus.  
Six Sundays of Lent  
Easter Egg Hunt & activities at Davis Park  
Holy Week: Maundy Thursday and Good Friday  
Easter Sunrise Service and Breakfast at Davis Park  
Easter Traditional Service in Sanctuary

# Adult Ministries

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE – March 2025

March 2	Holy Communion Peak Moments Luke 9:28-36 (NLT) Music: Brass Quintet Sound Tech: Jim Hudson; Visual Tech: Matt Stout
LENTEN SERIES From Darkness to Light As we enter this six-week spiritual journey called Lent we will travel from the darkness of the wilderness to the Light of Love. We will follow the lectionary readings each week as the source of God’s Word to inform, inspire and invite us to experience Christ anew.	
March 5	Ash Wednesday Service – 7 p.m. God’s Return Policy Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Music: Sanctuary Choir Sound Tech: Mark Murray; Visual Tech: Matt Stout
March 9	First Sunday of Lent An Opportune Time Luke 4:1-13 Music: Wesley Bells Sound Tech: Jim Hudson; Visual Tech: Matt Stout
March 16	Second Sunday of Lent Chickens and Foxes Luke 13:31-35 Music: Sanctuary Choir Sound Tech: Mark Murray; Visual Tech: Matt Stout
March 23	Third Sunday of Lent R-Rated Luke 13:1-9 Music: Sanctuary Choir Sound Tech: Richard Cassiday; Visual Tech: Matt Stout
March 30	Fourth Sunday of Lent Unwarranted Grace Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 Music: Sanctuary Choir Sound Tech: Jim Hudson; Visual Tech: Matt Stout

# Church News

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Our next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, **March 6, 2025** at 10:00 am. We will meet in the North/South Parlor. Our hostess is Deanne Beard. Our lesson leader is Bev Briles and the program will be a Bible Study: Isaiah Chapters 8:19—9:7.

## J.O.Y. LUNCH

Join us on **March 21** for a presentation by Dr. Brian Dirck, AU History Professor. Lunch will be Arby's Reuben Sandwiches. Dr. Dirck was invited to return by popular demand! Don't miss this! Please make your reservation by Wednesday, **March 19**.

## SATURDAY ANDERSON LENTEN BREAKFAST SCHEDULE 8:00 am—9:30 am

All persons, young and old are invited to attend the entire Lenten Breakfast Series celebrating God's Grace through fellowship, music and inspirational Christian speakers.

DATE	LOCATION	SPEAKER	MUSIC
March 8	Cross Roads Global Methodist Church	Doug Anderson	Cross Roads
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

## FEED YOUR SPIRIT

Upper Room Daily Devotionals  
<https://www.upperroom.org/devotionals>  
Reading the Bible – many translations  
[www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)

Coffee with Corinne - Wednesdays on Facebook at 3 p.m.  
Downtown Devotions – Fridays on Facebook at noon  
Bible Studies – currently Lenten Study with Pastor Corinne and Friday Bible Study with Peg Peter.  
Check at [www.andersonfirst.org](http://www.andersonfirst.org) for other opportunities.

## STEWARDSHIP

Your faithfulness and trust of God and God's work through Anderson First UMC is apparent. Thank you to those of you who have returned a pledge card for the 2025 budget. For those who have not yet returned a card, you are encouraged to do so.  
Returning a pledge card allows us know how to assist God in God's work through this church this year.  
Pledges cards are available from the church office.  
Keep ministry alive in 2025!

## CONFIRMATION 2025

These students and mentors have begun their journey of faith together  
Ryan Falkenberry – Dave Peter  
Skylar St. Laurant – Chris Tupling  
Claire Miller – Rachel Hostetler  
Lucas Tupling – Dan Miller  
Please keep these in your prayers!

## LENTEN STUDY The Message of Jesus

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. Jesus's message is not only life-changing, but world-changing. ALL are welcome to join this study!  
Wednesdays @ 6 p.m. in the 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

# INSPIRATIONS

From Vicki Snyder

I like to clip and keep what I call "Inspirations for Vicki". I keep them tucked away in my journal and read them over and over. May God use these clippings to inspire your heart!

"The Company I Keep"

Let me be known by the company I keep  
By the one who determines each day that I greet  
From the moment I wake til he rocks me to sleep  
Let me be known by the company I keep!

Let me be known by the company I keep  
When the valleys are low and the mountains are steep  
By the one who holds fast when swift waters are deep  
Let me be known by the company I keep!

Let me be known by the company I keep  
By the one who implores me to sit at his feet  
And quickens my soul to discern what is deep  
Let me be known by the company I keep!

Let me be known by the company I keep  
Eclipsed by your presence that I may decrease  
Til all you have chosen this traveler to meet  
No longer see me but the company I keep!

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"In our world, you're either bringing darkness or light.  
By your words and deeds, you bring  
joy, love, and hope to others or you take it away.  
You bless and build up or you tear down and hurt.  
Life is either all about you or it is about others. "

**"40 Days of Jesus Always: Joy in His Presence"**

by Sarah Young

Sarah writes, "I believe the message of joy is extremely important in this time... With joy-filled reminders from the Word of God, may the pages of this book invite you into a new way of living...." Devotions are written as if Jesus is speaking directly to you.

Pick up your copy today and begin/continue to engage with God everyday!  
(There were not enough submissions from the congregation to create a devotional.)

## Outreach Ministries

### OUTREACH NEWS

Hello Friends and church Family. Easter is drawing near. Even without the title or set date of remembrance, we reflect weekly, daily, sometime multiple times daily on Christ's teachings and ultimate gift of love and life for us. Dave and I want to thank you friends for being His representatives in this church. At a time when we were very vulnerable, you welcomed us and loved us into this amazing body at Anderson FUMC. You extended the hand of God to all with each warm welcome. You also warmly welcome multiple other vulnerable people whom we may never personally meet through giving to the external ministries. Thank you for your gifts of love for all. This scripture sums up our description of you, our fellow believers at Anderson FUMC, "As for you brothers, do not grow weary in doing good." 2 Thessalonians 3:13.

Sincerely, the Selby's.

### HELPING HANDS NON-FOOD PANTRY

Our last helping Hand Non-food Pantry was on February 12, 2025. We were able to provide 54 women and 32 men with toilet paper, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, a bar of soap and laundry detergent. The generous donations we receive from the congregation help us to provide these items to the increasing number of guests we are serving. They are always very thankful for the items they receive. Our next Pantry will be **March 12, 2025** from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. We are requesting donations of toilet paper and women's or men's deodorant to help us provide some of the items we will be giving our guests at the Pantry. Thank you for all of your support.

Sincerely, Linda Verhulst, Juanita Slattery and Karen Ambler.





## DEVOTION

by Steve Anderson

"For everything there is a season" Ecclesiastes 3:1

The third month of the year is March and it seems to not only exhibit examples of the seasons in Ecclesiastes 3:1 but also examples of every type of weather event imaginable. The month begins with knowing that the stark darkness of winter is coming to an end. However winter more times than not launches a fierce struggle to continue.

The first two weeks of March contain evidence of a wounded winter inching ever closer to death and transformation.

Remember March "In like a lion"? Also remember winter can deceive by beginning the month "Like a lamb" but ending it with a vicious surprise. The impending death of winter is the recognition of the Ides of March. It is noted on the calendar as the 15th. On this day in history Julius Caesar was assassinated. Czar Nicholas II of Russia abdicated his throne and eventually he and his family were executed on July 17, 1918. Also on this day in 1938 the Nazis seized Czechoslovakia which was a prelude to WWII causing 44 million deaths.

During March there is also the ritual of spring house cleaning to purge the dirt of the past year. It is also the season of Lent, a period to reflect, repent and more or less spring clean the soul of the personal transgressions of the past year. This year Lent begins on March the 5th and ends on April 17. The day before Lent, March the 4th, is called Fat Tuesday with the attitude being gluttony and excess is ok because one more sin added to a very extensive list doesn't matter because asking forgiveness of that list begins March 5th.

As we move through the personal reflections that comprise Lent and the serious sacrifices we make we come to realize that we didn't really know what we lost until we didn't have it anymore. Like toilet paper. Lent is a time to pause from taking life and things for granted and put in motion spring cleaning for the soul.

As the severe weather of March continues the story of the Disciples and Jesus getting caught in a storm comes to mind. (Mathew 8: 24-7) The guys panicked in fear that the boat would sink and they would perish They woke Jesus with fear written all over them. Jesus was somewhat irritated and did something only he could do. He calmed the storm and then gently talked to them about having their back and also faith in him.

I know how the Disciples felt as I was stranded on Lake Monroe in my aluminum boat with accompanying very rough water and lightning. There was no one on the lake to help me. I had trouble thinking because of gripping fear. I calmed down and just asked Jesus to help me get out of this mess. Well the storm subsided a bit so that I was able to get back to the dock. As I stepped out on the dock I gave a nod of acknowledgement. I am pretty sure He saw it.

The end of winter occurs March 20, 2025. Time of death 5:01 am. This is called the Spring Equinox. There are 12 hrs. of daylight and 12 hrs. of darkness. This signals a pause in the tug of war between light and darkness that is winter. Ecclesiastes 3:1 "For everything there is a season." March 17 is St. Patrick's Day and the beginning of the season to plant. According Irish folklore it is the time to plant potatoes. It is also a time to assess the conflicts we had during the year and plant the seeds of faith, hope and love that are embodied in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.





# Family Ministries

## FIRST KIDS

Happy March, Anderson First Families! We are excited to start our new Theme, *Locked In*, as we teach kids the Simple Truth, "I Am Secure." This month, kids will learn that God is strong when they are weak, God is their peace when they are anxious, God is trustworthy when they doubt, and He is faithful when they are confused. Let's lock in and learn how we are secure in God this month. We hope to see you and your family at Anderson First UMC on Wednesdays at 6pm and Sundays at 10am!

## DESSERT DASH



Tickets and tables are on sale NOW for the March 7 Dessert Dash! Snag your spot for this sweet fundraiser that directly supports our choirs and programs.



Please use this QR code:



## GAME NIGHT



Join us for another Game Night at First Kids Club!

We're excited to invite all children aged 3 and up to our Game Night on Wednesday, March 12th, from 6 to 8 PM at First Kids Club. This event is a

wonderful opportunity for kids to enjoy games, snack on treats, and have a blast together. We can't wait to spend time and play games with our fantastic Anderson First Kids!

## KIDS CHOIR



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

If you've got kids aged 3 through 5th grade, we'd love for them to join our First Kids Choir! We meet on Wednesdays at 6:20 PM and have a blast

singing, playing musical games, and worshiping together. Plus, we get to perform several times throughout the year! If your child wants to join in on the fun, just swing by the Younger Kids classroom on Wednesdays. Got questions? Don't hesitate to contact Sue Finger or Ally Hall. Hope to see you there!

## 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  
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

## SUMMER CAMP

Do you have a child or student interested in attending an Impact summer camp? Check out their website and let Ally Hall know if you would like to participate. You will receive a special code to use during registration. Spots are limited, so please let us know soon! Early bird registration ends on April 20th.

Please use this QR code:

