



First United Methodist

FAITH FIRST. FAMILIES FIRST. ANDERSON FIRST.

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THE VOICE

A Newsletter of First United Methodist



MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

April 17 at 7 p.m.

Downtown Sanctuary

An inspirational and reflective service to prepare our hearts and minds for Christ's death and resurrection. The service includes a re-enactment of Foot Washing, an opportunity to participate in Foot Washing, and the Lord's Supper.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

April 18 at 7 p.m.

Downtown Sanctuary

A service leading to the darkness of Jesus' death. The extinguishing of candles, music and readings will move us into the darkest time of human history. Join us as we continue to prepare for the contrasting Light of Easter.

EASTER SON-RISE SERVICE

April 20 at 7 a.m.

Coyner Lodge, Davis Park

Experience the short drama, "Resurrected"

BREAKFAST

7:30 a.m. at Coyner Lodge

EASTER TRADITIONAL CELEBRATION

April 20 at 10 a.m.

Downtown Sanctuary

A resurrection celebration service.

LENTEN STUDY

The Message of Jesus

Continues....and you are welcome to join as we explore 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 North/South Parlor

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

Adult Ministries

WORSHIP SCHEDULE – April 2025

From Darkness to Light
We continue our journey to the Light of Love which was revealed to us on that first Easter.

April 6 Fifth Sunday of Lent
Music Celebration Sunday
John 12:1-8
Fragrance of Life
Music: Sanctuary Choir, Wesley Chorale, Children’s Choir
Sound Tech: Mark Murray; Visual Tech: Matt Stout

HOLY WEEK

April 13 Palm Sunday
Luke 19:28-40
A Flash in the Dark
Music: Sanctuary Choir, Children’s Choir
Sound Tech: Jim Hudson; Visual Tech: Matt Stout

April 17 Maundy Thursday Service – 7 p.m.
Foot washing will be offered
Music: Michele Murray

April 18 Good Friday Tenebra Service – 7 p.m.
Music: Sanctuary Choir

April 20 Easter Sunday
Son-Rise Service – 7 a.m. at Davis Park
“Resurrected” - short drama
Music: Michele Murray
Breakfast served at 7:30 a.m.
Traditional Easter Celebration – 10 a.m. in Sanctuary
John 20:1-18
A New World
Music: Sanctuary Choir & Brass
Sound Tech: Jim Hudson; Visual Tech: Matt Stout

April 27 Second Sunday of Easter
John 20:19-31
Gifts of the Risen Christ
Music: AACC/YC & Rachael Lashbrook
Sound Tech: Richard Cassiday; Visual Tech: Matt Stout

2025 EASTER LILY ORDER FORMS

Anyone wishing to purchase an Easter lily to memorialize or honor a loved one at Easter may do so by calling the church office or filling out the pink order form available at the Welcome Center and returning it to the office with your check.

The cost for a lily is \$15.00. Payment must accompany your order or as soon as possible. Please be sure to designate on your order if you want to keep your lily or if you would like it to be taken to a homebound member.

The deadline to order lilies is **Monday, April 14**. Please place your order by that date. The names of those being honored or memorialized will be included in the Easter Sunday worship bulletin. Lilies can be purchased on line at:

<https://www.andersonfirst.org/easterlily>

Treasurer’s Minute

Treasurer's Minute for: February 2025

	FEB ACTUAL		2025 YEAR TO DATE	
	2025	2024	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Monthly Contributions	\$44,350	\$69,178	\$135,289	\$96,078
Other Income	\$3,525	\$3,703	\$7,594	\$7,880
Total Income	\$47,875	\$72,881	\$142,882	\$103,958
Total Expense	\$56,589	\$62,564	\$110,207	\$106,752
Excess (Deficit) Prior to Endowment Draw	(\$8,714)	\$10,317	\$32,676	(\$2,794)
Endowment Earnings Distribution	\$13,359	\$12,292	\$26,718	\$26,718
Remaining Excess (Deficit)	\$4,644	\$22,609	\$59,393	\$23,924

DID YOU KNOW: FUMC received 37% of its annual pledge budget for 2025 in the first 2 months of the year?

Church News

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Our next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, **April 3, 2025** at 10:00 am.
We will meet in the North/South Parlor.
Our hostess is Betsey Bachman. Bible Study: Isaiah Chapters 11-12.

J.O.Y. LUNCH April 11

This month we will meet on the 2nd Friday of the month to avoid Good Friday . Join us for an engaging presenter from Mounds State Park, Interpretive Naturalist Sheree Belt. The meal will be Mancino's Baked Spaghetti. This monthly event begins at 11:30 am with lunch.
Please make your reservation to attend by
Wednesday, **April 9.**

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
April 5	Pendleton First UMC	Jason Chappel	Jarad Hilligoss
April 12	Anderson First UMC	Shawn O'Connor	Arrows of the Almighty

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

The Directory is here!
Thank you to everyone who sat for photos, sent in photos, provided new information, updated old information and patiently waited for a finished book.

You may request a digital copy of our 2025 Anderson First United Methodist Church Directory. The file can easily be downloaded to your laptop, tablet or phone to find photos of our congregation along with contact information for each person.

Printed copies are available. Stop by the church office to claim one.

SPECIAL THANK YOU!!

Thank you so very much to Michele and Mark Murray, Elizabeth and Jason Sherron. They worked long hours to accommodate the congregation, assemble information, design and print the directory. Their vision and effort alone made this gift available to each of us! Thank you!!!

FEED YOUR SPIRIT

Upper Room Daily Devotionals
<https://www.upperroom.org/devotionals>
Reading the Bible – many translations
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 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 continued their journey of faith together
Ryan Falkenberry – Dave Peter
Skylar St. Laurant – Chris Tupling
Claire Miller – Rachel Hostetler
Lucas Tupling – Dan Miller
In April they will be attending a Catholic Mass, attend three Sunday sessions, participate in the Maundy Thursday Service. Their journey will end with their Rehearsal and Celebration Meal (Sat. May 17) and Confirmation Sunday (May 18).
Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

CHURCH LIBRARY

Check out the Church Library!
Well-stocked book selves with a wide variety of books are conveniently located near Door #3 (just south of the church office.) The Library is always accessible on Sundays and easily opened when the office is open. This is one of the treasures of this church!

INSPIRATIONS

APRIL DEVOTION by Steve Anderson

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace." Romans 15:13

"Consider the lilies of the field and how they grow..." Matthew 6:28

As March and its Ides fade into the past the fresh start of hope and the resurrection of new life emerges signaling that it is April.

God's awakening of the earth by clothing the stark nakedness of winter with the lilies of the field is evidence that resurrection is indeed a part of life. Later in the summer God offers further evidence by giving us surprise lilies. They just pop up one day and then are gone in two or three days.

My first experience with spring and the spirituality of it occurred when I was maybe three years old. There were concrete steps from our back porch and at my age they were very steep. I carefully, with a fair amount of trepidation, slowly began the decent on all fours. At the bottom was the yard. The morning sun was bright. My eyes settled on a large dandelion in full bloom. It was surrounded by green grass glistening from the morning dew.

In this moment of the discovery of spring I also felt very connected to that flower and grass not realizing that I was also connecting to God.

April is also remembered for being the month that Nazi concentration camps were discovered and liberated by the Allies in 1945. The first of these camps, Auschwitz, was liberated by Soviet troops January 27, 1945.

Over six million people were systematically executed for just being who they were as created by God.

Putting aside all speculation of what happens after death one only needs to relive the Easter story and the death of Jesus Christ and His resurrection from that dark moment. Two billion people as Christians have found the answer.

My favorite account of Jesus revealing himself after the resurrection occurred by him standing on the shore of Galilee shouting to the disciples who were fishing "have you caught anything" They replied "No" Jesus then said, "throw your net on the other side of the boat". They did and the net filled with fish.

He then said come ashore and have some breakfast. They cooked some of the fish and then Jesus tested their commitment to the daunting task at hand of spreading the Gospel to the world.

The topics of faith and courage to represent Jesus were discussed.

When you go fishing you really believe you are going to catch a fish.

When you don't, your faith will sustain you.

Harland Sanders' life was filled with failure and rejection, but he carried on with a steadfast belief that his idea for a secret fried chicken recipe would be accepted by someone. His idea was rejected 1008 times but on the 1009 time it was accepted.

Outreach Ministries

OUTREACH NEWS

During the Easter season we meditate on Jesus' ministry, striving to follow His example and teachings. As an example, Anderson First UMC supports External Ministry programs. We will be sending an Easter letter providing a list of our external ministry programs being supported by our Easter donations this year. As far as our internal ministries, Community Cafe and Food at First have been transitioning this winter. We have had unpredictable numbers due to local Warming Shelters which also provided meals in addition to a warm overnight stay. With their closures, we had 91 guests Sunday. Helping Hands Nonfood Pantry continues to grow in numbers served and Buddy Bags remains stable in monthly delivery numbers to students. Utility Assistance continues to see a steady number of participants monthly. We are grateful! Thank you church Family.

Sincerely, Susan and Dave

HELPING HANDS NON-FOOD PANTRY

We feel so blessed that at our March 12, 2025 Helping Hands Nonfood Pantry we were able to give two large rolls of toilet paper, toothpaste, a toothbrush, deodorant for a woman or man, dish soap, and a roll of paper towels to 102 guests. The genuine "Thank you" and "This will really help us" from our guests lets us know we are filling a need for those we serve. We would not be able to help so many people without the donations from our congregation. Your generosity and love for others are so appreciated! Our Next Pantry will be held **April 9, 2025** from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. We are requesting donations of toilet paper, shampoo or lotion, which will help us provide some of the items we will be giving our guests at our next Pantry. Thank you very much for your kindness and support of our Outreach Ministry.

Sincerely, Linda Verhulst, Juanita Slattery and Karen Ambler.



Today there are over 18,000 Col. Sanders Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurants in the U.S. and 118 countries. You might say he threw the net on the other side of the boat. The success of the Disciples and Col. Sanders was built on the foundation of faith that success will eventually come like the dawn of a new day.

The fellowship and the serious conversations held that day among those who loved one another reminded me of my relationship with my dad. Burned into my memory are the times I spent with my father camping out along the Tippecanoe River having a breakfast of catfish and fried squirrel.

Our conversations consisted of the whole range of topics illustrating the unconditional love we had for each other. April continues to be the month of fresh starts, hope and the promise of the resurrection of life

INSPIRATION by Vicki Snyder

All Scripture is inspiring, but certain verses are engraved upon my heart. Verses from God just for me and just when I needed them the most. Confirming within me my Savior's love and leading. Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path!"

We are Jesus' beloved. Let your heart soak in these words today, and remember all he has done for you.

"No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." John 15:13

Prayer: O Lord, set our hearts on fire with your love and fill us with more of Jesus. Amen.



Family Ministries

FIRST KIDS BLURB

This April, we are teaching our kids the Simple Truth, "I Am Set Apart," with the Theme *Step Up*. We can step up and point others to God. Kids will learn they can stand strong in, celebrate, believe, and share the truth. We can't wait to step up with you and your favorite peeps all month long at Anderson First Kids on Sundays at 10am and Wednesdays at 6pm.

FIRST KIDS CLUB



At First Kids Club, we meet in the Fireplace room every Wednesday evening to extend our Sunday lessons through engaging games, crafts, and discussions. Additionally, we organize Game Nights or Movie Nights once a month. The First Kids Choir practices not required, it is open to anyone interested. We look

forward to welcoming you and your family on Wednesday nights from 6 to 8 PM!

MOVIE NIGHT



Get ready for a super fun Movie Night at Anderson First Kids on Wednesday, April 9th! We're inviting all kids to come in their comfiest pajamas and bring along some pillows and blankets to get cozy. We'll watch a great movie and enjoy some popcorn together!

Just a heads up, the Kids Choir will still be rehearsing at the usual time, so we'll take a quick break from the movie for that. We can't wait to hang out with you on Wednesday from 6 to 8 in the Fireplace Room! See you there!

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 worshipping 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!

YOUTH GROUP

This month, we're hanging out for Anderson First Student Ministries in the youth room on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 11:15 AM. We are halfway through our Confirmation lessons, and it has been such a special time for students and mentors. This is a time for students to build their faith, make friends, and connect with the awesome folks at Anderson First UMC. And, of course, we have a free lunch during our time together! And don't forget, friends are always welcome.



If you've got any questions about the Student Ministry, feel free to reach out to Ally Hall, our Director of Family Ministries. Also, make sure to follow us on social media so you don't miss any updates or events! Can't wait to see you all there!

FAMILY MINISTRY SHOWCASE

Come one, come all, to the Family Ministry Showcase!

All our children and students are truly remarkable, and we want to provide them with a chance to showcase their unique talents and passions. If your child or student has a skill or interest—no matter how big or small—that they would like to share, we invite them to join us in the Sanctuary on May 4th at 11:15. This could include activities like art, karate, origami, dancing, playing musical instruments, 3D printing, and much more. All children and students are encouraged to come onstage to answer a few questions during the showcase, even if they choose not to perform. Please register by April 27th using the online link provided. While early registration is preferred, we understand that kids can be spontaneous, and we will gladly welcome anyone who wishes to participate. This event is an opportunity for our entire church community to connect with our families, so they know just how loved they truly are! We hope everyone can stay after worship to watch the showcase. For any questions, please reach out to Ally Hall or Sue Finger. We look forward to celebrating our talented Family Ministry!



<https://forms.office.com/r/gZTCtraUj?origin=lprLink>

200 ENVELOPES FUNDRAISER

We are thrilled to announce the incredible success of our 200 Envelopes Fundraiser. Thanks to your generous contributions, we raised over \$5,400! This remarkable achievement will play a crucial role in updating our classrooms, funding summer camps, and supporting our community outreach initiatives. Your unwavering support and commitment to our Family Ministries are truly appreciated. Together, we are making a meaningful impact in our church and community. Thank you again for your support as we grow our ministry! With gratitude, The Family Ministries Team.