



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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 909
Anderson, Indiana

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Visit us on the web at
andersonfirst.org and
follow us on Facebook



HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY



THE VOICE

A Newsletter of First United Methodist

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

May 11

Every one of us has a mother. This is a day set aside to remember those women who blessed our lives. Bring your mother or your memory with you to worship on this special Sunday.



May 18

Confirmation Students

Ryan Falkenberry

Claire Miller

Skylar St. Laurent

Lucas Tupling

Will be joined by the Mentors (Dave Peter, Rachel Hochstetler, Chris Tupling, Dan Miller) as they publicly acknowledge accepting Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. Be sure to be present for this powerful service of commitment to Christ.

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE DOWNTOWN & DAVIS PARK

Beginning **May 25** we enter our Summer Worship Schedule.

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

9 a.m.

Davis Park

(4507 Nichol Ave., Anderson)

Bring your lawn chair!

DOWNTOWN WORSHIP

10:45 a.m.

North/South Parlor

Enter Door #3

Summer Worship Schedule is Memorial Weekend thru Labor Day Weekend.

GRADUATES

June 8 @ 9 a.m. service

All graduates -- high school, college, etc. -- will be recognized and presented with a gift from the church.

Information needed: Name, Contact information, Institution graduating from, Degree earned, Family connection to AFUMC and Plans following graduation. We want to honor each graduate!

Adult Ministries

WORSHIP SCHEDULE – May 2025

May 4	HOLY COMMUNION Terminator to Transformer Acts 9:1-9 (NLT) Music: Arrows of the Almighty Sound Tech: Jim Hudson; Visual Tech: Matt Stout 11:15 a.m. Family Ministry Showcase
May 11	MOTHER’S DAY Heroes Revlation 7:9-17 (NLT) Music: Wesley Bells Sound Tech: Mark Murray; Visual Tech: Matt Stout
May 18	CONFIRMATION SUNDAY Good God Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT) Confirmation Students: <i>(alphabetical order)</i> Ryan Falkenberry, Claire Miller, Skylar St. Laurent, Lucas Tupling Music: Alpha Brass Sound Tech: Richard Cassiday; Visual Tech: Matt Stout SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS
May 25	MEMORIAL WEEKEND Condition Yellow John 5:1-15 (NLT) 9 a.m. Outdoor Worship at Davis Park Music: Jazz Combo Sound Tech: Mark Murray Visual Tech: Matt Stout 10:45 a.m. Downtown Worship in North/South Parlor Music: Michele Murray

BAPTISMS

As their church family we celebrated the baptisms of Lucas Duane Tupling and Christopher Duane Tupling by immersion on March 30 at Anderson University Pool. They were baptized as Jesus commanded, “In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.” We praise God for their public commitment of faith in Jesus Christ.

Church News

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Our next scheduled meeting will be our end of year luncheon on Thursday, **May 1, 2025** at 11:30 am at the Grandview Golf Course.

J.O.Y. LUNCH

May 16

Join us for an engaging presenter, Marnie Tupling, a greenhouse specialist . The meal will be a Sorority Special. This monthly event begins at 11:30 am with lunch. Please make your reservation to attend by Wednesday, **May 14.**

Treasurer’s Minute

Treasurer's Minute for: March 2025

	MAR ACTUAL		2025 YEAR TO DATE	
	2025	2024	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Monthly Contributions	\$27,078	\$48,818	\$162,367	\$124,550
Other Income	\$3,695	\$3,688	\$11,289	\$11,392
Total Income	\$30,773	\$52,505	\$173,656	\$135,942
Total Expense	\$49,112	\$51,367	\$159,269	\$155,170
Excess (Deficit) Prior to Endowment Draw	(\$18,339)	\$1,139	\$14,387	(\$19,228)
Endowment Earnings Distribution	\$13,359	\$12,292	\$40,076	\$40,076
Remaining Excess (Deficit)	(\$4,980)	\$13,431	\$54,463	\$20,848

DID YOU KNOW: FUMC 's member giving is 31% higher than its 2025 YTD budget through the first quarter of the year?

Music Ministry

Thank You and Saying Goodbye

We have been blessed to have some AU students participate in the music program in a variety of ways. This year we have to say goodbye to two very special members.

James Sirks will graduate from AU on May 3 and will be moving back to Michigan. James has sung with the Sanctuary Choir and Wesley Chorale for four years. We will miss him but we are grateful that he was willing to share his time and talent with us and wish him the very best!

Abby Mercer has been leading our Children's Choir for the past two years as well as singing with the Sanctuary Choir and Wesley Chorale. Abby also helped with some choreography on last summer's Children's Musical. Abby has made a decision based on her faith and personal life to attend and support a Christian Campus program at Ball State next year. She will be greatly missed but in true "Abby form" has helped us secure replacement beginning next fall - Emma Copes.

Thank you Abby for all you have done!

GOOD NEWS/BAD NEWS

We are excited to share that Sarah Taylor as has been accepted into the Master of Music Therapy Program at St. Mary of the Woods College, Terre Haute, IN. Sarah is a Board Certified Music Therapist and the Director of Education Program at PlainSong Music Services.

Due to this new opportunity and time commitment, she has made the decision to step away from conducting the Wesley Bells for the time being. (bad news)

We are GRATEFUL for Sarah's leadership and excellent work in the 15 years she has served as the bell director. We wish her the very best in this new endeavor!

Sue Finger will conduct the bell choir beginning in the fall.

THE EARLY CHURCH Spring Bible Study

Join Pastor Corinne on Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

April 30	Study 1: Paul and His Times
May 7	Study 2: Early Martyrs
May 14	Study 3: Defenders of the Faith
May 21	Study 4: The Search for Spiritual Christianity
May 28	Study 5: Worship in the Early Church

Paul was arguably the church's greatest missionary—not necessarily in terms of numbers won to Christ, but in terms of the variety of people he reached. He preached in synagogues, in public squares, in prison, and in private homes; he preached to Jews, Romans, and Greeks; men and women; slaves and aristocrats. As a result, he laid a solid, enduring foundation that ensured a future for the church. Paul's ministry and principles can help us today as we seek to introduce people to Jesus Christ.

PRAYER BEARS

Prayer Bears are again available. If you know of someone who would find comfort in a reminder of the prayers offered for them, please take a bear to them. This is the message it brings with it:

"I am a Prayer Bear and this is what I do

I help give God's love especially to you

If you need a small hug or a great big embrace;

I'll always be here to put a smile on your face

In your time of sadness, illness or stress

This bear shares the love that we want to express.

So when you need a reminder of God's great love

hold tight to your bear and feel the love from above.

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 The Early Church Spring Bible Study
with Pastor Corinne

and Friday Bible Study with Peg Peter.

Check at www.andersonfirst.org for other opportunities.

CHURCH LIBRARY

Spring cleaning has started in the Church Library. There is a selection of books available on a cart by the office. Please browse and take as many as you want. More books will be added to the cart so check it each week.

WALL OF LOVE

As a part of our Mother's Day Celebration on

May 11

You are invited to include the name of the women in your life on the Wall of Love in the Narthex (lobby) before or after worship.

Post-its will be provided.

The gift of a carnation will be offered to each woman following worship.

NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

"Because we Care like Christ."

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, an annual observance founded by Mental Health America in 1949 to highlight the importance of mental well-being, educate the public, reduce stigma and promote support for those affected by mental health conditions. Each year, individuals and organizations come together to raise awareness and advocate for better mental health care and resources. Despite progress in mental health initiatives, more than 30 million people in the U.S. still lack access to comprehensive, high-quality care.

These statistics highlight the ongoing need for Mental Health Awareness Month:

1 in 5 U.S. adults experience mental illness each year.

1 in 20 U.S. adults experience serious mental illness each year.

1 in 6 U.S. youth have a mental health condition, but only half receive treatment.

50% of all lifetime mental illness begins by age 14, and 75% by age 24.

In 2022, 22% of high school students seriously considered suicide in the past year.

Outreach Ministries

OUTREACH NEWS

A big "Thank You" to Alpha Brass for their generous contribution after their concert. What a blessing to receive over \$400.00 for the Outreach Ministry and what a timely gift indeed.

We transition to the Community Grille June 1 and continue through July and August.

This is our mostly costly and most well-attended food event, as you can imagine. We provide one clamshell with a choice of hamburger or cheeseburger and hot dog, chips, dessert and bottled water. Last year, we combined 2 sandwiches in one clamshell in order to be more cost effective and environmentally friendly. We also transitioned from Gatorade to bottled water. A grocery bag is no longer provided at this time.

These changes were made in order to keep within a reasonable budget and to provide the meat not otherwise available on Sunday nights in our community. Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

Sincerely, Susan and Dave

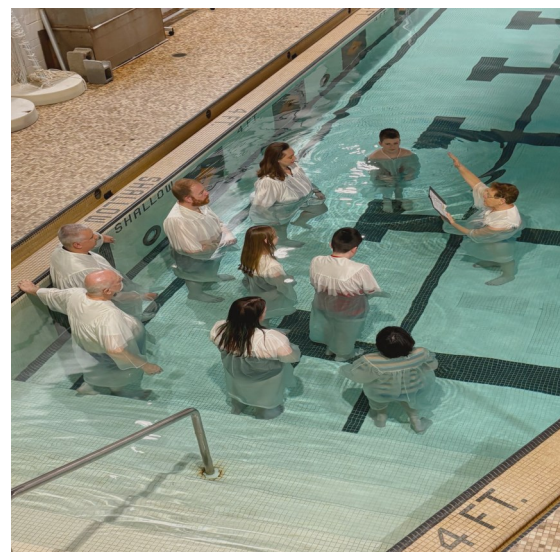
BUDDY BAG PROGRAM

On a very happy note we are pleased to announce that the Buddy Bag program will utilize a \$3,000.00 grant from the Madison County Community Foundation to further our months of service and or to increase the protein items in the Buddy Bags distributed to Anderson Elementary K-5th grades. A big thank you to our local MCCF for supplementing our Buddy Bag program!

HELPING HANDS NON-FOOD PANTRY

Our April 9th Pantry was very busy. We were able to serve 107 people, due in part to six first-time guests. Each of our guests received two large rolls of toilet paper, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, bar soap and laundry detergent. Our new guests were happy to receive the supplies we gave them. The donations we receive from our congregation help us serve the increasing number of people who are attending our Pantry. We feel blessed to have such a caring congregation. Our next Pantry will be held on **May 14, 2025** from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. We are requesting donations of Toilet Paper and/or Deodorant for a Man or Woman, which will help us provide some of the other items we will be giving our guests at the next Pantry. We thank you very much for your kind support of our Helping Hands Non-Food Pantry.

Sincerely, Linda Verhulst, Juanita Slattery and Karen Ambler.



Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church Letter to Catholics on the Death of Pope Francis

April 22, 2025

Dear Catholic Brothers and Sisters,

As United Methodists, we join with you in mourning the death of Pope Francis. We share in the assurance that Pope Francis has entered into eternal rest, having heard the words of our Lord Jesus, "Well done, my good and faithful servant, well done." (Matthew 25:21)

We remember Pope Francis for his remarkable witness to the love and mercy of Christ. His deep spirituality, and commitment to peace, justice, and compassion has left a lasting legacy of holiness living. The theme of mercy was central to his life and ministry, particularly in his concern for those who have been excluded, marginalized, exploited, and oppressed.

We are inspired by his passion for caring for the earth. We celebrate his commitment to promoting ecumenism. Pope Francis welcomed leaders of different confessions and denominations, and his support for ecumenical work has fostered greater understanding and cooperation among Christians. His leadership style, marked by a Christ-like sensitivity toward others and a willingness to address controversial issues, is a powerful example for us all. The process of synodality he promoted is an inspiration to Methodists, who have valued the importance of holy conferencing in our own tradition.

As we remember Pope Francis, we are challenged to follow his example of humble service for the good of others. In a world where authoritarian leaders and oligarchs seek to expand their power and influence, Pope Francis's commitment to serving the disempowered and the marginalized is a powerful reminder of our own calling as Christians.

May the life of Pope Francis inspire and guide us as we live our faith and bear witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. May we continue to work together, as siblings in Christ, to promote peace, justice, and compassion in our world.

With sympathy and in God's grace,

Bishop Tracy S. Malone
President - Council of Bishops
The United Methodist Church
(Bishop of the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church)



Family Ministries

First Kids

We have a great month planned at First Kids! This May, we get to teach our kids about the amazing love of God with the Theme Power Up. Our Simple Truth is, "I Am Loved." Kids will learn that God loved first, loves best, more, and always! We know this month will power kids up to love and follow God, so we can't wait to see you there.

Confirmation Sunday

Join us for Confirmation Sunday on May 18th at 10 AM at Anderson First United Methodist Church. This special service celebrates the commitment and faith journey of our young members as they confirm their beliefs and become full members of our church community. Everyone is welcome to attend and support these individuals as they take this important spiritual step. We look forward to sharing this meaningful occasion with you!

End of Year Party

Get Ready for the Youth Group End-of-Year Party & Awards Ceremony!

Mark your calendars for an unforgettable celebration on May 18th at 11:15 AM! Join us for the Youth Group End-of-Year Party and Awards Ceremony, where we'll wrap up an amazing year at Anderson First Students.

What to Expect:

- Exciting games and activities
- Free food and refreshments
- Recognition of our outstanding students and leaders with fun awards
- Opportunities to connect with friends and make new ones!

This is the perfect way to celebrate all the fun and memories we've created together this year. Bring your friends, and let's make this a day to remember! We can't wait to see you there!

Summer of Service

It's going to be a great summer at Anderson First Kids! This year, we are having a Summer of Serving, and we need your help!

Every week in June and July, we will have specific serving opportunities for you and your families to do over the summer that will impact our community.

We will have weekend events as well as family projects that you can do at your own pace. That way, no matter what your summer plans are, you can find time to work some of our SOS events into your family calendar. Each SOS event presents a unique opportunity to serve our church and community and show our kids and students that you are never too young to make a difference. We can't wait to spend the summer serving alongside you and your family!

Check out the list of activities and projects happening this summer below:

- June 7th @10:00am-11:30am—SOS Events: Davis Park Beautification
- Week of June 9th—Family Project: Volunteer at an animal shelter
- June 21st @ TBD—SOS Event: Swimming Party
- June 29th @ 1:30pm-2:45pm—SOS Event: Primrose Worship Service
- Week of June 30th—Family Project: Buy and donate school supplies to Operation Love
- July 12th @ 10:00am-11:30am—SOS Event: Blessing Bags at AFUMC
- July 19th @ TBD—SOS Event: Davis Park Movie Night
- Week of July 21st—Family Project: Prayer Buddy Drive
- July 27th @ 10am-11:00 am—SOS Event: Musical Performance

Graduate Sunday

Do you know of a GRADUATE?

The church office is requesting the names of all High School, College, or Advanced Degree graduates to honor and celebrate them on Sunday, June 8th, during the 9:00 AM worship service at Davis Park.

Please provide the following information to the office:

- Name
- Contact information
- Institution graduating from
- Degree earned
- Family connection to AFUMC
- Plans following graduation.

You can reach us at 765-643-6977 or contact judy@andersonfirst.org