



# First United Methodist

FAITH FIRST. FAMILIES FIRST. ANDERSON FIRST.

First United Methodist Church  
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Anderson, Indiana



# THE VOICE

A Newsletter of First United Methodist

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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andersonfirst.org and  
follow us on Facebook

## 2025 GRADUATES

### Paris Privett

Graduating from: Yorktown High School  
Degree earned: High school diploma  
Connection to AFUMC: Childcare Employee  
Plans following Graduation: Ivy tech for nursing

### Jacob Rowley

Graduating from: Pendleton Heights High School  
Degree earned and any special awards: High School diploma  
& Captain of Football Team  
Connection to AFUMC: Family has been members of FUMC off and on  
for 40 years.  
Grandparents are Al and Lynn Rowley.  
Plans following Graduation: Attend Marian University; will play Rugby.

### Shane Lawhon

Graduating from: Morristown High School, Morristown, Indiana  
Degree earned and any special awards: Graduating with a Core 40  
Diploma; awarded Shelby County Advantage Scholarship  
Family Connection to AFUMC: Youngest grandson to Linda Verhulst;  
Attends & participates in worship; serves with Helping Hands  
Non-food Pantry.  
Plans following Graduation: Attend IVY Tech for two years & transfer to  
Ball State or Marion University majoring in Secondary Education and  
English at the High School level. Also get Master's Degree online.

### Madeleine Fenwick

-Graduating from: Butler University  
Degree earned: Healthcare and Business  
Family Connection to AFUMC: Nicole Ross is her grandmother;  
Jason and Jessica Fenwick are her parents  
Plans following Graduation: Starting a new job in July

### Claire Fenwick

Graduated from: Butler University  
Degree earned: Healthcare and Business  
Family Connection to AFUMC: Nicole Ross is her grandmother;  
Jason and Jessica Fenwick are her parents  
Plans following Graduation: Enrolled in a graduate nursing program at  
University of Indianapolis starting in August

### Spencer Fenwick

Graduated from: Cathedral High School  
Degree earned: High School diploma  
Family Connection to AFUMC: Nicole Ross is his grandmother;  
Jason and Jessica Fenwick are his parents; worked with Helping Hands  
Non-food Pantry  
Plans following Graduation: Attend Citadel in Charleston, South  
Carolina in August

The Fenwick family moved to Indianapolis four years ago. Before that,  
they were actively involved with our church.



# Adult Ministries

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE – June 2025

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE  
Memorial Day – Labor Day Weekends

June 1	ASCENSION SUNDAY COMMUNION Travel Arrangements Luke 24:44-53 9 a.m. Outdoor Worship at Davis Park Music: Sheryl Monnier Sound Tech: Mark Murray; Visual Tech: Matt Stout 10:45 a.m. Downtown Worship in N.S. Parlor Music: Michele Murray
June 8	PENTECOST GRADUATE SUNDAY Led By the Spirit Romans 8:14-18 (NLT) 9 a.m. Outdoor Worship at Davis Park Music: Arrows of the Almighty Sound Tech: Jim Hudson; Visual Tech: Matt Stout 10:45 a.m. Downtown Worship in N.S. Parlor Music: Sue Finger
June 15	FATHER'S DAY Wisdom Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 (NLT) 9 a.m. Outdoor Worship at Davis Park Music: Elizabeth Murray-Sherron & Michele Murray Sound Tech: Mark Murray; Visual Tech: Matt Stout 10:45 a.m. Downtown Worship in N.S. Parlor Music: Elizabeth Murray-Sherron & Michele Murray
June 22	SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST The Only One Who Cares 1 Kings 19:9-15 (NLT) 9 a.m. Outdoor Worship at Davis Park Music: Rachael Lashbrook and Rob Shaver Sound Tech: Jim Hudson; Visual Tech: Matt Stout 10:45 a.m. Downtown Worship in N.S. Parlor Music: Sheryl Monnier
June 29	THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Going. Going. Gone! 2 Kings 2:9-18 (NLT) 9 a.m. Outdoor Worship at Davis Park Music: Dan, Staci and Claire Miller Sound Tech: Mark Murray; Visual Tech: Matt Stout 10:45 a.m. Downtown Worship in N.S. Parlor Music: Michele Murray

## PENTECOST



On Pentecost Sunday, we remember the day the disciples received the Holy Spirit in a special way. The story in Acts 2 describes a powerful wind and tongues of fire as the Holy Spirit was poured out on people from all over the world who came to Jerusalem to celebrate a Jewish feast. At the first Pentecost over 3000 people were baptized, creating the first church. This is why Pentecost is known as the birthday of the Christian church.

June 8 is Pentecost Sunday.

# Treasurer's Minute

## Treasurer's Minute for: April 2025

	APR ACTUAL		2025 YEAR TO DATE	
	2025	2024	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Monthly Contributions	\$30,001	\$19,846	\$192,368	\$153,022
Other Income	\$3,450	\$3,344	\$14,739	\$14,854
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$33,451</b>	<b>\$23,190</b>	<b>\$207,107</b>	<b>\$167,876</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$48,819</b>	<b>\$44,220</b>	<b>\$208,088</b>	<b>\$203,663</b>
Excess (Deficit) Prior to Endowment Draw	(\$15,368)	(\$21,030)	(\$981)	(\$35,787)
Endowment Earnings Distribution	\$13,359	\$12,292	\$53,435	\$53,435
<b>Remaining Excess (Deficit)</b>	<b>(\$2,009)</b>	<b>(\$8,737)</b>	<b>\$52,454</b>	<b>\$17,648</b>

*DID YOU KNOW: Through the end of April no funds have been drawn from FUMC's investment portfolio to support operations?*



### ANNUAL CONFERENCE

June 4-7, 2025 at St. Luke's UMC, Indianapolis  
 The theme for this time of holy conferencing is "ALL IN: Called, Committed, Connected," and our worship services, business sessions, and mission and ministry celebrations will be guided by the words of Romans 15:13: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (NIV).  
 You are represented by Rev. Corinne Boruff  
 and Lay Representative, Dorinda Cassiday (alternate is Sarah Taylor).  
 Pray for the work of your church!

### ASSOCIATE PASTOR Rev. Dr. Brian White

On July 1, 2025, Pastor Brian will begin serving as our ¼-time Associate Pastor. He is retiring as a full-time elder at the end of June and has served UM churches in Indiana for 39 years, spending the last twelve years as Lead Pastor at St. Mark's UMC in Carmel. Brian's ministry with us will include adult discipleship/education, visitation and member care and occasional preaching. Both Brian and his wife Michelle are excited to get to know people and look forward to being active in the congregation. Brian will preach at the 9 a.m. worship service at Davis Park on July 13. He will be joining Alpha Brass and will play in worship at 9 a.m. on July 20. A reception to welcome Brian and Michelle will be downtown in the Narthex on July 27 from 9-10 a.m. (Children's Musical at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary.)

### NEWEST MEMBERS

We welcome Ryan Falkenberry, Claire Miller, Skylar St. Laurent and Lucas Tupling were received through Confirmation as full members of Anderson First United Methodist Church. Along with you, they pledged their prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness in serving Christ as a faithful disciple.

### FATHER'S DAY

Whether it's a father, a grandfather, or someone who has been like a father, their care is a true gift from God. We will honor our father-figures on Sunday, June 15.

### J.O.Y LUNCH June 20 at 11:30 a.m.

Enjoy being a kid again with our presentation from Magication Station: Elfie, the magician. Magication Station is the first elf run toy store in the world. Elfie, the owner of the store preforms magic and makes balloon animals for children of all ages! The meal for this special event will be Ruby's chicken salad. Make your reservation by Wednesday, June 18. Bring a friend!

**DEVOTION**  
by Steve Anderson

The Lord God put the man in the Garden of Eden to take care of it and look after it. Genesis 2:15: "We are all children of the Great Spirit; we all belong to Mother Earth." All creatures are one; what we do to one we do to the entire web of life." Fence building? "The earth is our mother one does not pound stakes in their mother." "To harm the earth is to heap contempt on its creator".

June is named for the Roman goddess Juno protector of women, children and generally all life including the environment. What began as a slow emergence of new life in April and May by June has reached full speed in transforming the cold drab empty fields of winter into new Gardens of Eden.

We are told in no uncertain terms to care for our renewed gardens. As part of the renewal of the gardens many June weddings take place indicating that new families will be created needing the utmost care. Planting and caring for a garden consists of a spiritual journey that you and God take together. God supplies the seeds and it is your responsibility to do the very best for that garden to fulfill its destiny in providing food for the table.

This spiritual journey begins in late winter by selecting and ordering seeds for the new garden. This is comparable to a young expectant mother selecting items for the nursery. Opening the soil and planting the seeds is very spiritual as much faith is required that the seeds will germinate and grow. The partnership between a man, woman and God to produce new life requires much faith and then much caring and nurturing so that child can fulfill its destiny.

Over the years I have witnessed countless times the spiritual bond my father had with gardens as we worked together to once again create our own Gardens of Eden. My father considered these plants his children and put his whole heart and soul into caring and nurturing them. Once a gentleman was visiting my father and they were standing in the garden. I was nearby and overheard the gentleman marvel at the beauty of the garden. He exclaimed "God had really created a beautiful garden for you".

I instantly realized that my father was very irritated by that comment. I had seen that same look many times throughout my life. My dad then replied "Well God had a hell of a lot of help". At that point the visit came to an end.

I like to think my dad is in the Garden of Eden with God and God has said to him "You know you really are a lot of help".

## Church News

### DIRECTORS' JAZZ ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCE

Mark your calendars! The Directors' Jazz Orchestra is returning to the stage for another unforgettable evening of big band jazz at **The Jazz Kitchen** on **Tuesday, June 3rd at 7:00 p.m.** Whether you're a longtime fan or new to their sound, this performance promises high-energy arrangements, top-tier musicianship, and a night of pure musical joy.

Grab your tickets now—seating is limited and shows often sell out!

Use this link <https://www.instantseats.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.event&eventID=4E06F8A1-90C2-28AA-77690B133C95BD35> or visit their website for more information to purchase tickets.

Come out and support live music—your ears will thank you!

### BOOK CLUB 2025-2026

Do you like to read? Have you ever thought you would like to discuss the books you are reading? Come join us at the next meeting of the first Untied Methodist Church Book Club. We meet monthly from September thru May at 9:30 AM in the church library on the first Tuesday of each month. Together we choose the books we read and one of our members volunteers to lead the discussion. We would love to have new members. Here are the books we have chosen for next season.

September 2: Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby VanPelt

October 7: The Book of Charlie by David VonDrehle

November 4: the War I Finally Won by Kimberly B. Bradley

December 2: The Wish Book Christmas by Lynn Austion

January 6: Code Name Helene by Ariel Lawhon

February 3: The Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon

March 3: TBA

April 7: TBA

May 5: Lunch

# Outreach Ministries

## OUTREACH NEWS

Outreach has 2 major events to announce. Firstly, Candy located a grant from Madison County Community Foundation which she shared with our grant committee. It's comprised of Candy Short, Bill Brown, DeWayne Landwehr, Dave and me. Our focus for this grant was Buddy Bags. The goal is to increase protein and or extend delivery dates. To our delight, Buddy Bags did receive the \$3,00.00 grant! Johanne Coleson, the Buddy Bag director was unable to attend the grant reception, so Bill and DeWayne were recipients of the grant which Candy and I had collaborated on. Johanne Coleson and members of the Buddy Bag team were interviewed by Lilly Jones from the Herald Bulletin and pictures taken. Look for the article! There will be an MCCF award sign at Davis Park to commemorate the event. Secondly, the Grille starts June 1st. We have had numerous inquiries as to its start date and much anticipation stated from our guests. The Grille will run from June 1 through August 31. Thank you for your continued support in our ministries.

Sincerely, Susan and Dave

## HELPING HANDS NON-FOOD PANTRY

At our May 14th Pantry, we gave two large rolls of toilet paper, toothpaste, a toothbrush, flossers, deodorant for a woman or man and dish soap to 81 people. The Aspire caseworkers who pick up bags for their clients each month were attending a meeting in Noblesville and weren't able to be at our Pantry. We usually give them a total of 20 bags. We are grateful we can help them serve their clients, who are unable to attend our Pantry, with items they need.

Our next Pantry will be June 11, 2025 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. We are requesting donations of Toilet Paper, Shampoo or Lotion. They will help us provide the different items we give to our guests each month.

Sincerely, Linda Verhulst, Juanita Slattery, Karen Ambler

## READ A CHAPTER A DAY

### Summer 2025 Challenge

We're so excited to embark on this journey of spiritual growth and discovery with you. We'll be reading through Romans, 1 Corinthians, and 2 Corinthians—three powerful letters from the apostle Paul that continue to shape our faith and understanding of Christian community.

The challenge **begins Monday, June 9**, and concludes **Saturday, July 26**.

#### Each day read one chapter.

Reading Schedule (June 9–July 26, 2025)

June 9–June 24: Romans 1–16

June 25: Reflection on Romans

June 26–July 11: 1 Corinthians 1–16

July 12: Reflection on 1 Corinthians

July 13–July 25: 2 Corinthians 1–13

July 26: Reflection on 2 Corinthians

Register at

[www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/read-a-chapter-a-day-summer-2025-challenge](http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/read-a-chapter-a-day-summer-2025-challenge)

Let's walk together through Paul's teachings on faith, grace, love, and the call to live as disciples of Christ.

## STAFF CHANGES IN MUSIC DEPARTMENT

With our deepest appreciation we accepted Sarah Taylor's retirement from her church position as the Wesley Bell Choir Director effective May 31, 2025. Sarah is excited to launch into a Master's program in her field of Music Therapy. Sue Finger, Director of Music will begin as the Wesley Bell Choir Director on June 1, 2025. We are grateful for the time and talent Sarah shared with us in bells.

Abby Mercer has retired as Children's Choir Director on April 27, 2025 as she moves to Muncie to pursue other musical opportunities. We wish Abby the best in your pursuits and sent her with our love. Emma Copes is beginning as the Children's Choir Director beginning May 4, 2025. We look forward to working with Emma!

April 1, 2025

Anderson First United Methodist Church  
1215 Jackson St  
Anderson, IN 46016-1652

Dear Anderson First United Methodist Church,

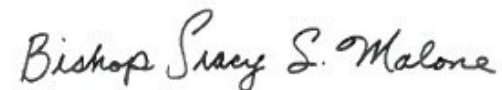
The Indiana Conference is committed to the well-being of every person that our local United Methodist Churches and faith communities serve.

We are called to provide protection and safety for all persons including children, youth, and vulnerable adults. The United Methodist Church affirms that all children, youth, and vulnerable adults have the right to expect a welcoming and safe environment.

The Indiana Conference, through the Children Matter Most ministry, recognizes your church for adopting the child protection guidelines, completing the training course, and providing proof of said policies. May your safekeeping of all children, youth, and vulnerable adults inspire and bless everyone you serve.

Please accept this certificate in recognition of your leadership and commitment.

Grace and Peace,



Rev. Dr. Tracy S. Malone  
Resident Bishop  
Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church

cost of lunches, snacks, and a T-shirt for each child. Scholarships are available! Check out the full schedule below. Please invite any other children you know who might be interested in participating. Rehearsals, meetings, and the performance will occur at Anderson First UMC.

Musical Schedule:

Online registration- May 11th- July 17th

Onsite Registration- July 18th @ 4:45-5:30

Parent and Participant Meeting- July 18th @ 5:30-6:00

Full Cast Party/Intro Rehearsal- July 18th @ 6:00-8:30

Full Cast Rehearsal/Auditions for Solos & Speaking parts- July 20th @ 2:00-5:00

Full Cast Rehearsal \*Lunch and snacks provided- July 21-25 @ 9:00-3:00

Rehearsal for speaking parts only- July 21 @ 5:00-6:30

Performance at Anderson First UMC- July 27th @ 10am \*Performers report at 9am

Register Here: <https://andersonfirst.org/musical>

### Questions?

For questions or more information, please contact Sue Finger at [sfinger@acsc.net](mailto:sfinger@acsc.net) or call 765-620-3170 or Ally Hall at [Ally@andersonfirst.org](mailto:Ally@andersonfirst.org)

### MUSICAL FOOD

We are doing it again!!! Our annual musical is in the works right now! A Not So Terrible Parable is the name of this year's musical, and we ask for your help in the following ways:

1. Invite children you know to join us! For more info and to register, click here <https://andersonfirst.org/musical>
2. We need snacks, lunch, and bottles of water. Snacks are needed on the evenings of July 18th and 20th. Snacks and lunch are needed every day from July 21-25. Cookies and coffee are needed for the coffee hour following the performance on July 27.

If you can help, please email Ally Hall at [ally@andersonfirst.org](mailto:ally@andersonfirst.org) with the day you would like to provide food and what food you plan to bring. Thank you so much for supporting this ministry!

### **SOS Operation Love School Supplies**

Throughout June, we are partnering with Operation Love during their annual school supply drive!

You can donate supplies from this list and drop them off in the designated buckets on Sunday morning:

- 1 inch Binder Backpacks (plain colors)
- Colored Pencils
- Composition Books (College/Wide Ruled)
- Expo Dry Erase Markers
- Folders (blue/orange/yellow)
- Loose Leaf Paper (College/Wide)
- Pencil Boxes
- Regular Markers
- Crayola
- Sharpies
- Spiral Notebooks (Wide)

Please make sure all donations are in by June 30th so we can take them to Operation Love!

### **SOS Animal Shelter**

Schedule a time during the week of June 9th to head over to the animal shelter to volunteer! They can always use a hand cleaning up, purchasing supplies, or walking dogs. Head over to <https://www.inapl.org/volunteer> to submit a volunteer application and schedule a time for your family to serve. Make sure to take plenty of pictures and tag us on social media @andersonfirstkids or @anderson\_first\_youth so we can see the ways that your family is serving our community this summer!

### **SOS Primrose Worship**

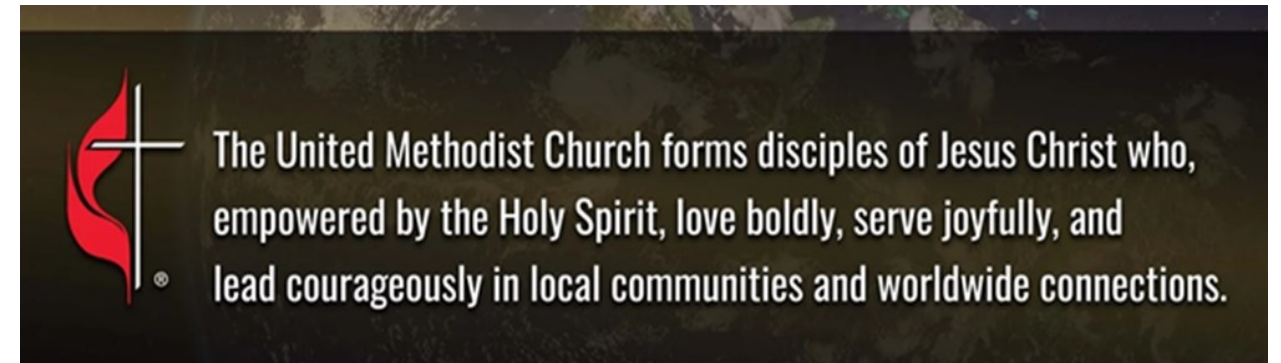
June 29th @ 1:30-2:45 at Primrose Retirement Community

It's a new week during our Summer of Serving! Join us at Primrose Retirement Community on June 29th at 1:30-2:45 as we assist in the worship service for the residents. We will be singing, reading scripture, and connecting with members of our congregation that we don't usually get to see at church. Please email Ally Hall at [ally@andersonfirst.org](mailto:ally@andersonfirst.org) to let her know how you and your family would like to participate in this Summer of Serving event.

### **MUSIC AND DRAMA CAMP**

Anderson First is bringing back their Summer Musical!

People in 2nd-8th Grade are welcome to join us for the "Not So Terrible Parable" musical. **Online registration is open now**, and the performance is on July 27th at 10am. It is \$15 per child to help cover the



### THE NEW VISION OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Stepping in faith into a new season of ministry.

**Love Boldly:** We passionately love God and, like Jesus, embrace and include people of every age, nation, race, gender, and walk of life. (Matthew 22:37-39 | John 13:34-35)

**Serve Joyfully:** With the heart of Christ, we journey alongside the most vulnerable among us, offering care and compassion with joy. (Psalm 100:1 | Nehemiah 8:10 | John 13:14-15 | 1 Peter 4:10)

**Lead Courageously:** Following Jesus' example, we resist and dismantle all systems of evil, injustice, and oppression, striving for peace, justice, and reconciliation. (Joshua 1:9 | Ephesians 6:10)

The hope is this new vision makes clear both who United Methodists are and where God is leading them.



## Family Ministries

### FIRST KIDS BLURB

We have one question for you, First families... Is your family ready to *Discover It*? That's our First Kids Theme this June with the Simple Truth, "I Am Meant to Know God."! We will look at Bible stories from the life of Abraham as we teach kids they can trust in God, talk with God, listen to God, and walk with God. We can't wait to worship with you out at Davis Park on Sundays at 9am. But don't let the fun end there! What could be a better way to discover God than to serve God's people? Every week in June and July, we will offer a special opportunity for our families to serve God and our community. We can't wait to learn and serve alongside all of our families this summer at Anderson First UMC!

### MOVE TO DAVIS PARK

We are heading out to Davis Park for summer worship and are super excited that First Kids is moving out there too!

During our 9 AM worship service at Davis Park, we invite all children ages 5 and older to join their families on the first Sunday of each month. For the rest of the month, First Kids classes will take place in the Lodge! This arrangement enables kids up to 5th grade to engage in their regular classes, featuring age-appropriate activities. It also offers parents the chance to serve and worship while providing leadership an opportunity to welcome new families with the same level of programming as downtown. Please remember to sign-in your children at the table by the Lodge before the worship begins. Children under 3 can be dropped off in the sunroom before worship. Kids aged 3 and up will gather in the Lodge. For any inquiries regarding the Davis Park Kids programming, please reach out to Ally Hall. We eagerly look forward to worshipping with you and your families this summer!

### SOS Davis Park Beautification

June 7th @ 10-11:30 at Davis Park

We are SUPER excited to kick off our Summer of Serving. Join us on June 7th from 10-11:30 AM as we plant things, pick up litter, and work on projects around Davis Park. Make sure to wear clothes that can get messy. Please email Ally Hall at [ally@andersonfirst.org](mailto:ally@andersonfirst.org) to let her know you and your family plan to attend this Summer of Serving event.

### 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.

Use the link here <https://www.andersonfirst.org/graduates/> or provide the following information to the office:

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

### YG MINI GOLF OUTING

#### You're Invited to an Anderson First Students Mini Golf Outing!

Get ready for a fun-filled day of mini golf! Join us for an exciting outing where we can hang out, enjoy some friendly competition, and make awesome memories together.

**Date:** June 8th  
**Time:** 1:30-3:00  
**Location:** Putt Pirates  
**Cost:** \$10 per person

Whether you're a mini golf pro or just looking to have some fun, this is the perfect chance to unwind and connect with friends.

Please RSVP to Ally Hall by June 1st so we can reserve our spot.

We can't wait to see you there!