



# First United Methodist

FAITH FIRST. FAMILIES FIRST. ANDERSON FIRST.

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# THE VOICE

A Newsletter of First United Methodist

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT

The Indiana Annual Conference gathered at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Indianapolis, Indiana, June 4-7, 2025.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Visit us on the web at [andersonfirst.org](http://andersonfirst.org) and follow us on Facebook

### PLENARY HIGHLIGHTS

- The 2026 budget was adopted.
- 30 churches were acknowledged for their many years of changing lives, though they disbanded in the last year.
- Impact 2818 Outdoor Ministries reported 1,580 campers last year with 175 first-time commitments to Christ and 110 calls to vocational ministry.
- Multiple resolutions and amended resolutions passed, aspiring things like ensuring linguistic inclusivity and accessibility in Indiana UMC; immigration and attorney fees for clergy families; appreciation for associate members and licensed local pastors; comprehensive plan for closed church funds and transparency for all district funds.

### SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

The Conference honored the lives of 34 clergy, 25 spouses, and 6 laity who have joined the Church Triumphant in the last year.

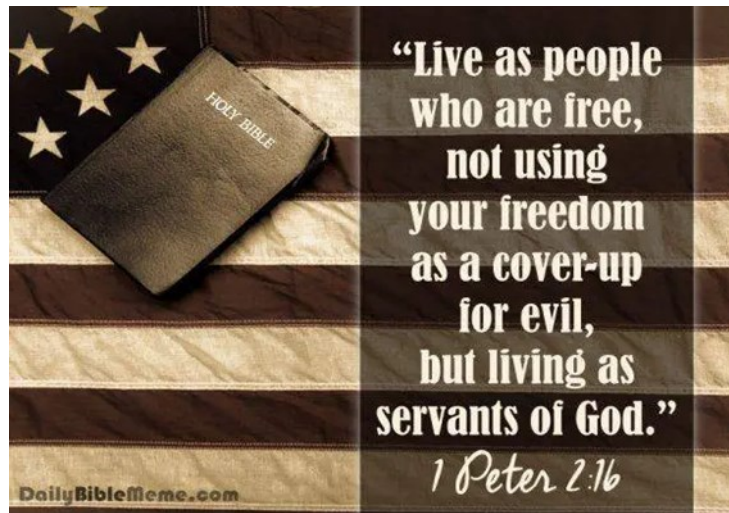
### EPISCOPAL ADDRESS

Bishop Tracy S. Malone presented her episcopal address entitled, "For such a time as this." "If there were ever a time we need to multiply who have joined the Church Triumphant in the last year.

### SERVICE OF COMMISSIONING, ORDINATION, AND RETIREMENT

- 26 retirees were honored for their 701 years of combined service.
- 2 persons were ordained as deacons.
- 5 persons were ordained as elders.
- 2 persons were commissioned for ministry as elders
- 1 person was commissioned for ministry as a deacon.
- 8 persons were recognized for their completion of Course of Study.
- Rt. Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows (Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis) offered words of Inspiration in her sermon, "Picking Up and Laying Down The Loving Work of the Shepherd."

Full details from the 2025 Annual Conference can be found at [inumc.org/annual-conference](http://inumc.org/annual-conference).



# Adult Ministries

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE – July 2025

- July 6  
HOLY COMMUNION  
What Superpower Would You Choose?  
Luke 10:1-11 (NLT)  
9 a.m. Outdoor Worship at Davis Park  
Music: Brass Quartet  
Sound Tech: Richard Cassiday  
Visual Tech: Matt Stout  
10:45 a.m. Downtown Worship in N.S. Parlor  
Music: Michele Murray
- July 13  
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
9 a.m. Outdoor Worship at Davis Park  
Preacher: Associate Pastor Brian White  
The Same Son Rises  
Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37 (NIV)  
Description: As we begin our journey together, we are reminded that the same God that has worked through us separately is working in us together. Paul writes a letter to the Colossian community, which he did not visit, to encourage them in their Christian ministry. It is a reminder that we find God already working as we connect with one another in life and ministry.  
Music: Mark & Michele Murray  
Sound Tech: Richard Cassiday  
Visual Tech: Matt Stout  
10:45 a.m. Downtown Worship in N.S. Parlor  
Preacher: Pastor Corinne Boruff  
A Religious Rumble  
Amos 7:7-17 (NLT)  
Music: Mark & Michele Murray
- July 20  
SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
Experience the Mystery  
Colossians 1:15-23 (NLT)  
9 a.m. Outdoor Worship at Davis Park  
Music: Alpha Brass  
Sound Tech: Jim Hudson  
Visual Tech: Matt Stout  
10:45 a.m. Downtown Worship in N.S. Parlor  
Music: Michele Murray
- July 27  
ONE SERVICE – DOWNTOWN SANCTUARY  
9-10 a.m. Reception for Brian & Michelle White (Narthex)  
10 a.m. Summer Musical in the sanctuary  
“The Not So Terrible Parable”

## 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 United 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

## SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

### “One in Spirit”

The focus is on United Methodists and Christians of other traditions, with the hope of United Methodist Christians becoming more engaged in our call from Jesus “to be one.” The study is written by The United Methodist Council of Bishops. It can also be accessed online at [www.unitedmethodistbishops.org](http://www.unitedmethodistbishops.org) for your individual study.

Join Pastor Corinne Boruff for dessert & study on  
**TUESDAYS** @ 6 p.m.  
in N.S. Parlor

July 8 – Session 1 – The Scriptural Calling  
July 15 – Session 2 – Unity Past Present and Future  
July 22 – Session 3 – What is The United Methodist church Doing?  
July 29 – Session 4 – What Can We Do?

# Outreach Ministries

## OUTREACH NEWS

Greetings from Outreach.

Helping Hands Non-Food Pantry continues to grow with Linda and her team assisting all who come.

Buddy Bags and Johanne's team are on a summer hiatus until the school year starts again in August. Hope you all saw Johanne and Dick's pictures along with the MCCF grant article in the Herald Bulletin May 28th. The additional funds received will be used to provide more protein per child.

Utility Assistance provides \$70.00 per guest with attendees numbering in the twenties.

The Grille started June 1st with 132 guests! We are blessed to have our church members and other organizations on teams that serve our guests along with weekly volunteers who assist us all year round. We are in need of more teams however. Do you know of a group from a club, social service group, philanthropic club or personal friends who would like to form a volunteer team? If so, please contact me at the church 765-643-6977 X1. A goal is to serve hot meals each Sunday if we can increase our teams.

Sincerely, Susan and Dave

## HELPING HANDS NON-FOOD PANTRY

Our June 11, 2025 Pantry was very well attended. We served 125 people, which was 18 more than the 107 we served at the April 9, 2025 Pantry. Attendees included people who attend each Pantry, people who requested help from the Utility Assistance program, first time attendees, and three Aspire Caseworkers who received a total of 24 bags for their clients who are unable to attend the Pantry. Each bag included two large rolls of toilet paper, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, a bar of soap and laundry detergent. We are so grateful for the donations our Congregation gives to our Pantry each month. Your generosity allows us to help more people in need.

Our next Helping Hands Non-Food Pantry will be July 9, 2025 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. We are requesting donations of toilet paper and deodorant for a man or woman. These donations will help us provide some of the items we are giving next month. Your support of our Pantry is appreciated very much. Thank you!

Sincerely, Linda Verhulst, Juanita Slattery, Karen Ambler

# Church News

## RE-APPOINTED

### Beginning our 9th year together in ministry!

In the United Methodist Church ordained clergy are appointed by our Bishop to serve a particular church one year at a time. On the final day of Annual Conference 2025, Bishop Malone announced that appointments in the Indiana United Methodist Conference were officially set. In commitment and renewal of my covenant as a clergy person in The United Methodist Church, I now reverently and with joy, accept my continued appointment to Anderson First UMC.

Praising God!  
Rev. Corinne Boruff



It hurts to lose someone. Find help at GriefShare. GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. You don't have to go through the grieving process alone. Carol and Ron Watson are trained and ready to Journey on this healing experience with you. There is no time limit to grief – days, months, years – so whenever you lost a loved one, this program can help.

Watch for days and times online and in the bulletin.  
Contact Carol Watson for details at 765-643-2352 or cwats4@yahoo.com

## CHURCH HISTORIAN

Anderson First UMC has such a long and vibrant history and each of you is a part of that. If you love our heritage and would love to explore and highlight parts of it periodically,

YOU may be called to be our Church Historian!  
An unoccupied room in the church has been designated as the Church History Room. Displays could be offered periodically for us to enjoy!  
As God calls you, please us know of your interest.  
Call (765) 643-6977, text (317) 9021845 or email corinne@andersonfirst.org

**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 continues through **Saturday, July 26**

**Each day read one chapter.**

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)

*Take a photo of the link on your phone and then touch your photo. This will open the link for you to register rather than typing it.*

**THE NOT-SO-TERRIBLE-PARABLE  
ONE WORSHIP SERVICE – JULY 27 – 10 A.M.**

The well-known story that Jesus told, called The Parable of the Good Samaritan, comes to life as a fun, over-the-top whodunit. Solving this mystery means discovering again just how far our Savior would go to rescue helpless sinners!  
Join us for this special Sunday!

**J.O.Y. LUNCH  
JULY 18**

Susan Selby and volunteers will present stories and information about AFUMC's community missions at this month's J.O.Y. Lunch on July 18 at 11:30 am – 1:00 pm.

Lunch will be a sandwich and salad from Mancino's.

Make your reservation by Wed. July 16 by notifying the church office, 765-643-6977.

Cost of the meal is \$12 per person and is paid upon arrival.

All are welcome!

**BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING**

The new school year is just around the corner, which means it's time for our Back-to-School Blessing ceremony! We are incredibly thankful for our children, students, and educators, and we understand how both exciting and nerve-wracking a new school year can be. We would love to take a moment to celebrate them, offer our prayers, and provide a small token for them to carry throughout the school year. Join us at Davis Park for worship on July 20th at 9 AM, and please bring along your school bag to the service. We can't wait to see you there and kick off the school year the right way!

**SOS: PRAYER BEAR DRIVE**

Our Summer of Service is winding down, but we've got one more thing for you and your family to do to serve our community! Did you know that we have a fantastic Prayer Bear ministry at Anderson First? We provide stuffed bears to people dealing with loss, sadness, illness, or stress as a reminder of God's love. We are asking for new stuffed bears to be brought in throughout the month of July. During the week of July 21st, we will take the time to pray over and tag these bears with an encouraging message. Thank you for helping us live our faith, nurture families, and serve our communities during this Summer of Service!

## 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 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:

- Early 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: July 20th @ 2:00-5:00; Speaking Parts @ 5:00-6:30
- Full Cast Rehearsal \*Lunch and snacks provided: July 21-25 @9:00-3:00
- Performance at Anderson First UMC: July27th @ 10am \*Performers report at 9:00 am

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, meals, and bottles of water. Dinners 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!

## PRAISE GOD FOR BAPTISM



### Maxwell Richard Douglas Stremming

was baptized on Sunday, June 22 at 9 a.m. service.

Max's Parents are Tucker and Erin Stremming

Big Sister is Adeline Stremming

Grandparents are Doug & Bonnie Stremming, Richard & Mary Falkenberry

Aunts & Uncles are Tyler Stremming & Amanda Vogt,

Matt & Maria Falkenberry

Cousins are Ryan & Connor Falkenberry

## WELCOME

### BRIAN & MICHELLE WHITE

to Anderson First United Methodist Church!

The Rev. Dr. Brian White will serve at our 1/4-time Associate Pastor beginning July 1.

Brian plans to work with us some Sundays, on Mondays & Tuesdays.

**Greet Brian & Michelle at a reception on July 27 from 9-10 a.m.**

in the downtown church Narthex.

(Summer Musical is at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary.)

Brian will preach at the Outdoor Service @ 9 a.m. on July 13

Brian will play with Alpha Brass at the Outdoor Service @ 9 a.m. on July 20.

Brian is also serving as the 1/4-time pastor at 5<sup>th</sup> Street UMC.

Contact Brian at [brian@andersonfirst.org](mailto:brian@andersonfirst.org)

## WELCOME NEW ACCOUNTANT

We welcome Heather Ashton as our Accountant.

She began her position on June 16, 2025. Heather is in the office regularly on Mondays and Tuesdays filling her remaining hours when needed each week.

Heather, husband and son live in Markleville.

Be sure to come by and offer her a warm Anderson First UMC greeting!

Contact Heather at [heather@andersonfirst.org](mailto:heather@andersonfirst.org)



## INDEPENDENCE DAY DEVOTION

by Steve Anderson

This past June 6 America paused for a moment to commemorate the 81st anniversary of D-Day. The purpose of the invasion was to rid Europe of the unspeakable evil of Nazi Germany. The American cemetery at Normandy overlooks Omaha Beach the landing zone for American troops that day in June 1944. The cemetery contains the graves of 9389 Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve and protect an idea. That idea became the founding philosophy for the creation of the United States.

This idea was written by Thomas Jefferson and states: "We the people hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights That among these rights are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of happiness That to secure these rights governments are instituted among men deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed That whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it and institute new government and organizing its powers in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness"

A little over a hundred words were written as part of the Declaration of Independence. These words sent a message to the people of the world that a very large bucket full of dreams was waiting for them. Did they come? The answer was and continues to be yes. They came by the millions.

One of the millions that came was my uncle who was from Greece. He put his hand in the bucket of dreams and established an ice cream and candy store in Greensburg, Indiana. He became so successful that he as able to buy an entire city block for rental to other businesses. Much of Jefferson's words were borrowed from the political philosopher John Locke.

There are also Biblical comments concerning the following:

Equality: Galatians 2:6; Genesis 1:27  
Life: Genesis 1:27  
Liberty: Joshua 24:15  
Pursuit of Happiness: Ecclesiastes 2:24-26  
Governments: Romans 13; Acts 5:29

## FIRST KIDS

This July at First Kids, we are teaching that, when it comes to Jesus, we are here to *Pass It On!* Our Simple Truth is, "I Am Here to Share Jesus." Kids will learn amazing things about Jesus that help us understand why it is important to share Him with others: Jesus is the only truth, God's only Son, the only way, and the one to follow. We hope to see you at Davis Park on Sundays at 9am for worship! Summer might be winding down, but the fun at First Kids is still in high gear. Don't forget to join us as we continue our Summer of Serving all month long and attend our Back to School Blessing during worship on July 20th. We look forward to closing out the month with you and our performance of the Not-So-Terrible Parable on July 27th at Anderson First UMC at 10am. Check out the details for all of these events and more down below!

## SOS: BLESSING BAG EVENT

July 12th @ 10-11:30 at Anderson First UMC  
Our summer of serving is continuing at Anderson First UMC as we plan to support our Community Grill. On July 12th from 10-11:30, we will make blessing bags for our outreach team to distribute to the guests at the grill. Join us in the Fellowship Hall as we pack the bags. All supplies will be provided so all we need is you! 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.

## YOUTH GROUP BOWLING

You're invited to an awesome bowling outing with Anderson First Students!

Get ready for a day of strikes, spares, and lots of laughs! It's the perfect chance to kick back, show off your bowling skills (or just have fun trying!), and make some great memories with friends.

**When:** July 13th

**Time:** 1:30-3:00

**Where:** Championship Lanes

**Cost:** \$10 per person

Whether you're a bowling champ or just there for the fun, we'd love to see you! Please let Ally Hall know if you can make it by July 6th so we can book our spots. Can't wait to go bowling with you all!