



First United Methodist

FAITH FIRST. FAMILIES FIRST. ANDERSON FIRST.

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THE VOICE

A Newsletter of First United Methodist

NATIONAL FRIENDSHIP DAY

National Friendship Day occurs every year on the first Sunday of August — August 3, 2025 — and celebrates the importance of loving, platonic relationships. Friendships are the purest type of human relationships.

Here are ways to celebrate your friends:

Here are some specific ideas:

Spend time together

Go for coffee, have a picnic, or enjoy a fun activity

Send a thoughtful message

Share memories or express gratitude

Show appreciation

Give a card, a small present, or a shared experience

Revisit old memories

Share stories and reminisce

Host a party

Get all your friends together

Connect virtually

Use video calls or social media to connect

Jesus said, "No longer do I call you servants, ... but I have called you friends" John 15:15

NEW DISTRICT

Rally Day (West Central Plains District)

In the fall, there will be a Rally Day in each of the five newly-formed districts. This will be the first gathering of the new districts and will be a time of celebration to engage our shared mission and vision, to meet the District Superintendent and the district leadership, to connect with pastors and laity within the district, and to meet Conference support staff. Bishop Malone will be present at each Rally Day and will share a message during this worshipful experience.

Date: September 13

Time: 3:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Location: Zionsville UMC, 9644 Whitestown Rd., Zionsville

Plan ahead to attend!

**'Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can...'
- John Wesley**



Adult Ministries

WORSHIP SCHEDULE – August 2025

August 3

HOLY COMMUNION

Real Security

Luke 12:13-21 (NIV)

9 a.m. Outdoor Worship at Davis Park

Music: Director's Jazz Orchestra

Sound Tech: Mark Murray

Visual Tech: Matt Stout

10:45 a.m. Downtown Worship in N.S. Parlor

Music: Michele Murray

August 10

9th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9 a.m. Outdoor Worship at Davis Park

Rev. Dr. Brian White preaching

Music: Arrows of the Almighty

Sound Tech: Jim Hudson

Visual Tech: Matt Stout

10:45 a.m. Downtown Worship in N.S. Parlor

Son-burned, Wind-blown, Earth-Stained

Luke 12:32-40 (NLT)

Rev. Corinne Boruff preaching

Music: Sheryl Monnier

"SHIPS" OF OUR FAITH

Our faith tradition is built on many words that end with the word "ship" like fellowship, stewardship, citizenship, leadership and worship to name a few.

For the next three Sundays we will look at Membership, Discipleship, and Relationship.

August 17

10th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

"Ships" of Our Faith: Membership

Acts 20:28-32; Luke 12:49-56 (NLT)

9 a.m. Outdoor Worship at Davis Park

Music: Joyful Jazz

Sound Tech: Richard Cassidy;

Visual Tech: Matt Stout

10:45 a.m. Downtown Worship in N.S. Parlor

Music: Michele Murray

August 24

11th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

"Ships" of Our Faith: Discipleship

Hebrews 13:15-16; Luke 13:10-17 (NLT)

9 a.m. Outdoor Worship at Davis Park

Music: Matt Finger

Sound Tech: Richard Cassidy

Visual Tech: Matt Stout

10:45 a.m. Downtown Worship in N.S. Parlor

Music: Sue Finger

August 31

LAST SUNDAY OF SUMMER SCHEDULE LABOR DAY WEEKEND

"Ships" of Our Faith: Relationship

Ephesians 4:1-7; Luke 14:1, 7-14 (NLT)

9 a.m. Outdoor Worship at Davis Park

Music: Mark & Michele Murray

Sound Tech: Jim Hudson

Visual Tech: Matt Stout

10:45 a.m. Downtown Worship in N.S. Parlor

Music: Mark & Michele Murray

HELPING HANDS NON-FOOD PANTRY

Although we had a slow start at our July 9th Helping Hands Non-Food Pantry, we were able to provide a bag filled with two large rolls of toilet paper, toothpaste, a toothbrush, deodorant for a man or woman, two razors for a man or woman, and a bottle of dish soap to **102 guests**. We are always happy to see the people who attend every Pantry, as well as first-time guests, because we know the items they receive are helpful to them. We make sure that the people who come to our Pantry after requesting Utility Assistance, as well as first time guests, know that our Pantry is always the second Wednesday of each month from 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M., so they are also able to receive items that help them. The two Aspire Caseworkers who attended the Pantry received a total of 20 bags for their clients who are unable to attend our Pantry. The generous donations of our Congregation enable us to help more people in need each month. We are blessed to have such a giving Congregation.

Our next Helping Hands Non-Food Pantry is scheduled for August 13, 2025 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. For that Pantry, we are requesting donations of toilet paper, shampoo or conditioner. Your donations will help our Pantry is appreciated very much. Thank you!

Sincerely—Linda Verhulst, Juanita Slattery, Karen Ambler

Music Ministry

MUSICIANS NEEDED!!

Have you given any thought to being part of the music program at FUMC? We will be getting started again very soon and we would love to have you join us!

This is an open invitation to join the Sanctuary Choir! This group rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:00 p.m. You do not need to be able to read music to participate and you will enjoy the fellowship and music making.

The Choir Kick Off will be Wednesday, August 27 at 6:00 p.m. at Davis Park. We will begin with a pitch in dinner - hamburgers & hotdogs are provided. Following dinner, we will have a rehearsal until 8:00 p.m. Childcare is provided.

There are currently two openings in the Bell Choir. The group rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-6:55. You do need to be able to read music to participate. Bell rehearsals will begin September 10.

If you are interested in either of these opportunities or have questions, feel free to reach out to Sue Finger at sfinger@acsc.net

Church News

CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES August 3

Enjoying National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day!
Our refreshment following worship on
August 3 will be chocolate chip cookies.

A great American treat that has made its way all around the world, this cookie is the center of attention for National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day in August. In the late 1930s, Ruth Wakefield was running the Toll House restaurant in Massachusetts when she developed her recipe for chocolate chip cookies. Still today the most popular cookie in the United States and globally, is the chocolate chip cookie.

Excerpt from
**A CALL FOR PEACE IN
THE MIDST OF CONFLICT IN MIDEAST**

The Bible reminds us that "blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (Matthew 5:9). We are called to be peacemakers, seeking solutions that promote understanding and reconciliation. A continued conflict in the Middle East would have devastating consequences, causing irreparable harm to innocent lives and destabilizing the region and affecting communities throughout the world. In this critical moment, we call on all United Methodists to join our efforts in advocating for peace. May God guide us toward a hopeful future, where nations and peoples can live in harmony and mutual respect. Together, let's join in this prayer:

God of justice and compassion,
we lift our voices in prayer for peace in the Middle East,
that all hearts may turn from violence to understanding and from fear
to hope. Guide your leaders with wisdom and courage to pursue the
path of peace, rooted in the dignity and sacred worth of every person.
May our prayers rise as a witness to your hope and healing for all nations.

Bishop Tracy S. Malone
President, Council of Bishops
The United Methodist Church

J.O.Y. LUNCH August 15

Dave Peter, Airplane Pilot will share with us his experiences of being a small engine plane pilot. Join us for this month's J.O.Y. Lunch August 15 at 11:30-1 p.m.

Lunch will be a tenderloin sandwich and side.
Make your reservation by Wed. August 13 by notifying the church office,
765-643-6977.

Cost of the meal is \$12 per person and is paid upon arrival.
All are welcome!



Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Good Shepherd Conference

June 23, 2025

Susan Selby
First United Methodist Church
1215 Jackson Street
Anderson, IN 46016

Dear Susan Selby,

St. Vincent de Paul Society of Anderson wishes to thank the First United Methodist Church for your generous \$900.00 financial gift. Your generosity enables us to continue to reach out to those in need in Anderson that need financial help. Help is given for their gas, electric and rental bills. As always, our volunteers interview face to face with the individual to ensure that their needs are legitimate. Your contribution allows us to do this. Our clients have always been very thankful for this financial help.

Last year, we helped over 800 clients with their bills. We plan to continue this in the coming months and years. Your contribution allows us to do this.

Thank you again for helping us meet the needs in our community.

We are grateful for your continued help.

Sincerely,

Volunteers of St. Vincent de Paul Society


Keith Olson, President

P.O. Box 951 • Anderson, Indiana 46015 • Phone 765/642-5401

Outreach Ministries

OUTREACH NEWS

VIEW & SHARE: Be a Digital Disciple!

One of the simplest and most powerful ways to share Christ's love is just a click away.

VIEW

Stay connected with Anderson First UMC online! Follow us on Facebook to see worship services, *Coffee with Corinne*, *Downtown Devotions*, upcoming events, and more. You can also visit our website at andersonfirst.org to explore ministries, watch past services, and stay up to date with what's happening in our church family.

SHARE

Your share could be someone's invitation to hope. When you click "Share," you're helping spread the Good News and inviting others to experience God's love—online or in person.

Your click matters. Your post could be someone's turning point.

PRAY FOR FLOOD VICTIMS & AND GIVE!

As families & communities mourn loss of life and property from catastrophic flooding in Central Texas, UMCOR has offered a solidarity grant to the Rio Texas Annual Conference if the UMC. This grant will provide immediate relief to those impacted, through Early Response Team deployment assistance, debris removal, distribution of relief supplies and more. 100% of what you give will support relief and recovery efforts when given to UMCOR.

ONLINE: bit.ly/umcorusdr

PHONE: 1-888-252-6174

MAIL: Global Ministries/UMCOR

Gpo, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY 10087-9068

"Advance #901670-Texas Floods" on memo line

PRAYER MAIL

Prayer Mail is a closed email group of 73 households of prayer partners. Requests for prayer are sent only when a person/family has given permission to share the information. If you would like to join us in prayer, please send your email to Judy Whitney, Office Manager at judy@andersonfirst.org to be added. Prayer mail is sent as permission is granted. Thank you to those who faithfully lift up these requests to God.

When you have a need for prayer please let the office and/or Pastor Corinne know that you are seeking the prayers of the "prayer mail" group.

Greetings from Outreach.

Outreach is preparing for the late summer season in a couple of different ways. Buddy Bags starts preparation for return to school and will put to good use the grant money from MCCF. This will be used to add protein item(s) to each bag given. This is good news for a school population that sadly experiences food insecurity on a regular basis. Thank you, Buddy Bag team! The Grille is winding up the last month of outdoor cookouts. Thanks to our Youth and their families for assembling blessing bags to distribute to our guests at the end of August Grille season. A big thanks to all of you who have contributed to our ministries in any fashion.

Sincerely, Susan and Dave
Outreach Coordinators

Thank You Outreach Ministries

June 23, 2025

To Whom It Concerns,

We were thrilled to receive your generous check of \$900 today. Your church is one of the founding fathers of The Mex. City Literacy Center. It is because of the gifts we receive from you and other individuals, organizations, and churches we are able to address the problem of adult literacy. One out of 5 adults have difficulty with language. It is one of the most problems in the U.S. It's been identified but has not been solved. We do make a difference. Sincerely,
An Shoomaker



Primrose Service
June 29, 2025



STEWARDSHIP CHANGE

You are a generous and faithful congregation, and for that we say, "THANK YOU!" The 2025 opportunity to share your estimate of giving will be in September with a slight **change to the giving card format.** For the past 2 years you have had an opportunity to give to Family Ministry above your General Fund offering. We ask that you prayerfully consider continuing to give at the same or increased amount to the General Fund (combining what you had given in the past). This will allow us more flexibility to plan. Thank you for your prayerful consideration!

LAY LEADERSHIP

In preparation for our October Charge Conference, your Nominating Committee (also known as Lay Leadership Committee) will be praying about, contacting and inviting members to serve God by serving on a leadership team or committee. If there is a specific ministry you feel God is nudging you into, contact Pastor Corinne (Chr. of the Nominating Committee). corinne@andersonfirst.org or 317-902-1843. Looking forward to hearing from you!



Operation Love School Supply Drive



Prayer Bear Ministry

RETURN SUNDAY September 7

The LAST SUNDAY of the Summer Schedule is August 31.

On September 7 we begin ONE SERVICE at 10 a.m. in the Downtown Sanctuary
WORSHIP will include:
Family Ministry Promotion and the distribution of 3rd Grade Bibles,
Music by our talented Sanctuary Choir and Brass Band,
Dedication of the Repaired, Re-paved Parking Lot,
and Inspirational Message
Followed by a BLOCK PARTY
Grilled hamburgers and hotdogs complimented by your side dishes and desserts.
Dining in the parlors or outside under the portico
Bounce House, bubbles, games and more!
Let's celebrate together!



Blessing Bag Event
July 12, 2025



PARKING LOT

The Downtown church parking lot is scheduled to be repaired and re-paved the week of **August 4 weather permitting**. While the parking lot is closed we have permission to park in the Herald Bulletin lots off 12th Street. Enter the church using Door #1 which faces 12th Street. This is inconvenient in the moment but will be a great blessing when complete.

Technology Updates: Five Years of Progress and Purpose

Over the past five years, our church has embraced a season of growth and innovation in technology, all with the goal of better serving our congregation and community. During the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, we were blessed to receive a grant from the Center for Congregations, which allowed us to take our worship services online. This investment laid the foundation for our current livestreaming capabilities—something we continue to offer today, ensuring that worship remains accessible to all, near or far.

In the years since, we've continued to modernize and improve. Our office space was rewired to support updated technology, and we replaced an aging phone system—saving nearly \$100 per month while gaining a more modern and reliable setup. We also upgraded our network infrastructure, reducing licensing costs and improving performance. Church-wide Wi-Fi coverage was expanded, and Davis Park now features permanent internet access, a new sound system, a projector in the lodge, and updated microphones—all supporting both worship and community events. We also transitioned to ChurchTrac, a new church management software that enhances our ability to track attendance, manage events, and support online giving and child check-in.

Looking ahead, we're excited about several projects currently underway. Phase 1 of our sanctuary lighting upgrade is replacing outdated incandescent spotlights with energy-efficient, multicolor LED fixtures. We're also installing security cameras throughout our Family Ministry areas and public spaces to enhance safety. A heartfelt thank you goes to our trustees for their support in funding these efforts. In the near future, we look forward to completing these projects, expanding Wi-Fi to the second floor, and continuing to explore ways to modernize our processes in ways that make sense for our mission and ministry.

SUMMER OF SERVICE RECAP!

Thank you so much to everyone who participated in the Anderson First Summer of Service! Together, we were able to...

- Clean Davis Park
- Lead worship for the Primrose congregation
- Donate 3,890 items for the Operation Love school supply drive
- Pack 150 Blessing Bags for the Outreach Ministry
- Donate, tag, and pray over new teddy bears for the Prayer Bear Ministry

Thank you for our Summer of Service and helping our kids learn that you are never too small to make a difference!

God Bless,
Ally Hall
Director of Family Ministries



Davis Park Beautification
June 7, 2025

YOUTH GROUP

Anderson First Students is getting ready to kick off on September 14th! AFS is for people in 6th-12th grade to find a place to learn, serve, and have fun together. We currently worship and serve together on Sundays at 10 and gather in the Youth room on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month from 11:15-1:15. During our time together, we play games and use Nua Origins curriculum to lead discussions about the bible and how it applies to our lives.

We also have AFS Midweek launching on September 3rd. Our students will meet in the youth room for a casual hangout, games, and community.

If you've got any questions about the Student Ministry, feel free to reach out to all Hall, our Director of Family Ministries.

GAME NIGHT

Join us for our first Game Night of the school year at First Kids Club! We're excited to invite all children ages 3 and up to our Game Night on Wednesday, September 10th, from 6 to 8 PM at First Kids Club. This event is a wonderful opportunity for kids to enjoy games and have a blast together as we celebrate being back downtown. We can't wait to spend time and play games with our fantastic Anderson First Kids!

KIDS CHOIR

Do-Re-Me-Fa-So-La-Ti-Do...you know that First Kids Choir is BACK on September 10th?!

If you've got kids aged 3 through 6th grade, we'd love for them to join our First Kids Choir! We meet on Wednesdays from 6:20-7PM 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.

DEVOTION FOR AUGUST

Matthew 13 Luke 6:38 Corinthians 9:6
You Reap What You Sow

By Steve Anderson

The Seed Savers Exchange will hold its 50-year anniversary celebration at their Heritage Farm in Decorah, Iowa August 8-9. The SSE was established in 1975 by Kent and Diane Whealy. Their purpose was to locate and collect heirloom seeds that had been preserved and passed down from generation to generation by gardeners. Their goal was to also to create a network of gardeners who could then exchange seeds with one another.

Today the SSE in order to fulfill the goal of preserving the genetic diversity of heirloom seeds maintains an extensive listing of thousands of seeds. In addition they also have contributed seeds to the United States government storage facility in Colorado and also the Svalbard Global seed Vault in Norway.

Seeds represent futures and without seeds there is no food and no future. Some people just don't get it as in a conversation about how well the farm crops were this year the reply was "I don't get my food from farms I get it a Kroger's." No seeds, No food, No Kroger's

Jesus used seeds in his parables as he taught the disciples the positive pathways to eternal life and salvation. A mustard seed was used in the analogy of the potential of not only a field of mustard but also of faith (Matthew 13). The themes of reaping what you sow are found in Luke 6:38 and Corinthians 9:6.

August is the month that new beginnings are near with the reaping of what we have sown not only in the fields but also the fruits of our own experiences. Questions to ask ourselves might include: Did we enter the summer sowing anger, frustration and despair over the cold realities of life? Did we do the opposite by sowing positive attitudes such as paying it forward or by participating in activities larger than ourselves extending kindness and love. In the first instance reaping the fruits of anger, frustration and despair produce very little because these items are internal and stunt growth. Sowing love and kindness reaps strengthened relationships and the realization that by being last we truly have become first.

We can now face the brutality of back to school and work routines that force us into the conformities of fall and winter. The Seed Savers Exchange started like a single mustard seed and has grown into an international organization housing thousands of heirloom seeds. You reap what you sow.



Family Ministries

YG MOVIE OUTING

You're Invited to Anderson First Students Movie Outing! Get ready for a fun afternoon out with friends at our movie outing! We'll have laughs, excitement, and of course, tons of popcorn!

When: August 10th

Time: 12:45-3:30 (movie starts at 1:00)

Where: Imagine Theater

Cost: \$10

Whether you're a movie lover or just want to kick back and enjoy some good vibes, this is the perfect chance to hang out and relax.

Let Ally Hall know if you're coming by August 3rd so we can make sure there's enough popcorn for everyone!

Can't wait to see you there!

FIRST KIDS CLUB

First Kids Club is BACK! We are kicking off the season at Davis Park on August 27th from 5:30-8:30. Weather permitting, we will have a water we are sure to have a blast.

Starting September 3rd, we meet in the fireplace room every Wednesday evening to extend our Sunday lessons through engaging games, crafts, and discussions. We look forward to welcoming you and your family to First Kids Club this school year!

PROMOTION SUNDAY

Get ready because Return Sunday is almost here! Anderson First Kids will be back in full swing, and we want you to join us at the downtown Anderson location at 10 AM on September 7th. It's going to be an exciting day, especially since it is also Promotion Sunday! That means the kids and students will be moving up to their new classes.

Here's the scoop on transitions:

- If your little one was in the Toddler room, has turned three, and is bathroom independent, they'll be moving downstairs to the Younger Kids classroom in the kids choir room
- God a kiddo heading into 1st Grade? They'll be leveling up to the Older Kids classroom in the Fireplace room!
- And those entering 6th Grade, welcome to the Student Ministry! They'll be joining us for worship on Sunday mornings, with classes happening on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 11:15 AM in the your room.

We can't wait to celebrate with you and your family on September 7th!

BLOCK PARTY

This year, we're making a BIG splash for Return Sunday on September 7th!

Join us for the churchwide Return Sunday Picnic at our downtown Anderson First location right after the 10am Worship Service. We'll gather for fellowship over a delicious meal featuring hot dogs and hamburgers, along with fun activities such as Jenga, bubbles, and a bouncy house for families. We are thrilled to celebrate our return to the downtown location with our Anderson First UMC family! And don't let the excitement stop there—this is a wonderful opportunity to invite a family member, friend, or neighbor to join you at church.

We kindly ask attendees to bring sides and desserts to church that morning, which we will keep in the North/South Parlor or the kitchen for additional refrigeration. Carts will be available for transporting food if needed. The meal will be served in the Parlor immediately after the service, with seating and tables available inside the Parlor and outside by doors 2 and 3 under the awning. While some parking will be reserved on Sunday morning, the awning will be accessible for use before the worship begins. We will need a few volunteers to help with setup during the 10am worship service and people willing to man the grill during the event. If you're interested in lending a hand or have questions about the Return Sunday Party, please reach out to Ally Hall via email at ally@andersonfirst.org.