



**First United Methodist**  
 FAITH FIRST. FAMILIES FIRST. ANDERSON FIRST.

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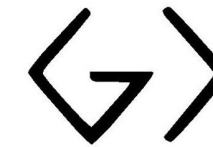


# THE VOICE

A Newsletter of First United Methodist



Anderson First United Methodist Church participates in our annual Charge Conference on Sunday, November 1 from 2-4 p.m. at Cicero United Methodist Church 100 E. Jackson Street, Cicero You are invited to join your pastors and church leaders!



## GOD IS GREATER THAN...

One aspect of growing as a disciple of Christ means that we are committed to responding to God's wonderful generosity. Being generous is about aligning our priorities with God's priorities, aligning our hearts with God's heart. We grow in that generosity as part of our individual spirituality, we also grow in generosity within our faith community as the body of Christ. We trust and know that God is greater than anything and everything.

### J.O.Y. LUNCH October 17

Join us for J.O.Y. Lunch on October 17 at 11:30-1 p.m. This month Sara Krumme, Ex. Director of Gateway Association will share about their recent expanded outreach to the community. Gateway leases the East end of the church building. The meal will be individual pizzas from Mancino's. Make your reservation by Wed. October 15 by notifying the church office, 765-643-6977. Cost of the meal is \$12 per person and is paid upon arrival. All are welcome!

# Adult Ministries

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE – October 2025

- October 5      STEWARDSHIP CELEBRATION  
Possibility > Status Quo  
Key Passage: John 14:11-14  
Music: Sanctuary Choir  
Sound Tech: Richard Cassidy  
Visual Tech: Matt Stout
- October 12     18th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
The Future You Hope For  
Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7 (NIV); 2 Timothy 2:8-13 (NLT)  
Music: Arrows of the Almighty  
Sound Tech: Jim Hudson  
Visual Tech: Matt Stout
- October 19     19th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
Pastor Brian White preaching  
Music: Wesley Bells  
Sound Tech: Mark Murray  
Visual Tech: Matt Stout
- October 26     FAMILY MINISTRY SUNDAY  
Music: Kid's Choir  
Sound Tech: Richard Cassidy  
Visual Tech: Matt Stout

## Church News

### STEWARDSHIP CELEBRATION MEAL

Join us on Sunday, Oct. 5  
in fellowship hall immediately after the worship service (11:15 a.m.).  
Menu will be an Italian meal.  
We will be celebrating who we are and where we are going in 2026.  
Make a REAL celebration by giving all that God is calling you to give!

### FAMILY MINISTRY SUNDAY

Sunday, October 26  
Your children, youth and families will share in leading the worship service as they demonstrate how they are growing and experiencing God's love. Show your support with your presence!

## STAMP MINISTRY

Located in the hallway near the church offices is a box marked "Stamps". This is where we collect stamps for the Wycliffe Bible Translation "Stamp Ministry" located in Orlando, FL. The stamps they collect are used stamps that we are currently using. When I first heard about the Stamp Ministry, I thought who is going to pay for "Forever" stamps? Well, they are sold online to collectors overseas.

Every year Wycliffe Associates have an auction to raise money for Wycliffe Bible Translation. This past year the Stamp Ministry contributed \$20,000 to the auction. The Wycliffe Associates auction this year raised a total of over \$100,000. That will create a lot of Bibles!

We need to have more people collecting stamps to help pay for translating the Bible into native languages throughout the world. If you wish to help us, just cut off any stamps you receive on your mail and drop them into the box in the hallway near the offices. NOTE: When you cut them from your incoming mail, leave about 1/8 inch border, at least around the stamp. They can be whatever stamps come on your mail.

If you have any questions, please contact Jerry or Carol Hardacre at (765) 644-2166.

## SHRUBS AVAILABLE

Multiple shrubs of various sizes are being removed from the parking lot-side of the church (West) between Gateway door #4 and door #3. If you would like any of these shrubs to decorate your yard, you are welcome to remove them & take them home.  
Contact Tim Kline for questions or special instructions.

## HELPING HANDS NON-FOOD PANTRY

We were happy to be able to provide a bag of personal hygiene items, as well as dish soap, to 107 guests at our Helping Hands Non-food Pantry on September 10, 2025. The hygiene items included two large rolls of toilet paper, toothpaste, flossers, a toothbrush, and deodorant for a man or woman. In addition to the people who drive up to Door #3, we also serve people who walk to our Pantry, as well as offering the bags to people who attend the Utility Assistance Outreach at Door #2. We always let everyone know the date of our next pantry and specify it is always on the second Wednesday of every month from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. The donations we receive from our Congregation make a difference in the number of people we are able to serve. We are blessed to have such a giving congregation.

Our next Helping Hands Non-food Pantry is scheduled for October 8, 2025 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. For that Pantry, we are requesting donations of toilet paper, shampoo and/or lotion. Your donations will help our Pantry serve more people and are appreciated very much. Thank you!

Sincerely—Linda Verhulst, Juanita Slattery, Karen Ambler

## SOMETHING NEW IN BUTTERFLY GARDEN AT DAVIS PARK



We have replaced the worn wooden benches with 3 beautiful concrete ones that will remain out all year. They were purchased from John Bowen's Heritage Homestead here in north Anderson. John picked them up in Ohio where they were made and delivered them to Davis Park.



Special thanks to Tim Kline, Richard Cassidy, PT Morgan, and Bill Brown

for lifting them from the truck and carrying them to their permanent homes.

Next time you are at Davis Park look for them and sit a spell.  
Submitted by Ann Bull

## DINNER IS ON ME!

Tuesday, Nov. 4 @ 6 p.m.

at the parsonage; 2305 Sagamore Drive, Anderson  
Everyone one is welcome to join Pastor Corinne for a time of food & conversation. Hear what brought her to Anderson, led her to ordained ministry as well as some of her favorite things. Bring your burning questions. I will gladly answer any questions you may have about the church or me. This is a time of fellowship and connection.

**Please register by Sunday, Oct. 28**  
**ALL are welcome!**

## BE THE CHURCH

Take the next step of involvement in the church by serving on a committee or team.

Administrative Committees include:

Church Council, Staff Parish Relations Committee, Board of Trustees, Finance Committee, Investment Committee and Nominations Committee. Other ways to serve can be found in the Welcome Booklet available at the church office window and inside the sanctuary doors.

Don't simply attend church; BE the church.

## BE PART OF GOD'S WELCOME GREETERS, USHERS AND YOU!

A reminder of how important these ministries are!

1. Greeters and Ushers are ministers of hospitality.
2. Greeters and Ushers have a very public ministry which profoundly affects the quality of each worship experience.
3. Both roles play a vital role in the long-term health of the church. (Guests have the ability to detect lack of sincerity in the people they encounter. Newcomers decide in the first 5 minutes whether to return.)
4. Greeters and Ushers are expected to participate in worship.
5. Greeters and Ushers behavior before, during and after the service communicates information about the church to guests.
6. Good hospitality does not simply happen – it is prayed for, planned for, organized, evaluated and celebrated.
7. Greeters and Ushers (and Security Staff) need to be identified clearly – Blue Vests are available on Sunday morning and all should wear a vest throughout the morning.
8. Positive eye contact and a smile should greet each person new or returning.
9. Greeters and Ushers are not expected to know everyone. If a person is not known to you, offer this simple introduction, "Welcome! My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I'm not sure we have met before. Follow the introduction with "Are you new to town," or How did you hear about Anderson First UMC?"
10. Introduce guests to other members of the congregation.
11. Direct persons with questions to the Welcome Center or a pastor. Hand them one of Pastor Corinne's business cards -- on the Welcome Center (in the usher's closet for your pockets!).
12. Greeters are the first members of the congregation that people meet upon arrival at church. Ushers are the first representative of Christ for a worship service.

# Outreach Ministries

**PLAN AHEAD!**  
**Sunday, November 2**



**WORLD SMILE DAY**  
**October 3**

We are all familiar with the smiley face symbol.



It was Harvey Ball, an artist, and designer from Massachusetts, who created the smiley face in 1963. The symbol quickly grew in popularity, and it wasn't long until the image spread throughout the world. Ball created the smiley face to have an image that symbolized cheerfulness and kindness. For World Smile Day which began in 1999, Ball wanted people to dedicate at least one day out of the year to being kind to each other and exchanging smiles with everyone, regardless of politics, religion, or differing opinions.

Science-backed Benefits of Smiling

There is scientific evidence that just taking a moment to stop and smile can instantly make you feel better. As per doctors, smiling has numerous health benefits such as helping with depression, reducing blood pressure, staying young, and many more.

*"We shall never know all the good that a simple smile can do."*

-Mother Teresa

## OUTREACH NEWS



A very special thanks to Jackson Taylor who chose to share his birthday blessing with the Outreach Ministries.

"God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7

We're glad to report that Buddy Bags has altered the items offered to accommodate the higher protein snacks being delivered to the Anderson Elementary students.

Helping Hands Non-Food Pantry served 100 guests during our parking lot revamp! Great job to the team who adjusted so well during a busy day.

Utility Assistance served a record 31 guests in August.

Outreach continues to change with the seasons. Food@First served 100 guests on our return to church Sunday, September 7. Mercy Road Church has a team who will volunteer each fourth Sunday this year. We have alternated weekends for donuts vs. hot meals to accommodate this. First and third Sundays are now Food@First (donuts) and second, fourth and fifth Sundays are now hot meals. Thanks for all who participate, and we can always use another team if interested in serving quarterly for a 3-hour period.

We could also use assistance in picking up Wal-Mart donuts on the first and third Sundays if you live close to that area.

Speaking of changing with the season, before you know it, the Christmas Advent will be upon us!

Thanks you.

Susan and Davis Selby  
Outreach Coordinators

## **FAMILY MINISTRY SUNDAY**

We are super excited to welcome the children and students to participate in our 10am worship service on October 26th. We're encouraging everyone—kids and adults alike—to don their not-so-scary Halloween costumes and help lead worship. Our First Kids choir will be performing, as well as an opportunity for musical performances, scripture reading, leading the call to worship, and more!

Just a heads up, that we will not have any First Kids classes on that day as we worship together in the Sanctuary. Childcare will still be provided for kids under 4.

If your child or student would like to participate in Family Ministry Sunday, please contact Ally Hall with their information and where they would like to engage with the worship service. We can't wait to celebrate together!

## **AFS HALLOWEEN PARTY**

Join the AFS Youth Group Halloween Party!

Get ready for a frightfully fun time on October 26th at 11:15 AM! Our Anderson First Students Halloween party will be a time for delicious lunch, ghoulish games, and a ton of fun for everyone.

Come dressed in your favorite costume and bring your friends for a day of thrills and chills. See you there!

## **FIRST KIDS MOVIE NIGHT**

Lights, Camera... MOVIE NIGHT!

Get ready for a super fun Movie Night at Anderson First Kids on Wednesday, October 29th! 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!

## **FIRST KIDS GAME NIGHT**

Join us at First Kids Club for another awesome Game Night! We're excited to invite all children ages 3- 12 to our Game Night on Wednesday, November 5th, from 6 to 8 PM. This event is a wonderful opportunity for kids to run, play games, and have a blast together. We can't wait to spend time with our fantastic Anderson First Kids!

## **OCTOBER DEVOTION** by Stephen Anderson

2 Corinthians 5:17 James 1:17 Philippians 4:8

October in Roman times was designated the eighth month. January and February were added to the calendar around 700 BC making October the tenth month. The month has come to represent transformation, gratitude and reflection. The transformation from summer to fall reminds us of the impermanence of everything indicating a time to say goodbye.

Sometime in October the trees step out from their cloak of green and reveal themselves as individuals displaying their unique colors. It is like they are taking a bow for providing beauty, oxygen, and shade for the summer. The humming birds, robins and butterflies exit stage left and head south.

Personal transformation may also take place with vows to shed past negativism and move into the winter with a more positive attitude.

The gifts of God seem more apparent in October with evidence of a bountiful harvest, and spectacular fall colors. Additionally, there is always that two or three warm days that seem to tell us that they are going away for awhile. October helps us make the break with summer by releasing what we no longer need giving us a chance to prepare for the colder, dark, months. October 31st is All Hallows Eve. (Hallow means to sanctify) The next day is All Saints Day.

Ancient people considered All Hallows Eve or Halloween a night to survive rather than to party. They believed that spirits who had died that year would seek a living person and occupy their body. Disguising yourself as somebody else may save you from the unwanted guest. (Sound familiar?) Later, as we do now, on All Saints Day we collectively celebrate and say goodbye to those who have died during the year.

"Every good gift and perfect gift is from above".

James 1:17

"Finally brothers and sisters think about what is pure, what is lovely and what is admirable.

Philippians 4:8

"Therefore if anyone is in Christ the new creation has come".  
Corinthians 5:17



## Family Ministries

### FIRST KIDS

Adventure awaits at First Kids! This month, we are teaching kids that God designed them on purpose and for a purpose. With Bible stories from the life Joseph, kids will learn they can look around, look out, look up, and look back—seeing and knowing that nothing surprises God, and nothing can stop God’s plan and purpose. We will end the series with an exciting Game Changer where we will teach kids that, when they trust and follow Jesus, God makes them new. We hope you join us on this amazing adventure on Sundays at 10 am and Wednesdays at 6pm.

### AFS YOUTH GROUP

Anderson First Students 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 meet every Wednesday from 6-8 for AFS Midweek to play games, hang out, and participate in the Music Ministry.

### YA GATHERING

Our Young Adults Ministry is on October 5th and 19th at 11:15, and we cannot wait to see you there!

We are so excited to offer you a community to belong to and walk with as you discover who you want to be in this exciting season of life. We meet at 11:15 following our Traditional worship service. We would love for you to worship with us at 10am or you can just join us for the Young Adults gathering. Free Food is provided at every gathering, and it will be a time for community, conversations, games, and lots of fun!

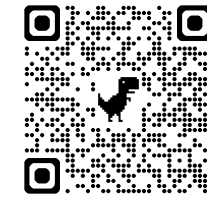
### FALLPALOOZA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Bring the entire family for Anderson First's Fall-a-palooza at Davis Park! This exciting event is happening on October 18th, from 12 PM to 2 PM. Admission is FREE, granting you access to games, snacks, crafts, inflatables, and much more!

Dress in your favorite costume and get ready for an afternoon filled with fall-themed excitement! We have plenty of opportunities for volunteers to participate and make this community event a success.

Visit our website for more details and click the link to sign up as a volunteer today!

For additional information about the event, feel free to contact Anderson First's Director of Family Ministries, Ally Hall at [ally@andersonfirst.org](mailto:ally@andersonfirst.org).



QR code to sign up as a volunteer

### CANDY DONATION

Bring in individually wrapped, non-chocolate candy or small toys for us to use at Anderson First's Fallapalooza! Drop off donations in Ally Hall's office by October 12th. Some ideas for donations are listed below:

Skittles

- Tattoos
- Stickers
- Swedish fish
- Nerds
- Laffy Taffy
- Bubble gum
- Tootsie rolls
- Lifesaver gummies
- Sour patch kids
- Twizzlers
- Starbursts
- Small erasers
- Gummy bears
- Suckers
- Fruit snacks
- Bouncy balls
- Pencils

### 3RD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION

On Family Ministry Sunday, October 26th, we will be presenting Bibles to our 3rd Graders! This significant milestone in a child's life deserves a celebration with you and your family. Families will be invited to join the presentation. If you plan to attend worship that day and want your child to receive a Bible, please contact Ally. If you cannot make it to worship, we are still happy to reserve a Bible for you! Please reach out to Ally Hall at [ally@andersonfirst.org](mailto:ally@andersonfirst.org) so we can ensure we have enough Bibles prepared for the children.