



First United Methodist

FAITH FIRST. FAMILIES FIRST. ANDERSON FIRST.

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THE VOICE

A Newsletter of First United Methodist

BATH TOWEL COLLECTION

Bath Towels will be collected November 2-23,
Towels will be dedicated during worship
on November 24 and then distributed to St. Vincent De Paul, Anderson.
*In past years blankets were collect but there are plenty of blankets
ready for distribution.*
"Wash yourselves and be clean!" (Isaiah 1:16 NLT)

GATEWAY CHRISTMAS GIFTS

November 3 is the beginning of opportunities for assisting with Christmas gifts for the Gateway children. The Angel Tree will be available in the downstairs Gateway office (G109). You may call, email or drop by for your preference of children's items needed. Also, envelopes will be provided in the outside of our sanctuary, as they were last year, for anyone that would like to financially donate to an "Angel."
Deadline for gifts and donation envelopes is December 10.

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH OFFERING

A letter regarding the upcoming Christmas offering which funds our internal ministries will be coming soon. Our Outreach program is comprised of four different ministries.

1. Buddy Bags

The monthly high protein snacks for Anderson elementary children, coordinated by Johanne Coleson and her team of volunteers along with volunteers from Central Christian Church (every other month).

2. Utility Assistance

3. Helping Hands Non-Food Pantry

These (2 & 3) occur simultaneously on the second Wednesday of each month. Linda Verhulst oversees Helping Hands along with her staff.

Utility Assistance works to defray utility costs.

4. Community Café

Our Sunday food provision varies by season and depending on which season or which Sunday it is, you'll hear of the Grille, Community Café, or Food at First. One of these occurs every Sunday evening to assist with food insecurity needs for our downtown guests. These ministries are only possible through your ongoing support.

All of the Christmas offerings are designated for these services. Jesus states, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me". Mat. 25:40. Thank you in advance for your support. Sincerely, Dave & Susan



Adult Ministries

WORSHIP SCHEDULE – November 2025

November 2	ALL SAINTS SUNDAY & COMMUNION God is for Us Romans 8:35-39 (NLT) Recognition of Loved Ones Music: Sanctuary Choir
November 9	22 nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST But Wait, There's More! Luke 20:27-38 Music: Alpha Brass
November 16	23 rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Pastor Brian White preaching Music: Joyful Jazz
November 23	THANKSGIVING SUNDAY Thanking God for What We Have to Share Endowment emphasis by Jim Ault, Lay Leader Music: Sanctuary Choir
	ADVENT: PREPARE HIM ROOM Let us prepare our hearts for Christ, embracing his presence as we rediscover the hope, joy, peace, and love that only Christ brings. Together, let's make this Christmas a true celebration of Jesus.
November 30	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Monologue: Elizabeth Murray-Sherron Prepare Him Room: Embracing Hope Music: Mark & Michele Murray

THANKING GOD BY SHARING: ENDOWMENT Blessed to be a Blessing

Leaving an endowment to a church allows individuals to create a lasting legacy that supports its mission in perpetuity, provides long-term financial stability for the church, and can be a way to honor the values or memory of loved ones. These funds are invested to generate income, which can supplement the church's regular budget, fund specific ministries, or be used for new initiatives. On Sunday, November 23, we will be reminded of this opportunity by Jim Ault, Lay Leader, during worship.

"All the families on earth will be blessed through you." Genesis 12:3b

CHURCH GRANT COMMITTEE UPDATE Expanding Our Mission Through Outreach, Stewardship, and Community Support

Introduction

Over the past year, our church's Grant Committee has dedicated itself to discovering and securing funding opportunities that will help us expand our outreach to children, families, and the broader community. Guided by our mission to serve and uplift, we have also sought grants to improve our church's infrastructure, ensuring that our facilities support our growing ministries and community activities.

Committee Progress

We are pleased to share that the committee has made significant strides. Through diligent research and collaboration, we have identified several promising grants and submitted multiple applications. These efforts have already resulted in new program resources for children and families, as well as upgrades to some of our church's essential facilities. As an example, we received a grant from the Madison County Community Foundation this spring that increases our ability to feed hungry children through our Buddy Bags program. We also received funds to purchase a new grille for our Community Grille effort, in which we feed hungry people from our community on Sunday evenings. The team continues to work tirelessly, evaluating new opportunities and developing strong proposals to further our outreach and enhance our shared space. Those who have been working on this effort include DeWayne Landwehr, Bill Brown, Sally DeVoe, Jeff Dyer, Tim Kline, Candy Short and Matt Stout.

Call for Assistance

While we celebrate these successes, there is still much to be done. We warmly invite members of our congregation to assist us in this important work. If you have experience in grant writing, know of potential grant donors, or simply wish to contribute your time and talents, your support would be invaluable to our ongoing efforts. Together, we can broaden our impact and reach even more within our community.

Stewardship and Endowment Gifts

In addition to grants, stewardship gifts and contributions to our church endowment play a crucial role in sustaining and growing our ministries. We encourage you to consider making a gift or pledge to the endowment, ensuring that our church remains a vibrant and welcoming place for generations to come.

Closing and Appreciation

We are deeply grateful for the generosity and commitment of every member who has contributed to these efforts, whether through volunteering, giving, or offering encouragement. If you would like to learn more, offer assistance, or share ideas, please reach out to me or another member of the Grant Committee. Together, let us continue to build a stronger, more compassionate church family.

Music Ministry

LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE

Please mark your calendar now to come and celebrate the Christmas Season at our Lessons and Carols service on Sunday, December 7. The Sanctuary Choir, Wesley Chorale and Chamber Orchestra will bring a beautiful service of music and readings for all to be fully immersed in the Christmas season. This is a wonderful service to invite friends and other guests.

O come let us adore Him!

THERE IS NO US WITHOUT U

*"Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of Christ's body."
Romans 12:6 (MSG)*

Join us in God's work here!

Estimate of Giving Cards for 2026 pledges are available at the Welcome Center and in the church office.

They may be returned in the wooden boxes or the church office.
Thank you for giving to God!

ADVENT 2025

Begins Sunday, November 30

For Christians around the world, Advent refers to the four weeks leading up to Christmas, where communities remember and celebrate the arrival of Jesus and join together in the hope of his ultimate return by reflecting on the hope, peace, love, and joy that only Christ brings.

Advent means "arrival" and signifies the start of an event or the arrival of a person. It's a time to reflect on the unexpected nature of Jesus' humble birth and join in the anticipation of when he will come again to reunite Heaven and Earth once and for all.

Advent is the start of the church year in Western Christianity. This season of preparing for the Nativity of Christ is marked by the color purple which represents Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords.

CONCERTS

PLAN AHEAD TO BE HERE!

Saturday, November 22

7 p.m. -- Fall Creek Valley Band Concert with Anderson Area Youth Chorale (AAYC)

Saturday, December 6

6:30 p.m. – AACC/YC Winter Concert (Anderson Area Children's Choir and Youth Chorale)

Sunday, December 7

LESSONS & CAROLS

10 a.m.—Sanctuary Choir & Orchestra

ON NOVEMBER 2....



CHURCH CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

We are looking forward to decorating the church for Christmas. Be sure to check your calendar and be ready to help! Decorating will occur November 24-25. Contact Debbie Millikan (765-621-6620) to volunteer and for more information.

THANKSGIVING DAY PRAYER

A prayer to memorize!

For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food,
For love and friends,
For everything God's goodness sends.
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

2026 LAY LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

What a joy it is each year to both recognize those persons who have served God faithfully in their roles in the church AND welcome the new leaders for service.

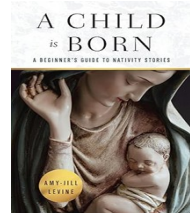
2026 Directories are available at Welcome Center & church office.
Praising God for our leaders!

ADVENT STUDIES

***A Child Is Born:
A Beginner's Guide to Nativity Stories***
November 24 – December 15, 2025
Mondays, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. (In-person and by Zoom)

Led by Pastor Brian White

See Jesus's birth through the lens of ancient Nativity stories. Discover the fascinating connections between ancient birth stories and the Nativity of Jesus in this captivating four-week Advent study. The study delves into the narratives of Isaac and Ishmael, Moses, and Samuel to reveal how they foreshadow and enrich the timeless Christmas story in the final chapter. Author Amy-Jill Levine brings her expert knowledge of Scripture and careful consideration of the Christian story to show readers how Scripture's earlier birth stories anticipate the story of Jesus's birth and how the birth resonates and gives new meaning to those earlier stories. Transform your Advent season with fresh insights and inspiration from *A Child Is Born*.



- Nov 24 1. The Conception and Birth of Isaac and Ishmael
Dec. 1 2. The Conception and Birth of Samson
Dec. 8 3. The Conception and Birth of Samuel
Dec. 15 4. Jesus: Heir to Traditions

Books will be available at the church.

The study book for this class will be:

Amy-Jill Levine. *A Child Is Born: A Beginner's Guide to Nativity Stories*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2025.

How Jesus Brings Hope, Peace, Joy & Love
by Stephanie Reinagel

Mondays at 6 p.m. in North/South Parlor

Led by Pastor Corinne Boruff

During Advent hope, peace, joy and love represents a "gift" that Christ brought with His Birth. These aren't just gifts for the people living at the time He was born, but gifts that He continues to give us today. Over the next four weeks, we will prepare our hearts to celebrate Christ's Birth by taking a deeper look at how His first coming gave these gifts, and how we are still recipients of them today.

Nov. 24 — Yakhel / Hope; Dec. 1 — Shalom / Peace

Dec. 8 — Chara / Joy ; Dec. 15 — Agape / Love



Friday Women's Bible Study
Fridays at 9:00 a.m. in North/South Parlor

Led by Peg Peter

Study begins November 7

Join Christine Caine and Lisa Harper this Advent season for a four-session video Bible study like no other. Your hope and spirit will be revived as you recapture the wonder of Jesus' obvious love for you. You'll discover that Advent is not only a season of waiting and preparation, but also, it's a season of action to share the hope of Jesus with everyone.

WELCOME NEWEST MEMBER

We welcome our newest member to the Body of Christ at Anderson First United Methodist Church.

Michelle Beth White

Joined us by transfer from St. Mark's UMC, Carmel.

We promised on Sunday, October 19 to join her in ministry through our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness.

Outreach Ministries

OUTREACH NEWS

As you know, the holiday season is just around the corner. We at Anderson FUMC have 2 different opportunities approaching this year. We are collecting towels for St. Vincent DePaul Society beginning November 2nd. The towels collection ends November 16th. Gateway follows on November 3rd with their Angel Tree in their downstairs office (G109). You may call or email or drop by for your preference of children's items needed. We will also provide envelopes as we did last year for anyone that would like to make a donation to sponsor an Angel but is not able to shop. Gifts and donation envelopes are due back by December 10th. Thank you in advance for your servant's heart and act of joyful giving.

Susan and Davis Selby
Outreach Coordinators

HELPING HANDS NON-FOOD PANTRY

The Helping Hands Non-Food Pantry on October 8, 2025 was well attended. The 97 bags we gave to those we served included two large rolls of toilet paper, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, a bar of soap and a choice of laundry detergent or a spray bottle of Awesome cleaner. Most of the people we serve each month are regular attenders and we know how helpful it is to them to receive the products we provide. We also serve people who attend the Utility Assistance Outreach, who are also helped by the products we provide. Each month we have several people who attend for the first time and they are thankful to receive the products we provide them. We always tell everyone the date of our next Pantry and let the new guests know it is always on the second Wednesday of each month from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. We have such a giving Congregation and the donations we receive from them help us serve more people. Our Congregation is a blessing to us and to those we serve.

Our next Helping Hands Non-Food Pantry is scheduled for November 12, 2025 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. For that Pantry, we are requesting donations of toilet paper, a tube of toothpaste or a toothbrush, or deodorant for a man or woman. Your donations will help us serve more people and are appreciated very much. Thank you!

Sincerely—Linda Verhulst, Juanita Slattery, Karen Ambler

Thank You...

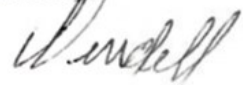
Thank you, church family for your prayers and cards in remembrance of Jerry. These gestures mean a great deal to me and my family.
Sincerely, Mary Bean

I want to take this opportunity to thank you and all the parishioners who contributed their time and expense to provide a lovely meal following the funeral of Joellen Hilligoss. Everything was delicious and the setting was attractive.

It is very thoughtful of the church family to offer and provide meals at such a time as this when there is so much more we have to think about and have just experienced. It fills a great need and gives the family a chance to calm down, rest and not have to worry about preparing a family meal. I know that in past years friends and neighbors would bring dishes to the grieving family and maybe even help serve or clean up. It seems those times have passed as we are too busy, don't know our neighbors or seem to care much. I remember Joellen and I going from neighbor to neighbor taking a collection for flowers when one of them passed and they contributed. Not today, such a shame. This old world has changed, but not always in a better way. Now people rely on their church family, if they have one, to fill such needs. And I am happy to say that Joellen and I belong to a church that is willing and happy to give such aid needed by the grieving family which is greatly appreciated.

Be sure to give those who contributed dishes and who gave their time to prepare and clean up our sincere Thank You.

Sincerely,



Wendell Hilligoss and Family

EDDIE IS BACK!

A big **thank you** to everyone who helped me while Eddie was gone, and your patience as I tried to keep everything clean. Special thanks to RON WATSON for his weekly help recycling, Richard Cassidy who came by almost daily asking what he could do to help, and Tom Cullop and Tim Kline who were always just a phone call away.

THANK YOU
Ann Bull

DEVOTION FOR NOVEMBER

by Steve Anderson

"But for you be strong and do not give up for you will be rewarded".
(Chronicles 15:7)

"Not only so, but we also glory in our suffering because we know that suffering produces perseverance (and) perseverance produces character (and) hope". (Romans 5:3-4)

Being thankful is an acknowledgement of the fact that faith and perseverance have been summoned to face the challenges of life. Faith and perseverance were summoned by 102 people called Pilgrims who set sail on a ship named the Mayflower in September of 1620. They arrived in December of that year in what became Massachusetts.

The winter that year was brutal as only 52 out of the 102 Pilgrims survived. There were 28 women who began the voyage but only 4 survived the winter of 1620-21. Cooperation between the Native American and European cultures ensured the survival of the Pilgrims. Today about 10 million present day Americans can trace their ancestry back to the Pilgrims.

Sometime between September 21 and November 9, 1621, a celebration of a successful harvest was held. Additionally, 90 members of the Wampanoag tribe were in attendance with their leader Chief Massasoit. Sadly 50 years later the two cultures would clash. The son of Massasoit was killed and beheaded. His wife and young son were sent to Bermuda and then sold into slavery.

When we thank God for our blessings this Thanksgiving let us be mindful that our faith in Jesus Christ and our perseverance in facing the large and small challenges have left us still standing. Let us also pray for those who have and are facing monumental losses such as severe weather events, mass shootings or a life well lived.

My father, Dale Anderson, welcomed adversity. He called it "Blessed Adversity" because it required faith and perseverance resulting in the growth of faith, hope and character. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving and remember it is ok to go back for seconds because the diet doesn't start until Black Friday.



Family Ministries

FIRST KIDS

This month, we will be wrapping up our Adventure Awaits series on the life of Joseph on Sundays at 10am and Wednesdays at 6pm. Then, we will kick off our new Advent series! Our kids will have so much fun celebrating Christmas with our Theme, "Best Gift Ever!" as we teach the Simple Truth, "I Am Never Alone." We will "unwrap" stories around the birth of Jesus, which show we are never alone because God gives us strength, joy, salvation, and hope. We will see you at First Kids soon!

YOUTH GROUP

Anderson First Students is meeting on November 9th and 23rd! 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.

Don't let the fun end there! AFS Midweek takes place every week on Wednesday nights. We meet in the youth room to work on homework, play games, and find community. Students who serve in the Music Ministry can attend their respective rehearsal times.

We can't wait to hang out with you and the rest of our awesome students!

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!

KIDS CHOIR

We have a BIG announcement! First Kids Choir is now on SUNDAYS at 9:25!!

If you've got kids aged 3 through 6th grade, we'd love for them to join our first Kids Choir. On Sunday mornings from 9:25-9:55, all kids are welcome to join us upstairs in the Choir room for the First Kids Choir. We will have a blast singing, playing musical games, and worshipping together. Plus, we get to perform several times throughout the year. Our next performance will be during Lessons and Carols on December 7th at 10:00 am.

If your child wants to join in on the fun, just swing by the Kids check-in on Sunday mornings, and we will take the kids to the Choir room and then back to their appropriate classroom following rehearsal. Got questions? Don't hesitate to contact Sue Finger or Ally Hall.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE COMPETITION

Mark your calendars for December 5th from 6:30 to 8 PM because it's time for our annual Gingerbread House Competition at Fellowship Hall! This event is perfect for all ages, so bring the whole crew! We'll have some basic supplies ready for you, but feel free to bring anything extra to make your gingerbread creation super festive.

There will be fun Christmas games, and you won't want to miss your shot at awesome prizes for the categories of Best Traditional, Most Creative, and Fan Favorite houses. It's a great chance to hang out with friends, family, and neighbors to spread holiday cheer!



If you want to reserve your FREE table (or two...or three!), use the QR Code to register by November 23rd. We want to make sure we have enough materials for everyone to enjoy.

Spread the word, start planning your gingerbread masterpiece, and get ready for a festive time! We can't wait to celebrate Christmas with you at this beloved

Anderson First tradition!

FIRST KIDS MOVING NIGHT

Light, Camera...MOVIE NIGHT!

Get ready for a festive Movie Night at Anderson First Kids on Wednesday, December 10th! 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 Christmas movie and enjoy hot chocolate together. We can't wait to hang out with you on Wednesday from 6 to 8 in the Fireplace Room!