

Weekly Schedule

Sun 12/7			
9:00 am	Lessons and Carols Rehearsal	Sanctuary	Downtown
9:15 am	Kids Choir	Sanctuary	Downtown
10:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary	Downtown
11:15 M	YA Gathering	Youth Room	Downtown
2:00 pm	Worship		Primrose
4:30 pm	Food@First	Narthex	Downtown
6:30 pm	AACC/YC Winter Concert	Sanctuary	Downtown
Mon 12/8			
10:30 am	Advent Study	North/South Parlor	Downtown
11:00 am	Buddy Bag Packing	Fellowship Hall	Downtown
12:00 pm	AARP	Fellowship Hall	Downtown
5:00 pm	Exercise Class		Davis Park/Lodge
6:00 pm	Advent Study	North/South Parlor	Downtown
6:00 pm	AA Big Book Study	Fellowship Hall	Downtown
6:30 pm	Alpha Brass Rehearsal	Alpha Brass Room	Downtown
Tues 12/9			
9:00 am	Sew Day	Fellowship Hall	Downtown
10:00 am	Staff Meeting	Conference Room	Downtown
6:00 pm	Church Council Meeting	North/South Parlor	Downtown
Wed 12/10			
9:00 am	Energy Assistance	Door #2	Downtown
9:00 am	Helping Hands Pantry	Door #3	Downtown
10:30 am	Grants Committee Meeting	Conference Room	Downtown
3:00 pm	Coffee with Corinne		Facebook
5:00 pm	Exercise Class		Davis Park/Lodge
6:00 pm	AFS Midweek	Youth Room	Downtown
6:00 pm	First Kids Club—Movie Night	Fireplace Room	Downtown
6:00 pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal	Bell Room	Downtown
7:00 pm	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary, Choir Room	Downtown
Thurs 12/11—No Activities			
Fri 12/12			
9:00 am	Bible Study	North/South Parlor	Downtown
11:30 am	Buddy Bag Delivery		Downtown
12:00 pm	Downtown Devotion		Facebook
Sat 12/13			
10:00 am	AA Meeting	East/West Parlor	Downtown
Sun 12/14			
9:25 am	Kids Choir	Choir Room	Downtown
10:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary	Downtown
11:15 am	AFS Christmas Party	Youth Room	Downtown
2:00 pm	Worship		Primrose
3:00 pm	Alpha Brass & Directors' Jazz Orchestra Concert	Sanctuary	Downtown
4:30 pm	Community Café	Fellowship Hall	Downtown



First United Methodist

FAITH FIRST. FAMILIES FIRST. ANDERSON FIRST.

A Service of Lessons & Carols

December 7, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Lead Pastor: Rev. Corinne Boruff
Associate Pastor: Rev. Dr. Brian White
Director of Family Ministries: Ally Hall
Ministers: Congregation



Lessons & Carols

The Festival of Lessons and Carols is a service of Scripture and song that dates to the late 19th century. In this service, we listen to nine Scripture lessons which recount the Fall, the promise of a Messiah, the Incarnation, and the Great Commission to preach the Good News. Each lesson is followed by a carol or other song that reflects on the lesson's message and a brief prayer.

It is the perfect worship service for this holiday season.

WELCOME

Welcome to worship on Sundays and all programs & ministries throughout the week!

Announcements

- **GUESTS:** Welcome! There is a gift bag for you at the Welcome Center. Glad you joined us and hope you will come again! Merry Christmas!
- **COMMUNITY CAFE:** 68 guests were served Sunday. It was a blessing to serve the community.
- **CONCERTS:** AACC/YC Winter Concert is TODAY, December 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary **AND** Alpha Brass & the Directors Jazz Orchestra Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 14 at 3 p.m.
- **CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION:** Anderson First UMC
Downtown: 1215 Jackson St., Anderson IN 46016;
Davis Park: 4507 Nichol Ave., Anderson 46011
Website: www.andersonfirst.org / Phone: 765-643-6977
- **COMMUNION:** Communion will *not* be offered on this Sunday, December 7. Instead we are including Holy Communion in the Christmas Eve Service on December 24 at 7 p.m. Receive God's gift to us in Jesus Christ!

We give thanks for today's:

Ushers: Steve Seybert, Tim Kline, Cliff Ambler, Jerry Hardacre,
Dick Hines

Greeters: Nina Kline, Sharon McNabney, Ron McNabney
Coffee Hosts: Judy Whitney

Please join us for these special Christmas Services:

Blue Christmas Service: Saturday, December 20, 2:00 pm:



The anguish of broken relationships, the insecurity of unemployment, the weariness of ill health, the pain of isolation, the loneliness that death brings – all these and more can cause us to feel alone and sad when everyone around us is celebrating joyfully.

We need a space and a time in which we can acknowledge our sadness and concern.

The Blue Christmas Service will provide that opportunity. Worship will include music, scripture, prayer and light. It will provide a time for silence and reflection. God comes to those who mourn and to those who struggle. We are not alone. God is light in the darkness and hope in our despair.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: Wednesday, December 24, 7:00 pm:

Keep Christ as a part of your Christmas! Join us for carols, candles, children's message, Holy Communion and inspirational worship all in the beautiful setting of the sanctuary.

Prelude "The First Nowell" Chamber Orchestra

Bidding Prayer Rev. Dale Mendenhall

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen

***Processional Hymn** "Once in Royal David's City" #250
Verse 1—Kid's Choir Only

Verse 2—All

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall, With the poor, the scorned, the lowly lied on earth our Savior holy.

Verse 4—All

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love; for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above; and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

The First Lesson Genesis 3:8-15 Jim Ault

God speaks to Adam

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the LORD God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.' The LORD God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Carol "Veni, Veni Emmanuel" Sanctuary Choir
Translation: O Come, O Come, the "I Am" that is with us; Rejoice! Rejoice! The Great "I Am" will be born for you. O Come, thou light of life to shine on us by your coming. Dispel the Clouds of Night, Drive away the shadows of death.

The Second Lesson Isaiah 40: 1-5 Susan Selby
A voice cries out: "Prepare the way of the Lord"
Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain made low; the uneven ground shall become level and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.
This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Carol "O Come, Emmanuel" Sanctuary Choir

The Third Lesson Isaiah 9:2-7 Rev. Brian White
A child will be born, the Prince of Peace.
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.
This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Carol "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" vs. 1 #196
Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Preparing for Peace Monologue Chris Tupling
Lighting of the Advent Candle of Peace

to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

*"Silent Night" - Choir & Congregation
**Silent night, holy night, wondrous star lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.**

***Postlude** Michele Murray
"Rejoice! He is Here" arr. Mark Hayes

***Dismissal with Blessing** Rev. Corinne Boruff
**Please stand as you are able.*

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE FOR MAKING THIS SERVICE POSSIBLE:

Director of Music /Organist: Susan Finger
Pianist: Michele Murray

Members of Sanctuary Choir: Ethan Carter, Emma Copes, Susan Daoust, Matt Daoust, Maria Falkenberry, Mary Falkenberry, Mark Finger, Will Fosnot, Sue Hartzell, Nate Hochstetler, Rachel Hochstetler, Ash Majors, Abby Mercer, Claire Miller, Dan Miller, Staci Miller, Elizabeth Murray, Peg Peter, Lilli Poag, Lynn Rowley, Vicki Snyder, Janine Spurgeon, Erin Stout, Chris Taylor, Sarah Taylor, Hadessah VanGilder, Michelle White

Members of Wesley Chorale: Ethan Carter, Emma Copes, Susan Daoust, Mark Finger, Will Fosnot, Sue Hartzell, Nate Hochstetler, Rachel Hochstetler, Ash Majors, Abby Mercer, Erin Stout, Chris Taylor, Sarah Taylor

Members of the Children's Choir: Josie Brumfield, Hunter Cortes, Ryder Cortes, Aaliya Foust, Connor Falkenberry, Harlyn Harrison, Ellis Hasenmyer, Emily Miller, Jackson Taylor, Caroline Taylor, Grace Stout, Teddy Stout

Members of the Lessons & Carols Orchestra:

Piano/Organ: Michele Murray

Violins: Adele Maxfield, Elizabeth Murray

Viola: Elisabeth Ohly-Davis

Cello: Heather Scott

Bass: Darrel Diene

Flute: Rachael Lashbrook

Oboe: Lora Dingedine

Percussion: Matt Finger

least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel." Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn "Joy to the World" #246

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and
heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and nature sing!**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations
prove the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of this love and
wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

Carol "In Bethlehem" Sanctuary Choir

Hymn "Silent Night, Holy Night" #239

**Silent night, holy night, All is calm, All is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and Child,
Holy infant so tender and mild.
Sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.
Silent night, holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is Born. Christ the Savior is Born.**

The Final Lesson John 1:1-14 Rev. Corinne Boruff

John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light

Response "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" vs. 3 #196

**Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.**

The Fourth Lesson Micah 5:2-5 Frank Later

The prophet Micah interprets the glory of little Bethlehem.

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in travail has brought forth; then the rest of his brethren shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And there shall be peace.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Carol "Bethlehem Procession" Sanctuary Choir

The Fifth Lesson Luke 1:26-35 Maizen Hochstetler

The angel Gabriel salutes the Virgin Mary.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How shall this be, since I have no husband?" And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Carol "Mary, Did You Know" Sanctuary Choir & Orchestra

The Sixth Lesson Luke 1:46-55 Mary Brown

Mary thanks the Lord.

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty

has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is on those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm, he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts, he has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted those of low degree; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his posterity forever."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn "What Child is This" #219

**What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, While shepherds watch
are keeping: This, this is Christ the King whom shepherds
guard and angels sing; Haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the song of Mary.**

Carol "Great Joy A-Comin!" Wesley Chorale

The Seventh Lesson Luke 2: 1-7 Holly Renz
Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem" #230

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!**

Carol "Come Near to the Manager" Sanctuary Choir
& Kid's Choir

Hymn "Angels We Have Heard on High" vs. 1,3 #238

**1. Angels we have heard on high sweetly
singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.**

Refrain:

**Gloria, gloria, gloria, gloria,
in excelsis Deo!**

**Gloria, gloria, gloria, gloria,
in excelsis Deo!**

**3. Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing, come, adore
on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
(Refrain)**

Carol "Sussex Carol" Sanctuary Choir

The Eighth Lesson Luke 2:8-12 Bill Brown

The shepherds go to the manger.

And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!" When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Carol "The Shepherd's Lamb"" Sanctuary Choir

The Ninth Lesson Matthew 2:1-11 Brian Jones

The Wise Men visit the Christ Child.

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet; 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means