

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**March 8, 2026 – 10 a.m.**

**WELCOME** Rev. Brian White  
Anderson First United Methodist Church makes disciples  
for Jesus Christ by following our Pathway:  
**Living our Faith, Nurturing Families,  
Serving our Communities.**

**\*GREETING**

**MUSIC FOR GATHERING** Susan Finger  
"Amazing Grace"

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** Rev. White

ONE: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us  
shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

**ALL: Let us come before God with  
thanksgiving, music and song.**

ONE: The Lord is the great God, the great Ruler  
above all else.

**ALL: In God's hand are the foundations of the  
earth, and the mountain peaks are  
God's possession.**

ONE: The sea is the Lord's, for God made it all,  
forming from it the dry land.

**ALL: Come, family of God, to bow down in  
worship, kneeling in reverence for our  
Maker; The loving Creator God is  
our God and we are the people of his  
pasture, the flock under God's care.**

**\*HYMN** "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" #361

1. Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in  
thee; let the water and the blood, from thy wounded  
side which flowed, be of sin the double cure; save  
from wrath and make me pure.

3. Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I  
cling; naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to  
thee for grace; foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me,  
Savior, or I die.

4. While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyes  
shall close in death, when I soar to worlds unknown,  
see thee on thy judgment throne, Rock of Ages, cleft  
for me, let me hide myself in thee.

**OFFERING TO GOD**

**INVITATION  
OFFERTORY**

Merrilyn Vance  
Wesley Bells

"Give Me Jesus"

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below; Praise  
him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father,  
Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Merrilyn Vance

**ANTHEM**

Wesley Bells  
"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Susan Daoust

**LORD'S PRAYER** (unison)

**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, and the power and the glory forever.  
Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

"Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone" #424

1. Must Jesus bear the cross alone,  
and all the world go free?  
No, there's a cross for everyone,  
and there's a cross for me.

2. How happy are the saints above,  
who once went sorrowing here!  
But now they taste unmingled love,  
and joy without a tear.

3. The consecrated cross I'll bear  
till death shall set me free;  
and then go home my crown to wear,  
for there's a crown for me.

**\*GOSPEL**

Luke 23:13-25 (NRSV) Susan Daoust

<sup>13</sup> Pilate then called together the chief priests, the  
leaders, and the people, <sup>14</sup> and said to them, 'You  
brought me this man as one who was perverting the  
people; and here I have examined him in your presence  
and have not found this man guilty of any of your  
charges against him. <sup>15</sup> Neither has Herod, for he sent  
him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve  
death. <sup>16</sup> I will therefore have him flogged and release  
him.' <sup>18</sup> Then they all shouted out together, 'Away with  
this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!' <sup>19</sup> (This was a man  
who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had  
taken place in the city, and for murder.) <sup>20</sup> Pilate,  
wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; <sup>21</sup> but  
they kept shouting, 'Crucify, crucify him!' <sup>22</sup> A third time  
he said to them, 'Why, what evil has he done? I have  
found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will  
therefore have him flogged and then release him.' <sup>23</sup> But  
they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he  
should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. <sup>24</sup> So  
Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be  
granted. <sup>25</sup> He released the man they asked for, the one  
who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder,  
and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

This is God's Word for God's people today.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**

"Unlikely Freedom: Barabbas"  
Rev. Dale Mendenhall

**HYMN**

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory" #295

1. In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er the  
wrecks of time; all the light of sacred story  
gathers round its head sublime.

2. When the woes of life o'ertake me, hopes  
deceive, and fears annoy, never shall the cross  
forsake me. Lo! it glows with peace and joy.

5. In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er  
the wrecks of time; all the light of sacred story  
gathers round its head sublime.

**MUSIC FOR SENDING**

Susan Finger  
"To God Be the Glory"

**\*BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dale Mendenhall

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

THANK YOU  
for assisting in worship!  
Preaching: Rev. Dale Mendenhall  
Worship Leaders: Rev. Brian White, Merrilyn Vance  
& Susan Daoust  
Music: Wesley Bells  
Sound Tech: Jim Hudson  
Visual Tech: Matt Stout

# WELCOME

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

## Announcements

- **CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION:**  
Anderson First United Methodist Church  
Downtown: 1215 Jackson St., Anderson IN 46016;  
Davis Park: 4507 Nichol Ave., Anderson 46011  
Website: [www.andersonfirst.org](http://www.andersonfirst.org)  
Phone: 765-643-6977
- **GUESTS:** Welcome! There is a gift bag for you at the Welcome Center. Glad you joined us and hope you will come again!
- **FOOD@FIRST:** 72 guests were served last Sunday. It was a blessing to serve the community.
- **SUMMER CAMP:** Do you have a child or student interested in attending an Impact summer camp? Check out the website and let Ally Hall know if you would like to participate. You will receive a special code to use during registration. Spots are limited, so please let us know soon! Early bird registration is open now & ends on April 20.  
<https://impact2818.org/summer-camps/>
- **BREAKFAST LENTEN SERIES:** On March 14 the breakfast and program will be at Alexandria Nazarene Church with Todd Edeker speaking and the Cocanower Family offering the music. Breakfasts are 8:00 —9:30 a.m. All are welcome!
- **EGGSTRAVAGANZA:** On Saturday, March 21, noon -2:00 p.m. we will be offering a Drive-thru experience and a sensory-friendly Easter event at our downtown location! We will offer egg hunt kits, crafts, games, and pictures with the Easter Bunny. This free event is perfect for all ages, offering a sensory-safe environment where everyone can celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.
- **CANDY DONATIONS:** We invite you to contribute individually wrapped, non-chocolate candies or small toys for Anderson First's Easter Event! Please make sure that donations are able to fit inside of Easter eggs!
- **INDOOR EGG HUNT:** On April 5, Easter Sunday at 10:00 a.m. our First Kids Classes will celebrate the joy of Easter with exciting confetti poppers and a free indoor Easter egg hunt in the Fellowship Hall at 11:15 a.m.
- **EASTER LILIES:** Order yours in Honor or Memory of loved ones. Please complete a form & with \$15 by March 30. Take them home Easter Sunday.

We give thanks for today's:

**Ushers:** Bill Kahle, Dorinda Cassidy, Richard Cassidy

**Greeters:** Becky Ball, Kay McConnell, Kaylyn McConnell

**Coffee Hosts:** Judy Whitney

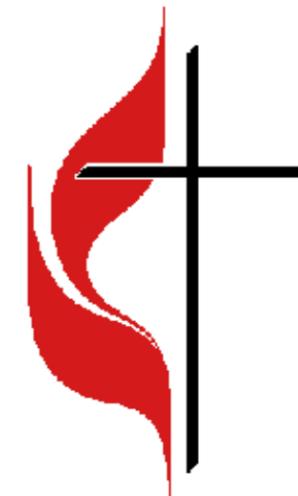
# Weekly Schedule

<b>Sun 03/08</b>			
10:00 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary	Downtown
11:15 am	AFS Youth Group	Youth Room	Downtown
2:00 pm	Worship		Primrose
4:30 pm	Community Café	Fellowship Hall	Downtown
<b>Mon 03/09</b>			
10:30 am	Lenten Study	North/south Parlor	Downtown
1:00 pm	AARP	Fellowship Hall	Downtown
4:30 pm	Exercise Class		Davis Park/Lodge
6:00 pm	AA Big Book Study	North/South Parlor	Downtown
6:00 pm	Alpha Brass Rehearsal	Alpha Brass Room	Downtown
<b>Tues 03/10</b>			
9:00 am	Sew Day	Fellowship Hall	Downtown
10:00 am	Staff Meeting	Conference Room	Downtown
1:30 pm	Madison County Clergy	Conference Room	Downtown
4:00 pm	AACC Rehearsal	Sanctuary, Choir Room	Downtown
6:00 pm	Church Council Meeting	North/South Parlor	Downtown
<b>Wed 03/11</b>			
9:00 am	Energy Assistance Day	Door #2	Downtown
9:00 am	Helping Hands Pantry	Door #3	Downtown
3:00 pm	Coffee With Corinne		Facebook Page
4:30 pm	Exercise Class		Davis Park/Lodge
6:00 pm	AFS Midweek	Youth Room	Downtown
6:00 pm	First Kids Club—Game Night	Fireplace Room	Downtown
6:00 pm	Lenten Study	North/South Parlor	Downtown
6:00 pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal	Bell Room	Downtown
7:00 pm	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary, Choir Room	Downtown
<b>Thurs 03/12</b>			
No activities to report			
<b>Fri 03/13</b>			
9:00 am	Bible Study - Lenten Study	North/South Parlor	Downtown
12:00 pm	Downtown Devotions		Facebook Page
<b>Sat 03/14</b>			
8:00 am	Lenten Breakfast — Alexandria Nazarene Church	1401 S Harrison St	Alexandria
9:00 am	AA Meeting	East/West Parlor	Downtown
<b>Sun 03/15</b>			
9:00 am	Trustee's Meeting	Conference Room	Downtown
9:25 am	Kids Choir	Choir Room	Downtown
10:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary	Downtown
2:00 pm	Worship		Primrose
4:30 PM	Food@First	Narthex	Downtown



## First United Methodist

FAITH FIRST. FAMILIES FIRST. ANDERSON FIRST.



**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**March 8, 2026 @ 10:00 AM**

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