



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

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THE VOICE
 A Newsletter of First United Methodist



HOLY THURSDAY SERVICE

April 2 at 7 p.m.
 Downtown Sanctuary

An inspirational and reflective service to prepare our hearts and minds for Christ's death and resurrection. The service includes the Lord's Supper.

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRA SERVICE

April 3 at 7 p.m.
 Downtown Sanctuary

A service leads us to the darkness of Jesus' death. The extinguishing of candles, music and readings will move us into the darkest time of human history. Join us as we continue to prepare for the contrasting Light of Easter.

EASTER SON-RISE SERVICE

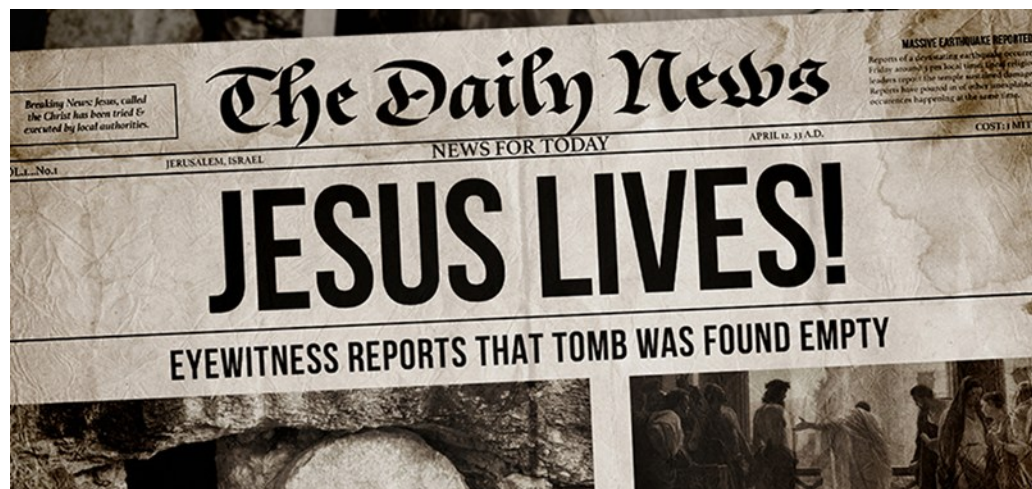
April 5 at 7 a.m.
 Coyner Lodge, Davis Park
 BREAKFAST
 7:30 a.m. at Coyner Lodge

EASTER TRADITIONAL CELEBRATION

April 5 at 10 a.m.
 Downtown Sanctuary
 A resurrection celebration service.

EASTER EGG HUNT

April 5 at 11:15 a.m.
 Downtown Fellowship Hall
 Fun for all!



Adult Ministries

WORSHIP SCHEDULE – April 2026

HOLY WEEK:

Thurs. April 2 Maundy Thursday Service – 7:00 p.m.
Music: Michele Murray

Fri. April 3 Good Friday Service – 7:00 p.m.
Music: Sanctuary Choir

April 5 EASTER & COMMUNION
Sonrise Service, Davis Park – 7:00 a.m.
Music: Michele Murray
Easter Breakfast, Davis Park – 7:30 a.m.
Traditional Easter Celebration, Downtown – 10:00
Music: Sanctuary Choir & Brass

April 12 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER
Mission From God
John 20: 19-31 (NLT)
Music: Arrows of the Almighty

April 19 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER
Rev. Dr. Brian White preaching
Revealed
1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35 (NRSV)
Music: Sanctuary Choir

April 26 MUSIC CELEBRATION SUNDAY
Let the Living Begin
John 10:1-10 (NLT)
Music: Sanctuary Choir, Wesley Chorale,
& First Kid's Choir
Joyful Noise Offering

JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING

Bring your coins and join us in making some noise for our Music Program as we celebrate this ministry. During worship on April 26, you will be invited to drop your coins into metal buckets allowing our giving to "ring." Of course, quieter donations are welcome, too!

AN EASTER PRAYER

Christ, death could not hold you. And because of your resurrection, we, too, can live. Thank you that the grave is only a journey into the presence of God. You have removed the sting of death and empowered this thing called life. Now we may live in your presence forever. Halleluiah! Amen!

and that they are welcome to come to our April 8th Pantry from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

We would like to celebrate Mother's Day for our women by giving them a small handbag. We have a number of bags that were donated by our congregation in the past and our guests appreciated receiving one, even if they were slightly used. We would also like to celebrate Father's Day by giving our men guests a golf cap, even if they are slightly used. We would be blessed by any of these items the congregation is able to donate to us.

Our congregation's support of our Pantry and the supplies they donate so generously allows us to serve the increasing number of guests we serve. They are a blessing to our Pantry and also our guests.

Sincerely—Linda Verhulst, Juanita cox and Karen Ambler

STAY SAFE

The church image is a newer source of scams were contact is made impersonating pastors or other trusted church leaders. These scams often arrive as emails or text messages that appear to come directly from a pastor with an urgently request gift cards, financial assistance, or sensitive information. *Always* seek to confirm through another media before responding to any of those type of requests. Keep yourself safe!

Music Ministry

We are looking forward to the service that will celebrate our choirs on April 26! Participating in worship will be Sanctuary Choir, Wesley Chorale and Kid's Choir. I know you appreciate the work that members of the groups provide. If you know people in these groups or any of the other musical groups, take a minute to thank them.

The Sanctuary Choir rehearses almost every Wednesday night from the end of August to the end of April. And in preparation for Return Sunday, Lessons and Carols, Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and Easter, additional rehearsal time is asked of them. They willingly give their time, talent and energy to provide the quality work they share.

Let's also think about all of the other musical groups that provide glorious music throughout the year –Alpha Brass, Arrows of the Almighty, Wesley Bells, Joyful Jazz, and the Murray Family. Each time they participate in worship it takes a commitment to be present and be prepared.

We are blessed as a congregation to have not only such variety but such quality!

Outreach Ministries

OUTREACH NEWS

The Easter season is such a humbling and emotional time of the year. We take time to reflect and give thanks during this Lenten season. The great gift that God gives us through his son, our Lord Jesus, is overwhelming. In this season of gratitude, Dave and I think of another gift as well, that of your gifts to the Outreach Ministries. The gifts that you freely give. We knew when we chose to join this church and make it our church home that you were the reason for our choice to become a part of this church. We saw the compassion in Pastors words and actions.

We received heartfelt welcomes when newly arriving. We saw the level of dedication to the ministries from the congregation. The ministries chosen by this church are themselves proof of your concern for "the least of these". They are community-based and in touch with the specific needs of Anderson. This congregation is well informed, self-motivated and more than that, obedient to scripture as to your choices of your time, energy and contributions. You certainly prove yourselves time after time. Hebrews 13:16 "And do not forget to do good and to share with others for with such sacrifices God is pleased." As you know, the Easter Offertory directly funds the FUMC external ministries.

This years external ministries include:

United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)
Gateway Association
Covenant Relationships
Literacy Coalition
Man 4 Man
St. Vincent DePaul
Indiana United Methodist Children's Home

Thank you in advance for your offerings that aide our community and all the love and prayers that strengthen it as well.

Sincerely,
Susan

HELPING HANDS NON-FOOD PANTRY

In spite of the wind and rain, we were able to have a successful Non-Food Pantry on March 11th. We gave a bag to 69 women and 36 men for a total of 105 bags. The items we provided to each person included two large rolls of toilet paper, a tube of tooth past, a toothbrush, deodorant for a woman or a man, a bottle of dish soap, and a dish scrubby.

Our guests included our regular attendees, the people who attended the Energy Assistance Outreach, as well as guests who attended for the first time. We make sure to let our guests know the date of the next Pantry

J.O.Y. LUNCH

April 17

Join us for an engaging presentation by Sharon McNabney on the Sear's Homes in Anderson. The meal will be Mancino's Baked Spaghetti. This monthly event begins at 11:30 a.m. with lunch. Please make your reservation to attend by Wednesday, April 15.



BECOMING CONNECTED TO THE FAMILY OF GOD MEMBERSHIP PREPARATION

All those wanting to explore membership at Anderson First UMC and those ready to make a commitment are invited to

Lunch and Conversation on

Sunday, April 26 at 11:30-1 p.m.

in the North/South Parlor with your Senior Pastor.

We will discuss the meaning of the vows, answer your questions, and if ready, schedule your Sunday!

RSVP *please* to Pastor Corinne at 317-902-184 or corinne@andersonfirst.org by Monday, April 20th.

WHY BOTHER WITH MEMBERSHIP?

It is for YOU and your relationship with Christ.

Everyone can attend church. We welcome all persons to our worship, service and fellowship. Membership into Anderson First United Methodist Church isn't mandatory to attend and participate. However, we believe becoming a member helps you on your journey into becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ. It is making the commitment to not only sit with or work beside children of God but to be one!

Membership is saying, "Yes" to being a child of God in the family Jesus Christ.

United Methodists vow to faithfully participate in the church's ministries by their prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. When you profess your membership at Anderson First United Methodist Church, you are asked to uphold these vows with your UMC brothers and sisters in Christ.

SPRING BIBLE STUDY
"The Lord and His Prayer" By N.T. Wright

April 13—May 24, 2026
Mondays at 10:30 a.m.
North/South Parlor and Online
Led by Pastor Brian White

In this book of pastoral reflections N.T. Wright explores how the Lord's Prayer sums up what Jesus was all about in his first-century setting. Wright locates the Lord's Prayer, clause by clause, within the historical life and work of Jesus and allows the prayer's devotional application to grow out of its historical context. The result is a fresh understanding of Christian spirituality and the life of prayer. This deeply devotional book will refresh and stimulate the heart and mind of any reader.

April 13 ... Our Father in Heaven
April 20 ... Thy Kingdom Come
April 27 ... Give Us This Day
May 4 ... Forgive Us Our Trespasses
May 11 ... Deliver Us From Evil
May 18 ... The Power and the Glory

LET YOUR VOICE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decisionmakers to end hunger at home and abroad. As part of the Feeding Indiana initiative, we invite all congregations to learn about advocacy through an Offering of Letters, calling on Congress to recommit to ending hunger. At the website you will find downloadable tools which include: sample letters and emails, policy information and more.
<https://www.bread.org/offering-letters/>

SUPPORTING GOD'S WORK

Your giving continues feeding the hungry – physically, emotionally and spiritually. You are invited to give during Sunday morning worship, online at www.andersonfirst.org/GIVE, through the mail, from your bank, or whatever way is most convenient for you. Your stewardship of time, talents and treasures make an eternal difference.

SOCCER SEASON

Davis Park launches into its Spring Soccer Season on this month as YMCA leagues begin to practice and compete on Saturday mornings for 6-weeks. The Hispanic soccer league also begins. These teams compete on Sundays.

Thank you to Dick Falkenberry and his teams

who maintain the fields, as well as, coordinate parking for the large crowds. Ally Hall and Pastor Corinne will continue to offer devotions prior to each soccer game.

MOVIE NIGHT

Lights, Camera... MOVIE NIGHT!

Get excited for a Movie Night at Anderson First Kids on Wednesday, **April 1st!** We invite all kids to wear their coziest pajamas and bring pillows and blankets for the ultimate viewing experience. Together, we'll enjoy a movie and delicious snacks. We can't wait to spend time with you on Wednesday from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. the Fireplace Room!

INDOOR EGG HUNT

Join Us for an Egg-citing Easter Sunday at First Kids!

Hop on over to First Kids this Easter Sunday for a fun-filled celebration the whole family will love! Starting at 10:00 a.m., all of our First Kids Classes will be open as we celebrate the joy of Easter with exciting confetti poppers!

But the fun doesn't stop there! Stick around after worship for a free indoor Easter egg hunt in the Fellowship Hall at 11:15 a.m.

Don't miss out on this joyful Easter Sunday. We can't wait to celebrate with you and your family!

FAMILY MINISTRY SHOWCASE

Come one, come all, to the Family Ministry Showcase!

We believe that all our children and students are truly exceptional, and we want to give them a platform to showcase their unique skills and passions. If your child or student has a talent or interest—regardless of its size—that they would like to share, we invite them to join us in the Sanctuary on May 3rd at 11:15 a.m.

This event could feature activities such as:

- Art
- Karate
- Origami
- Dance
- Playing musical instruments
- 3D printing
- And much more!



<https://www.andersonfirst.org/familyministryshowcase/>



Family Ministries

FIRST KIDS

We are ready to *live it out* this April as we teach kids that, when we trust and follow God, we are set apart! We will start by celebrating Easter and teaching kids that God cares about us. Complete with confetti poppers and an indoor egg hunt following worship on April 5th. Later, our First Kids will learn that God cares about our thoughts, words, and actions. God helps us live in ways that point others to Jesus, so we hope you will join us at Anderson First UMC on Sundays at 10am and Wednesdays at 6pm as learn how to live it out together!

YOUTH GROUP

Anderson First Students is meeting on April 12th and 26th for youth group. 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 on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month from 11:15-1:15, we gather in the Youth room. 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.

FIRST KIDS GAME NIGHT

Join Us for a Super Fun Game Night at First Kids Club! We're thrilled to invite all kids aged 3 to 12 to our next Game Night on **Wednesday, May 6th**, from **6 p.m. to 8 p.m.** This will be the last First Kids Club until the fall, so you will not want to miss it!

KIDS CHOIR

Do- Re-Mi-Fa-So-La-Ti- Do.... you know that the Kids Choir is performing on **April 26th** for Choir Sunday! Everyone from 3 years old to 6th grade is invited to join our Kids Choir!

Choir Details:

When: Sunday mornings, 9:25 a.m. to 9:55 a.m.

Where: Upstairs in the Choir Room

Come for a fun time filled with singing, musical games, and worship. We'll have several performances throughout the year, with the next one on **April 26th** at 10:00 a.m.

If your kiddo is excited to join, just swing by the Kids check-in on Sunday mornings. We'll take them to the Choir room and bring them back to their classrooms after rehearsal.

Got questions? Feel free to reach out to **Sue Finger** or **Ally Hall!**

UMCOR SAGER BROWN FACILITY

A significant number of this church membership volunteered summer working at Sager Brown. Our congregants who participated forged many bonds through this service. We ask that you continue to keep this vital ministry in your prayers as it is "reimagined."

The announcement is as follows: UMCOR is reimagining its approach to disaster relief kit materials management for greater efficiency and reduced cost. As a part of this restructuring, UMCOR will no longer operate the Sager Brown facility, effective January 2027. Throughout 2026, we will continue to make and move relief kits from the UMCOR Sager Brown facility and will welcome volunteers, as scheduled. We are sincerely grateful for the faithful support of the volunteers, staff, and all who have sustained UMCOR Sager Brown for many years.

Blessings,
Jim Cox and Amy Fuselier



Historian's Note

I am in the early stages of a living history project involving video interviews with various people in our church. I am starting to compile a list of participants. This is open to anyone regardless of age or how long you've attended our church. I'm looking for a variety of viewpoints and perspectives.

If you or someone you know would be interested in sitting down with me sometime this summer to be interviewed, please contact me at memclintick@gmail.com or through the church office.

Matt McClintick
Church Historian

Monthly Devotion

by Steve Anderson

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

(Jesus at the Last Supper)

April is the month of promise and the resurrection of old friends such as lilies spoken of by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. As has been written, Jesus said that he was here to serve mankind not mankind to serve Him.

At the Last Supper and throughout his ministry he taught the Disciples to love one another to the point of sacrificing their lives. He was preparing them for the ultimate sacrifice he was about to make for them and us.

His words in John 15:13 have stood the test of time. Sacrifice for loved ones occurs every hour of everyday. Examples would include organ donors, a single mother foregoing her meal so that her children would not go hungry, joining the military knowing that you may sacrifice your life in defending the Constitution and the rest of us, and finally parents willing to trade their today so that their children may have many tomorrows.

Somewhere in the realm of sacrifice are the elements of bravery and courage. Bravery many times occurs without much thought. The person is asked "Why did you go into that burning building to save that stranger"? Many times, the reply is "I didn't think about it I just did it. Thinking about it now it was the right thing to do". Courage is a little different in that people tend to think about what might happen, but they go ahead anyway to solve the problem fully aware of the consequences.

Bravery and courage are constant companions for our men and women in the military. Jesus knew exactly what was going to happen, Crucifixion is Him. The resurrection of Jesus and His appearance to others was the fulfilling of His promise to save us from our sins and illustrate His unending love for us.

My favorite story is how Jesus revealed himself to some of his Disciples after the resurrection. Jesus was on the shore, and He asked them, "Have you caught anything yet"? They said, "no". He then said, "Throw your net on the other side of the boat". They did and caught a boatload of fish. They then sat with Jesus in an atmosphere of love. He told them to love one another as he had loved them.

His resurrection and revealing Himself to them and others gave them the courage to spread His teachings and example of His life throughout the Roman Empire. They did this with great courage and conviction eventually giving their lives for Jesus, each other and us. The demands of our chaotic world demand that that we fulfill the words of Jesus in John 15;13 and also to love our neighbor as we do ourselves.

Dear Jesus, give us the strength to be brave and have courage to do the right thing in honoring your gifts to us. Amen

UNITED METHODIST BISHOPS CALL FOR PRAYER AND PEACE in the new Middle East war

Sunday, March 1, 2026

We know that our hearts are heavy as we witness the mounting loss of life from the ongoing military strikes carried out by the United States and Israel, and from retaliatory strikes by Iran. Families are grieving the loss of loved ones, and entire communities are shaken by the weight of uncertainty, fear, and profound sorrow. Innocent civilians are caught in the crossfire of a widening conflict they did not choose.

Scripture reminds us that "The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit" (Psalm 34:18). As bishops of The United Methodist Church, we hold fast to this promise as we pray for all who have been killed, all who are injured, and all who now carry trauma and fear in the wake of this violence. We stand resolute in remembering the uncompromising call of Jesus: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for will be called children of God" (Matthew 5:9). This calling is a summons to act with courage and with a steadfast commitment to honoring the dignity and life of every human being.

We urge leaders on every side to turn from the escalation of violence and seek paths toward justice, reconciliation, and lasting peace. We implore them to place the protection of innocent lives at the center of every decision.

As followers of Christ, let us be steadfast in prayer for those whose lives were taken that they may rest in God's eternal peace. Let us pray for the wounded that healing and comfort may surround them. Let us pray for families and communities in mourning that they may find strength for the days ahead. And let us pray for leaders and nations that they may choose the path of peace over the path of destruction.

May God's Spirit move among us and within us, guiding our hearts toward justice, compassion, and the hard, holy work of peacemaking. May we be instruments of Christ's peace in a world yearning for healing.

In Christ's mercy,



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