



First United Methodist

FAITH FIRST. FAMILIES FIRST. ANDERSON FIRST.

First United Methodist Church Phone: 765-643-6977
1215 Jackson Street E-mail: mail@andersonfirst.org
Anderson IN 46016-1652

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 909
Anderson, Indiana

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Visit us on the web at
andersonfirst.org and
follow us on Facebook

Welcome May
 May You be happy.
 May You be well.
 May You be safe.
 May You find comfort.
 May You have strength.
 May You have courage.
 May You find healing.
 May You have peace.
 May You have joy.
 May You be filled with
 loving kindness.
**MAY YOU BE BLESSED
 TODAY
 AND ALWAYS**

MORNING
greetings.com



THE VOICE

A Newsletter of First United Methodist



SCHEDULE DOWNTOWN & DAVIS PARK

Beginning **May 24** we enter our Summer Worship Schedule.

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

9:00 a.m.
Davis Park
(4507 Nichol Ave., Anderson)
Bring your lawn chair!

DOWNTOWN WORSHIP

10:45 a.m.
North/South Parlor
Enter Door #3
Summer Worship Schedule is Memorial Weekend thru Labor Day
Weekend. Return Sunday (return to sanctuary downtown) is
September 13.

PRIMROSE WORSHIP

2:00 p.m.
1118 W Cross St, Anderson
Primarily, but not limited to, a gathering of
Primrose Retirement Community residents who sing, pray and praise
God together for about 45 minutes weekly. Pastors Corinne Boruff
and Don Deena Johson rotate monthly.

Adult Ministries

WORSHIP SCHEDULE for May 2026

- May 3 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER & COMMUNION
The Living Stone Age
1 Peter 2:2-10 (NLT)
Music: Joyful Jazz
Sound Tech: Richard Cassiday
Visual Tech: Matt Stout
11:15 – Family Ministry Showcase in sanctuary with lunch following
- May 10 MOTHER’S DAY
Rev. Dr. Brian White preaching
Music: Wesley Bells
Sound Tech: Mark Murray
Visual Tech: Matt Stout
- May 17 ASCENSION SUNDAY
It’s a Good Thing He’s Gone!
Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53 (NLT)
Music: Alpha Brass
Sound Tech: Jim Hudson;
Visual Tech: Matt Stout
- May 24 PENTECOST & MEMORIAL WEEKEND
First Sunday at Davis Park (9 a.m.) and
North/South Parlor (10:45 a.m.)
The Spirit Moves
Numbers 11:24-30; 1 Corinthians 12:3-6 (NLT)
9:00 a.m. Outdoor Worship at Davis Park
Music: Jazz Combo
Sound Tech: Richard Cassiday, Mark
Murray & Jim Hudson
Visual Tech: Matt Stout
10:45 a.m. Downtown Worship in North/South
Parlor
Music: Michele Murray
- May 31 TRINITY SUNDAY
Holy Arithmetic
2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20 (NLT)
9:00 a.m. Outdoor Worship at Davis Park
Music: Handbell Quartet
Sound Tech: Richard Cassiday, Mark Murray
& Jim Hudson
Visual Tech: Matt Stout
10:45 a.m. Downtown Worship in North/South
Parlor
Music: Michele Murray

Music Ministry

CONGRATULATIONS to MARK FINGER for being selected as the 2026 Outstanding Alumnus Award from Ball State University School of Music! He was presented this award at the Honors Program for the School of Music on April 26.

Mark was recognized for his years as a successful high school band director as well as his years as a high school principal. He was also commended for his ongoing work in the field of music. He is the founder and conductor of Alpha Brass, a ministry of First United Methodist Church. He sings in both the Sanctuary Choir and Wesley Chorale and he plays in Wesley Bells.

Mark is also one of the original members of DJO (Directors Jazz Orchestra) and has played with that group for 25 years.

He serves as a University Supervisor to student teachers who are preparing for a career in music education.

His commitment to excellence in music, leadership, and talent are to be applauded.

Congrats Mark!



Outreach Ministries

OUTREACH NEWS

Outreach has so much to celebrate! We recently received 2 heartfelt donations for our needs this year, which is such a timely blessing as the local hospitals are currently on hold with their donation status. Every gift assists us in meeting our budgetary needs. Alpha Brass generously gave from their last great Alpha Brass Concert and Caroline Taylor blessed Outreach on her birthday by gifting to us! Thank you both for considering and contributing to Outreach. We are awaiting all Easter Offerings to arrive prior to announcing the Easter External Ministry Outreach total for this year. Thank you all in advance for your support. We have also been blessed with Anderson High School students who are offering their time to volunteer for a few Sunday evenings to meet their national honor society guidelines. A big thank you to Allison, Layla and Lilly. As if that's not enough, God continues to surprise us with answers to prayer from out of the blue. I received a call from Adrian who called with a desire to voluntarily cut hair for our Community Cafe guests on the second Sundays of the month. We started this new Main Course/Mane Cut ministry Sunday with 11 happy, good-looking guests as a result of his and other volunteer efforts. Our God IS an amazing God. Phil. 4:19, "my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Sincerely,
Susan

HELPING HANDS NON-FOOD PANTRY

Our April 8th Non-Food Pantry started slowly, serving 10 people in the first 30 minutes. Our attendance soon improved and by the end of the Pantry at 11:00 a.m., we had served 87 people! Each person received two large rolls of toilet paper, a bottle of shampoo, a bottle of conditioner, a tube of lotion, a bottle of liquid hand soap, and laundry detergent. We tell each person the date of our next Pantry and let them know they are welcome to come again.

Our Congregation and the supplies they donate to us are greatly appreciated. They enable us to serve the increasing number of guests attending our Pantry. They are a blessing to our Pantry, as well as our guests.

Our next Helping Hands Non-Food Pantry will be **May 13, 2026** from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. For that Pantry we are requesting donations of toilet paper, a tube of toothpaste or deodorant for a man or a woman. We appreciate your help for any of these items.

Thank you!

Sincerely—Linda Verhulst, Juanita Slattery, and Karen Ambler



Sunday, May 24

God came to His disciples as fire – the Holy Spirit – inspiring his disciples to share the Good News of Jesus Christ! (Acts 2:3) Let us show that the Holy Spirit has touched our lives on this special Sunday --

WEAR RED to worship.

(If you have no red clothing a ribbon will be available to pin on your clothing.)

May the Holy Spirit set us on fire for Jesus Christ!

CALLING ALL GRADUATES

All High School, College or Advance Degree graduates' names are requested by the church office so that they may be recognized and celebrated on

Sunday, June 7

during the 9 a.m. worship at Davis Park.

Please submit the following information to the office:

Name, contact information, graduating from, degree, family connection to AFUMC and plans after graduation.

Contact Ally Hall or the church office with information.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Thursday, May 7, 2026

GLORIFY GOD AMONG THE NATIONS

"Tell of His glory among the nations,

His wonderful deeds among all the peoples." 1 Chronicles 16:24 (NASB)

Several million people are expected to participate in this call to prayer.

Be among them!

J.O.Y. LUNCH

May 15

Come to hear from Susan Eichhorn, Education Coordinator of Anderson Recycle Center. Ann Bull will offer an introduction. Make your reservation by Wednesday, May 13 by notifying the church office, 765-643-6977.

Cost of the meal is \$12 per person and is paid upon arrival.

All are welcome!

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

May 10

Every one of us has a mother. This is a day set aside to remember those mothers who blessed our lives. Bring your mother or your memory with you to worship on this special Sunday. We recognize all those who "mother" us --Biological mothers, Adoptive mothers, Grandmothers, Friends, Teachers, Persons reflecting Christ. Receive our gift to you which represents our love and gratitude for YOU!



Annual Conference June 3 – 6, 2026

St. Luke's UMC, Indianapolis, IN

Rev. Corinne Boruff and Lay Representative Dorinda Cassiday are your voting members to Annual Conference 2026. Judy Whitney and Pastor Brian White will also be attending and voting. All are welcome to register and attend!

Those who are not voting members of the Annual Conference Session should register as a "guest" at no charge. Online registration is open at inumc.org/annual-conference thru May 20.

SOS BLURB

It's going to be a great summer at Anderson First! Summer of service is back, and we need your help!

Every week in June and July, we will have specific serving opportunities for you and your families to do over the summer that will impact our community. We will have weekend events as well as family projects that you can do at your own pace. That way, no matter what your summer plans are, you can find time to work some of our SOS events into your family calendar. Each SOS event presents a unique opportunity to serve our church and community and show our kids and students that you are never too young to make a difference. We can't wait to spend the summer serving alongside you and your family!

Check out the list of activities and projects happening this summer below:

- Month of June: Operation Love School Supply Drive
- Week of June 1st-SOS Family Project: Public Park Clean Up
- June 13th @ TBD SOS Event: Swimming Party
- Week of June 15th-SOS Family Project: Make cards for seniors
- June 28th @ 1:30 pm-2:45 pm-SOS Event: Primrose Worship Service
- Month of July: Prayer Bear Drive
- July 11th @ TBD-SOS Event: Jumps Party
- Week of July 13th-Family Project: First responders treat delivery
- July 24th @ TBD-SOS Event: Blessing Bag Packing

GRADUATE SUNDAY

Do you know A GRADUATE?

The church office is requesting the names of all High School, college, or Advanced Degree graduates to honor and celebrate them on Sunday, **June 7th**, during the 9:00 a.m. worship service at Davis Park.

Use the link here <https://www.andersonfirst.org/graduates/> or provide the following information to the office:

- Name
- Contact information
- Institution graduating from
- Degree earned
- Family connection to AFUMC
- Plans following graduation

You can reach us at 765-643-6977 or contact judy@andersonfirst.org

END-OF YEAR PARTY

Get Ready for the Youth Group End-of-Year Party & Awards Ceremony!

Save the date for an unforgettable celebration on **May 17th at 11:15 AM!** Join us for the Youth Group End-of-Year Party and Awards Ceremony, as we conclude an incredible year with Anderson First Students.

What to Expect:

- Fun games and activities
- Free food and refreshments
- Acknowledgement of our remarkable students and leaders with exciting awards
- Opportunities to reconnect with friends and meet new ones!

This is the perfect occasion to celebrate the fun and memories we've created together this year. Families of the students are welcomed to join, so bring your loves ones along! We look forward to seeing you there!

MOVE TO DAVIS PARK Summer Worship at Davis Park kicks off on May 24th!

During our **9 AM worship service** at Davis Park, we invite all children aged 5 and older to worship alongside their families on the first Sunday of each month. For the remainder of the month, First Kids classes will be held in the Lodge. This arrangement allows kids up to 5th grade to participate in their regular classes, featuring engaging and age-appropriate activities. It also provides parents with the opportunity to serve and worship while enabling our leadership to welcome new families with programming similar to what we offer downtown.

Important Reminders:

- Please sign in your children at the table by the Lodge before worship Begins.
- Children under 3 can be dropped off in the sunroom before worship.
- Kids ages 3 and older will gather in the Lodge for Large Group and stations.

For any questions regarding the Davis Park Kids programming, feel free to contact Ally Hall. We can't wait to worship with you and your families this summer!

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

"The Lord will make you fertile in every good thing." Deuteronomy 28:11

"And God said let there be light." Geneses 1:3

"No one has ever seen God but if we love one another God lives in us and his love is made complete in us." John 4:12

During the month of May the awakening of the earth continues but at a more rapid pace. Seeds have been sown; plants have been planted and various flowers have had their moment and taken a bow. As new flowers slowly begin to emerge with their special array of colors Aaron Copland's Appalachian Spring serves as their introduction and anthem. The master of ceremonies and conductor of all of this is God.

May is also a month of remembrance. Memorial Day this year is May 25, 2026, remembering all of our fellow Americans who traded in their tomorrows so that we could have our today's. One vivid example of their sacrifice is the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington D.C. One of my friends' name is on that wall. I was at a Purdue football game and talked to him as he was selling carnations. It was 1967 and was the last time that I saw him.

He was killed May 4, 1968, trying to save a fellow soldier who was wounded. Other remembrances include honoring the Virgin Mary and Mother's Day (May 10, 2026).

(continued on next page)



Family Ministries

May has been described as the month of life and fertility. May is named for the Greek goddess Maia who was the goddess of fertility. One must, as they say, stop and smell the roses, to observe the fertility and life everywhere. Birds mating and nest building, bees and flowers celebrating their dependence on one another and then there are the rabbits. Young pregnant to be mothers are also busy putting together nests/nurseries. Statistics show that December is the most popular month for conception and September is the most popular for birthing.

May has also been described as the month of light. It might be compared to a prism. At the start of the month it is just a piece of sculptured glass that is transformed by ever brighter and longer days into an explosion of colors. It is like someone just turned on the lights. In this case God is the one who flipped the switch. The power of that light brings seeds up from the ground turning them into plants. This power is evident in the fact that grass and weeds are drawn up through asphalt driveways to fulfill their destiny.

In May the river of love overflows with hope, joy and renewal. An example of the above statement occurs at the end of the month. It is the Indianapolis 500 Mile Race. It is the largest one-day sporting event in the world with 350,000 in attendance. Being a part of the crowd of 350,000 I have seen just about every aspect of humanity including the instant death of some of my favorite drivers and the valiant bravery shown in trying to save them. The race this year is May 25 and will be my sixty ninth.

Prior to the race there are several ceremonies. However, there is one ceremony where I believe God is present and that is the playing of Taps honoring America's war dead. As the lone bugle begins to play taps, 350,000 people rise and stand shoulder to shoulder in complete silence. It seems that everyone who walked through the track gate left their prejudices, hate, negative opinions and myopic loyalties at that gate. They entered the track united in love for this event and for a moment each other. God is in all of us and at that moment stood next to all 350,000 of us and said, "I think you all are starting to catch on about the power of love."

"No one has ever seen God but if we love one another God lives in us."
John 4:12

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 **Sunday, May 3rd at 11:15**

This event could feature activities such as:

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



All children and students are encouraged to come onstage to answer a few questions during the showcase, even if they choose not to showcase a specific interest. Registration is open now through April 26th. While early registration is preferred, we understand that kids can be spontaneous, and we will be happy to welcome anyone who wishes to participate. This event is a wonderful opportunity for our entire church community to connect with our families and remind them just how cherished they are! We hope everyone can stay after worship to enjoy the showcase. We will have a special lunch after the showcase to celebrate our brave, talented, amazing families! For any questions, please feel free to reach out to Ally Hall or Sue Finger. We look forward to celebrating our talented Family Ministry!

[**2026 Family Ministry Showcase – Fill out form**](#)

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 to 8 PM**. This will be the last First Kids Club until the fall, so you will not want to miss it! This event promises to be packed with games, laughter, and an ice cream sundae snack. We can't wait to close out this year with our awesome Anderson First Kids!