

ASCENSION SUNDAY
May 17, 2026 – 10 a.m.

INTROIT Alpha Brass
"Eternal Father, Strong to Save"

WELCOME
PATHWAY: **Living our Faith, Nurturing Families,
Serving our Communities.**

***GREETING**

MUSIC FOR GATHERING Alpha Brass
"Spiritual on Deep River"

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Elizabeth Murray-Sherron
ONE: People of God, the Lord of glory, Jesus Christ, sends his greeting to you. And his greeting is this: "Peace be with you." Christ, who arose from the grave, offers you his Peace.
ALL: He died and rose that we might have eternal life. All thanks be to Jesus!
ONE: This same Christ ascended to heaven.
ALL: He ascended that we might experience God's presence and power. All praise be to God.

***HYMN** "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" #154
1. All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall; bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all. Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all.

4. Let every kindred, every tribe on this terrestrial ball, to him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all. To him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all.

6. O that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall! We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all. We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all.

OFFERING TO GOD
CELEBRATING GENEROSITY

Elizabeth Murray-Sherron, Finance Chairperson
OFFERTORY Alpha Brass
"Amazing Grace"

***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** Elizabeth Murray-Sherron

ANTHEM Alpha Brass
"Italian Hym Varitation"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 "Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skys" #173
1. Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise,
triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Daystar, in my heart appear.
3. Visit then this soul of mine;
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, Radiancy divine,
scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display,
shining to the perfect day.

NEW TESTAMENT Don Shults
Ephesians 1:19-23 (NLT)
¹⁹ I pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power ²⁰ that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. ²¹ Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. ²² God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. ²³ And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.

**Please stand for the Gospel reading.*

***GOSPEL** Luke 24:44-53 (NLT)
⁴⁴ Then he said, "When I was with you before, I told you that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and in the Psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ And he said, "Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day. ⁴⁷ It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all

the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: 'There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.' ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of all these things. ⁴⁹ "And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven." ⁵⁰ Then Jesus led them to Bethany, and lifting his hands to heaven, he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up to heaven. ⁵² So they worshiped him and then returned to Jerusalem filled with great joy. ⁵³ And they spent all of their time in the Temple, praising God.

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

SERMON It's a Good Thing He is Gone! Rev. Boruff

HYMN "Praise the Lords Who Reigns Above" #96
1. Praise the Lord who reigns above and keeps his court below; praise the holy God of love and all his greatness show; praise him for his noble deeds, praise him for his matchless power; him from whom all good proceeds let earth and heaven adore.

3. God, in whom they move and live, let every creature sing, glory to their Maker give, and homage to their King. Hallowed be thy name beneath, as in heaven on earth adored; praise the Lord in every breath, let all things praise the Lord.

RESPONSE

As we prepare to go from here, remember this: The same power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead and placed all things under his authority....
This same power is at work within us and in all who believe. Praise God!

MUSIC FOR SENDING Alpha Brass
"Be Thou My Vision"

***BENEDICTION**

**Please stand as you are able.*

THANK YOU
for assisting in worship!
Worship Leaders: Elizabeth Murray-Sherron & Don Shults
Music: Alpha Brass
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
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 WORSHIP SCHEDULE:** Begins on May 24, 9:00 a.m. Outdoor Worship at Davis Park; 10:45 A.M. Downtown Worship in North/South Parlor.
- **HANDBELL FESTIVAL:** A very special community event with 4 Bell Choirs. The event is in our downtown sanctuary on Sunday, June 7 at 3 p.m. Come and support our musicians, welcome our guest and enjoy spectacular music!
- **REV. DR. DEREK WEBER RETIREMENT:** On May 19 at 2 p.m. EST as a Zoom event. Zoom link is <https://mailchi.mp/umcdiscipleship/october-10308972?e=96ced643fc> Derek was Senior Pastor at Anderson First UMC from 2001-2007.
- **SUMMER OF SERVICE IS BACK:** Every week in June and July, we will have specific serving opportunities for you to do over the summer that will impact our community. We can't wait to spend the summer serving alongside you!
- **FIRST KIDS CLASSES:** Every Sunday beginning May 24 at 9 a.m. Davis Park service, ALL children ages 5 & older are invited to classes in Coyner Lodge (except the first Sunday of each month).
- **GRADUATES:** The church is requesting the names of all High School, College, or Advanced Degree graduates to honor and celebrate them on Sunday, June 7th at 9 a.m. at Davis Park. Contact the church office to submit your information.

We give thanks for today's:

- Ushers:** Dick Falkenberry, Ryan Falkenberry, Bonnie Belangee, Jeff Dyer
Greeters: Pat Walker, Jim Ault
Coffee Hosts: Sanctuary Choir

Weekly Schedule

Sun 05/17			
9:00 am	Trustee's Meeting	Conference Room	Downtown
10:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary	Downtown
11:15 am	AFS End-of-Year Party	Youth Room	Downtown
1:30 pm	Musical Team Meeting	Conference Room	Downtown
2:00 pm	Worship		Primrose
4:30 pm	Food@First	Narthex	Downtown
Mon 05/18			
10:30 am	Bible Study	North/South Parlor	Downtown
11:00 am	Buddy Bag Packing (AFUMC)	Fellowship Hall	Downtown
4:30 pm	Exercise Class		Davis Park/Lodge
6:00 pm	AA Big Book Study	North/South Parlor	Downtown
7:00 pm	Budget Benders	Conference Room	Downtown
Tues 05/19			
9:00 am	United Methodist Children's Home Tour		Lebanon, IN
9:00 am	Sew Day	Fellowship Hall	Downtown
10:00 am	Staff Meeting	Conference Room	Downtown
Wed 05/20			
3:00 pm	Coffee With Corinne		Facebook Page
4:30 pm	Exercise Class		Davis Park/Lodge
Thurs 05/21 No activities to report			
Fri 05/22			
9:00 am	Bible Study	North/South Parlor	Downtown
11:00 am	Buddy Bag Delivery (AFUMC)		Downtown
12:00 pm	Downtown Devotions		Facebook Page
Sat 05/23			
9:00 am	AA Meeting	East/West Parlor	Downtown
Sun 05/24			
9:00 am	Worship Service		Davis Park
10:45 am	Worship	North/South Parlor	Downtown
2:00 pm	Worship		Primrose
4:30 PM	Roesch Community Cafe	Fellowship Hall	Downtown



First United Methodist

FAITH FIRST. FAMILIES FIRST. ANDERSON FIRST.



ASCENSION SUNDAY
May 17, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

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