



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

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# THE VOICE

**A Newsletter of First United Methodist**

**WE HONOR OUR GRADUATES!**

**Allison Rios**

Graduating from Anderson High School  
 with an Academic and Technical Honors Diploma  
 I heard about the church through Sarah Taylor. I have been working  
 for a year in the children's classrooms ever since! I also volunteered  
 in the Community Café.  
 My future plans are to attend Ball State University and obtain a  
 Master's Degree in Speech Language Pathology.

**Nancy Cox**

Graduating with a G.E.D. from Excel Center  
 Nancy is going to use her passion for art for Gaming Design.  
 She works in the children's classrooms Sundays and Wednesdays,  
 is a regular assisting with Helping Hands Non-food Pantry and has  
 helped with Community Café and Food@First.

**Ethan Carter**

*Honored on April 26 as a part of Music Sunday*  
 Graduating from Anderson University  
 Planning to study mathematics in Grad School  
 Sang with the AFUMC Sanctuary Choir for 3 years.

**GRADUATES HONORED**

Sunday, June 7 @ 9:00 AM Service at Davis Park.

**PRAYER FOR OUR GRADUATES**

ALL KNOWING, EVER-LOVING GOD,  
 Surround those who are graduating with your grace.  
 Bless them with hope so they move into the future  
 with eager and open hearts. Help them to put the knowledge,  
 skills and insight gained through their education use for  
 the good of all. Inspire them to believe in the goodness of life  
 even when faced with challenges and difficulties.  
 As they move forward their lives, may they grow more grateful  
 wise and closer to you.



# Adult Ministries

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE for June 2026

### SERMON SERIES: SUMMER SETTINGS

This sermon series is based on Biblical passages set in common summer destinations: mountains, lakes, oceans, and road trips. The Bible is also full of people on the go. It is full of landscapes just like today's vacation spots.

The landscape of the Bible may be half a world and thousands of years away, but there is a spiritual significance to these familiar places in the story of God's work and salvation. We will connect the significance of our own summer settings and the story of God's salvation through the experiences of the people of the Bible.

**June 7**

### **GRADUATION SUNDAY & COMMUNION**

Summer Setting: Mountains

Exodus 3:1-12 (NIV)

9:00 AM Outdoor Worship at Davis Park

Music: Sheryl Monnier & Michele Murray

Sound Tech: Jim Hudson

Visual Tech: Matt Stout

10:45 AM Downtown Worship in North/South Parlor

Music: Sheryl Monnier & Michele Murray

**June 14**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Summer Setting: Oceans & Seas

Acts 27:27-44 (NLT)

9:00 AM Outdoor Worship at Davis Park

Music: Matt Finger & Sue Finger

Sound Tech: Mark Murray

Visual Tech: Matt Stout

10:45 AM Downtown Worship in North/South Parlor

Music: Michele Murray

**June 21**

### **FATHER'S DAY**

Summer Setting: Lakes & Streams

2 Kings 5:1-14 (NLT)

9:00 AM Outdoor Worship at Davis Park

Music: Joyful Jazz & Michele Murray

Sound Tech: Richard Cassiday

Visual Tech: Matt Stout

10:45 AM Downtown Worship in North/South Parlor

Music: Michele Murray

**June 28**

### **5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Summer Setting: Road Trips

Genesis 12:1-9 (NLT)

9:00 AM Outdoor Worship at Davis Park

Music: Alpha Brass & Sue Finger

Sound Tech: Jim Hudson

Visual Tech: Matt Stout

10:45 AM Downtown Worship in North/South Parlor

Music: Rachael Lashbrook

# Outreach Ministries

## OUTREACH NEWS

It is with heartfelt gratitude that the Outreach teams extend a sincere and well-deserved thank you to Linda and Dick Verhulst for their years of service to the Helping Hands Non-Food Pantry. She began volunteering in 2019. Their combined efforts along with the team allowed the mission to regularly serve those in need. She had a vision of how to distribute the items and worked with area health providers to extend their outreach to others in addition to those who were able to drive or walk by. She and her team worked tirelessly to find and to purchase the most reasonably priced items in the area. She kept the ministry within budget at all times. Her record keeping was meticulous. They were a pleasure to work with. Our sincere prayers are with them for a smooth transition forward. Hebrews 6:10, "For God is not unfair. He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers, as you still do." Thank you Dick and Linda.

Summer is coming and so is the Grille! Outreach is transitioning from indoor to outdoor dining on June 7. We serve from 4:30 PM-5:00 PM. Volunteer teams arrive at 3:00 PM-6:00 PM. Our guests are excited and we look forward to serving grilled dinners from June through August. Thanks to all who volunteer!

Sincerely,  
Susan

## HELPING HANDS NON-FOOD PANTRY

Thanks to our generous, giving congregation, we were able to serve 113 men and women on Wednesday, May 13, for the Helping Hands Non-Food Pantry. Each guest received toilet paper, dishwashing liquid and a dish scrubber, deodorant, toothpaste and a toothbrush, a bar of soap, and another gift--either shaving cream, hand sanitizer, or a packet of sanitizing wipes. Our guests are thankful for your support and donations. Our next Helping Hands Pantry will be on Wednesday, June 10, from 9:00 AM-11:00 AM. We are requesting donations of shampoo (both men and women), conditioner, toilet paper, laundry detergent, liquid hand soap, or body lotion.

**Starting at our August 12 Helping Hands Pantry, we will change our giveaway time to 9:00 AM-10:30 AM to coincide with the same timing of the Utility Assistance Program.**

Thank you for your generosity!

Sincerely—Linda Verhulst, Karen Ambler, Juanita Slattery

## AFS TUBING TRIP

You're Invited to a River Tubing Adventure!

Join us for an exciting afternoon of river tubing with friends! Prepare for a splash on fun and relaxation as we float down the river.

**When:** June 14th

**Time:** 12:30 PM-3:30 PM (trip leaves at 1:00 PM)

**Where:** Canoe Country, Daleville, Indiana

**Cost:** \$15 per person

Whether you're seeking thrills or just want to unwind in the great outdoors, this is the perfect opportunity for some summer fun. Please let Ally Hall know by May 31st if you'll be joining us to ensure we have enough tubes for everyone!

## AFS MOVIE OUTING

You're Invited to Anderson First Students Moving Outing!

Get ready for a fun afternoon out with friends at our movie outing.

**When:** July 12th

**Time:** 12:45 PM-3:30 PM (movie starts at 1:00 PM)

**Where:** Emagine Theater

**Cost:** \$10

Whether you're a movie lover or just want to kick back and enjoy some good vibes, this is the perfect chance to hang out and relax.

Let Ally Hall know if you're coming by July 5th so we can make sure there are enough tickets for everyone! planning

## Music Ministry

### 2026 FAMILY MINISTRY MUSICAL!

Planning has begun for the Kids' Musical that will be presented on July 26 at 10:00 AM in the sanctuary.

If you know a child who might be interested we would love to have them involved! Age range includes children entering 2nd grade through those entering 9th grade. Our first meeting/rehearsal will be Friday, July 17. Following that we will meet on Sunday, July 19 in the afternoon and rehearse each day the next week from July 20-24.

Once again, we need volunteers to bring lunches and snacks the week of July 20. Your willingness to help is a ministry to the kids and is **GREATLY** appreciated! If you are willing to help provide food/snacks contact Ally Hall. If you have questions about the musical, contact Sue Finger.

## HANDBELL FESTIVAL Sunday, June 7 at 3:00 PM AFUMC Sanctuary

There will be a community handbell festival on Sunday, June 7 in the downtown sanctuary of Anderson First United Methodist Church at 3:00 PM. While being housed at First Methodist, the event is sponsored by First Presbyterian Church.

Handbell choirs from Bethany Christian, Christ Lutheran, Anderson First United Methodist and First Presbyterian churches will participate. This is a free concert to celebrate our shared gift of handbell music.

Childcare will be provided and a freewill offering will be collected. Mark your calendars and bring some friends. This will be a wonderful event. You don't want to miss it!

## FALL CREEK VALLEY BAND CONCERT

Saturday, June 13 @ 7 :00 PM at Davis Park

Bring your lawn chairs or blankets, refreshments (no alcohol) and a readiness to experience fabulous music!

The concert is outside weather permitting.  
The rain location is the downtown sanctuary on  
June 13 at 7:00 PM

## J.O.Y LUNCH

June 19 at 11:30 AM

Dr. Paul Jarrett will present to us his experience working in a Ukrainian Orphanage.

Join us for his riveling stories and testimony.  
Make your reservation by Wednesday, June 17.  
Bring a friend!



June 21

On this special day, we pay tribute to all those who have embraced the sacred calling of fatherhood whether by birth, by choice, or by heart.  
Happy Father's Day!



Everyone wants to spend their lives doing something that has meaning, uses their gifts, and is something that they enjoy doing. God's call for all people is, first, to be in relationship with God, and second, to work in the world. Frederick Buechner speaks of the second type of call this way: "The place where God calls you is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."

Asking questions can help us unlock our deep gladness and how we experience the world's deep hunger. **Do you know someone struggling to know what God's call is in his or her life? Invite them to join you for a cup of coffee and share with them in each of these 5 important conversations.** (5 different meetings with a different conversation at each one.) You'll both walk away with more than just 5 cups of coffee. You may both end up with clarity about calling and discipleship.

1. The God Conversation - Exodus 3:1-15
2. The Gift Conversation - 1 Corinthians 12
3. The Passion Conversation - Micah 6:8
4. The Spiritual Growth Conversation - Romans 12:1-2
5. The Opportunities Conversation - Colossians 3:17

Materials are available from Pastor Corinne Boruff.  
corinne@andersonfirst.org



### Annual Conference June 3 – 6, 2026

St. Luke's UMC, Indianapolis, IN  
Rev. Corinne Boruff and Lay Representative Dorinda Cassidy are your voting members to Annual Conference 2026. Judy Whitney and Pastor Brian White will also be attending and voting. All are welcome to attend!

Those who are not voting members of the Annual Conference Session should register as a "guest" at no charge.

- Loose Leaf Paper (college/wide ruled)
- Pencil Boxes
- Regular Markers
- Crayons
- Sharpies
- Spiral Notebooks (wide ruled)

Please make sure all donations are in by June 30th so we can take them to Operation Love!

### SOS #3

June 13th @ 4:00 PM-6:00 PM at Alvin D. Brown Memorial Swimming Pool.

Splish, Splash, we are having an SOS Bash! We are heading over to Alvin D. Brown Pool on June 13th from 4:00 PM-6:00 PM for an afternoon of poolside fun. Invite some friends, and let Ally Hall know by email at Ally@andersonfirst.org if you and your family plan to attend this Summer of Serving event.

### SOS #4

Week of June 15th Summer of Serving @ Home Cards for Seniors Project

Brighten a senior citizen's day by writing a heartfelt card during the week of June 15th. Your thoughtful words can bring joy and connection to those who need it most. Drop off your cards with Ally Hall by June 28th and help us spread smiles at Primrose Worship Service.

### SOS #5

June 28th @ 1:30 PM—2:45 PM at Primrose Retirement Community

It's a new week during our Summer of Serving! Join us at Primrose Retirement Community on June 28th at 1:30 PM-2:45 PM as we assist in the worship service for the residents. We will be signing, reading scripture, and connecting with members of our congregation that we don't usually get to see at church. Please email Ally Hall at Ally@andersonfirst.org to let her know you and your family would like to participate in this Summer of Serving event.

### SOS #6

Summer of Serving is bouncing over to Jumps on July 11th from 11:00 AM-1:00 PM

Join us at Jumps in downtown Anderson, from 11:00 AM-1:00 PM, for an exhaling time for the whole family! Bring some friends along and let Ally Hall know if you and your family plan to attend by emailing her at Ally@andersonfirst.org. We can't wait to see you there!

## Historian's Note

### SUMMER OF SERVING

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 @ 4:00 PM-6:00 PM 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 @ 11:00 AM-1:00 PM—SOS Event: Jumps Party
- Week of July 13th-SOS Family Project: First responders treat delivery
- July 24th @1:00 PM-2:00 PM-SOS Event: Blessing Bag Packing

### SOS #1

Week of June 1st at your local park.

We are SUPER excited to kick off our Summer of Serving! We encourage you to head to your favorite local park and leave it better than you found it. You could pick up litter, clean signs, remove sticks from green areas or trails, or reach out to Parks and Rec to see if there are specific projects they need help with. Make sure to wear clothes that can get messy and bring proper safety equipment. Make sure to take pictures of your outdoor adventures and tag us on socials at @andersonfirstkids so we can see how you kicked off your Summer of Serving!

### SOS #2

Throughout June, we are partnering with Operation Love during their annual school supply drive! You can donate supplies from this list and drop them off in the designated buckets on Sunday morning:

- 1-inch binders
- Backpacks (plain colors)
- Colored Pencils
- Composition Books (college/wide ruled)
- Expo Dry Erase Markers
- Folders (blue/orange/yellow)

While attempting to organize and catalog historical items in the basement, I recently came across something that I haven't been able to stop thinking about. I found the handwritten final wishes of a man named Edward B. Walker. He wrote his wishes down on March 8, 1940; seven years before his death, for his "Beloved Son", Willie, to make certain they were carried out. He writes, "*a request to my son to have the order of service, as herein given followed, when I make my last Public appearance.*". Much of what follows is based on his words found within this document.

Mr. Walker made his "first public appearance" on September 18, 1854 in Madison County. His father died of Typhoid Fever about a month after young Edward's second birthday, and his grandparents took Edward and his mother into their home. When she remarried in 1864 and moved to Marion, Edward chose to remain with his grandparents in Anderson. In the winter of 1866, at the age of 11, he says, "*I attached my name to records of the Methodist Church.*". At the time of his death, at the age of 92, his obituary states he was a "*prominent member of the First Methodist Church*"; which helps explain why we are in possession of his final wishes.

Mr. Walker writes lovingly of his "faithful, loving" grandparents, and the impact they had on his faith. Through the guidance of his grandparents, he says that he was "*convinced I should make and carry into effect three resolutions*". They are as follows. "*First, Open the Door of my Heart and let the Dear Savior come in...Second, totally abstain from any and all things harmful to the body...Third, do my best to use with moderation those things beneficial to the body.*"

He goes on to write beautifully of his wife, Minnie, and their three children (Edith, Willis, and Nelle). Remembering the happy years of parenthood, he remarks, "*Two daughters and one son brightened our Home and much happiness abounded.*". He also wrote of how "*Great Sorrow appeared when their youngest daughter, Nelle, was called away, but left a daughter who has been a great comfort to us, as she looks and acts like her mother*". He goes on to mention his "*six Fine bright Grand-children and three lovely great grandchildren*".

The life of Edward Benton Walker has been on my mind lately. I've been reflecting on how the theme of Fatherhood ran through his life in beautiful and sometimes tragic ways. A son without a father, a father without a son, both grandfathers who stepped in to be a father figure to their grandchildren, and all the while being gently guided toward our Heavenly Father. I admire how, as he began to "*face the Western Shore*" of his life, and put his pen to paper, he was drawn back to those moments of love, tragedy, and faith as experienced through the lens of fatherhood.

As a father myself, in the 21st century, reading the words of a father from the 19th century deeply resonated with me. With Fathers Day approaching, I thought I'd share Mr. Walker's story so that maybe it would resonate with you too. On a personal note, I'd like to thank the grandfathers, step father, father-in-law, and all the many father figures in my life. "Thank you" from a son who misses his own father every Fathers Day. Your presence in my life has helped guide me to the Love of God and the teachings of Jesus. Happy Fathers Day to all of those who are a father figure for someone else. Your presence will be remembered in History.

Matt McClintick—Church Historian

# Monthly Devotion

By Steve Anderson

*"Come to me all who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest"*  
Matthew 11:28

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding"*  
Proverbs 3:5

*"And you will know the truth and the truth will make you free"*  
John 8:32

June marks the beginning of summer and also the transformation of the brown barren fields of winter as they turn into a sea of green. June also denotes that the year is half over, and thus far we have survived the trials and tribulations of the first six months of 2026.

It seems that the cup of chaos is almost full. The American dream is becoming less of a reality and more of a nightmare for many. Prices of just about everything are increasing at a rate that are excluding more people every day instead of fulfilling their dreams. Words like partisanship, divisive, anti-this and that and object indecency dominate the new cycle. Now there is war.

The relief from all of this may be found in the Bible. Matthew 11:28 states the promise of Jesus is to take the weary and heavy laden and give them rest. Laying on the beach or in the hammock, we might seek to find answers to these issues.

Proverbs 3:5 tells us to trust in the Lord and lean, not on your own understanding. Trying to find answers or truth to the conditions existing today is exhausting. The flow of truths come from many directions such as conspiracy theories, AI and social media.

The answers to our quest for truth may be found by reading the red letters in the Bible that identify the words of Jesus. The truth for emptying the cup of chaos, are there and serve as a beacon for us all.

John 8:32: "And you will know the truth and the truth will make you free."

We have about a month to clean up some of this stuff. We are going to have a big birthday party for the country that I love. We can't go to the party with mud on our shoes.



## Family Ministries

### FIRST KIDS

We are starting off the summer teaching kids the Simple Truth, "I Am Secure." Our theme of *Always Awesome* will help us show that God is always good, always powerful, can always be trusted, and is always with us. We can't wait to kick off this awesome month with you and your families at Anderson First on Sundays at 9:00 AM!

### MOVE TO DAVIS PARK

Summer Worship at Davis Park kicks off on May 24th!

During our **9:00 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 Davis Park Kids programming, feel free to contact Ally Hall. We can't wait to worship with you and your families this summer!

### GRADUATE SUNDAY—Do You know a GRADUATE?

The church office is requesting the names of all High School, College, or Advance Degree graduates to honor and celebrate them on Sunday, June 7th, during the 9:00 AM service at Davis Park.

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

- Name and contact information
- Institution graduating from and degree earned and plans following graduation
- Family connection to AFUMC

You can reach us at 765-643-6977 or contact [judy@andersonfirst.org](mailto:judy@andersonfirst.org)