17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
September 20, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.

WELCOME

***GREETING**

MUSIC FOR GATHERING Susan Finger
"O Worship the King"

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Frank Later

ONE: Jesus brought healing love to all people.
ALL: They talked and marveled about his miracles.
ONE: But they really didn't understand him.
ALL: They wanted the healing, but not necessarily a change in their lives.
ONE: Jesus brings us transforming compassion.
ALL: Lord Jesus, keep our minds and our spirits open to your life-changing words. Amen!

***HYMN** "God of Grace and God of Glory" #577

1. God of grace and God of glory,
On Your people pour Your pow'r;
Crown Your ancient Church's story;
Bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour.

3. Cure Your children's warring madness;
Bend our pride to Your control;
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
Rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Lest we miss Your kingdom's goal,
Lest we miss Your kingdom's goal.

4. Save us from weak resignation
To the evils we deplore;
Let the gift of Your salvation
Be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Serving You whom we adore,
Serving You whom we adore.

OFFERING TO GOD
INVITATION Frank Later
OFFERTORY Sanctuary Choir
"I Am Bound for the Promised Land"

***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** Frank Later

ANTHEM Sanctuary Choir
"Draw Me Near"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Merrillyn Vance

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 "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee" #430

1. O Master, let me walk with thee
in lowly paths of service free;
tell me thy secret; help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.

3. Teach me thy patience; still with thee
in closer, dearer company, in work that keeps
faith sweet and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong;

OLD TESTAMENT Merrillyn Vance
Exodus 16:2-15 (NRSV)

2 The whole congregation of the Israelites complained
against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. 3 The
Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand
of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots
of meat and ate our fill of bread, for you have brought us
out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with
hunger." 4 Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to
rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people
shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way
I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction
or not. 5 On the sixth day, when they prepare what they
bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other
days." 6 So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In
the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who
brought you out of the land of Egypt, 7 and in the
morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he
has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what
are we, that you complain against us?" 8 And Moses said,
"When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and
your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has
heard the complaining that you utter against him—what
are we? Your complaining is not against us but against
the Lord." 9 Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole
congregation of the Israelites: 'Draw near to the Lord,
for he has heard your complaining.' " 10 And as Aaron
spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they
looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord
appeared in the cloud. 11 The Lord spoke to Moses, 12 "I
have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to
them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning
you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know
that I am the Lord your God.' " 13 In the evening quails
came up and covered the camp, and in the morning
there was a layer of dew around the camp. 14 When
the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the
wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost
on the ground. 15 When the Israelites saw it, they said
to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know
what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that
the Lord has given you to eat.

***GOSPEL** Matthew 20:1-16 (NRSV) Rev. White

1 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who
went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his
vineyard. 2 After agreeing with the laborers for a
denarius for the day, he sent them into his
vineyard. 3 When he went out about nine o'clock, he
saw others standing idle in the marketplace, 4 and he
said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will
pay you whatever is right.' So they went. 5 When he
went out again about noon and about three o'clock,
he did the same. 6 And about five o'clock he went out
and found others standing around, and he said to
them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' 7 They
said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to
them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' 8 When evening
came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager,
'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning
with the last and then going to the first.' 9 When those
hired about five o'clock came, each of them received
a denarius. 10 Now when the first came, they thought
they would receive more; but each of them also
received a denarius. 11 And when they received it,
they grumbled against the landowner, 12 saying,
'These last worked only one hour, and you have made
them equal to us who have borne the burden of the
day and the scorching heat.' 13 But he replied to one
of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you
not agree with me for a denarius? 14 Take what
belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last
the same as I give to you. 15 Am I not allowed to do
what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you
envious because I am generous?' 16 So the last will be
first, and the first will be last."

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

SERMON What's Fair Got to Do with It? Rev. White
Description: Jesus tells a parable that seems to conflict with our understanding of fairness. Could it be that compassion is sometimes a more important concept than fairness?

HYMN "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" #384

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.

2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit;
let us find that second rest.
Take away our bent to sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

4. Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

MUSIC FOR SENDING Susan Finger
Festive Postlude on "Truro"

***BENEDICTION** Merrillyn Vance

**Please stand as you are able.*

THANK YOU
for assisting in worship!
Worship Leaders: Frank Later & Merrillyn Vance
Music: Sanctuary Choir
Sound Tech: Mark Murray
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!
- **ROESCH COMMUNITY CAFE:** 110 guests were served last Sunday. It was a blessing to serve the community.
- **CONNECT@FIRST** by accepting Rev. Corinne Boruff's invitation to LUNCH & ORIENTATION on Saturday, October 3 at 11:00 a.m. in the North/South Parlor. Have your questions answered, here about becoming a member, schedule your Sunday to join, and meet others. The entire family is encouraged to come. Please make your reservation by the end of the day October 1 by calling the church office 765-643-6977. Hope you will join me! Pastor Corinne

Weekly Schedule

Sun 09/20			
9:00 am	Trustees Meeting	Conference Room	Downtown
9:25 am	Kids Choir Re-launch	Choir room	Downtown
10:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary	Downtown
11:15 am	YA Gathering	Youth Room	Downtown
2:00 pm	Worship		Primrose
4:30 pm	Food@First	Narthex	Downtown
Mon 09/21			
10:30 am	Bible Study	North/South Parlor	Downtown
4:30 pm	Exercise Class		Davis Park/Lodge
6:00 pm	AA Big Book Study	North/South Parlor	Downtown
Tues 09/22			
9:00 am	Sew Day	Fellowship Hall	Downtown
10:00 am	Staff Meeting	Conference Room	Downtown
6:00 pm	Nominations Committee Meeting	Conference Room	Downtown
Wed 09/23			
3:00 pm	Coffee with Corinne		Facebook
4:30 pm	Exercise Class		Davis Park/Lodge
6:00 pm	First Kids Club	Fireplace Room, Downstairs Classrooms	Downtown
6:00 pm	AFS Midweek	Youth Room, HS Room	Downtown
6:00 pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal	Bell Room	Downtown
7:00 pm	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary, Choir Room	Downtown
Thurs 09/24			
11:00 am	Buddy Bag Meeting	Conference Room	Downtown
Fri 09/25			
9:00 am	PlainSong Client Appreciation Event		Davis Park/Lodge
9:00 am	Bible Study	North/South Parlor	Downtown
12:00 pm	Downtown Devotions		Facebook Page
Sat 09/26			
9:00 am	AA Meeting	East/West Parlor	Downtown
9:00 am	Detroit Early Riser Baseball Club		Davis Park
Sun 09/27			
9:25 am	Kids Choir	Choir Room	Downtown
10:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary	Downtown
11:15 am	AFS Youth Group	Youth Room, HS Room	Downtown
2:00 pm	Worship		Primrose
4:30 pm	Roesch Community Café	Fellowship Hall	Downtown

First United Methodist

FAITH FIRST. FAMILIES FIRST. ANDERSON FIRST.

17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
September 20, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.

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