



First United Methodist

FAITH FIRST. FAMILIES FIRST. ANDERSON FIRST.

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THE VOICE

A Newsletter of First United Methodist

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Let's CELEBRATE our FRIENDS!

National Friendship Day is Sunday, August 4

You are expected to BRING YOUR FRIENDS on this Sunday so we can honor them.

Who should I invite? Friends are....

People who attend another church (We are honoring them; not converting them!)

People who live in town

People who live far away

People you work with or enjoy free time with

People you contact by Facebook or phone

People you enjoy being with

People who make your life better

People who are close to you or people who you would like to be closer to

People you call family

People who are members of this church who do not come regularly

People you call "friend"

WRITE A CARD OF "THANKS" TO A FRIEND

We can't imagine the world without you. You are such a blessing!

Thank you for being a friend. God loves you and so do we!

You are invited to write a note or card of "thanks" that can be offered as gift to your FRIENDS on Sunday, August 4.

Be a friend ~ Thank a friend!

NEW CARPET!

The carpet in the downtown sanctuary and chapel has been replaced!

Praise God to the vision of the Board of Trustees!

You will see the process in a slide show and have an opportunity to praise

God for this gift on Return Sunday, Sept. 8.

As we prepare ourselves to be in this renewed space, please keep your food and coffee in the Narthex and out of the sanctuary & chapel.

LIGHTHOUSE CONGREGATION TRAINING

Nine members participated in the Zoom training to equip ourselves with information and skills to reach those around us who have been hurt by the church. We will vote on identifying our church as a Lighthouse Congregation at the next Church Council meeting on Tuesday, August 20. You are welcome to join the meeting!

'Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can...'
- John Wesley



Adult Ministries

Worship Schedule for August 2024

FRIENDS

True friendship multiplies the good in life.

Launching into the month with National Friendship Day we will examine and celebrate our friendships as we recognize our Greatest Friend, Jesus.

"Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13

- August 4 National Friendship Day
Bring a friend to church!
Holy Communion
Lasting Friendships
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (NLT); Proverbs 27:17-19 (MSG)
Music: Lora Dingledine (9 a.m.)
Michele Murray (10:45 a.m.)
- August 11 12th Sunday after Pentecost
Friends: One Leads to Another
John 1:35-51 (NLT)
Music: Mark & Michele Murray (9 a.m.)
Mark & Michele Murray (10:45 a.m.)
- August 18 13th Sunday after Pentecost
Friends: Seeing Differently
James 1:23-25 (MSG); Matthew 5:14-16 (MSG)
Music: Arrows of the Almighty (9 a.m.)
Michele Murray (10:45 a.m.)
- August 25 14th Sunday after Pentecost
Friends: Known and Loved
Romans 5:20-21 (MSG); John 10:22-29 (NLT)
Music: Plainsong Girls (9 a.m.)
Michele Murray (10:45 a.m.)

Coming in SEPTEMBER

Plan now to be present!

Sunday, September 1 ~ Labor Day; Last Sunday of Summer Schedule

RETURN SUNDAY – September 8

Begins ONE SERVICE at 10 a.m. in the Downtown Sanctuary

WORSHIP will include:

Ringling "Joy to the World" (you will receive a bell)

Dedication of the new sanctuary and chapel carpeting
as we praise God together!

Followed by a

BLOCK PARTY to gather us together.

Grilled hamburgers and hotdogs complimented by your side dishes and deserts.

Dining in the parlors or outside under the portico

Bounce House, bubbles, games and more!

Let's celebrate together!

LAY LEADERSHIP

In preparation for our October 20 Charge Conference, your Nominating Committee (also known as Lay Leadership Committee) will be praying about, contacting and inviting members to serve God by serving on a leadership team or committee. If there is a specific ministry you feel God is nudging you into, contact Pastor Corinne (Chr. of the Nominating Committee). corinne@andersonfirst.org or 317-902-1843. Looking forward to hearing from you!

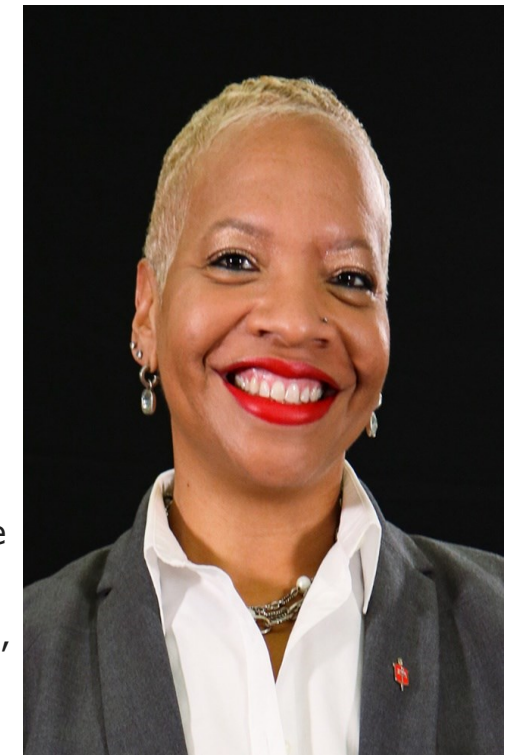
MEET OUR NEW BISHOP

Bishop Tracy S. Malone has been assigned as the resident bishop for the Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church, effective September 1, 2024. She was elected to the episcopacy at the 2016 North Central Jurisdictional Conference and has served as the resident bishop of the East Ohio Conference ever since.

She also is currently the president of the Council of Bishops, president of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, and is a member of the Board of Trustees of Africa University. She pastored several churches in the Northern Illinois Conference, represented that Conference at four General and Jurisdictional Conferences, served as a district superintendent, and has been dean of the Cabinet.

Malone received a bachelor's degree from the North Central College in Naperville, IL; a master of divinity degree from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL; and a doctorate of ministry from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH. Bishop Malone and her husband, Derrick, have two daughters.

Bishop Malone will begin serving with us in the Indiana Conference on Sept. 1, 2024.



BISHOP TRIMBLE'S RESPONSE TO ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

We pray for the full recovery of former President Trump and that grace and mercy surround the family that lost a loved one during the recent assassination attempt in Butler, PA.

Denouncing violence is the Christian response, and prayer is our daily commitment. Assassination attempts are an affront to democracy and the sacred worth of all people. May God protect those who serve in leadership and those who offer themselves in their service.

Our General Rules call us to Do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God.

Julius C. Trimble, Resident Bishop

Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church

HELPING HANDS PANTRY

Our Helping Hands Nonfood Pantry last month was on July 10th. We gave each guest two rolls of toilet paper, hand sanitizer, a toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant and dish soap. We had 65 women and 37 men attend our Pantry, for a total of 102 guests. The number of guests for the last four Pantries was 93, 99, 95 and 102. We are so blessed to have such a generous congregation and the donations given to our Pantry make it possible to help the increasing numbers of guests we are serving. Our next Pantry is August 14, 2024 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

Donations of toilet paper, shampoo and/or liquid hand soap will help us give our guests items that are helpful to them. Thank you for your continued support of our Pantry!

Sincerely, Linda Verhulst, Juanita Slattery and Karen Ambler

Music Ministries

SANCTUARY CHOIR GATHERING

Wednesday, August 28, at 6:00 pm at Davis Park, the Sanctuary Choir will host a pitch-in dinner for returning choir members, as well as those who may not have sung with the choir before, but have a desire to do so.

Church News

AU EXPO

Anderson First UMC will again participate in this kick-off for all their student body at Anderson University on Tuesday, August 27, 6-7:30 p.m.

The Expo is an event that provides students with the opportunity to connect with student organizations, local churches, businesses, nonprofits, and more.

Over 1,000 students attend the Expo annually and gather valuable information on the vast resources available in the Anderson community.

GIVING IS WORSHIP

"The people rejoiced over the offerings, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the Lord..." 1 Chronicles 29:9

Thank you for giving so generously as you worship our Creator, Savior and Comforter, one God.

VOLUNTEER RECEPTION CENTER (VRC)

In conjunction with Madison County Emergency Management and Homeland Security, Anderson First UMC will host a VRC training on Wednesday, September 11 from 6-8 pm in Fellowship Hall. Church and community will come together to learn how to process volunteers who come to Madison County to assist in disaster relief and repair. Participants will learn how to register, interview for skills and interests, complete paperwork and make team assignments for tasks needed. You are invited to help us be prepared for a disaster (i.e. tornado) we hope never comes!

DREAMING BIG!

Ministries have been asked to dream big! The Grant Committee is working to find funding for those ministries that align with our calling to live our faith, nurture families and serve our communities. As you become aware of grant applications available to us, please contact DeWayne Landwehr, Corinne Boruff or the church office.

J.O.Y. LUNCH

AUGUST 16

Karen Leonard, Human Services Assistant for Operation Love Ministries will share with us the ways that this organization provides help for today and hope for tomorrow in the Anderson Community. Join us for this month's J.O.Y. Lunch August 16 at 11:30-1 p.m.

Lunch will be a tenderloin sandwich and side.

Make your reservation by Wed. August 14 by notifying the church office, 765-643-6977.

Cost of the meal is \$12 per person and is paid upon arrival. All are welcome!

MORE SUMMER CHALLENGE!

ROMANS

You are invited to end the summer immersed in the Bible. Join me in reading a chapter of Romans each **weekday**. We will read the 16 chapters of Romans beginning Thursday, **Aug. 1-22.**

We will gather to share our experiences of reading this book on Wed. September 4 at 6 p.m. in N.S. Parlor.

Contact Corinne if you would like to received daily reading via email. corinne@andersonfirst.org (Email Subject: Summer Challenge)

This is a book that will speak to your mind & heart!



It hurts to lose someone. Find help at GriefShare.

GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. You don't have to go through the grieving process alone. Carol and Ron Watson are trained and ready to Journey on this healing experience with you. There is no time limit to grief – days, months, years – so whenever you lost a loved one, this program can help.

The program is being offered on Mondays from 10:30-12 p.m. in the N.S. Parlor.

NEWEST MEMBER

Jennifer Ward joined the church through baptism on Sunday, July 14 at the 10:45 a.m. worship service. Be sure to welcome Jennifer and support her in her call to serve Christ with her prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness in this church. Praising God for Jennifer!

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

The August Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be Saturday, August 17, at 8:00 am at Primrose. Ron Autrey of Friends of Madison County will be the featured speaker.



Family Ministries

This month at Anderson First Kids, we will continue having a remarkable time with our *Remarkable* theme! We are teaching the Simple Truth, "I Am Uniquely Designed." Our kids will learn that God made them on purpose, with value, in His image, and for relationship. And we also have a special Game Changer at the end of August where we will teach and celebrate that God made us special. We are invited into God's family when we trust and follow Jesus. I hope to see your family soon at Anderson First as we gather for worship at Davis Park on Sundays at 9am.

First Kids Club

First Kids Wednesday nights are coming back, and we will meet for the first time this school year on August 28th at Davis Park for the Choir Kick-off party! During the year, we gather in the Fireplace room and continue our lessons from Sundays through games, crafts, and discussion. We also host Game Nights or Movie Nights once a month and our First Kids Choir practices are offered on the same night. The Kids Choir is not mandatory to attend First Kids Club on Wednesday nights, but it is available every week for anyone who would like to join. We can't wait to see you and your family on Wednesday nights from 6-8pm!

Worship Structure

We are getting ready to head back downtown and are super excited to launch a new First Kids worship schedule! After discussion with our parents, leaders, and the Family Ministry Team, we concluded that our kids need more consistent access to lessons and parents need more time to worship as adults. We value kids participating in worship with our entire congregation and we also want our kids to have the time they need to dig into lessons at First Kids. On the first Sunday of the month, all kids in 1st Grade and up remain in the Sanctuary for the worship service with a children's moment just like we have been doing. For the rest of the month, all kids will be dropped off at their classrooms before worship begins and will stay in there for the entire service. We will now incorporate music during our Large Group time, so they maintain that critical component of worship. Having the kids in their classrooms for a full hour allows us more time to go over age-appropriate lessons, complete more crafts and games, and bond as a group. It also allows our parents to worship and volunteer. We will not offer a Children's Moment on the Sundays where First Kids programming is offered but worship kits will be available every week for kids who wish to stay in service. We think that this will be an important change as we grow the program and support our current families. If you have questions about our new programming structure, please feel free to contact Ally Hall.

Kids Choir

Do-Re-Mi-Fa-So-La-Ti-Do...you know that our First Kids Choir is starting up again on September 18th?! All kids ages 3-5th Grade are welcome to join us on Wednesdays at 6:20pm for First Kids Choir rehearsals! We perform several times throughout the year, play musical games, and have lots of fun getting to worship God together. The Kids Choir will be performing again on Family Ministry Sunday, so join us in the Younger Kids classroom on Wednesdays if you want your children to participate in the performance. If you have questions about the kids choir, please contact Sue Finger or Ally Hall at ally@andersonfirst.org.

Game Night

It's our first Game Night of the school year! All children ages 3-12 are invited to join us at First Kids Club on Wednesday, September 4th for a game night. This is a time for kids to play games, eat snacks, and have fun together. We can't wait to hang out and play games with our awesome Anderson First Kids!

Promotion Sunday

Return Sunday is here and that means Anderson First Kids is back in full swing! Join us back at the downtown Anderson location at 10am for Return Sunday. This will also serve as our Promotion Sunday where kids and students will be promoted into their new classes. If your child was in the Toddler room and is now 3 years-old and bathroom independent, they will move downstairs into the Younger Kids classroom located in the kids choir room. If your child is going into the 1st Grade, they will move to the Older Kids classroom in the Fireplace room. If your child is going into 6th Grade, they are now a part of the Student Ministry and will sit in worship on Sunday morning. We can't wait to see you there!

Block Party

This year, we're celebrating Return Sunday on September 8th in a BIG way! We are hosting the churchwide Return Sunday Picnic at our Anderson First downtown location immediately following our 10am Worship Service. We will grill hot dogs and hamburgers while we enjoy the same fun, we had at previous picnics with additional activities like Jenga, bubbles, and a bouncy house. Plus, this year we will have the convenience of staying downtown for lunch! We cannot wait to celebrate returning to our downtown location with our Anderson First family. But don't let the fun end there! This is a great opportunity to invite a family member, friend, or neighbor to join you at church.

We are asking people to bring sides and desserts to church that morning and we will be storing them in the North/South Parlor or the kitchen if they need to be refrigerated. Carts will be available to transport the food if needed. Food will be served in the Parlor immediately after the service, and we will have seating and tables inside the Parlor and outside doors 2 and 3 under the awning. We will have some parking blocked off on Sunday morning, but the awning will be open for people to use before worship starts. We will need a few people to help set up during the 10am worship service. If you are interested in volunteering or have questions about the Return Sunday Party, please contact Ally Hall via email at ally@andersonfirst.org.

God Bless,
Ally Hall, Director of Family Ministries

Outreach Ministries

OUTREACH UPDATE

It is with joy that we remember the labor of love that the Roesch's initiated on this 20th anniversary of the Community Cafe. We have much to celebrate! This summer two new grills have been approved and purchased by a grant from the Madison County Foundation. We were in desperate need of these as our previous grill had become hazardous and inadequate with our growing number of guests. The grills have kept up with the demands safely and efficiently. We are blessed. We transitioned from Gatorade to bottled water. Thanks to the generous contribution of one of our church families we are able to serve a drink of cool water in Jesus' name. Matthew 10:42. They provided a heavy duty, large capacity, mobile water cooler that holds over 100 bottles of water. Monetary contributions were donated for the ever-increasing food costs and is put to good use. The concern of the Roesch's and heart of Christ are evident within this body. We are blessed with increasing numbers of teams and volunteers who all work diligently to make this meal for our community a reality. Thank you for your prayers, contributions and love shown.

We definitely have a great start in our remembrance to the Roesch's vision for our church in this twenty-year anniversary of the ministry. John 21:17. "Feed My lambs; be a shepherd to the weak ones of the flock; feed these weak ones."

With gratitude, Susan & Dave
First United Methodist

August 2024