



The Key Newsletter

April 2025

Volume 13 - Issue 04



Sunday Worship

Adrian UMC
9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship

First UMC
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

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Hello! Welcome to the Family Light Update - where we shed some light on the Family Life Ministry of First United Methodist Church!



I'm excited for our first full month of spring! I'm hoping to see some bulbs popping up very soon.

We have several fun things coming up to round out our school year. Don't miss our free **BINGO** evening on April 12th from 4-5:00p.m. All ages are welcome! Invite friends! We'll have some fun hanging out and maybe you'll even win a prize!

Please keep our **Fireside Book Club** in mind on April 29th at 7:00p.m. in the Fireside Room! Remember, too, that you're always welcome to join us for a meal at **C3** on Wednesday evenings! April 30th will be our last C3 for this school year.

Bibles and Bows meets monthly (through the spring), as does our **Bible-in-a-year discussion** group - information on dates and times and locations is in our weekly bulletin and our Friday Update email.

Our next big planned event is our third annual **Community Kids' Camp** (formerly known as Vacation Bible School). We're excited to have Living Waters Covenant Church host this event this year, which will be held June 9-12, from 5:30-8:00p.m. This event, a joint effort between FUMC, Living Waters, American Lutheran and First Lutheran Churches has been a great success and we can't wait to see how much fun kids will have at our POOL PARTY "make a splash with Jesus" Kids' Camp!

Volunteers are definitely needed to make Kids' Camp happen. Our church will provide a meal on one of the nights so we'll have a sign-up soon for that, but volunteers are also needed for leading, teaching, helping, and behind-the-scenes prep work. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex. Please be thinking (and praying!) about how you can help.

Also, our annual trip to see the **Twins** play baseball is scheduled for Saturday, July 12. Cost of the event is \$53 this year. Sign-ups are required by June 14th.

Looking forward to seeing you at many of these future events!

Serving Him Together,

Gretchen

"Worship the Lord with gladness..." - Psalm 100:2a

April Worship: "Come Worship the Lord!"

The Message of Jesus:

Words That Changed the World

Two point four billion people today claim to be followers of Jesus. Another 1.9 billion Muslims hail Jesus as a prophet. Large numbers of people of other faiths, and of no faith, look at Jesus as a "great moral teacher." But beyond a few verses, few seem to know what Jesus actually taught. In fact, much of what people think Jesus taught, he never said. And when Christians today summarize their faith, they often do so by speaking of Jesus's death for their sins and his resurrection.

When we look closely at the Gospels, we see Jesus's words and teachings are profoundly important. The four New Testament Gospels record approximately twenty-five thousand unique words of Jesus. Simon Peter said of Jesus's teaching, "You have the words of eternal life" (John 6:68).

The words of eternal life. Jesus's words were consequential. If you want to follow him today, knowing he died and rose again is not enough. You are meant to know what he taught about God and God's will for humanity. We're meant to embrace these words and seek to live them.

In this sermon series, we will explore the words of Jesus. You will walk through the major themes and most significant ideas Jesus taught throughout the Gospels.

Using The Message of Jesus based on a study from Adam Hamilton as the basis for a sermon series is an engaging and effective way to bring together your entire community of faith around the life-changing, world-changing words of Jesus. It will speak to longtime Christians and those brand new to faith, leading them to a fresh encounter with the most important things Jesus taught and how they can transform our lives,

Sunday April 6th

*"Who Do YOU Say
That I Am?"*

- John 6:35
- John 8:12
- John 10:7-10
- John 10:11-15
- John 11:21-27
- John 14:5-7
- John 15:1-5

Sunday, April 13th

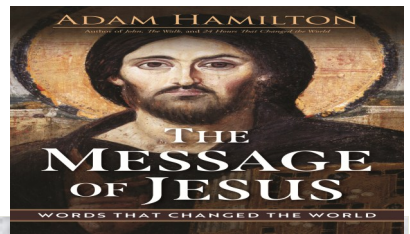
"Final Words"

- John 13:34-35
- Luke 22:24-27
- 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
- John 19:26-30
- Luke 23:33-34a, 39-43, 46
- Mark 15:33-34

Sunday, April 20th

*"The Resurrection and
the Life"*

- Matthew 22:29-33
- Luke 16:19-31
- John 14:1-3
- Matthew 28:16-20



FINANCIAL FOR PERIOD ENDING		28-Feb-25
GENERAL FUND -Cash Available		\$ 12,543
Total General Income for month	\$	31,723
General income last year for the month	\$	21,935
2025 Total Income Year to Date	\$	57,162
2024 Total Income Year to Date	\$	42,457
2023 Total Income Year to Date	\$	43,319
General Income year to date 3 Year Average	\$	51,477
Expense for the Month	\$	28,795.00
Expense for the year to Date	\$	71,210.00
Cash Flow for the year to date	\$	(1,540.00)

February was a good financial month, with higher-than-expected income and lower expenses. The month had a positive cash flow of around \$6000.00. Overall, YTD, we are negative \$1540.00. Here are a couple of things to keep in mind as we move through the fiscal year. The checking account started with less cash on hand than it did in 2024, which may lead to a cash flow problem during the lean months of giving. Each year, the foundation subsidizes the Director of the Family Ministry, but this comes with a planned decrease in the amount of funding from the foundation. This year, the foundation will provide \$10,000 less than last year, as anticipated. This could create a cash flow issue as the year progresses. We need to increase our giving as a congregation by \$10,000 to offset this.

We encourage all members who give to the church on an ongoing basis to consider electronic giving. This will ensure that the church has cash flow that it can count on each month. If 35 % of our givers give electronically, it will help with cash flow issues in the lean months.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Ellen Hoefker or Mike Brignac.



April Breakthrough Prayer

Bishop Lanette will offer a new breakthrough prayer each month throughout 2025, inviting the Holy Spirit to form and transform us through this communal reading experience. She encourages us to pray the prayer daily. The March prayer is:

God of Resurrection Hope,

As we journey through these final days of Lent, we bring before you the weight of our waiting, the longing for renewal, and the deep need for transformation. We confess that we are often stuck—in our ways, in our fears, in our doubts. Yet, you are the God who breaks chains, rolls away stones, and calls forth new life.

Break through the walls of our resistance.

Break through the places of despair with your light.

Break through our complacency with holy urgency.

Break through our divided hearts and make us whole.

By the power of your Spirit, stir within us a bold faith. Where we have settled for the ordinary, awaken us to the extraordinary movement of your grace. Where we have turned inward, send us outward in love. Where we have grown weary, breathe into us new strength.

We long to see your kingdom come in our lives, our churches, and our communities. So we pray, O Christ, who walked the road to the cross and rose victorious: Break through, O God! Break through in us, and through us, for the sake of the world.

Amen.

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Come to the Fellowship Hall on Sunday morning before church to enjoy a cup of coffee or juice and a roll, and visiting with other members and friends of the church. It all begins at 9:45 a.m.!

Women's Coffee

The women's weekly coffee group meets every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. at HyVee in the Starbucks serving area. All women are invited to come and join this fabulous group!

Men's Breakfast Group

The Men's Breakfast group meets every Wednesday at 8:00 a.m. at the Blue Line Cafe. The men discuss shared concerns, solve the problems of the world, and make sure the rain gauges are up to speed. All guys are welcome to join us each week!

Missionary Linda Doeden Joining Us

On Sunday, April 27th, Missionary Linda Doeden will be with us for coffee fellowship @FUMC from 9:15—10:15 am. She will join us for 10:30 am worship also. More details to come.

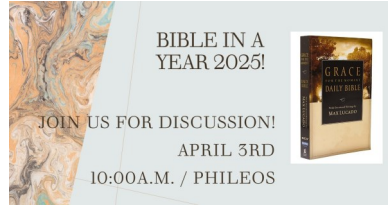
Air Conditioner Update

We have collected \$62,000 of the \$130,000 for replacement of the air conditioner this spring.

HE IS RISEN! REJOICE!

Discussion for Bible in a Year

If you have begun the Bible-in-a-year readings and would like to come together with other church people to discuss what you're reading, please join us on the first Thursday of each month at 10:00a.m. at Phileos. Our next discussion will be on April 3rd. We'd love to have you join us!



Bible and Bows

Southwest Bowbenders Archery Club is hosting *Bibles and Bows* April 13th from 4:00-5:30p.m. This ecumenical event is for all ages (though only age 8 and above may use the equipment). The evening will



include a speaker, prayer, archery and more! Bring your own Bible but the club will provide the bows and arrows. Please sign up ahead on our website. This will be a monthly event.

Our Next Fireside Book Club

Please purchase (or borrow) a copy of *Don't Look Back* by Achut Deng and Keely Hutton and join us on Tuesday, April 29th at 7:00 pm in the Fireside Room to discuss this eye-opening book. Born in Sudan, Deng endured war and refugee camps before moving to the United States where she faced new challenges that forced her to deal with her past while remaining hopeful for her future. This book will make for a fascinating discussion.



Fireside Book Club

April 29, 7:00p.m.
Fireside Room

Bingo

People of all ages are invited to come Saturday, April 12, 4:00 – 5:00 ish p.m. to play Bingo!

Prizes are involved! Bring friends and invite the neighbors! This is a free event.



Community Kids' Camp

Our third annual Community Kids' Camp formerly known as Vacation Bible School) will be held June 9-12, from 5:30-8:00p.m. This event, a joint effort between FUMC, Living Waters Covenant (this years' host church), American Lutheran and First Lutheran Churches has been a great success and we can't wait to see how much fun kids will have at our POOL PARTY "make a splash with Jesus" Kids' Camp!

Volunteers are needed to make Kids' Camp happen. Our church will provide a meal on the 12th so help is needed for preparing and serving. Cookies are also needed for that night. Volunteers are needed for leading, teaching, helping, and behind-the-scenes prep work. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex. Please see Gretchen if you have any questions!



Twins Game

Our annual trip to see the **Twins** play baseball is scheduled for Saturday, July 12. Cost of the event is \$53 this year. Sign-ups are required by June 14





Operation Christmas Child

It is time to start collecting items for the Operation Christmas Child boxes which will be packed in November; we will collect items March through October. Each month we will highlight an area of items that are needed, but you may give whatever you would like to at any time. Monetary donations are also accepted which will help to purchase additional items that are needed or to help pay for postage to help ship the boxes overseas.

You can place your donations in the narthex. A list is available of the items that are needed and will be collected through the months. The age groups for the boxes are 2-4, 5-9 and 10-14 for boys and girls.


For the month of April we will be collecting clothing and accessories for boys and girls. Suggestions for items to donate are: shirts, dresses, shorts, pants, flip flops, socks, sunglasses, small purses, hair accessories (hair bows, elastic hair bands) and underwear. The Missions Committee thanks you for your interest and consideration in this project. If you have any questions, please contact Pam Soderholm.

Food Shelf Donations

Your donations for the local food shelves of non-perishable food items are accepted throughout the year, please place your items in the wagon located in the narthex. Please be aware of the "best by" or "use by" dates on the items that you are donating. Items are taken alternately to the two food shelves.

T-Shirts Needed

Cleaning out closets? Don't throw away those t-shirts. The Operation Christmas Child sewers/crafters will be needing t-shirts for our jumprope projects later in the year. We can use t-shirts with small stains, rips or logos. Adult sizes work great. Just drop them in the tote in the hallway by the office. Thank you.



Community Thursday Lenten Luncheon

Be sure to join us at our community Thursday Lent luncheon.

Thursday, April 3 – 12:00 pm—Westminster

Worship Services

April 13th, Palm Sunday – Worship at Adrian at 9:00 am and First UMC Worthington at 10:30 am

April 17th, Maundy Thursday – Joint Service at Adrian UMC at 6:30 pm

April 18th, Good Friday—Joint Service at FUMC 12:00 pm

April 20th, Easter Sunday- Worship at Adrian at 9:00 am and First UMC Worthington at 10:30

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Kiwanis Community Prayer Breakfast

The Worthington Early Riser's Kiwanis group is sponsoring the 30th Annual Community Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, April 12th at 8:00 a.m. at the American Reformed Church in Worthington. The keynote speaker is Kris Langworthy. Kris is equipping us to navigate our own storms with clarity, resilience and purpose. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at Fareway Foods, American Bank and Trust, HyVee, First Bank Southwest, FORWARD Worthington (Chamber of Commerce) and from any Early Riser Kiwanis member.

Special Worship Services Ahead!

April and May worship services will be full of special music and several important recognitions. We hope you will plan to attend so you, too, can share in these events. We can't wait to see you there!



Lent Bible Study

Join us for a fresh encounter with the words of Jesus for a Wednesday Night Lent bible Zoom Study at 6:30 pm. To sign up for the study, go to www.firstumcworthington.com/lent

More than 3 billion people claim to follow Jesus. But aside from a few verses, how many actually know what he taught? In fact, much of what people think Jesus said, he never said.

In this six-week study, Pastor John will use the resource of best-selling author Adam Hamilton to explore six of the most important themes in Jesus's teachings, why they matter, and how they speak to us today. The book will explore Jesus's preaching on the Kingdom of God, the Sermon on the Mount, the parables, the "I am" sayings in John, and more. Jesus's message is not only life-changing but world-changing. Join us as in studying The

Message of Jesus: Words That Changed the World.

The Wednesday Night Lent series will follow our Sunday Morning Sermon Series During Lent.

THE MESSAGE OF JESUS



Happy Birthday!

1 Robert Horne	13 Scott Belz	21 Madelyn Cunningham
2 Cheryl Dinsmore	Scott Lee	Steven Potts
Corky Tate	Micah Hietbrink	22 Jerry Perkins
3 Larry Hyink	14 Anthony Bui	24 Bruce Vortherms
Jeanette Jenson	Norma Swenson	25 Tallyah Polk Brignac
4 Cameron Lenz	15 Elliana Homan	Roger Frisbee
5 Brooklynne Gordon	Alex Tripp	Marjo Taarud
Annika Hietbrink	16 Bill Geertsema	Marlene Wieneke
Claire Meyer	Meegan Heidebrink	Jayden Winselman
Melanie Steinle	Cindy Hokeness	27 Amber Nielsen
6 Gordon Moore	Michelle Vortherms	28 Natalie Johnson
8 David Hibma	17 Evan Swank	Randy Shirbroun
9 Brian Soderholm	18 Terry Perkins	30 Laurie Barrie
10 John Steinle		Katherine Willey
11 Lowell Carlson		

Happy Anniversary!

4 Keith & Margaret Essman	18 David & Cindy Hokeness
6 Tom & Diane Vagt	Randy & Amy Shirbroun
10 Tim & Kari Meyer	28 Jeff & Cheryl Homan
15 Gordon & Jane Moore	Dave & Myra Palmer

First United Methodist Church Staff

Pastor:	Rev. John Mitchem
Administrative Assistant:	Lori Nienkerk
Family Life:	Gretchen O'Donnell
Youth Leader:	Lisa Gerdes
Bell Choir Director:	Brenda DeSmith
Finance Manager:	Marie Lonneman
Custodians:	Sarah & Chad Nickel

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Live Streaming!

Each Sunday we live streaming our worship services from First UMC. If you are going to be out of town, you can catch the live broadcast on our church app (download to your device) or any one of four different online locations:

The Boxcast TV Channel

<https://boxcast.tv/channel/qikol6fqes2qwhperl2l>

First UMC YouTube Channel

Go to YouTube: First United Methodist Church Worthington

First UMC FaceBook

Go to FaceBook: Worthington: First United Methodist Church

First UMC Website

<http://firstumcworthington.com/>

Worship services for First UMC are scheduled to be broadcast on the public access Channel 3 in Worthington. The broadcast times are Sunday at 6:30 am, Monday at 3:00 p.m. and Tuesday at 3:00 p.m. for the current week. Worship services for Adrian UMC can be found on the church's YouTube Channel.

Greeters, Live Stream and Media Tech

We can use one or two more pairs of persons to help with our live stream media on Sundays. Please contact Pastor John if you are interested. Here are the persons who are scheduled to help with the greeting, sound, media, and live stream services:

First UMC		Sound/Video	Media Shout
Sunday	April 6	Deb Steinle	Rick Dalrymple
Sunday	April 13	Kari Meyer	Claire Meyer
Friday	April 18 (Noon)	Deb Steinle	John Steinle
Sunday	April 20	Deb Steinle	John Steinle
Sunday	April 27	Kari Meyer	Claire Meyer

First UMC		Greeting Team
Sunday	April 6	
Sunday	April 13	Chris & Diane Dybeveck
Friday	April 18 (Noon)	Kurt & Melissa Geertsema
Sunday	April 20	Bill & Deb Geertsema
Sunday	April 27	Pat Grimmus & Beth Habicht

Please pray for:

Prayers for health concerns:

Annika Hietbrink	Carol Oberloh	
Dick Schlichte	Steve Leach	
Shellie Williams	Navaeh Hietbrink	Ryan Hill
Virgle Buck	Mike Miller	



PRAYER CORNER

Those dealing with cancer:

Janelle Johnson	Christopher Brown
Duane Enns	John Kellen

Those recovering/dealing with health issues:

Nancy Hyink	Bill Carlberg	Larry Doeden
Weston Erlandson	Emma Schnyders	
Ariana Lopez	Aiden Remme	Pat Huisenga

For those dealing with grief and loss...

Thelma Yager & family at the loss of her sister

For service women & men and their families...

If you have a loved one you would like to have added to the Prayer Corner list, or if any name needs to be removed from this list, please contact the church office: 507.372.2939 methodistoffice@gmail.com

Prayer Chain

Please send requests to our email Church Office
methodistoffice@gmail.com
or (507) 372-2939

Care Centers

First UMC:

The Shores

Lois Carlberg LaDee Grant

Sibley Specialty Care Center

Norma Swenson

Adrian UMC:

Mary Jane Brown Ctr (Luverne)

Mary Prins

Adrian Country Living Cottage

Margaret Loger