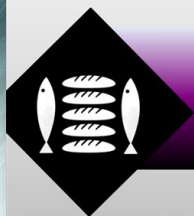


The Key Newsletter

August 2025

Volume 13 - Issue 08



THE BANQUET

Where Volunteers are the eyes, ears, hands, and feet of our Lord...



Monday, August 18th

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!



It's not an original thought, but summer is flying by. Pretty sure I could use a few more weeks. We are excited about some new and fun ideas for the fall so stay tuned!

Our **Bible-in-a-year discussion** group continues throughout the summer. Please know that you are welcome to join us even if you never have before. Our next meeting will be on August 7th at 10:00a.m. at Phileos!

We also have **Ladies By the Lake** to look forward to on August 12th at 7:00p.m. Cindy Ekedahl will host our group at her home at 1526 S. Shore Dr. Please join us for this informal chance to get to know each other a little better.

Also put September 7th on your calendar for a **marvelous, magical kick-off to our Sunday School year!** Adults and kids are invited at 9:00a.m. in the Fellowship Hall for an exciting show - you won't want to miss this!

See you there!

Serving Him Together,

Gretchen

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

August Worship: "Come Worship the Lord!"

Starting on Monday morning of each week, you can find our five-day weekly devotion from the sermon on Sunday. I encourage you to download our app from the Google Play or Apple App Store so you can always have it with you. You may also view it on our website on Mondays.



DOWNLOAD OUR APP AT THE APPPLE APP STORE OR
THE GOOGLE PLAY STORE BY SEARCHING FOR
WORTHINGTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



First United Methodist Church - Minnesota

DOWNLOAD NOW





THANK YOU

From Nancy Galland:

To say I was overwhelmed is an understatement. I have never ever been treated like such a special person.

I'm humbled by all the reactions, all the people that were there and the lovely, lovely day that I had.

Please know in my heart that you will always be my church. Blessings to all of you as you continue to do God's work.

I will miss you.

I love you.

Nancy

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!



Operation Christmas Child

It is time to start collecting items for the Operation Christmas Child boxes which will be packed in November; we will be collecting 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 August we will be collecting school supplies for boys and girls. Ideas are pencils, small manual pencil sharpeners, colored pencils, small pencil cases (zipper type), erasers, pens, boxes of crayons, boxes of markers, small notebooks, index cards, solar powered calculators, scissors, rulers, protractors and glue sticks.

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.





THE UNMET NEEDS LIST

'Helping Churches Help People'

When someone in our community comes to us with a need, we seek to connect them with available resources. Sometimes that is through our Gap Ministries, or through congregations in our area, or other agencies. Other times there are needs that we aren't able to fill directly. That is where this Unmet Needs list comes in. Please prayerfully consider giving the items on this list, so we can come alongside our neighbors with needs.

- The Coat Closet Gap Ministry could use small men's coats
- Our Rides Gap Ministry is looking for gas cards for medical appointments, as well as more volunteer drivers
- Bus Passes (SMOC) - <https://smoc.us/worthington-city-bus-route/>
- Twin Beds
- Small Microwaves
- Fans
- Large Wheelchair

CONTACT US

31361 State Hwy 266
info@loveincw.org

www.loveincw.org/unmet-needs
@Love INC of Worthington



Monday, August 18th

We will be serving at the Banquet on Monday, August 18th. If you are able to help, please sign up in the narthex or call the church office. We need 6 people to prepare food from 2:00-5:00 pm and 30 people to serve from 5:00 -8:00 pm We will also be taking monetary donations to help pay for any meal. You can write a check to First United Methodist Church with "The Banquet" on the memo line. Please contact Pam Soderholm with any questions. Thank you for your consideration to help those in need.



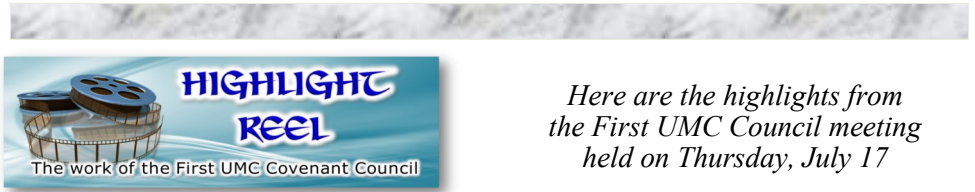
Greg the Great

Greg the Great Magic will be at First United Methodist Church, 408 11th Street, Worthington, on September 7 at 9:00 a.m. This event is for all ages, and everyone is welcome to join us. Worship will follow at 10:30 am.

Discover Minnesota's Top Family Magician... GREG THE GREAT!

With more than 2 decades of performing experience, Greg The Great has garnered 5-star reviews, countless accolades, and is THE family favorite among kids and parents.

Magician Greg Skillestad is synonymous with award-winning, family-friendly comedy magic. His show features must-see magic and original, fast-paced & squeaky-clean comedy that your whole audience will love, guaranteed!



*Here are the highlights from
the First UMC Council meeting
held on Thursday, July 17*

CELEBRATIONS: Community Kids Camp was a tremendous week with 97 kids registered and over 45 volunteers helping out. The cost for the meal FUMC provided (for kids and many parents) was approximately \$250. We appreciate the donor who gave \$150 toward this meal!

We are so grateful for this multi-church collaboration and for the FUMC volunteers who helped out! Most of all, we are thankful for the 97 kids who heard about Jesus' love for them and had a great time learning, playing, and experiencing acceptance in a Christian community. Next year the ALC will host and then the camp will be back at FUMC in 2027.

CHALLENGES: We are currently **\$7571** behind on apportionments. This includes half of April, all of May, and all of June. The hope is to be able to pay all of July's apportionments (**\$2857**). This potential shortfall is mitigated, albeit partially, by the recent approval from the Foundation to provide additional funding for the Family Life position salary for the remainder of the year.

CURRENT FOCUS: Affirmation of the church's new mission and values statements: Mike Brignac, Rick Dalrymple, Ellen Hoefker, and Deb Steinle have worked with Pastor John to create new vision and value statements for the church. The Council members all voiced approval and appreciation for these statements, which will be presented to church members at the Sept. All-Church Gathering. We look forward to sharing this at our All Church Gathering in September.

Foundation: The number of scholarship applications is down a bit this year, but is currently being reviewed by the committee.

Approved additional financial support for the Family Life position for the next two years.

Provided funds for the replacement of the laptop/tech equipment

(continued from page 11)

used in services, as the computer was very outdated and “freezing up” during services.

Worship Design Team : led by Pastor John. This team will meet several times a year with representatives of each component of church services. The pastor may provide a vision/wish and then ask the team to make that vision happen.

First, Adrian, and Christo en tu Ayuda churches will be partnering to serve at The Banquet in Sioux Falls on Aug. 18. Sign-up is under way and may be done via Realm (email from Pastor John), in the FUMC Narthex, or by contacting Pam Soderholm.

The Council discussed the need for locking church doors during services and possible individual concerns with this policy. This need is an unfortunate reality of the current world we live in and Pastor John will address this topic with the congregation. Unlocking the church early (approx. 9:00am) for coffee fellowship was previously Nancy or Jolene’s responsibility, but others need to be identified.

Mobile Meal sign-up will be in August as we are responsible for delivering in September.

Family Life: The team is discussing what C3 can/should look like this fall. Their vision is to provide a regular mid-week event that inspires spiritual growth, fellowship, and belonging. The Book Club will meet later in July. Ladies by the Lake met in July and will meet again in August

CUTTING EDGE ISSUES: The Twins game was a fun, memorable event, but only 20 tickets were sold this year. The cost of the charter bus (paid for by the Foundation) went up to \$1500. The continuation of this event was discussed, and the idea of partnering with another church was suggested. This option would allow us to share the expenses and have a fuller bus.

Fall All-Church Gathering will be held on Sep. 14.

Agenda for the gathering will be:

- Introducing a new ministry partner

(continued from page 12)

- Present new vision and mission statements of the church
- Financial update
- List of leadership personnel
- fun activities

A motion was made and unanimously voted upon to remove Pastor Daren from the signature list at the bank and to add a different, third signer.

- After this change, the official signature list will include Ellen Hoefker, Jim Nickel, and Mike Brignac.

A Fall Kick-off will be held on Sep. 7 at 9:00am for Sunday School children and adults. A magician will provide biblical entertainment.

Nominating Committee:

- Informing and inviting church attendees to join committees: We previously held a committee "fair" on Kick-Off Sunday, but will provide committee information/sign-up sheets in the bulletins this fall.
- Nominating Process: As the chair of a committee, he/she can nominate individuals and invite them to join a meeting after discussing with Pastor John. The Council can approve Pastor John's nominations.
- Hollie Hibma was unanimously selected to join the Missions Team.

Adult/Teen Challenge: Do we invite them each year or every other year? Should we look at bringing in a different group each year? There is no cost to us to host Adult/Teen Challenge except providing a meal. The Council decided that a group would be invited in 2026 due to the number of events/commitments already scheduled in the next few months.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Giving was up slightly from the previous month; however, expenses were also up with a couple of unexpected expenditures of a new floor cleaner battery and a \$5000+ water pump.

Next Council meeting date: 21Aug2025

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Shirbourn, Covenant Council Recording Secretary

Happy Birthday!

1	Coleen Bui	8	Kim Grussing	19	Taylor Nickel
2	Melissa Geertsema		Treyson Polk	20	Brielle Bullerman
	Arlo Mock	9	Karen Cook		David Reese
	Thelma Yager	10	Sharon Algood		Nicole Reyne
4	Ohlanna Franco	13	Merle Belz	22	David Carstensen
	Julie Lopez		Tim Meyer	23	Phoenix Erlandson
	Deb Nelson	14	Joyce Gravon	26	Rick Dalrymple
6	Margaret Loger	17	Derek Lee	28	Terry Miller
	Sandra Schulz	18	Tim Blume	31	Shawn Kluever

Happy Anniversary!

1	Dave & Hollie Hibma	20	Tim & Kris Tripp
2	Kevin & LeAnn Donovan	22	Steve & Terry Johnson
5	Dana & Amy Oberloh	23	Randy & Marjo Taarud
8	Larry & Jan Heidebrink	30	Allan & Carroll Miller
16	Colin & Gretchen O'Donnell		
17	Paul & Tracy Reyne		

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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408 11th Street P.O. Box 668
Worthington, MN 56187
methodistoffice@gmail.com
www.firstumcworthington.com

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:

<u>First UMC</u>		<u>Sound/Video</u>	<u>Media Shout</u>
Sunday	August 3	Kari Meyer	Claire Meyer
Sunday	August 10	Rick Dalrymple	Deb Steinle
Sunday	August 17	Kari Meyer	Claire Meyer
Sunday	August 24	Rick Dalrymple	Deb Steinle
Sunday	August 31	Kari Meyer	Claire Meyer
<u>First UMC</u>		<u>Greeting Team</u>	
Sunday	August 3	Mary Monthei & LeAnn Donovan	
Sunday	August 10		
Sunday	August 17	Jim Nickel & Tina Nickel	
Sunday	August 24	Amber & Tucker Nielsen	
Sunday	August 31	Dana & Amy Oberloh	

Prayers for health concerns:

Galen Benton	Rod Behrends
Sherry Benton	Chris Nelson
Beth Habicht	Logan Waldner
Ryan Hill	Virgle Buck
Clyde Scheevel	John Steinle (knee surgery)
Tom Cavanaugh	Lowell Carlson
Ron Husenga	Mandy (Phil Bjerk's niece's daughter)
Doug Hart (Marlene Miller's brother-in-law)	
Kathy Tetrick-Hoffbeck (Pastor @Jeffers)	



Those dealing with cancer:

Janelle Johnson	Christopher Brown	Myron Grussing	Shellie Williams
Duane Enns	Marion Reitsma (friend of Jolene Kuhl)		
Stacy White	Mike Miller		

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...

Giving thanks & praying for:

- Our Bishop and District Superintendent...
- Our teachers, administrators, students...
- Front line health care workers...
- Law enforcement & emergency workers...
- 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