

Happy Birthday!

- 1 Ashley Hoefker
- 3 Laura (Johnson) Hui
- 5 Chad Nickel

Happy Anniversary!

- 4 Ceta & Mark Zebe
- 5 Craig & Madonna Carlson
- 6 Terry & Darlene Miller

Church Family Prayer List

Each week throughout the year, we pray intentionally for families from all of our churches - please include these families in your prayer life this week.

Holly Bushard Ailts
Sharon Algood
Matthew Amundson
David Anderson
Laura Barrie & Family
Carolyn Beerman
Rod & Eunice Behrends
Jason & Paula Behrens
Merle Belz
Scott & Susan Belz
Galen & Sherry Benton
Eldon & Susan Bents

Let's remember to visit those who are in Care Centers or are homebound: especially reach out to:

Jenola Uden, Betty Taarud, Lois Carlberg
Norma Carlberg ,Margaret Loger, Mary Prins,
LaDee Grant, Ron & Karen Lawrence.

One visit goes a long way!



PRAYER CORNER

Prayers for immediate concerns:

Clyde Scheevel Janelle Johnson
Mary Prins (dealing with arthritis)
Tim Yager LaDee Grant
Marlene Wieneke Ajulo Ochala
Jean Blanshan (Virgyl Buck's niece dealing
with the last stage of cancer)
Mikala (Wilma's granddaughter) traveling to
Tanzania

Persons impacted by COVID 19: COVID long-haulers

Prayers for those dealing with cancer:
Laurie Blume Scott Klooster
Christopher Allen Brown
John Kellen (Burdell Kuhl's friend)

Persons recovering/dealing with health issues:

Emma Schnyders Nancy Hyink
Gerald Fisher Mike Miller
Kristi Johnson John Clease
Weston Erlandson Bill Carlberg
Steve Timmons Ariana Lopez
Ken Bipes Phil Glembin
Aiden Remme Pat Huisenga

For peace in Israel and the surrounding areas
which are dealing with armed conflict...

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

Terry Miller

Glimpses of God



Sunday, December 31st, 2023
Worship - 10:30 a.m.



livestream links

The Boxcast TV Channel
First UMC YouTube Channel
First UMC FaceBook Channel
First UMC Website
(<http://firstumcworthington.com/>)

PASTOR:

Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:

Lori Nienkerk

FAMILY LIFE:

Gretchen O'Donnell

CUSTODIANS:

Sarah & Chad Nickel

GREETERS:

Steffen & Ida Van Weston

ORGANIST/ACCOMPANIST:

Jolene Kuhl

CHOIR DIRECTOR:

Jeanette Jensen

CHOIR ACCOMPANIST:

Brenda DeSmith

BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR:

Brenda DeSmith

TECH TEAM:

Deb & John Steinle

408 11th Street - Worthington, MN 56187 - 507.372.2939

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS - Monday through Friday - 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

♦ Office Phone >> **507.372.2939**

♦ Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck >> **dfinck@gmail.com**


♦ Office email >> **methodistoffice@gmail.com**

The 1st Sunday after Christmas

Sunday, December 31st, 2023
10:30 a.m.

Worship Leader: Terry Miller
Accompanist: Jolene Kuhl

UMH - United Methodist Hymnal
TFWS - The Faith We Sing

 Please stand as you are able

CENTERING WORDS (Isaiah 42:1)

"Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight;
I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations.

PRELUDE

WELCOME – ANNOUNCEMENTS

We Come to Worship God

PRAISE

UMH #228 "He Is Born"

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us worship the living God; He was born of the Virgin Mary

Revealed in his glory

Worshiped by angels

Proclaimed among the nations

Believed in throughout the world

Exalted to the highest heaven

Blessed be God, our strength and our salvation

Now and for ever!

 PRAISE

UMH #229 "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

Church Undecorating

We will be undecorating the church from Christmas during C3 on Wednesday, January 10th. Come for the food at 5:15 pm and stay for the fellowship as care for our church together. Note: There will be no C3 meal on January 3rd.

Youth Event

All middle and high school youth are invited to a "Christmas Semi-Lock-in" on Friday, January 5th. We will meet at First Lutheran Church at 4:30 p.m. and be done at 10:30 p.m.

Adult Sunday School Class

All adults are welcome to join us as we look at the book *Called: Hearing and Responding to God's Voice*, by Susan Robb. We will meet in the Fireside Room at 9a.m., starting on January 7th and going through February 11th.

Confirmation Class

The Confirmation Class is scheduled to meet on Saturday, January 13th at Adrian UMC starting at 9:00 a.m.. The class will rotate between locations (First and Adrian) each month until Confirmation Sunday, April 28th, 2024.

Fireside Book Club

Our next book is *Unorthodox*, by Deborah Feldman. This is the memoir of a woman growing up in an Hasidic Jewish community who then fought to break free of that world. We will discuss the book on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Pick up the book on your own and come ready to discuss this eye-opening story.

Children and Youth Ice Skating

Please put Sunday, February 4th on your calendars for children and teens to spend an evening ice skating at the Arena! Cost of the event (including skate rental) will be covered. If you'd like to chaperone, please let Gretchen know. Kids, please invite your friends — the more the merrier!

Souper Bowl Soup Cook-off

The Missions Team will be sponsoring the Annual Souper Bowl Soup Cook-off after worship on Sunday, January 28th. Everyone is invited to participate. To enter the competition, prepare a double batch of your favorite soup or chili for the congregation to sample. Watch for a sign up in the narthex or call the church office by Tuesday, January 23rd. For a freewill donation, which will be used for mission projects, tasters will be able to enjoy a soup lunch and vote for their favorite soups. For more information contact Pam Soderholm or the church office.

Faith Comes by Hearing - Through the Bible in One Year

The Family Life Team at First Church is excited to present the opportunity for you and your family to read through the Bible in one year! Starting January 1st, we will be listening and reading through the Bible by using various methods. With the Faith Comes by Hearing app, Bible Is (which is no cost) you can follow along with a scheduled reading and listening plan to hear the Bible in one year.



If you do not have a smartphone you can access this resource on the Faith Comes by Hearing website. If you do not have access to a computer, you can order a listening device which has entire Old and New Testaments recorded for your listening pleasure.

If this is something you have done in the past, it's always good to renew your understanding of Scripture. If this is something you have always wanted to do but just couldn't find the time, perhaps now is that time! Join us on January 1st for reading or listening through the Bible in one year!

JANUARY

- 1 Genesis 1-3
- 2 Genesis 4-7
- 3 Genesis 8-11
- 4 Job 1-5
- 5 Job 6-9
- 6 Job 10-13
- 7 Job 14-16
- 8 Job 17-20
- 9 Job 21-23
- 10 Job 24-28
- 11 Job 29-31
- 12 Job 32-34
- 13 Job 35-37
- 14 Job 38-39
- 15 Job 40-42
- 16 Genesis 12-15
- 17 Genesis 16-18
- 18 Genesis 19-21
- 19 Genesis 22-24
- 20 Genesis 25-26
- 21 Genesis 27-29
- 22 Genesis 30-31
- 23 Genesis 32-34
- 24 Genesis 35-37
- 25 Genesis 38-40
- 26 Genesis 41-42
- 27 Genesis 43-45
- 28 Genesis 46-47
- 29 Genesis 48-50
- 30 Exodus 1-3
- 31 Exodus 4-6

FEBRUARY

- 1 Exodus 7-9
- 2 Exodus 10-12
- 3 Exodus 13-15
- 4 Exodus 16-18
- 5 Exodus 19-21
- 6 Exodus 22-24
- 7 Exodus 25-27
- 8 Exodus 28-29
- 9 Psalms 30-32
- 10 Exodus 33-35
- 11 Exodus 36-38
- 12 Exodus 39-40
- 13 Leviticus 1-4
- 14 Leviticus 5-7
- 15 Leviticus 8-10
- 16 Leviticus 11-13
- 17 Leviticus 14-15
- 18 Leviticus 16-18
- 19 Leviticus 19-21
- 20 Leviticus 22-23
- 21 Leviticus 24-25
- 22 Leviticus 26-27
- 23 Numbers 1-2
- 24 Numbers 3-4
- 25 Numbers 5-6
- 26 Numbers 7
- 27 Numbers 8-10
- 28 Numbers 11-13

MARCH

- 1 Numbers 14-15, Psalm 90
- 2 Numbers 16-17
- 3 Numbers 18-20
- 4 Numbers 21-22
- 5 Numbers 23-25
- 6 Numbers 26-27
- 7 Numbers 28-30
- 8 Numbers 31-32
- 9 Numbers 33-34
- 10 Numbers 35-36
- 11 Deuteronomy 1-2
- 12 Deuteronomy 3-4
- 13 Deuteronomy 5-7
- 14 Deuteronomy 8-10
- 15 Deuteronomy 11-13
- 16 Deuteronomy 14-16
- 17 Deuteronomy 17-20
- 18 Deuteronomy 21-23
- 19 Deuteronomy 24-27
- 20 Deuteronomy 28-29
- 21 Deuteronomy 30-31
- 22 Deuteronomy 32-34, Psalm 91
- 23 Joshua 1-4
- 24 Joshua 5-8
- 25 Joshua 9-11
- 26 Joshua 12-15
- 27 Joshua 16-18
- 28 Joshua 19-21
- 29 Joshua 22-24
- 30 Judges 1-2
- 31 Judges 3-5

OPENING PRAYER 3

Blessed Lord our God, king of the universe: To you be glory and praise for ever! For you are our light and our salvation, and we your children wait for your loving kindness in the midst of your temple. In your Christ, born of the Virgin Mary, there has sprung up a light for the righteous, and joyful gladness for those who are faithful. As we, like Simeon, welcome him with joy, presented before us as light of all the world; may we be filled with his spirit, and made a living temple to the praise and glory of your holy name. Amen.

CHILDREN/YOUNG CHRISTIANS MOMENT

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE – THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAISE UMH #349 "Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus"

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS Psalm 148
Luke 2:22-40

MESSAGE "Glimpses of God"

We Respond to God's Word

RECOGNITION OF OFFERING

DOXOLOGY UMH #95 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

OFFERTORY PRAYER

We Go Forth to Serve God

PRAISE UMH #189 "Fairest Lord Jesus"

THE BENEDICTION – POSTLUDE

Worship Attendance	Last Sunday	LIVE STREAM VIEWS	253
ADRIAN UMC	32	CRISTO EN TU AYUDA	30
FIRST UMC	53	TOTAL	368

GOD'S DIRECTION IS ALWAYS BEST!

Jesus is Presented in the Temple

Luke 2:22-40

²² When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

²⁹ "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. ³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."

³³ The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. ³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth.

⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL [YOUR] HEART...
PROVERBS 3:5

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Care Center Residents:

First UMC:

The Veteran's Home (Luverne)
Ron Lawrence

The Meadows Memory Care Unit
Karen Lawrence

South Shore Care Center
Lois Carlberg LaDee Grant

Adrian UMC:

Mary Jane Brown Ctr (Luverne)
Mary Prins

Adrian Country Living Cottage
Margaret Loger

Live Streaming...

You can catch our live stream broadcast on your smartphone, iPad, Smart TV or computer at on any one of four different app channels or online websites:

[The Boxcast TV Channel](#)

[First UMC Website](#)

[First UMC YouTube Channel](#)

[First UMC FaceBook](#)

Please note that all of our services can be viewed at the above locations even after the service is over. For questions, please contact the church office.

This Week

SUN

6:30 am
9:00 am
9:00 am
9:45 am
10:30 am
1:00 pm

Dec 31

Worship Re-Broadcast on TV3
Worship @ Adrian
NO Sunday School @ First
NO Coffee Fellowship @ First
Worship @First
Cristo En Tu Ayuda @ First

MON

Jan 1

New Years Day - offices closed

3:00 pm Worship Re-Broadcast on TV3

TUES

Jan 2

9:30 am Ladies' Coffee @ Hy-Ve
3:00 pm Worship Re-Broadcast on TV

WED

Jan 3

7:00 am Men's Breakfast @ Blue Line
NO C3 Meal
NO Bell Choir Practice
NO G1 @ Adrian UMC
Chancel Choir Practice

SUN

Jan 7

6:30 am Worship Re-Broadcast on TV3
9:00 am Worship @ Adrian
9:00 am Sunday School @ First
9:00 am Adult Sunday School @ First
9:45 am Coffee Fellowship @ First
10:30 am Worship @First
1:00 pm Cristo En Tu Ayuda @ First



Last Week's Offering \$ 18,552.00

Carry Over Revenue (2022): \$ 31,543.00

Revenue Year to Date: \$ 342,923.79

Expenses Year to Date: \$ 341,791.53

Thank you for your faithful giving!