

Happy Birthday!

- 11 Donald Dirks
- 12 Marlene Miller
Trevor Nickel
Dorothy Sietsema
- 13 Ivy Jenson
Ceta Zeba
- 14 Judy Schmidt
Mary Van Horsen
- 16 Autumn Grussing
- 17 Jim Nickel
- 18 Johnathon Heidebrink
Stacie Miller
Kaylee Steinle

Happy Anniversary!

- 14 Angel & Lourdes Franco

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.

Dave & Elizabeth Bushard
Lois Carlberg
Norma Carlberg
Craig & Madonna Carlson
Lowell Carlson
David & Lorraine Carstenson
Thaovone & Chelsea (Homan) Chairakoun & family
Barbara Chambers
Jason Childers
Karen Cook
Maxine Cranston
Angela Cunningham

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, Karen Lawrence. and Norma Swenson

One visit goes a long way!



PRAYER CORNER

Prayers for immediate health concerns:

Sheila Engstrom (Betty Taarud's granddaughter)
Tom Vagt (recovery from knee surgery)
Clyde Scheevel Janelle Johnson
Mary Prins (dealing with arthritis)
Tim Yager LaDee Grant
Marlene Wieneke Ajulo Ochala

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

God loves you!



Sunday, February 11th, 2024
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:

Rick & Dianne Dalrymple

ORGANIST/ACCOMPANIST:

Jolene Kuhl

CHOIR DIRECTOR:

Jeanette Jenson

CHOIR ACCOMPANIST:

Brenda DeSmith

BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR:

Brenda DeSmith

TECH TEAM:

Kari Meyer & Sadie Nickel

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 >> dflinck@gmail.com

♦ Office email >> methodistoffice@gmail.com


TRANSFIGURATION

Sunday

Sunday, February 11th, 2024
10:30 a.m.

Worship Leader: Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck
Accompanist: Jolene Kuhl

UMH - United Methodist Hymnal
TFWS - The Faith We Sing

 Please stand as you are able

CENTERING WORDS ¹

*The mighty one speaks and summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to its setting.*

God calls to the heavens and to the earth, "Gather to me my faithful ones."

PRELUDE

WELCOME - ANNOUNCEMENTS

We Come to Worship God

PRAISE

INSERT - "Holy Ground Medley"

CALL TO WORSHIP ²

It is easy to stand here in the valley of our comfort.

We know what to expect and what is expected of us.

But Christ calls us to the mountain top to receive a new vision.

We are not sure we are ready for that.

Place your hope and trust in Christ, for He is your guide.

**Let us open our hearts to Christ,
ready for the vision he places before us. Amen.**

 PRAISE

TFWS #2173 - "Shine, Jesus, Shine"

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 9:00 a.m. each Sunday through February 18th.

Ladies Lenten Devotion Study

Ladies, please join us for a Lent devotion study on Monday mornings at 9:00 a.m. We'll meet starting on February 12 and go through March 25th. If you're not able to meet at that time but would still like a book to study on your own, let Gretchen know as soon as possible and I'll order one for you! Cost of the book is \$10.

Lent Devotions During C3

You are cordially invited to join us for five weeks of a special C3 Lent devotion and activity time following our C3 meal. Beginning on February 21st and going through March 20th, our C3 meal will be served at the earlier time of 5-5:25 p.m., followed by twenty minutes of Easter-themed activities and devotions. We would love to have as many people as we can join us for these special weeks. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex so we have a better idea of how many people to expect. This is for all ages. If you would like a ride to and from the church for these weeks, please let Gretchen know.

Thursday Community Lenten Series

The Annual Community Lenten services (held on Thursdays during Lent) will begin on Thursday, February 22nd at noon. This year's theme is "Life in Jesus' Name." As we encounter the real lives of our faith ancestors, we begin to realize that while "death and its grip is real, resurrection is real-er." This is the truth of the Christian way of life invites us into a day to day, deeper relationship with the crucified and risen Christ. In Christ, we find the embrace of God's grace, while the world around seeks certainty and clarity. We, like our faith ancestors, are invited by the Spirit into our own encounter with the One we call Light of the Word, Living Water, the Way and the Truth, and the Resurrection and the Life. A fellowship meal will be offered at each location. Remember, each service begins at noon.

Thursday, February 22 @ American Lutheran Church - Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck
Thursday, February 29 @ First Lutheran Church - Rev. Galen Smith
Thursday, March 7 @ First Lutheran Church - Rev. Anne Hokenstad
Thursday, March 14 @ First United Methodist Church - Rev. Jeanette McCormick

Fireside Book Club

Our next book club book choice is *The Stranger in the Lifeboat*, by Mitch Albom. Please pick up your own copy or get it from the library and read it ahead of our next meeting on Tuesday, April 16th at 7 p.m. Bring a friend as we discuss the question, "What would happen if we called on God for help and God actually appeared?"

Through the Bible in One Year

Here are this week’s Bible readings:

February 12	Exodus 31, 32, 33, 34	February 15	Exodus 39, 40, Leviticus 1
February 13	Exodus 35, 36,	February 16	Leviticus 2, 3, 4, 5
February 14	Exodus 37, 38	February 17	Leviticus 6, 7, 8
		February 18	Leviticus 9, 10, 11

Second Annual Archery Day

Second annual Archery Day! Put Sunday, March 3rd on your calendar and join us from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. out at the Bowbender’s Archery Club for a time of fellowship and fun! Bring a snack to share and bring a friend! Ages 6 on up are welcome to attend. No experience or equipment necessary.

Movie Night

Please put Sunday, March 10 at 4 p.m. on your calendar for our next FUMC Movie Night! Our movie is *The Hill*. This inspiring, true, faith-filled story is about baseball player Rickey Hill, who followed his dreams and overcame a physical handicap to play minor league baseball. The film is rated PG. Bring a snack to share if you'd like and come enjoy this heart-warming movie.

Youth Ice Skating Event

Church youth ages 3-18 are invited to skate at the Worthington Arena on Sunday, March 17th from 12:30-2:30 p.m. We will serve pizza between church and skating for you and your family! Skates are available at the Arena but kids are encouraged to bring their own if they have the.m. All cost are covered. Bring friends! If you would like to chaperone for this event, please let Gretchen know.

Be a Part of the Family Life Team!

The Family Life Ministry team is looking for new people to add to the team! We meet monthly on the second Tuesday (time is negotiable according to availability of group). Team members advise on Family Life activities and volunteer as able. This means that if you have the desire to help with a certain event, great; but you can pick and choose your level of involvement outside of our regular meetings. Please let Gretchen know if you are interested in being a part of this fun group!

Thank you to everyone who helped make 507 a success last Wednesday night!

✚ OPENING PRAYER ³
Lord, it seems so long ago that we heard your words at Jesus’ baptism. You reminded us that he is your beloved Son with whom you are well pleased. Again today we hear your words that we are to listen to him, to pay attention. Open our hearts this day, Lord, to hear the words of Jesus, to follow in his footsteps, and to serve You. For we ask this in Christ’s Name. Amen.

MOMENTS WITH THE YOUNG CHRISTIANS
PRAYERS of the PEOPLE - THE LORD’S PRAYER

PRAISE
“Majesty”
First UMC Bell Choir
Directed by Brenda DeSmith

We Hear God’s Word
THE SCRIPTURE LESSON 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
MESSAGE “Chains of Love”

We Respond to God’s Word
RECOGNITION OF OFFERING
(please place your offering in the plates as you depart worship)

✚ DOXOLOGY UMH #95 - “Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow”
✚ PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We Go Forth to Serve God
✚ PRAISE UMH #717 - “Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory”

✚ THE BENEDICTION - ✚ POSTLUDE

¹The Centering Words are based on or inspired by 2 Corinthians 3–4 and Luke 9.
²The Call to Worship is based on or inspired by 2 Corinthians 3–4 and Luke 9.
³The Opening Prayer is based on or inspired by 1 Corinthians 9.
All are based on [or taken from] “The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024”,
edited by Mary J. Scifres and B.J. Beu



Holy Ground

Words and Music by Christopher Beatty & Geron Davis

1. This is ho - ly ground; _____ We're stand-ing on ho - ly ground, _____
2. These are ho - ly hands; _____ He's giv - en us ho - ly hands. _____

_____ for the Lord is pres-ent and where He is is ho - ly. _____
_____ He works through these hands_ and so these hands are ho - ly. _____

_____ This is ho - ly ground; _____ We're stand-ing on ho - ly ground, _____
_____ These are ho - ly hands; _____ He's giv - en us ho - ly hands. _____

_____ for the Lord is pres - ent and
_____ He works through these hands _____ and

where He is is ho - ly. _____
so these hands are ho - ly. _____

We are _____ stand - ing _____ on ho - ly ground, _____

_____ and I _____ know that there are an - gels all a - round. _____

Let _____ us _____ praise _____ Je - sus now. _____

1.
_____ We _____ are _____ stand - ing in His pres-ence on ho - ly ground.

Friendly Door Monitor Begins

The First Council announces that a new Friendly Door Monitor program is underway. The Council has had discussions over the past few months have led to the development of a new policy on a preventative way to securing the church on Sunday mornings (the September and December Newsletter Highlight Reels have updated the congregation on this development of this program).

As you know, the number of dangerous incidents in public buildings is growing across our country. A small town like Worthington is not immune to this. We have recently met with Police Captain Nate Grimmus, who suggested several measures that we can take to (hopefully) stop any such thing from happening in our building. We have placed letters at each outside entrance for identifying purposes to help direct emergency services. Our Friendly Door Monitors are also a response to his suggestions.

We started this program in early January, testing to make sure it was a good, safe program for all. The outer doors to the church will be secured (locked) ten minutes after worship begins by a trained monitor. (Even though the doors are locked from outside entrance, rest assured that any person can leave at any time - the doors do not lock from an inside exit). The friendly door monitor will remain in the narthex to open the door for any late-comers or for others who may arrive after service begins. It's all designed to secure the church during the worship service.

This is a work in progress. We are truly open to any discussion of your concerns and any suggestions you have. We want everyone to be safe, comfortable and welcome.

Offering Envelopes...

Offering envelopes are in the narthex - available for you to help keep your tithing on track. Please mark down the number of the envelope you take so we can ensure accuracy in recording your gifts (the booklets come in a two book series, so take two!) Remember, you can also give online through our church app or through our website. Thank you for your faithful gifts to support the ministry of our church.



Apportionments Paid!


This is old news, but we just received the Certificate of Appreciation from the Minnesota Annual Conference that our 2022 apportionments were paid in full! We will also be receiving one for 2023 because our apportionments were paid in full last year as well. Thank you for your continued financial support of the ministry of First UMC!

Our Souper Bowl Soup Cook-off was again a success. It was a beautiful day to gather together after worship for some great fellowship. We had 10 participants that made delicious soups. 50 tasters that enjoyed the meal. Accordion music by Galen Benton that was enjoyed by all. A lot of great helpers that made set up, serving and clean up go smoothly. Our generous congregation gave over \$600 in donations that will help with missions projects in 2024. Thank you from the Missions team to all that helped make it a success.

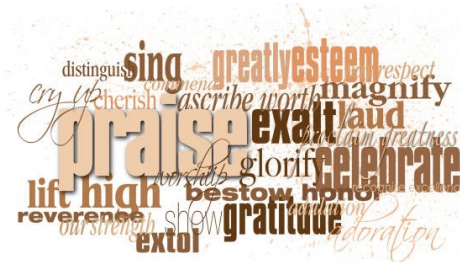
This year marks the 15th Anniversary of Love, INC of Worthington! We are celebrating by hosting a fundraiser showcasing comedian Moody Molavi and local musician Tommy Binford on February 16th at Lerma's Event Center here in Worthington. Reserve your spot by calling 507-727-7291

Minnesota West offers a Pop-up Food pantry for their students who are on campus or off campus. Your financial donations will help to purchase gift cards that will be given to the college to purchase food items that are needed for students. Please make your check to First United Methodist Church with Pop-up Food Pantry on the memo line. Thank you for your consideration to help this mission!

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.

 <p>Thank you for your faithful giving!</p> <p>FINANCIAL HEALTH</p>	<table> <tr> <td>Last Week's Offering</td><td>\$ 3004.70</td></tr> <tr> <td>Carry Over Revenue (from 2023):</td><td>\$ 39,484.78</td></tr> <tr> <td>Revenue Year to Date:</td><td>\$ 29,941.90</td></tr> <tr> <td>Expenses Year to Date:</td><td>\$ 37,584.81</td></tr> </table>	Last Week's Offering	\$ 3004.70	Carry Over Revenue (from 2023):	\$ 39,484.78	Revenue Year to Date:	\$ 29,941.90	Expenses Year to Date:	\$ 37,584.81
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For questions, please contact the church office.



SUN	Feb 18
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
6:30 pm	Outreach @Okoboji

GOD'S DIRECTION IS ALWAYS BEST!

Present Weakness and Resurrection Life

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

¹² Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. ¹³ We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to prevent the Israelites from seeing the end of what was passing away. ¹⁴ But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. ¹⁵ Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. ¹⁶ But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

4 Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. ² Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.

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



Our nursery is open,
but is not staffed at this time.

A baby changing station
is available in the nursery and
also in the women's restroom
located in the education wing.

Worship activity bags
for children are in the narthex.

A Note to Our Guests....

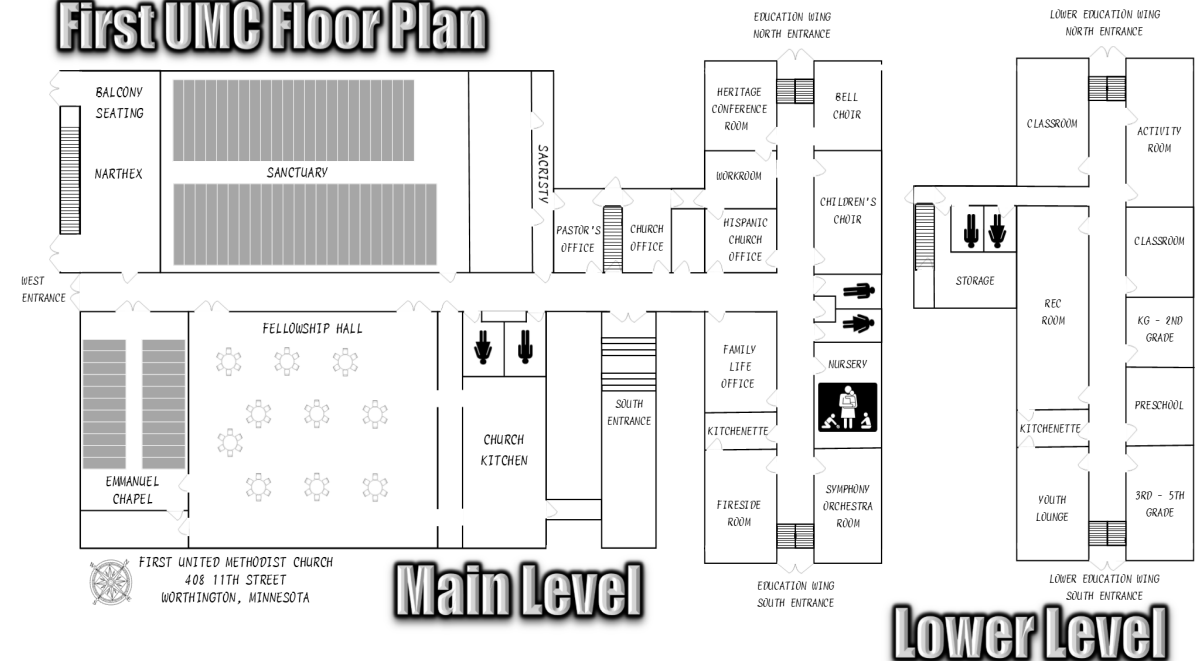
Thank you for taking the time to
worship with us this Sunday!

We hope and pray that this worship
experience will increase your faith
and help you develop more resources
for growing in Christ.

Remember to join us for coffee
fellowship each Sunday at 9:45 a.m.
in the Fellowship Hall.

We welcome you to First Church!

First UMC Floor Plan



Worship Attendance

Last
Sunday

LIVE STREAM VIEWS

148

ADRIAN UMC

23

CRISTO EN TU AYUDA

22

FIRST UMC

81

TOTAL

274