

Happy Birthday!

18 Johnathon Heidebrink
Stacie Miller
Kaylee Steinle

19 Dave Bushard

20 Julie Shore

22 Braxon Vortherms

23 Kylee Shirbroun

Happy Anniversary!

None to Celebrate This Week

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 Bengtson (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...

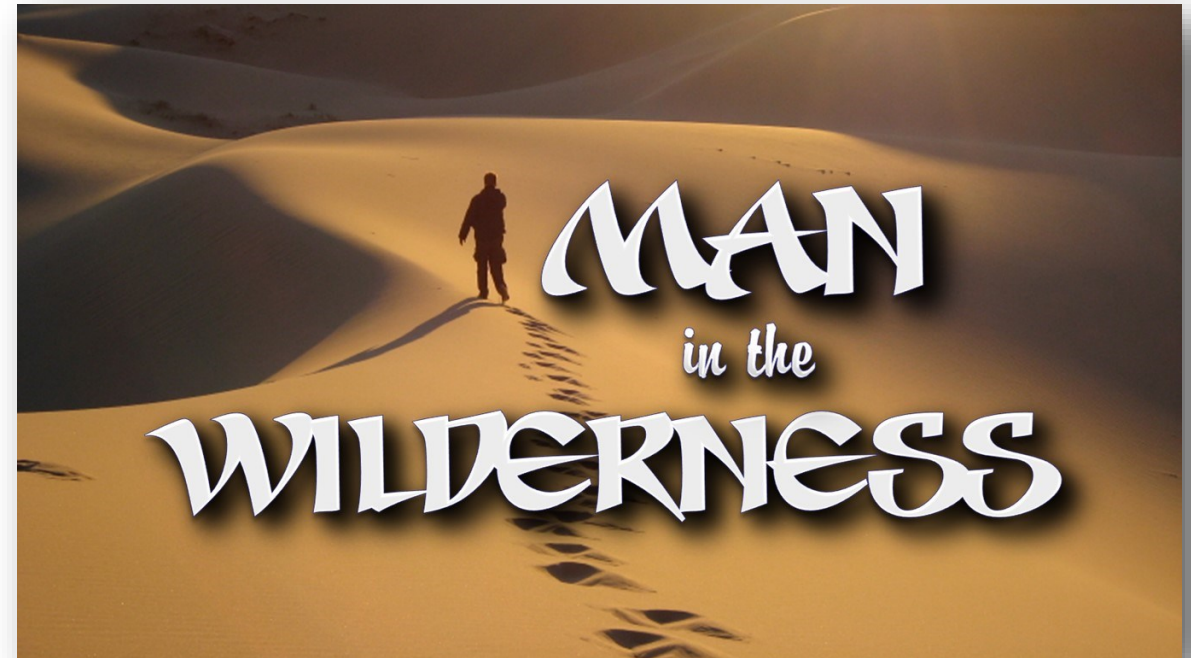
Giving thanks & praying for:

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 18th, 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

ORGANIST/ACCOMPANIST:

Carolyn Beerman

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:

Lori Nienkerk

CHOIR DIRECTOR:

Jeanette Jensen

FAMILY LIFE:

Gretchen O'Donnell

CHOIR ACCOMPANIST:

Brenda DeSmith

CUSTODIANS:

Sarah & Chad Nickel

BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR:

Brenda DeSmith

GREETERS:

Dick & Denise Schlichte

TECH TEAM:

Rick Dalrymple & Kari Meyer

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

The 1st Sunday in LENT

Sunday, February 18th, 2024

10:30 a.m.

Worship Leader: Terry Miller
Accompanist: Carolyn Beerman

UMH - United Methodist Hymnal
TFWS - The Faith We Sing

⋈ Please stand as you are able

CENTERING WORDS ¹

*"I will proclaim the name of the Lord.
Oh, praise the greatness of our God!"*

PRELUDE

WELCOME - ANNOUNCEMENTS

We Come to Worship God

PRAISE UMH #395 - *"Take Time to Be Holy"*

CALL TO WORSHIP ²

Welcome this day to the beginning of a journey.

Where will this journey take us?

It will take you to the Cross of Christ and beyond.

How much time do we have to get ready?

The time is now at hand for this journey.

Help us to be ready for this, O Lord. Amen.

⋈ PRAISE UMH #474 - *"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"*

⋈ OPENING PRAYER ³

Almighty God, your blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan. Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many

Ladies Lenten Devotion Study

Ladies, you are still welcome to join us at our Lent devotion study on Monday mornings at 9:00 a.m. We'll meet 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. 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 on Thursdays:

Thursday, Feb. 22 @ American Lutheran Church	Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck
Thursday, Feb. 29 @ First Lutheran Church	Rev. Galen Smith
Thursday, Mar. 7 @ First Lutheran Church	Rev. Anne Hokenstad
Thursday, Mar. 14 @ First UMC	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 19	Leviticus 12, 13	February 22	Leviticus 19, 20, 21
February 20	Leviticus 14, 15	February 23	Leviticus 22, 23
February 21	Leviticus 16, 17, 18	February 24	Leviticus 24, 25
		February 25	Leviticus 26, 27

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 them. All costs 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!

temptations. And, as you know the weakness of each of us, let each one find you always ready to save us; through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord. Amen.

MOMENTS WITH THE YOUNG CHRISTIANS

PRAISE *"Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"*
Solo by Elizabeth Bushard ** Accompanied by Carolyn Beerman

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE - THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN FAVORITE UMH #507 - *"Through It All"*
We Hear God's Word

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON Psalm 25:1-10
Mark 1:9-15

MESSAGE *"Man in the Wilderness"*
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 #269 - *"Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"*

✚ THE BENEDICTION - ✚ POSTLUDE

¹ The Centering Words are based on or inspired by Deuteronomy 32:3.



God loves you!

Seeking Photos

Pastor Daren's retirement party planning committee would love to be given any photos you have of Pastor Daren in his time here in Worthington. These could be photos from church, from the golf course, from his musical involvements or any other such thing he's been involved in here in town. Digital photos are preferable but hard copies are also usable. Thank you! Please give photos to Amy Oberloh or Gretchen O'Donnell.

Adult Sunday School

All adults are welcome to join us in the Fireside Room at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday through April 28th. Randy Shirbroun will be leading this class. We will be using the video from the RightNow Media resource called "The Easter Experience" by Kyle Idleman. The Easter Experience brings the passion, and resurrection of Jesus to life through dramatic storytelling and challenging teaching done in a highly cinematic style. Through these in-depth teachings, your small group will grow spiritually, bonding with each other as well as with the eternal message of Easter.

Sunday, February 25	My Life Has A Purpose
Sunday, March 3	My Life Can Change
Sunday, March 10	My Pain Is Understood
Sunday, March 17	My Life Has A Plan
Sunday, April 7	I Have The Promise of Eternal Life
Sunday, April 14	I Have A Hope That Never Dies
Sunday, April 21	Truth And Dare
Sunday, April 28	The Ride - A Christmas Parable

MN West Food Pantry

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!

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.

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.





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.

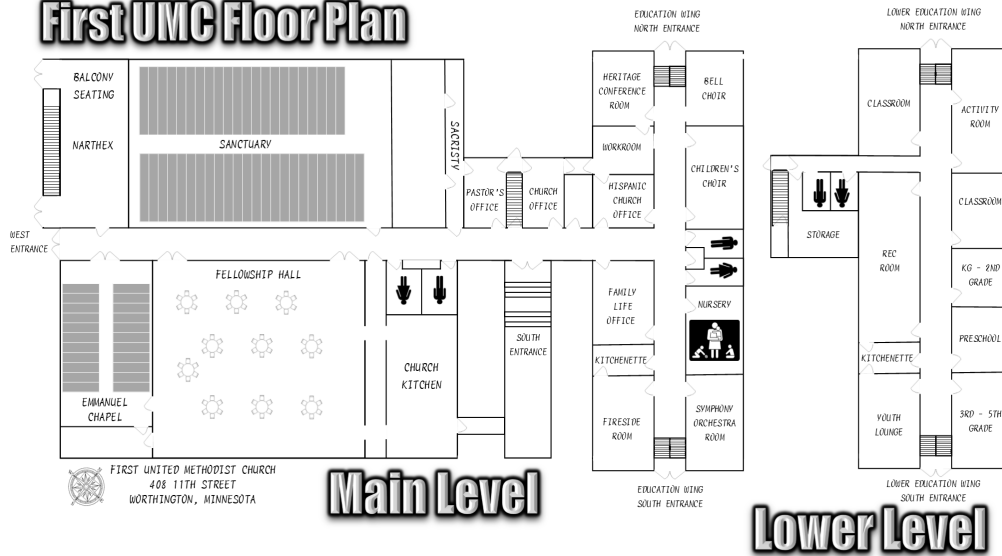
Worship activity bags for children are in the narthex.

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. Join us for coffee fellowship each Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

First UMC Floor Plan



Care Center Residents:

First UMC:

The Meadows Memory Care Unit

Karen Lawrence

South Shore Care Center

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

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

MON

3:00 pm
9:00 am

TUES

9:30 am
3:00 pm

WED

8:00 am
5:00 pm
5:45 pm
6:15 pm
7:00 pm

THUR

10:00 am
12:00 pm

SUN

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

Feb 18

Worship Re-Broadcast on TV3
Worship @ Adrian
Sunday School @ First
Adult Sunday School @ First
Coffee Fellowship @ First
Worship @ First
Cristo En Tu Ayuda @ First

Feb 19

Worship Re-Broadcast on TV3
Ladies' Lenten Study

Feb 20

Ladies' Coffee @ Hy-Vee
Worship Re-Broadcast on TV3

Feb 21

Men's Breakfast @ Blue Line
C3 Meal/Lenten Devotions
NO Bell Choir Practice
G1 @ Adrian UMC
Chancel Choir Practice

Feb 22

Bible Discussion @ Phileo's
Community Lenten Service
@ American Lutheran
Pastor Daren preaching

Feb 25

Worship Re-Broadcast on TV3
Worship @ Adrian
Sunday School @ First
Adult Sunday School @ First
Coffee Fellowship @ First
Worship @ First
Cristo En Tu Ayuda @ First



Last Week's Offering	\$ 8,167.51
Carry Over Revenue (from 2023):	\$ 39,484.78
Revenue Year to Date:	\$ 38,109.41
Expenses Year to Date:	\$ 47,144.59

GOD'S DIRECTION IS ALWAYS BEST!

The Baptism and Testing of Jesus

Mark 1:9-15

⁹ At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

¹² At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, ¹³ and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

¹⁴ After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵ "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL [YOUR] HEART...

PROVERBS 3:5

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Worship Attendance	Last Sunday	LIVE STREAM VIEWS	129
ADRIAN UMC	18	CRISTO EN TU AYUDA	28
FIRST UMC	66	TOTAL	241

First UMC provides numerous opportunities to get connected and stay connected, especially for those families who are on the go. Check out a few of these ways to connect with schedules, events, and chances to increase and strengthen your faith!



Our Church App

Download our free app on your smartphone or iPad. You can see the upcoming church schedule, interact by listening to previous Sunday messages or sending a question for the pastor. You can even give online - it's that easy and secure. You will find the app in the App Store - search for First United Methodist Church Worthington.

Our Facebook Page

We have an active Facebook page that often promotes the ministry of our church. Announcements, events, and sharing stories takes place on our Facebook page. We also make special announcements via our page to keep you up to date on schedule changes. Use the following link to add our page to your favorites: facebook.com/worthingtonfirstumc.

Pastor Daren's or Gretchen's Blog

Pastor Daren and Gretchen have blogs that provide insights and behind the scenes reflections on our busy lives today. Here is the link to Pastor Daren's blog - subscribe to it today (no cost): revdaren.blogspot.com and here is the link to Gretchen's blog: <http://furirstumcworthington.com/gretchen-s-blog> - check them out today!

RightNow Media Library

RightNow Media Library is an online video resource that you can utilize at home right from your computer. Over 10,000 Christian growth and learning videos are available to you - right now! First UMC provides this service at no cost to all of its members and friends to use in their Christian growth and learning. It's like Netflix for Christians. There are sections for every member of the family, including over 3,000 videos for kids - all with a Christian theme and message! Set up your personal account today at no charge! Contact Pastor Daren at the church office for help in setting up your account!

Online Directory

The official church directory is accessible to all members on computer or other smart devices. The digital version is just like a printed one, with links to phone numbers, addresses, email addresses and pictures and allows updating to be done by each member to their own profile. We also have a printable option for persons who do not use the internet. Download this digital directory from the App Store. The only thing you will need is your email address. It will need to be listed in the church directory under your profile. Contact the office for details.