

Happy Birthday!

- 4 Ellen Darling
Curt Hendel
- 5 Marlene Iblings
- 6 Connor Tripp
- 8 Owen Hiedebrink
Josh Taarud
- 10 Alice Kellen
Brady Palaschak-Smeins

Happy Anniversary!

No Anniversaries 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.

Delores Berkness
Adam & Maggie Blume & family
Timothy & Laurie Blume
Aaron & Nicole Bonsma & family
Dennis & Cheryl Bonsma
Mike & Shauna Brignac
Bryan Brignac
Rebecca Brignac & family
Joshua & Kristen (Monthei) Bryant & family
Virgle Buck & Pat Jukich
Kahn & Coleen Bui & family

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, and Karen Lawrence.

One visit goes a long way!



PRAYER CORNER

Prayers for immediate health concerns:
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



Sunday, February 4th, 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:

Jolene Kuhl

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:

David & Lorraine Carstensen

TECH TEAM:

Kari & Claire 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 5th Sunday after the EPIPHANY

Sunday, February 4th, 2024

10:30 a.m.

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

UMH - United Methodist Hymnal

 Please stand as you are able

CENTERING WORDS ¹

*God calls us to do everything we possibly can
to reach others with the Gospel message.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME - ANNOUNCEMENTS

We Come to Worship God

PRAISE

UMH #328 - *"Surely the Presence of the Lord"*

CALL TO WORSHIP ²

Hope is poured upon us this day!

God is with us, always offering God's healing love.

*Now is the time for us to be people of action,
not just those who silently sit and hear the good news.*

**Now is the time to seek the good; to heal those who are broken;
to offer peace and hope.**

Thanks be to God who has blessed us with God's abundant gifts.

We are called to use these gifts in service to God's broken world.

Let us rejoice in the mission to which God has directed us.

 PRAISE

UMH #139 - *"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"*

 OPENING PRAYER ³

**God of mercy and love, be with us this morning as we hear the stories of Jesus
and his compassion. Remind us again that we also need to be people of hope**

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.

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?"

Thursday Community Lenten Series

The Annual Community Lenten services (held on Thursdays during Lent) will begin on Thursday, March 9th 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

Through the Bible in One Year

Here are this week's Bible readings:		February 8	Exodus 21, 22, 23
February 5	Exodus 12, 13, 14	February 9	Exodus 24, 25, 26
February 6	Exodus 15, 16, 17	February 10	Exodus 27, 28
February 7	Exodus 18, 19, 20	February 11	Exodus 29, 30

Rescheduled Children and Youth Ice Skating

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the skating event planned for today has been postponed. We will reschedule for March 17, 12:30-2:30pm.

Game Afternoon

Today, Sunday, February 4. All ages are invited to a afternoon of games at First Lutheran. Bring a snack to share if you'd like and a favorite board game! The event will begin at 12:30 p.m. and last until 2:30 p.m..

507 Youth at First

Adult helpers are needed on February 7th for a couple of hours when FUMC hosts 507, a quarterly city-wide youth gathering. Helpers to serve food during the meal and be present as additional chaperones during the program would be greatly appreciated. Time will be approximately 6:00-8:00. Please let Gretchen know if you'd be available to lend a hand. Thanks!

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 for your faithful giving! 	Last Week's Offering	\$ 3,671.00
	Carry Over Revenue (from 2023):	\$ 39,484.78
	Revenue Year to Date:	\$ 22,990.29
	Expenses Year to Date:	\$ 28,549.85



and compassion in this world which seems so dark. You, O God , open the doors of blessings. You reveal to us the many ways in which Jesus reached out to others at their time of need. Inspire our hearts and lift our spirits this day, that we may reach out and teach others about your goodness. We offer this prayer in Jesus' Name. Amen.

MOMENTS WITH THE YOUNG CHRISTIANS

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE - THE LORD'S PRAYER (see below)

PRAISE *"The Lord's Prayer"*

Solo by Brenda DeSmith, with the First UMC Chancel Choir
Directed and accompanied by Jeanette Jenson

We Hear God's Word

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

MESSAGE

"All Things to All People"

We Respond to God's Word

COMMUNION HYMN

UMH #640 - *"Take Our Bread"*

HOLY COMMUNION

All who intend to lead a Christian life, together with their children, are invited to receive the bread and cup.

Everyone is welcome to the table of the Lord.

When you come forward, please bring your offering and place it in the plates located near the railings.

We Go Forth to Serve God

✚ PRAISE

UMH #569 - *"We've a Story to Tell to the Nations"*

✚ THE BENEDICTION - ✚ POSTLUDE

¹ The Centering Words are based on or inspired by 1 Corinthians 9.
² The Call to Worship is based on or inspired by 1 Corinthians 9.
³ The 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



GOD'S DIRECTION IS ALWAYS BEST!


All Things to All People

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

¹⁶ For when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, since I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! ¹⁷ If I preach voluntarily, I have a reward; if not voluntarily, I am simply discharging the trust committed to me. ¹⁸ What then is my reward? Just this: that in preaching the gospel I may offer it free of charge, and so not make full use of my rights as a preacher of the gospel

¹⁹ Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. ²⁰ To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. ²¹ To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. ²³ I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

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



Worship Attendance	Last Sunday	LIVE STREAM VIEWS	152
ADRIAN UMC	19	CRISTO EN TU AYUDA	21
FIRST UMC	74	TOTAL	266

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.

If you have any questions or concerns about this new program, please contact the church office, Pastor Daren or Gretchen O'Donnell.

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 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!

Care Center Residents:

First UMC:
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.

Confirmation Class

The Confirmation Class is scheduled to
meet on Saturday, February 10th at
FUMC starting at 10:00 a.m. The class
will rotate between locations (First to
Adrian) each month until Confirmation
Sunday, April 28th.

This Week

SUN	Feb 4
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

MON	Feb 5
3:00 pm	Worship Re-Broadcast on TV3
TUES	Feb 6
9:30 am	Ladies' Coffee @ Hy-Vee
3:00 pm	Worship Re-Broadcast on TV3
4:00 pm	WAYMA

WED	Feb 7
8:00 am	Men's Breakfast @ Blue Line
5:15 pm	NO C3 Meal
5:45 pm	Bell Choir Practice
6:15 pm	G1 @ Adrian UMC
6:30 pm	507 Event @ FUMC
7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Practice

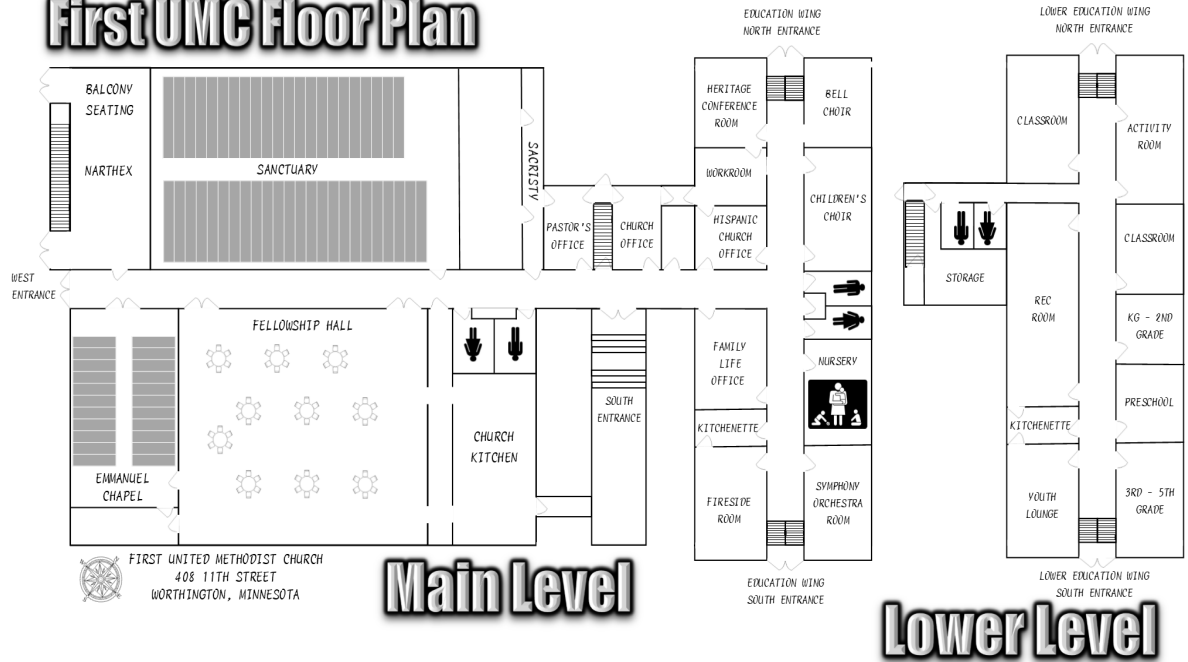
THUR	Feb 8
10:00 am	Bible Discussion @Phileo's

FRI	Feb 9
5:00 pm	Wass Wedding Rehearsal

SAT	Feb 10
10:00 am	Confirmation Class (HR)
2:30 pm	Wass Wedding

SUN	Feb 11
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

First UMC Floor Plan





Here are
the highlights from
the First Covenant Council
meeting held on
Thursday, January 18.

Celebrations: The Bell Choir is going strong - playing Majesty on February. Galen and Sherry Benton are playing with the American Lutheran Bell Choir because Pam and Diane from that church are always performing our bell choir.

Adult Sunday school class is underway. Randy Shirbroun is teaching that class. Gretchen O'Donnell and Ida Van Westen are working on the spring curriculum. Missy Geertsema and Stacie Miller are teaching the kids. The youth have been a huge help in undecorating the church and serving the food at C3. The Family Life Team will be evaluating Wednesday night and whether the undecorating night worked. Craft night making cards is next week. The youth held a semi-lock-in which went well with First Lutheran participating.

Gretchen also reported that the Door Monitor program is underway. The Family Life Team has been working on a preventative way to secure the church on Sunday mornings. The doors to the church will be secured (locked) from the inside ten minutes after worship begins by a trained monitor (even though the doors are locked from outside entrance, any person can leave at any time - the doors do not lock from an inside exit). The person will remain in the narthex to open the door for any late-comers or others who may arrive after service begins. If you have any questions or concerns about this new program, please contact the church office or Gretchen.

Gretchen also shared that the Advent Calendar generated over 400 pounds of food which was taken to all three food shelves by Rick and Dianne Dalrymple and John Stienle. The college is hurting for food for their Food Pantry.

Pam Soderholm reported that the Missions Team delivered 200 boxes for Operation Christmas Child in November, plus \$500 to help for shipping costs. The Missions Team has also given the following to various missions: \$200 to Minnesota West Food Pantry; \$500 to ELIC (Linda Doeden's overseas work); \$500 to the Every Meal program; \$100 to Morning Star; and \$745 to help purchase warm winter clothing which Brenda DeSmith purchased for the Elementary children. The Missions Team expressed gratitude for the Foundation donation of \$3000.

James Jenson shared that the PSPRC has completed reviews on staff members Lori Nienkerk and Gretchen O'Donnell. We are very glad to have Lori and Gretchen on our church staff - they do a terrific job!

Pastor Daren shared that the Cristo en tu Ayuda Church has experienced a jump in attendance, from their average of 25 to 48 last week! Keep up the great work, Pastor Angel and Lourdes!

Challenges: Pastor Daren lifted up the fact that a recording secretary for the Council

will need to be recruited before he retires. The office lock box was inaccessible for a short time - Mike Johnson assisted in helping the counters gain access to it once again.

Current Focus: The Through the Bible in a Year program is in full swing. A discussion group is being held at Phileo's every other Thursday at 10:00 a.m. - all are welcome. The Confirmation class continues to meet once a month. The skating party coming up will be rescheduled due to a glitch in the schedule. The Monday Ladies Bible Study will be continuing during Lent. Wednesday nights in Lent will have a meal followed by special devotions and an activity during the C3. The meal time will be moved to 5:00 p.m. and the devotion at 5:30 p.m. (20 minutes). The Family Life Room shelving is starting to be installed.

Missions is preparing for the annual Souper Bowl Soup Cookoff on Sunday, January 28 - Ten persons have signed up to bring a soup of their choice.

The Council discussed the signage out front, hoping to find a way to include the Hispanic Church information on it. \$200 would cover changing the left hand side to put that information on the sign - no decision was made.

Cutting Edge Issues:

Item #1: Conference Statement

We discussed a statement of clarification the PSPRC has fashioned to send to the District Superintendent regarding our position on General Conference. At our meeting tonight, Janes Jenson shared that we may have inadvertently sent a message to the conference that we are prepared to disaffiliate depending upon the General Conference's decisions this spring. Evidently, a few

sentences have cooled various prospective clergypersons from throwing their hat into the ring to be considered being appointed here. Here is what that means: why would a prospective pastor desire to come to a church that is waiting for the General Conference decisions to disaffiliate within the first year of their ministry? No one wants to accept a new appointment with that in mind.

We did not intend that to happen. Below is the statement we would like to send to Southern Prairie District Superintendent Woojae Im which clarifies our position. "We cannot predict what the General Conference will decide but our congregations have no intention of leaving our beloved Methodist affiliation any time soon." The Council unanimously agreed and the statement will be sent to the District Superintendent.

Item #2: 2023 Financial Report & 2024 Budget

We examine the figures for our financial progress last year. All expenses were paid (including apportionments). We ended up with a reserve fund to carry over the 2024 year. Ellen Hoefker shared the proposed budget for 2024. The budget will include paying for a larger percentage of the Family Life position. We are very grateful for the generous giving of our church.

The next council meeting is set for

Thursday, February 15th at 5:30 p.m..

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck