

## Happy Birthday!

- 8 Ginny Tate
- 9 Agnes Johnson  
Kristen (Monthei) Bryant
- 10 Wayne Jones  
Dick Schlichte
- 12 Brian Hokeness  
Ron Lawrence
- 13 Alycia Lyons

## 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.

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 health concerns:

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...

The family of Jean Blanshan  
(Virgyl Buck's niece)

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, January 7th, 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:

Sharon Algood & Leola Weeks

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](mailto:dflinck@gmail.com)


♦ Office email >> [methodistoffice@gmail.com](mailto:methodistoffice@gmail.com)



Sunday, January 7th, 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 <sup>1</sup>

As we focus on the Light of the World, God's vision of justice and love grows clearer and shines more brightly in our thoughts and actions.

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME - ANNOUNCEMENTS

### We Come to Worship God

## PRAISE

UMH #219 - "What Child Is This?"

## CALL TO WORSHIP <sup>2</sup>

Christ's light is shining,

**calling us to respond with joy.**

Christ's light is shining,

**calling us to worship and praise.**

 PRAISE

UMH #254 - "We Three Kings"

 OPENING PRAYER <sup>3</sup>

Merciful God, grant us the grace to behold your glory and offer us the assurance that your loving light will not burn us. Grant us the confidence that we too can shine your light in our world. Remove the lampshades of fear and shame that hide our light. Dust off the cobwebs of doubt and despair that shadow our light. Shine in and through us, that your light may brighten our world. Amen.

## 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.

## 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., 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 28<sup>th</sup>. 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 23<sup>rd</sup>. 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.



Last Week's Offering                      \$    13,080.00

Carry Over Revenue (from 2023):       \$   31,543.00

Revenue Final Year End:                      \$   355,321.10

Expenses Final Year End:                      \$   349,341.32

*Thank you for your faithful giving!*

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

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PARDON <sup>4</sup>

Here is the mystery: Grace is ours, no matter what.  
God's love is ours, no matter what.  
Grace and love save us and shine in us.  
They allow us to shine as the light of the world  
with the Light of the World. Amen.

MOMENTS WITH THE YOUNG CHRISTIANS

PRAISE

*"Shine On Us"*

First UMC Chancel Choir

Directed by Jeanette Jenson - Accompanied by Brenda DeSmith

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE - THE LORD'S PRAYER

We Hear God's Word

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

MESSAGE

*"The Mystery of God's Plan"*

We Respond to God's Word

COMMUNION HYMN

TFWS #2263 - *"Broken for Me"*

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 #245 - *"The First Noel"*

✠ THE BENEDICTION - ✠ POSTLUDE

<sup>1</sup> The Centering Words are based on or inspired by Isaiah 60, Psalm 72, and John 8:12.

<sup>2</sup> The Call to Worship is based on or inspired by Isaiah 60 and Matthew 2.

<sup>3</sup> The Prayer of Confession is based on or inspired by Isaiah 60, Ephesians 3, and Matthew 5.

<sup>4</sup> The Words of Assurance are based on or inspired by Ephesians 3, John 8, and Matthew 5.

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!

## The Magi Visit the Messiah

**Matthew 2:1-12**

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

4 When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

6 "'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

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

PROVERBS 3:5



## 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.

## C3 Craft Night

January 24 from 4:30—6:30 pm @C3  
Everyone will make 5 cards for various purposes (birthday, thank-you, etc) \$5/person!

## This Week

### SUN

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

### MON

3:00 pm  
  
  
9:30 am  
3:00 pm

### TUES

8:00 am  
11:30 am  
5:15 pm  
5:45 pm  
6:15 pm  
7:00 pm

### WED

9:00 am

### SAT

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

### Jan 7

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

### Jan 8

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

### Jan 9

Men's Breakfast @ Blue Line  
WACMA\* @ Phileo's  
C3 Meal/Undecorating Church  
NO Bell Choir Practice  
G1 @ Adrian UMC  
Chancel Choir Practice

### Jan 10

Confirmation @ Adrian

### Jan 11

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

\*WACMA stands for Worthington Area Christian Minister's Association

Worship Attendance	Last Sunday	LIVE STREAM VIEWS	191
ADRIAN UMC	14	CRISTO EN TU AYUDA	41
FIRST UMC	50	TOTAL	296