

Happy Birthday!

- 11 Lisa Gerdes
Tori Johnson
Megan Kluever
Jaden Nickel
Myra Palmer
12 Kenny Hoefker
Andrea Johnson
14 Virgle Buck
Lourdes Franco
Lennex Hietbrink
Jeremy Johnson
15 Dena Leach
Sadie Nickel
16 Makenna Nickel
Timothy Yager

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.

Skeeter Doeden
Kevin & LeAnn Donovan & family
Chris & Diane Dybevic
Michelle Ebbers
Andy & Cindy Ekedahl
Rebecca Emary
Don & Robin Erlandson & family
Jennifer Erwin & family
Daren & Nancy Flinck
Ardis Frederickson
Roger & Bonnie Frisbee
Katherine Gallagher

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:

Myron Grussing (vision issues)
Jack Christofferson (Galen & Sherry's grandson)
Sheila Bengtson (Betty Taarud's granddaughter)
Tom Vagt Kathy Gallagher
Mary Prins Ajulo Ochala
Clyde Scheevel Janelle Johnson
LaDee Grant Marlene Wieneke

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)
Marian Reitsma (Jolene 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
Tim Yager

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 new pastor Rev. John Mitchem
and his former congregation—Albert Lea UMC...

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, March 10th, 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:

Dave & Hollie Hibma

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 >> dfinck@gmail.com

♦ Office email >> methodistoffice@gmail.com


The
Fourth in
LENT

Sunday, March 10th, 2024

10:30 a.m.

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

TFWS - The Faith We Sing

 Please stand as you are able

CENTERING WORDS ¹

*Grace is the gift that binds us to God.
It protects us, redeems us, restores us, and makes us whole.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME - ANNOUNCEMENTS

EASTER OFFERING: Beth Bents - Minnesota West Student Life Coordinator / Advisor

We Come to Worship God

PRAISE

TFWS #2215 - *"Cares Chorus"*

CALL TO WORSHIP ²

The goodness of God beckons,
calling us to goodness and grace.

The grace of God redeems,
saving us and making us whole.

The love of God welcomes,
inviting us to worship and praise.

 **PRAISE**

TFWS #2088 - *"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"*

 **OPENING PRAYER ³**

God of goodness and grace, gather us in your arms of love. Gather us as people of your goodness and grace. Gather us in worship and prayer, that we may be

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 will meet through Monday, March 25th. If you are unable to meet at that time but would still like a book to study on your own, let Gretchen know. The 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 will be held on Thursdays at noon during Lent. 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, Mar. 14 @ First UMC Rev. Jeanette McCormick

Good Friday Passion Play in Sibley

Save the date and plan to attend the 38th Anniversary production of the Osceola County Community Ministerial Association Good Friday Passion Play, scheduled for three performance times on Good Friday, March 29th - at 5:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. at the Sibley-Ocheyedan High School Auditorium in Sibley, Iowa. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex - sign up if you'd like to car pool together to attend this free event. Tickets are available by reservation (no cost) by calling 712.754.2945. Contact Gretchen O'Donnell if you have any questions about attending this event.

Through the Bible in One Year

Here are this week's Bible readings:

March 11	Numbers 34 - 35	March 14	Deuteronomy 5 - 7
March 12	Numbers 36	March 15	Deuteronomy 8 - 10
	Deuteronomy 1 - 2	March 16	Deuteronomy 11 - 14
March 13	Deuteronomy 3 - 4	March 17	Deuteronomy 15 - 17

Movie Night

Today, Sunday, March 10 at 4 p.m., is our 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 cost are covered. Bring friends! If you would like to chaperone, 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?"

First and Adrian Holy Week Services

Looking ahead, the Holy Thursday Service will be held at First UMC on March 28th at 6:30 p.m. (Holy Communion will be served). The Good Friday service is scheduled for March 29th at 6:30 p.m. at Adrian UMC.

Bars Needed

We are still in need of bars for Thursday's Community Lenten Lunch on March 14. Bars should be dropped off Wednesday evening (marked appropriately) or Thursday morning before 11:00 a.m. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

strengthened with faith and courage. Gather us as those who are eager to live and to share your goodness and grace. Amen.

MOMENTS WITH THE YOUNG CHRISTIANS

PRAISE *"I'm Not Alone"*
Trombone Solo: Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck ** Accompanied by Jolene Kuhl

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE - THE LORD'S PRAYER

We Hear God's Word

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS Numbers 21:4-9
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21

MESSAGE *"Come to the Light"*

We Respond to God's Word

RECOGNITION OF OFFERING
(please place your offering in the plates as you depart worship)

✚ DOXOLOGY CH #814 - *"Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"*

✚ PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We Go Forth to Serve God

✚ PRAISE INSERT - *"Send the Light"*

✚ THE BEN EDICTION - ✚ POSTLUDE

¹ The Centering Words are based on or inspired by Ephesians 2 and John 3.
² The Call to Worship is based on or inspired by Psalm 107, Ephesians 2, and John 3.
³ The Opening Prayer is based on or inspired by Psalm 107, Ephesians 2, and John 3.
All are based on [or taken from] "The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024",
edited by Mary J. Scifres and B.J. Beu

Worship Attendance	Last Sunday	LIVE STREAM VIEWS	169
ADRIAN UMC	20	CRISTO EN TU AYUDA	24
FIRST UMC	66	TOTAL	279

Send the Light

Words and Music by Charles Hutchinson Gabriel

1. There's a call comes ring - ing o'er the re - sless waves,"Send the light!
2. We have heard the Ma - ce - do - nian call to - day, "Send the light!
3. Let us pray that grace may ev' - ry - where a - bound,"Send the light!
4. Let us not grow wea - ry in the work of love, "Send the light!

Send the light!

Send the light!" There are souls to re - scue, there are souls to save,
Send the light!" And a gol - den off' - ring at the cross we lay,
Send the light!" And a Christ - like spi - rit ev' - ry - where be found,
Send the light!" Let us ga - ther je - wels for a crown a - bove,

Send the light!

Send the light! Send the light! Send the light, _____ the
Send the light! Send the light! Send the light! Send the light!

bles - sed gos - pel light; Let it shine _____ from shore to
the bless - ed gos - pel light; Let it shine

shore! shine _____ for - ev - er - more!
from shore to shore! Let it shine for - ev - er - more!

Easter Lilies

Don't forget to order your Easter Lilies for Easter Sunday to decorate the sanctuary this year in memory of a loved one or for a special occasion. The cost per lily will be \$10.00 and will be delivered to the church by Good Friday. Please share them with the church until after the Easter service. **The deadline to order your Easter Lily is March 13th.** The sign up sheet is in the Narthex and you may either put the \$10.00 in a separate envelope in the offering plate (please indicate what this is for) or deliver it to the church office.



Name: _____

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

Enclosed: _____ Phone number: _____

Kiwanis Community Prayer Breakfast...

The Worthington Early Riser's Kiwanis is sponsoring the 29th Annual Community Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, March 23rd at 8:00 a.m. at the American Reformed Church in Worthington. The keynote speaker is Jill Koopman. Jill will share her story of perseverance, character, and hope during a challenging season of her life. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at Fareway Foods, American Bank and Trust, HyVee, First Bank Southwest, FORWARD Worthington (Chamber of Commerce) and from any Early Riser Kiwanis member.

Looking for Home to Rent

Pastor Angel and Lourdes are in the process of searching for a home to rent in Worthington. It's been a difficult search because of the lack of rental homes in this area. If you know someone who might be interested in renting their home to Pastor Angel and Lourdes, please contact the church office immediately 507.372.2939. Thank 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.

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

Card of Thanks

Thank you so much to
Mary Monthei and Diane Dybevic for their creative spirit
in decorating the front of the sanctuary!

Thank you to our Sunday School teachers:
Amber Nielsen, Ida Van Westen, Randy Shirbroun
for their commitment to helping us learn more about God's Holy Word!

Thank you for our media volunteers:
Kari & Claire Meyer, Deb & John Steinle, Rick Dalrymple, Sadie Nickel
for their work in helping us present the live stream worship each week!



Last Week's Offering	\$ 3,032.93
Carry Over Revenue (from 2023):	\$ 39,484.78
Revenue Year to Date:	\$ 57,080.99
Expenses Year to Date:	\$ 68,555.76

Operation Christmas Child

We will again be collecting items for the Operation Christmas Child boxes that will be packed in November. Starting in March and through October, each month we will highlight an area of items that are needed; you may give a monetary donation (Please make check payable to 1st UMC and put OCC on the memo line) at any time which will go towards buying additional items that are needed or for postage to help ship the boxes overseas. Your donations can be placed in the box in the narthex. There is a list available of the items that are needed and will be collected throughout the next months; you can donate any of those items at any time. The age groups that the boxes will be packed for are ages 2-4, 5-9 and 10-14 for both boys and girls.

For the month of March we will be collecting personal care items. Suggestions for items to donate are: toothbrushes, combs, hairbrushes, bars of soap, washcloths, stick deodorant, nail clippers, non-liquid lip balm, plastic bowls and cups, small water bottles, and small battery operated flashlights (batteries should be included).

The Missions Committee thanks you for your interest and consideration in this project. If you have any questions, please contact Pam Soderholm.

Minnesota Food Share March Campaign

The Annual Minnesota Food Share March Campaign is underway with both Manna Food Shelf and Worthington Christian Church Food Shelf participating; there will be a dollar for dollar match from the Worthington Regional Health Care Foundation. Monetary donations will be taken until Sunday, March 31st. Please make your check payable to First United Methodist Church with March Campaign on the memo line. Monetary donations can be stretched further but the donation of non-perishable items is also welcomed; please put in the box in the narthex. Thank you for your considerations of helping those in need.

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.

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

4:00 pm

MON

3:00 pm

9:00 am

4:00 pm

TUES

9:30 am

12:00 pm

3:00 pm

WED

8:00 am

11:30 am

5:00 pm

5:45 pm

6:15 pm

7:00 pm

THUR

12:00 pm

SUN

6:30 am

9:00 am

9:00 am

9:00 am

9:45 am

10:30 am

12:30 pm

1:00 pm

5:00 pm

March 10

Worship Re-Broadcast on TV3

Worship @ Adrian

Sunday School @ First

Adult Sunday School @ First

Coffee Fellowship @ First

Worship @ First

Cristo En Tu Ayuda @ First

Movie Night @First UMC

March 11

Worship Re-Broadcast on TV3

Ladies' Lenten Study

Night Light

March 12

Ladies' Coffee @ Hy-Vee

Finance Meeting

Worship Re-Broadcast on TV3

March 13

Men's Breakfast @ Blue Line

WACMA @ Phileo's

C3 Meal/Lenten Devotions

NO Bell Choir Practice

G1 @ Adrian UMC

Chancel Choir Practice

March 14

Community Lenten Service

@ First UMC

Pastor Jeanette preaching

March 17

Worship Re-Broadcast on TV3

Worship @ Adrian

Sunday School @ First

Adult Sunday School @ First

Coffee Fellowship @ First

Worship @ First

Ice Skating @ Arena

Cristo En Tu Ayuda @ First

Outreach @Okoboji

GOD'S DIRECTION IS ALWAYS BEST!

The Bronze Snake

Numbers 21:4-9 ** New International Version (NIV)

⁴ They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; ⁵ they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!"

⁶ Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. ⁷ The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ The Lord said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." ⁹ So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

Made Alive in Christ

Ephesians 2-10 ** New International Version (NIV)

¹ As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Jesus Is Lifted Up

John 3:14-21 ** New International Version (NIV)

¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him." ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. ¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. ²¹ But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

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

PROVERBS 3:5

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