

Happy Birthday!

- 18 Dana Heidebrink
- Ashley Hendel
- 19 Darlene Miller
- Spenser Nickel
- 21 Abby Erlandson
- Steve Jeppesen
- 23 Adam Blume
- Phillip Geertsema
- 24 Leola Weets

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.

Agnes Johnson
Andrew Johnson
Dave Johnson
Jeremy Johnson
Mike & Janelle Johnson
Jason & Marie Johnson & family
Kyle & Andrea Johnson
Steve & Terry Johnson
Cody & Kristen Jones
Wayne & Sharon Jones
Walter & Alice Kellen

Let's remember to visit those who are in Care Centers or are homebound: especially reach out to Betty Taarud, Margaret Loger, Mary Prins, LaDee Grant, and Norma Swenson

One visit goes a long way!



PRAYER CORNER

Prayers for immediate health concerns:

- Shellie Williams
- Logan Waldner
- Etta Schroeder
- Ron Husenga
- Lourdes Franco
- Chris Nelson
- Lowell Carlson
- Rod Behrends
- Beth Habicht
- Clyde Scheevel
- Virgil Buck
- Corky Tate
- Kathy Tetrick-Hoffbeck (pastor @Jeffers)
- Kristin (Dalrymple) Amundson
- Anne Christine Lindell (Pastor John's friend)
- Phil Bjerke
- Dianne Dalrymple

Prayers for those dealing with cancer

- Galen Benton
- Shellie William
- Janelle Johnson
- Christopher Allen Brown
- Marian Reitsma (friend of Jolene Kuhl)
- Stacy White
- Mike Miller
- Jeff Wachell (friend of Deb Steinle)

Persons recovering/dealing with health issues:

- Nancy Hyink
- Alden Remme
- Bill Carlberg
- Emma Schnyders
- Ariana Lopez
- Larry Doeden
- Pat Huisenga

For those dealing with grief and loss...

Judith Hofer family with her passing

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

A Church That Pleases God



Sunday, January 18th, 2026
Worship - 10:30 a.m.

The Boxcast TV Channel
First UMC YouTube Channel
First UMC FaceBook Channel
First UMC Website
(<http://firstumcworthington.com/>)

PASTOR:

Pastor John Mitchem

ORGANIST

Carolyn Beerman

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:

Lori Nienkerk

BELL DIRECTOR

Brenda DeSmith

FAMILY LIFE:

Gretchen O'Donnell

TECH TEAM:

John & Deb Steinle

CUSTODIANS:

Sarah & Chad Nickel

GREETERS:

Kari & Claire Meyer

408 11th Street - Worthington, MN 56187 - 507.372.2939
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS - TUESDAY through Friday - 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

- ♦ Office Phone >> **507.372.2939**
- ♦ Rev. John Mitchem >> jdmitchem@me.com; Office email >> methodistoffice@gmail.com



Sunday, January 18th, 2026
10:30 a.m.

Worship Leader: Pastor John Mitchem
Song Leader: Elizabeth Bushard
Accompanist: Carolyn Beerman

PRELUDE

WELCOME

TIME OF FOCUS

We Come to Worship God

OPENING HYMN

UMH #159 - "Lift High the Cross"

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come! Let us follow Jesus to the edge of the Jordan River, to the place where God's voice declares His beloved Son.

We come to be cleansed to be made whole, and to remember our own baptism.

Come! Let us witness the heavens opened, the Spirit descending like a dove, and God's delight in His chosen one.

We come to hear God's truth, to remember who we are, and to embrace our calling as God's family.

Let us worship God, who calls us beloved, who brings us to the waters, and who empowers us to live in His Kingdom.

In Jesus Christ, we are redeemed, forgiven, and loved. Let us worship!

MOMENTS WITH THE YOUNG CHRISTIANS

Sermon Notes:

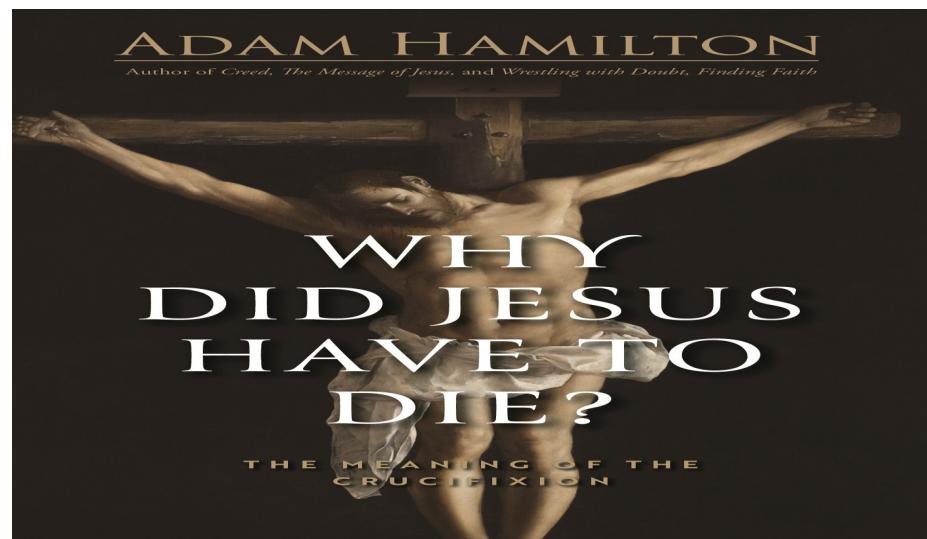
Zoom Lent 2026 Bible Study

WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO DIE?

When words fall short, the cross still speaks. Our small group will study a new book by Adam Hamilton — *Why Did Jesus have to Do It? — The Meaning of the Crucifixion*. Despite the crucifixion's central role in Christian faith, the New Testament offers few clear answers about how Jesus' death saves us or why exactly he had to die. The writers use many metaphors—ransom, sacrifice, reconciliation, victory—but never fully explain how it works or why it had to happen this way.

What if that's because we've been asking the wrong question? What if the cross isn't just a transaction to be explained, but a living Word from God meant to transform us and how we live?

Join us on Monday nights starting February 23rd, 2026, from 6:30 to 8:00 pm on Zoom. To sign up for the Bible study use the QRC code below or contact Pastor John.



PRAYER HYMN

UMH #252 - "When Jesus Came to Jordan"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

BELL CHOIR

"It Is Well With My Soul"

Directed by Brenda DeSmith

GENEROSITY MOMENT

(please place your offering in the plates as you depart worship or visit our website [http://www.firstumcworthington, com/give](http://www.firstumcworthington.com/give))

DOXOLOGY

UMH #94 - "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 3:13-17

MESSAGE

"A Church That Pleases God -
What God Really Wants From You"
Pastor John Mitchem

THE BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

UMH #378 "Amazing Grace"

Free to follow Pastor John on Social Media
<https://www.facebook.com/jdmitchem>

This Week

Care Center Residents:

First UMC:

Meadows Memory Care

Ray Hinz

The Shores

LaDee Grant

Sibley Specialty Care Center

Norma Swenson

Adrian UMC:

Mary Jane Brown Ctr (Luverne)

Mary Prins

Adrian Country Living Cottage

Margaret Loger

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 even after the service is over. For questions, please contact the church office.

SUN

Jan 18

6:30 am Worship Re-Broadcast on TV
9:00 am Worship @ Adrian
9:00 am Youth Sunday School
9:45 am Coffee Fellowship - FH
10:30 am Worship @ First
1:00 pm Cristo En Tu Ayuda

MON

Jan 19

3:00 pm Worship Re-Broadcast on TV3

TUES

Jan 20

9:30 am Ladies' Coffee @ Hy-Vee
3:00 pm Worship Re-Broadcast on TV3

WED

Jan 21

5:15 pm Connect Wednesday Dinner
5:45 pm Worship
5:45 pm Confirmation
6:00 pm Program
7:00 pm Bell Practice

SUN

Jan 25

6:30 am Worship Re-Broadcast on TV
9:00 am Worship @ Adrian
9:00 am Youth Sunday School
9:45 am Coffee Fellowship - FH
10:30 am Worship @ First
1:00 pm Cristo En Tu Ayuda



Meals needed for Connect

Please consider providing a meal for our Wednesday evening Connect! You will find a sign-up sheet in the narthex with available dates for the next few weeks. The church will cover the cost of the meal, we just need you to prepare and serve it. THANK YOU for considering this important part of our mid-week ministry here at our church! See Gretchen if you have any questions!

