

Happy Birthday!

- 4 Etta Schroder
- 5 Chris Dybevic
Scott Heidebrink
- 6 Carroll Miller
- 7 Brisa Zebe
- 9 Nathan Erlandson
Margaret Essman
Sally Hibma
Shellie Williams

Happy Anniversary!

- 4 Jerald & Evelyn Green
- 6 Henry & Elaine Mess
- 8 Bill & Deb Geertsema
- 9 Dennis & Cheryl Bonsma

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.

Jerry & Terry Perkins
Iris Pierce
Mel Platt
Kevin & Lesa Polson
Darren Ponto
Steven Potts
Loren & Shala Prins & family
Mary Prins
Dave & Linda Reese
Arnold Renken
Ariel & Shelby Rivera
Jeremy Roelfs

Let's remember to visit those who are in Care Centers or are homebound: especially reach out to Jenola Uden, Betty Taarud, Lois Carlberg, Margaret Loger, Mary Prins, LaDee Grant, and Karen Lawrence

One visit goes a long way!



PRAYER CORNER

Prayers for immediate health concerns:

Mary Prins (dealing with arthritic conditions)
Sharlene Hohensee (Paula Behren's mother)
Henry Mess Tim Yager
LaDee Grant Marlene Wieneke
Pat Huisenga Steve Potts
Janelle Johnson
Ajulo Ochala

Persons impacted by COVID 19:
Covid long-haulers

Prayers for those dealing with cancer:

Laurie Blume Scott Klooster
Christopher Allen Brown
Connie Bremer (Betty Taarud's daughter)
Makenzie Gist (Nancy Galland's niece)
George Dinsmore (Cheryl Dinsmore uncle)

Persons recovering/dealing with health issues:

Emma Schnyders Nancy Hyink
Gerald Fisher Mike Miller
Kristi Johnson John Clease
Weston Erlandson Bill Carlberg
Steve Timmons Monica Veil
Ken Bipes Phil Glembin
Karen Schulz Ariana Lopez
Aiden Remme

For those experiencing change in locations...

Tom and Diane Vagt, to Lennox, SD...
Iris Pierce, to Mississippi...
Robyn Silver, to Jackson, MN...

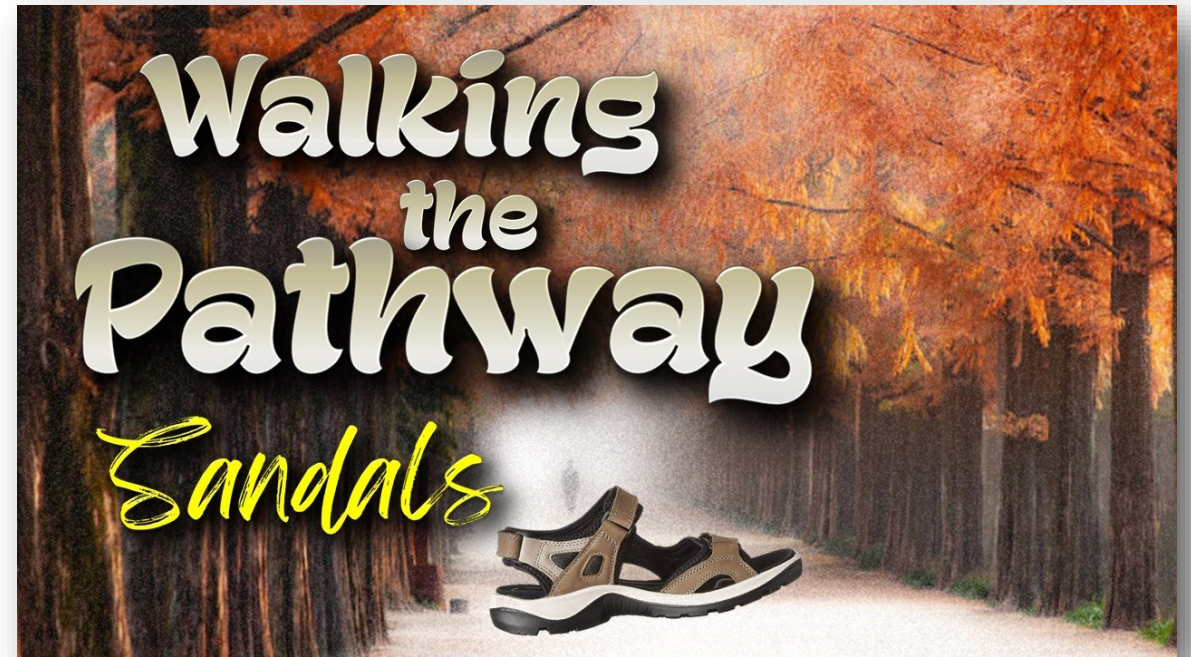
For those dealing with grief and loss...

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, September 3rd, 2023
Worship - 10:30 a.m.



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 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 3rd, 2023

10:30 a.m.

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

TFWS - The Faith We Sing
UMH - The United Methodist Hymnal

 Please stand as you are able

CENTERING WORDS ¹

God speaks from burning bushes and souls on fire.
May God grant us eyes to see and ears to hear, as we worship this day.

PRELUDE

WELCOME - ANNOUNCEMENTS

We Come to Worship God

PRAISE

TFWS #2150 - "Lord, Be Glorified"

CALL TO WORSHIP ²

Give thanks to the Lord.

Call on God's holy name.

Sing praises to the Lord.

Tell of God's wondrous deeds.

Let the faithful sing of the Lord's awesome power.

Let the hearts of the faithful rejoice.

Give thanks to the Lord.

Call on God's holy name.

 PRAISE

UMH #64 - "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty"

Sunday School Teachers Needed!

Please consider if you'd like to take part in a six-week commitment to teaching or assisting with our children's Sunday School! Our 2023/2024 school year will be broken up into four, six-week teaching sessions, and we need teachers and helpers for our elementary age group. Please contact Gretchen or Pat Grimmus if you have any questions or feel led to be a part of this ministry.

Rally Sunday

Sunday School will begin with Rally Sunday on Sunday, September 24th, at 9:15 a.m.

Adult Bible Study

We would love to have an adult Bible study time on Sunday mornings. If anyone would be willing to facilitate such a group, please let Gretchen know!

Women's Bible Study

Ladies, please join us this fall for a six-week study on the Attributes of God. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. on Mondays in the Fireside Room. Cost of the books is \$10. If you're not able to attend, you are welcome to purchase a book and study on your own. We will begin on Monday, September 25th and go through Monday, October 30th. Please see Gretchen as soon as you can to sign up in case more books are needed. Looking forward to this excellent study!

Fireside Book Club

The next Fireside Book Club meets Tuesday, September 26th at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. We will be discussing *The Light Between Oceans*, by M. L. Stedman.

Speaker During Coffee Fellowship

On Sunday, October 1st Delbert and Sandy Groves, will be speaking to us about their experiences in Zambia, Africa. We supported the Groves for many years when they served as missionaries over there. They have now retired but spend part of the year in Zambia and have a non-profit organization, New Life International Mission. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 9:00 A.M. Coffee, juice and rolls will be served.

Prayer Time

Every Wednesday morning at 11:30 a.m. in Emmanuel Chapel. Please join us if you are interested.

King Turkey Sandwich Revival

Be a part of the King Turkey Day sandwich revival! Turkey sandwiches will be served in the First Fellowship Hall from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. on King Turkey Day, Saturday, September 16th. Please be a part of this great community outreach by volunteering to prepare the meal or serve the meal or clean up after the meal. More details will follow in the weeks to come with sign-ups and exact duties for the three shifts. Please contact Madonna Carlson for more information. Thank you!



C3 - Christians Connecting at Church
(Wednesday Evening Meal)

September 20th will be our first Wednesday evening meal, now called "C3" which stands for Christians Connecting at Church. Meal will be served from 5:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m..



Westminster Presbyterian Church 150th Celebration

We celebrated our church's 150th anniversary in May with the help of six people from Westminster Presbyterian Church who helped in serving the meal. Now it's our turn to reciprocate. We need six people willing to serve for their 150th celebration on Sunday, September 10th, at 11:00 a.m. Please see Gretchen if you're willing to spend a couple of hours serving at their party. Thank you.

Kids for Christ

Wednesday afterschool program starts September 20 @ First Lutheran Church 1200 4th Ave. from 4:00 -5:45 p.m. for 3 yr old - 7th grade
For more information contact FLC 507-376-6148 or Brenda Richards cell phone and email 712-230-7157, tinymustardseed1720@gmail.com.

✚ OPENING PRAYER ³

Lord God, you are the Great I Am; you come to us in unexpected ways. Fan the flames of our curiosity, that we might turn aside and realize we are standing on holy ground. Appear to us in fire and wonder, that we might see worlds beyond the reaches of our imaginations. Reveal the glory of your kingdom - where love is genuine, where evil is forsaken, where mutual affection abides, and hospitality is shown to strangers, where all are made one. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

MOMENTS WITH THE YOUNG CHRISTIANS

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE - THE LORD'S PRAYER

We Hear God's Word

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Exodus 3:1-15

MESSAGE

"Walking the Pathway: Sandals"

We Respond to God's Word

COMMUNION HYMN

TFWS #2269 - *"Come, Share the Lord"*

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 #338 - *"Where He Leads Me"*

✚ THE BENEDICTION - ✚ POSTLUDE

¹ The Centering Words are based on or inspired by Exodus 3.
² The Call to Worship is based on or inspired by Exodus 3 and Psalm 105.
³ The Opening Prayer is based on or inspired by Exodus 3 and Romans 12.
All are based on [or taken from] "The Abingdon Worship Annual 2023",
edited by Mary J. Scifres and B.J. Beu



 	Last Week's Offering		\$ 2,120.00
	Carry Over Revenue (2022):		\$ 31,543.00
	Revenue Year to Date:		\$ 218,924.15
	Expenses Year to Date:		\$ 225,419.52

Thank you for your faithful giving!

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 about our broadcasts, please contact the church office.

Membership?

If you are interested in joining the church, contact Pastor Daren for information on how that can happen. We look forward to celebrating our mission with any new members!



This Week

SUN	Sept 3
6:30 am	Worship Re-Broadcast on TV3
9:00 am	Worship @ Adrian
9:45 am	Coffee Fellowship (note time change)
10:30 am	Worship @ First
1:00 pm	Cristo En Tu Ayuda @ First
MON	Sept 4
	Labor Day (Office closed)
3:00 pm	Worship Re-Broadcast on TV3
TUES	Sept 5
9:30 am	Women's Coffee @ Hy-Vee
3:00 pm	Worship Re-Broadcast on TV3
WED	Sept 6
7:00 am	Men's Breakfast @ Blue Line
11:30 am	Prayer Time (Chapel)
Fri	Sept 8
5:30 pm	Wedding Rehearsal
SAT	Sept 9
4:00 pm	Carson-Kluever Wedding
SUN	Sept 10
6:30 am	Worship Re-Broadcast on TV3
9:00 am	Worship @ Adrian
9:45 am	Coffee Fellowship
10:30 am	Worship @ First
11:00 am	WPC 150th Anniversary
1:00 pm	Cristo En Tu Ayuda @ First

Fellowship Time Change

Come to the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings before church to enjoy a cup of coffee or juice and a roll along with visiting in fellowship with other members and friends of the church. It all begins at **9:45 a.m.** every Sunday morning!

UMCOR: Helping the People from Hawaii...

United Methodists and others wishing to provide humanitarian assistance to the people in the wake of the disaster in Hawaii may contribute to Advance #901670, UMCOR US Disaster Response and Recovery. This fund will provide direct assistance to those in need of relief from the wildfires in Maui. Learn more about how to support the people of Hawaii at this link:

<https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/901670/>

One hundred percent of all Advance contributions go to the designated cause. The United Methodist community in Maui is actively engaged in assisting neighbors in need. Your help is appreciated.

Grief Recovery

Grief Share is a special weekly seminar and support group for people who are grieving the death of someone close to them. This group is led by caring people who have experienced grief and want to help others through the difficult days ahead. The group meets on Tuesdays from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. at First Lutheran Church beginning September 5th until November 28th. Contact First Lutheran Church to register (you may join at any time) at 507.376.6148. We know it hurts - we want to help. Call us today.

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. 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.

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 - he can help you set up your account to get started!

Online Directory

The official church directory is accessible to members from First 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. The online site 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. You can download this digital Church 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 Pastor Daren for more details.

GOD'S DIRECTION IS ALWAYS BEST!

Moses and the Burning Bush

Exodus 3:1-15 (NIV)

¹ Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. ³ So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight - why the bush does not burn up."

⁴ When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!"

And Moses said, "Here I am."

⁵ "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." ⁶ Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

⁷ The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. ⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey - the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. ⁹ And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰ So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

¹¹ But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

¹² And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain."

¹³ Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"

¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

¹⁵ God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers - the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob - has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations."

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

PROVERBS 3:5

Minnesota West Pop-Up 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 local mission!

Coat Closet

Love INC provides for those who need warm clothing during the winter months, taking donations of new or clean, gently used coats and snow pants for all ages. They also accept donations of new hats, scarves, mittens and boots for all ages. If you would like to donate any of these items, please bring them to the church and place them in the collection spot in the hallway. These items will be taken to First Lutheran Church Coat Closet for them to distribute to those in need. Thank you for your consideration as we reach out to help others during the cold winter months.

Operation Christmas Child

We will again be collecting items for the Operation Christmas Child boxes that will be packed in November. Over the last three years with the generous monetary donations and items that have been donated we have been able to pack many boxes. Starting in March and through October, each month we will highlight an area of items that are needed; you may give a monetary donation (make your check payable to 1st UMC and put OCC on the memo line) which will go toward buying additional items that are needed or for postage to help ship the boxes overseas.

There is a list available in the narthex of the items that are needed and will be collected throughout the next months; you can donate any of those items at any time. You will still have the option to pack a box on your own, if you wish. 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 September we will be collecting any items that can be put in the boxes. Ideas are: school supplies, toys for boys and girls such as yo-yo's, slinkies, stuffed animals, small Etch a Sketch, small foam balls, finger puppets, tennis balls, hacky sacks, toy cars and trucks, and small dolls, personal care items like toothbrushes, combs, hairbrushes, nail clippers, stick deodorant, washcloths, bars of soap, clothing for boys and girls, games and activities for boys and girls such as watercolor paint set, play doh, travel-size games, marbles, playing cards, blocks, and small boxed puzzles. We also continue to collect monetary donations to help purchase additional items for the boxes. The Mission Committee thanks you for your interest and consideration in this project. If you have any questions, please contact Pam Soderholm.

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 donate. Items are taken alternately to the two food shelves in town several times throughout the year. Thank you for your donations!

Southern Prairie DS Rev. Dr. Woojae Im...

Does God really exist? At age 13, Rev. Dr. Woojae Im couldn't stop pondering that question. He'd been baptized and gone through Vacation Bible School at his church in Korea, but he wasn't sure he believed. When he learned that a classmate was wrestling with the same question, the two decided to lean into their curiosity by going to church every day for six months and praying together.

About three months in, the friend decided he was done - but Im continued. One night, he came home feeling empty and knelt down to pray, vowing that it would be his last prayer and he'd leave the church if nothing happened.

"All of a sudden, my heart was so in peace with God," Im said. "I felt like I didn't need that proof anymore. I can believe in God." John 3:16 became real to him, as though he was hearing it for the very first time. Not long after, Im decided to become a pastor.

It's a decision that he's never regretted. Im came to the U.S. when his Korean church sent him to Garrett-Evangelical Seminary in Evanston, Illinois, and he's been living in this country ever since. After spending 19 years pastoring three churches in the Minnesota Conference, Im was appointed as the Southern Prairie District Superintendent on July 1, succeeding Rev. Dr. Fred Vanderwerf, who is transitioning to the role of clergy assistant to the bishop for transitions and development.

"We live in a unique era after the pandemic and disaffiliations," said Im, who has been at Church of Peace in Richfield since 2018. "I want to be a pastor for pastors. They need someone who understands them and their stress. I'm very excited to be on a journey with my colleagues."

Within the Minnesota Conference, Im has served as a member of the Transitional Table, the Administrative Review Team, the Elected Leader Team, and the Twin Cities Strategy Team. He is also a 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference delegate. He has two master's degrees, a doctoral degree, and he completed Dakota Wesleyan University's Practical Church Leadership Program last year.

Im strongly believes in the importance of spiritual disciplines. He has especially appreciated Disciple Bible Study, the Walk to Emmaus that he participated in this spring, and a two-year academy for spiritual formation that he completed in 2007. He's a spiritual director certified by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, as well as a certified health coach.

His greatest hopes for the Minnesota Conference as he looks ahead: fullness of personal piety and social holiness (love God and love neighbor), inclusion of all people, achieving the conference's four values, innovation in ministry, collaboration, connection, and unity.

Rev. Dr. Woojae Im will be preaching the message on Sunday, October 22nd in both Adrian and Worthington Churches.



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.

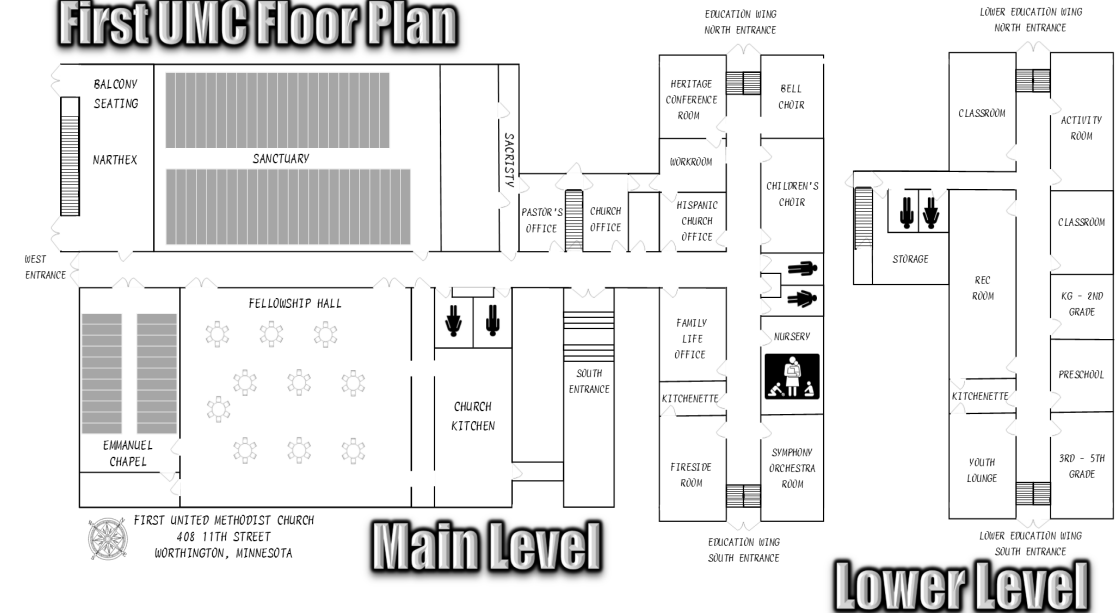
A Note to Our Guests....

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.

We welcome you to First Church!

First UMC Floor Plan



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
408 11TH STREET
WORTHINGTON, MINNESOTA

Worship Attendance	Last Sunday	LIVE STREAM VIEWS	147
ADRIAN UMC	32	CRISTO EN TU AYUDA	20
FIRST UMC	43	TOTAL	242