

The Key Newsletter

November 2025

Volume 13 - Issue 11



Sunday Worship

Adrian UMC
9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship

First UMC
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

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www.firstumcworthington.com

Hello! Welcome to the Family Light Update - where we shed some light on the Family Life Ministry of First United Methodist Church!



We are entering into a full and festive time of year! I do love all the activity of Thanksgiving and Christmas. I hope you'll be able to join us for many of our events!

Connect continues through November 12th with **The Chosen**. We will have a special **Thanksgiving Connect** on November 19th. After that we will be on hiatus until the new year.

Adult Sunday School is beginning a new Christmas series titled The Christmas Experience, beginning on November 2nd. Each class is a stand-alone, so don't worry if you miss one, you won't feel behind. But the fact is, you won't want to miss this class!

Our **Ladies' Fall Advent Study, Awakening Wonder; Experiencing the Nearness of Jesus**, will meet on Mondays at 9:00a.m. in the Fireside Room, beginning on December 1st. We will meet for the first three Mondays in December. This is always a special study, and you are welcome to join us or if you'd like a book to study on your own, that is also okay! Cost of the books is \$15.

Don't miss **Jewelry Making with Myra** on November 15th! Purchase ready-made items or make your own. This is a great Christmas idea!

BINGO returns on November 22nd. This is a fun event for all ages. Bring your friends!

We will **decorate our church building for Christmas** after worship on Sunday, November 23rd. Give us an hour of your time and we'll give you lunch and put you to work!

Our second annual **Ladies' Christmas Party** will be on Friday, December 5th from 6:00-7:30p.m. Please sign up ahead of time for planning purposes. Call Lori in the office or Gretchen. This is a lovely event and a great time to bring a friend!

The **Fireside Book Club** meets on Tuesday, January 27th at 7:00p.m. in the Fireside Room. We are reading *The Hiding Place*, by Corrie Ten Boom. This classic WWII book tells the story of the Ten Boom family's bravery in the face of harrowing circumstances, and shows that one's faith is not defined by one's circumstances. Come with the book read and prepared for great discussion!

Looking forward to seeing you at many of these activities!

Serving Him Together,

Gretchen

"Worship the Lord with gladness..." - Psalm 100:2a

November Worship: "Come worship the Lord!"

Sunday, November 2 All Saints Sunday

We remember those in the last year
that have passed

First: Delores Burkness, Lois Carlberg, Robert Darling, Richard Dyke,
Jim Hibma, Mollie McGuire, Doris Palmer.

Adrian: Norma Carlberg, Eugene Owen

Adult Sunday School "The Christmas Experience"

Join us on Sunday mornings starting on November 2nd and
going through December 14th (excluding November 30th) at

9:00 am in the Fireside Room to walk together through The
Christmas Experience. Led by Randy Shirbroun, this will be a
meaningful way to start thinking about the real-life experiences of
Mary and Joseph and all who were a part of the very first
Christmas. You will not want to miss this class!

Wednesday Nights

Connect **WEDNESDAY**

5:15-5:45 pm FREE Dinner for all ages

5:45-6:00 pm Worship

**6:00-7:00 pm Exciting Kids, Youth and Adult
Programming**

*Adults will watch The Chosen series and have
a short discussion*

**First United Methodist Church
408 11th Street, Worthington, MN**

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

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

Women's Coffee

The women's weekly coffee group meets every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. at HyVee in the Starbucks serving area. All women are invited to come and join this fabulous group!

Men's Breakfast Group

The Men's Breakfast group meets every Wednesday at 8:00 a.m. at the Blue Line Cafe. The men discuss shared concerns, solve the problems of the world, and make sure the rain gauges are up to speed. All guys are welcome to join us each week!

Pie Fundraiser for Mission Haiti

Do you need some pies for the upcoming holidays, or just to have in your freezer for a treat for company or as a dessert for your meal? We will be selling The Villager Maker pies as a fundraiser for Mission Haiti. A variety of flavors will be available to choose from. The cost of a pie is \$15.00, with \$3.50/pie going toward our project. Pies must be paid for when ordering. Please make your check payable to First United Methodist Church, with Pie Fundraiser in the memo line. You will be able to order your pies from Sunday, November 2nd to Sunday, November 16th. You can sign up at church on Sundays or on the website www.firstumcworthington.com. The pies will be ready for pickup after the worship service on Sunday, November 23rd. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Pam Soderholm.

The flavors are:

Apple

Berry Medley (strawberries, raspberries, blueberries & blackberries)

Blueberry

Cherry

Peach

Pumpkin

Raspberry/Peach

Strawberry/Rhubarb

OCC Shoebox Packing Boxes

We will continue to collect items for the Operation Christmas Child boxes through Friday, November 7th.

Everyone is invited to join in on Sunday, November 9th at 9:00 A.M. in the

Fellowship Hall to pack boxes with the items that have been donated throughout the year.

Monetary donations can be given through Sunday, November 16th. Your generosity is very much appreciated in helping with packing the boxes.

Boxes are available in the narthex if you would like to pack your own Operation Christmas Child. Please have them returned to the church by Sunday, November 16th so they can be blessed at the worship service and then taken over to the collection site



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.

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.

Friendship Supper

THE FRIENDSHIP SUPPER IS NOV. 11TH. This is a supper for the area's mentally and physically challenged. We serve pizza and then play Bingo. Our guests love this time with us and all go home with at least 3 prizes. So, WE NEED PRIZES.

They love theatre size candy, Christmas decorations (no candles), stuffed animals, puzzles, caps, greeting cards, really anything. PLEASE bring them to the church office for prizes starting now. We usually serve over 60 guests. If questions, call Pat 507-360-1400 or any Night Light member. THANK YOU!



Worthington Area Symphony Orchestra

The Worthington Area Symphony Orchestra will be presenting its annual Holiday Concert on Saturday, November 15th at 7:00 p.m. at the Memorial Auditorium. Please join us at the Memorial Auditorium for an evening of excellent music!

JOIN US FOR JEWELRY MAKING WITH MYRA!

Saturday, November 15
9:00-11:00a.m.
First United Methodist Church
408 11th St. Worthington

Jewelry Sale & Make-and-Take

Already-made pieces for sale (think Christmas!)
Or make two pieces of jewelry for \$5
All materials supplied / options include necklaces,
bracelets, rings, earrings, key chains
All proceeds to Mission Haiti

A collection of jewelry-making materials and finished pieces. On the left, there are several earring and necklace kits with green and yellow beads. On the right, there is a finished gold-colored necklace with a large red and white marbled pendant.

**JOIN US FOR A
SPECIAL
THANKSGIVING
CONNECT**

Wednesday, November 19th at 5:15-7:00
All ages!

A graphic for the Thanksgiving Connect event. It features a banner with the text "JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL THANKSGIVING CONNECT" in bold, dark red letters. Below the banner, it says "Wednesday, November 19th at 5:15-7:00 All ages!". The background is a light orange color with a border of autumn leaves and berries.



Helpers are needed to work at this Bingo event from 3:30-5:30
Cookies are also needed. A sign up sheet is in the Narthex.
Thank you!

Thanksgiving Eve Services:

The Adrian Thanksgiving Service is on Tuesday, November 25th at Adrian United Methodist Church at 7:00 p.m.

The Worthington Community Thanksgiving Eve service will be hosted at First Methodist Church in Worthington on Wednesday, November 26th at 6:00 p.m. Following the service we will have a pie fest. Families are invited to bring a pie to share and join in the fellowship and fun. Our sisters and brothers from First Lutheran Church will be participating.

A sign up sheet is available in the Narthex to provide pies and to help in the kitchen for this event.

All who would like to sing in the "Instant Choir" meet at 5:15 pm
Eric Parrish will be directing.

Reverse Advent Calendars

Watch for our updated Reverse Advent Calendar list to come out on November 24! This is always a great way to give back and help others

Help us decorate the church for
CHRISTMAS!

FOLLOWING WORSHIP ON NOVEMBER 23RD

**PLEASE GIVE US AN HOUR OF YOUR
TIME TO PREPARE OUR CHURCH FOR
THE HOLIDAYS!
LUNCH PROVIDED!**



Ladies' Advent Study

Awakening Wonder; Experiencing the Nearness of Jesus

Always a favorite study of the year!

Mondays at 7:00a.m.

in the Fireside Room

December 1st-15th

Cost of book is \$15





Ladies' Christmas Party!

With live entertainment from
the Worthington High School Madrigal Singers

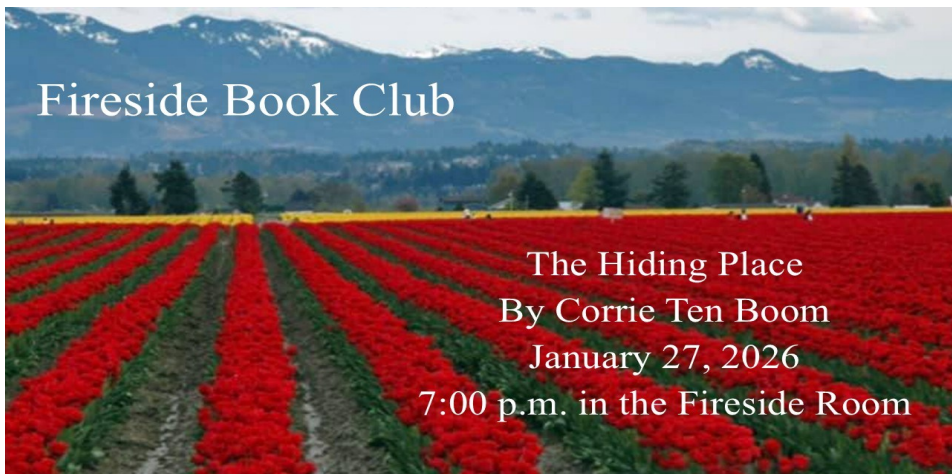
December 5, 2025 6:00-7:30p.m.

Cost is free - bring a friend and join us for this festive evening!

**First Methodist Church
408 Eleventh Street Worthington
Please sign up ahead by visiting
firstumcworthington.com
or by calling 507.372.2939**

Sunday School Christmas Program

Work has begun on the Sunday School Christmas program, which is always a fun and crazy and heart-warming time. The date for that will be December 14th.



Fireside Book Club

**The Hiding Place
By Corrie Ten Boom
January 27, 2026**

7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room



*Here are the highlights from
the First UMC Council meeting
held on Thursday, October 23*

In follow-up to the SPRC and Pastor John Mitchem signing the annual Minnesota Conference form to request a continuation of Pastor John's pastoral leadership at First and Adrian churches, an annual compensation package was brought forth to the Covenant Council for final approval. The policy of the conference is as stated below:

The proposed pastor's compensation package was unanimously approved by the Council. 85% of this package is the responsibility of First Church, and 15% is the responsibility of Adrian Methodist

Mike motioned, and Sally seconded; unanimously passed by the council.

- **Area Charge Conference on Nov. 1:** 2-3 people are requested to attend from each church in the conference. Pat Grimmus & Rick Dalrymple volunteered to attend with Pastor John.

CELEBRATIONS:

- Mobile Meals was a success with 246 meals delivered. Sally appreciates everyone's help!
- There have been 35-50+ attendees each week at Connect
- Adult Sunday School is going well with Rick Dalrymple's session ending and Randy Shirbroun's beginning on Nov. 2.

CHALLENGES:

- Many events require many volunteers
- A Nursery worker is needed for Wednesday night Connect (~5:45 -7:00PM)

(continued from page 12)

CURRENT FOCUS:

- Many events are coming up through the end of this year! Volunteer sign-ups were initiated with the Council for the Thanksgiving Eve service & pie fellowship, "make & take" jewelry event, Christmas decorating & meal, BINGO night, and the Advent & Lent package packing & delivery. The sign-up sheets for these events will be in the Narthex in the coming weeks.
- The Missions team has several fundraisers coming up for Mission Haiti:
 - Baked potato lunch on Nov. 2
 - Pie fundraiser: Village Maker pies from Fairway. Orders will be taken Nov. 2-16 with pies available for pick-up on Nov. 23
 - Noisy Offerings on 3 Sundays in the next 3 months
 - Jewelry making event – Mayra Palmer is generously donating all proceeds to Mission Haiti
- Operation Christmas Child box packing will take place on Nov. 9 during Sunday School time.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

- September giving was down significantly, but there were no unexpected or unusual expenses. We are still 2.5 months behind on apportionments. A monthly financial report is located in a folder outside of the office on the table that has the Upper Room.

Next meeting: Nov. 20

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Shirbourn, FUMC Covenant Council Recording Secretary

Happy Birthday!

5	Kurt Geertsema	12	Sarah DeSmith	25	Amy Stefferud
	Julie Winselman	13	Ashley Williams	26	Roger Grimmus
8	Robin Erlandson	16	Kya Nickel	30	Emma Hill
	Terry Johnson	17	Cindy Ekedahl		Steve Johnson
	Clyde Scheevel	18	Alisa Maras		Jaren Winselman
9	Clarisse Hill	20	Kari Meyer		
10	Andy Ekedahl	21	Bailey Grussing		
11	Ellen Hoefker				
	Emmett Karels				

Happy Anniversary!

14	Don & Robin Erlandson	27	Corky & Ginny Tate
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First United Methodist Church Staff

Pastor:	Rev. John Mitchem
Administrative Assistant:	Lori Nienkerk
Family Life:	Gretchen O'Donnell
Youth Leader:	Lisa Gerdes
Bell Choir Director:	Brenda DeSmith
Finance Manager:	Marie Lonneman
Custodians:	Sarah & Chad Nickel

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Worthington, MN 56187
methodistoffice@gmail.com
www.firstumcworthington.com



Live Streaming!

Each Sunday we live streaming our worship services from First UMC. If you are going to be out of town, you can catch the live broadcast on our church app (download to your device) or any one of four different online locations:

The Boxcast TV Channel

<https://boxcast.tv/channel/qikol6fqes2qwhperl2l>

First UMC YouTube Channel

Go to YouTube: First United Methodist Church Worthington

First UMC FaceBook

Go to FaceBook: Worthington: First United Methodist Church

First UMC Website

<http://firstumcworthington.com/>

Worship services for First UMC are scheduled to be broadcast on the public access Channel 3 in Worthington. The broadcast times are Sunday at 6:30 am, Monday at 3:00 p.m. and Tuesday at 3:00 p.m. for the current week. Worship services for Adrian UMC can be found on the church's YouTube Channel.

Greeters, Live Stream and Media Tech

We can use one or two more pairs of persons to help with our live stream media on Sundays. Please contact Pastor John if you are interested. Here are the persons who are scheduled to help with the greeting, sound, media, and live stream services:

First UMC		Sound/Video	Media Shout
Sunday	November 2	Kari Meyer	Claire Meyer
Sunday	November 9	Rick Dalrymple	Deb Steinle
Sunday	November 16	Kari Meyer	Claire Meyer
Sunday	November 23	Deb Steinle	
Thursday	November 26	Deb Steinle	Kylee Shirbroun
Sunday	November 30	Deb Steinle	
First UMC		Greeting Team	
Sunday	November 2	John & Deb Steinle	
Sunday	November 9	Steffen & Ida Van Weston	
Sunday	November 16	Leola Weets & Sharon Algood	
Sunday	November 23		
Thursday	November 26	Steffen & Ida Van Weston	
Sunday	November 30	Galen & Sherry Benton	

Prayers for health concerns:

Rod Behrends	Kari Meyer's dad
Sherry Benton	Chris Nelson
Beth Habicht	Logan Waldner
Ryan Hill	Virgle Buck
Clyde Scheevel	Ron Husenga
Tom Cavanaugh	Lowell Carlson
Doug Hart (Marlene Miller's brother-in-law)	
Kathy Tetrack-Hoffbeck (Pastor @Jeffers)	
Kristin (Dalrymple) Amundson	



PRAYER CORNER

Those dealing with cancer:

Janelle Johnson	Christopher Brown	Myron Grussing	Shellie Williams
Duane Enns	Marion Reitsma (friend of Jolene Kuhl)	Stacey White	
Mike Miller	Galen Benton	Jeff Wachell (friend of Deb Steinle)	

Those recovering/dealing with health issues:

Nancy Hyink	Bill Carlberg	Larry Doeden
Weston Erlandson	Emma Schnyders	
Ariana Lopez	Aiden Remme	Pat Huisenga

For those dealing with grief and loss...

Giving thanks & praying for:

- Our farmers during this harvest season
- 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

Prayer Chain

Please send requests to our
email Church Office
methodistoffice@gmail.com or
(507) 372-2939

Care Centers

First UMC: Meadow 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