

# The Key Newsletter

October 2025

Volume 13 - Issue 10

Worthington First UMC is a church where

**JESUS IS**  
*known*  
**ALL ARE LOVED AND**  
**NEIGHBORS ARE SERVED.**

The Vision of First UMC Church is to be biblically centered, welcoming to everyone, vibrantly praying, worshipping, serving, and caring for our neighbors.

## Sunday Worship

Adrian UMC  
9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship

First UMC  
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

408 11th Street, Worthington,  
Minnesota 56187  
Phone: (507) 372-2939  
methodistoffice@gmail.com

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



What a beautiful fall we have been having! I recently drove to Sioux Falls and even though I'm not a farmer nor do I have farmer's blood in my veins, I do love to see the combines out in the fields. I guess I've lived in southern Minnesota long enough that I truly enjoy seeing the seasons change as the field work begins.

We're grateful for all who have participated in **Wednesday's Connect!** Even if you've missed one or two, you are still welcome to join us for this time of fellowship and growing together. Our evening begins with a meal from 5:15-5:45 followed by worship for all ages from 5:45-6:00 (on most weeks) and then we view an episode of *The Chosen, season one, followed by discussion. Age-appropriate programming is available for elementary aged children downstairs during the film. Please note: we will not meet on October 15th due to MEA in the schools.*

We do still need a few **volunteers** to **help serve a meal** at our Connect activities! This entails planning and shopping for the meal (I can help with this!) then shopping, preparing, serving and tidying up afterwards. The food is paid for by the church. Please see me with any questions!

**Sunday School** is underway for adults and children at 9:00a.m. each Sunday. Children meet downstairs and adults meet in the Fireside Room with Rick Dalrymple leading discussion. It's not too late to join!

Our **Ladies' Fall Bible Study** has begun! We meet on Mondays at 9:00a.m. in the Fireside Room. If you would like to join us you are very welcome!

The **Fireside Book Club** meets on Tuesday, October 21st at 7:00p.m. in the Fireside Room. We are reading the book *Horse*, by Geraldine Brooks. *Topics of the book include racism, art and science. Come with the book read and prepared for great discussion!*

Looking forward to seeing you at many of these fall activities!

Serving Him Together,

Gretchen



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

## *October Worship: "Come worship the Lord!"*

### **Sunday, October 5**

Mission-Haiti Sunday

This will be a joint service with  
Adrian and First @ 10:30 am  
at First Methodist.

There will be communion

### **Sunday, October 12**

Terry Miller preaching

### **Sunday, October 19**

Fred Roger's Series

### **Sunday, October 26**

Fred Roger's Series


### **October is Pastor appreciation month**

Drop Pastor John a note or do something special for him to show him you care.

### **THANK YOU**

Thank you so much for the honor and beautiful plaque for Humble Servant 2025. I was VERY surprised, pretty much speechless and a little embarrassed by the standing ovation, but very very grateful. I truly couldn't do much by myself but there are so many wonderful caring people in our church and doing God's work with them is fun. THANK YOU again. I am very blessed! Pat Grimmus

Thank you for all the prayers and cards during my recovery.  
John Steinle



## 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!

# Connect WEDNESDAY

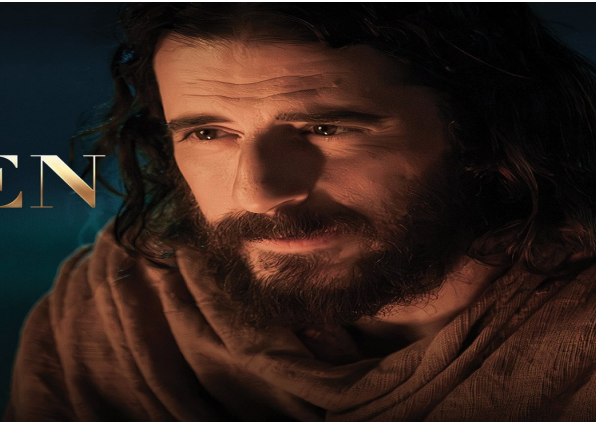
**5:15-5:45 pm** FREE Dinner for all ages  
**5:45-6:00 pm** Worship  
**6:00-7:00 pm** Exciting Kids, Youth and Adult Programming

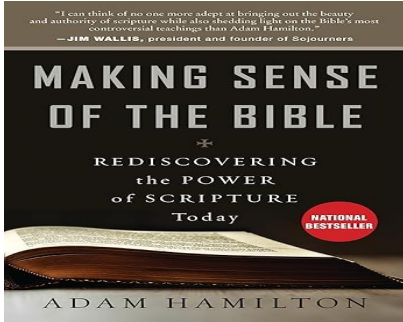
*Adults will watch The Chosen series and have a short discussion*

**First United Methodist Church  
408 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Worthington, MN**

# The CHOSEN

Join us Wednesdays  
at First United Methodist  
Church, 408 11th Street,  
Worthington, for a free  
meal at 5:15. Afterwards, we  
will watch The Chosen and  
have a short discussion.  
Childcare is provided.





**Making Sense of the Bible:**  
Rediscovering the Power of Scripture  
Today. Zoom small group study begins  
on Monday, October **20th** at 6:30 pm.

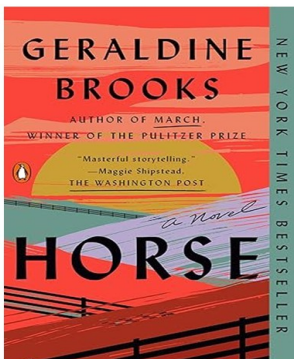
**Note the date change**

Sign up on the  
[www.firstumcworthington.com](http://www.firstumcworthington.com) website

Denominations from evangelical to  
mainline continue to experience deep  
divisions over universal social issues. The underlying debate isn't about  
a particular social issue, but rather about how we understand the  
nature of scripture and how we should interpret it. The world's best-  
selling, most-read, and most-loved book is also one of the most  
confusing.

In *Making Sense of the Bible*, Adam Hamilton, one of the country's  
leading pastors and Christian authors, addresses the hot-button issues  
that plague the church and cultural debate, and answers many of the  
questions frequently asked by Christians and non-Christians alike. Did  
Jesus really teach that everyone who is not a Christian will be assigned  
to hell? Why would Paul command women to "keep silent in the  
church?" Were Adam and Eve real people? Is the book of Revelation  
really about the end times? Who decided which books made it into the  
scriptures and why? Is the Bible ever wrong? In approachable and  
inviting language?

Hamilton addresses these often-misunderstood biblical themes,  
leading readers to a deeper appreciation of the Bible so that we might  
hear God speak through it and find its words to be life-changing and  
life-giving.



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## FIRESIDE BOOK CLUB

Based on the remarkable true story of the record-breaking  
thoroughbred Lexington, *Horse*, by Geraldine Brooks, is a  
novel of art and science, love and obsession, and our  
unfinished reckoning with racism. Come prepared to  
discuss this thought-provoking book. Bring a friend!

Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00p.m. - Fireside Room.

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## Operation Christmas Child

For the month of October we will be collecting monetary donations to purchase items needed for the boxes. Please make your check payable to First United Methodist Church with OCC on the memo line. We will still 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, 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.

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

All ages plan to join us at 9:00 am Sunday, November 9th in the Fellowship Hall to pack Operation Christmas Child boxes together. Donations welcome.



## 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.



MISSION-HAITI

LOVE JESUS. LOVE OTHERS. MAKE DISCIPLES.

## *Mission-Haiti*

### *Sunday*

There will be a joint service with Adrian and First on Sunday, October 5 at 10:30 am at First Methodist. There will be communion that Sunday.

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. So if you have things at home you don't use or pick things up at a \$ store, 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!!!



*Greg, the Great Magician*





*Here are the highlights from  
the First UMC Council meeting  
held on Thursday, September 18*

## CELEBRATIONS:

### All Church Gathering:

- **What went well:** The ice breaker was fun, the meal was enjoyable, and the Humble Servant award was a pleasant surprise for Pat Grimmus. Appreciation had been voiced for the lists of committees and their members.
- **What didn't go well:** Attendance wasn't great. The council questioned if this was due to timing, a lack of interest by church members (or perhaps not believing the meeting applied to them), and/or a lack of communication. The meeting had been communicated for a significant amount of time prior to the event via bulletins, email, and verbally during services.
- **What should we do differently?**
  - Stay away from King Turkey Day weekend.
  - A suggestion of a mailing (postcard?) was made to possibly reach those who primarily watch the service online and to help ensure everyone knows the importance of the meeting and that all are invited and encouraged to attend.
  - Communicate more often (particularly right before the event) with Pastor Angel and Lourdes to avoid a misunderstanding regarding facility use.
  - Guest speaker? There are pros and cons of this, depending upon how familiar the speaker is.

### Connect – first event was held on Sep. 17

- **What went well:** Good turnout with 50+ individuals in attendance
- **What didn't go well:** Only one visitor from outside the church
- **What should we do differently:**
  - Turn on closed captioning in the video
  - Feature The Chosen viewing in event advertising
  - Ensure no one is sitting by themselves during dinner

## CHALLENGES:

### Filling leadership & committee openings

- The most urgent current need for members is the Memorial Committee.
- Some committees are limited in numbers by the Book of Discipline while others can have as many persons as are interested.

(continued from page 11)

**Kitchen leadership.** Still seeking someone for this role. In the interim, Pat G. has created an inventory list/poster for everyone who uses kitchen supplies to assist with maintaining supplies.

**Sustaining Connect volunteers,** particularly with meal prep and serving the last few weeks of the programming

**Locking/Unlocking church** – Pastor John or Jolene will continue to cover Sunday mornings until a possible schedule is made

- Youth Director (Lisa) will check and lock everything on Wednesday evenings after youth group is finished.

**Need volunteers for sound and media during services**

John S. raised the questions if it is getting to the point we need to hire someone to be in charge of this each Sunday?

**CURRENT FOCUS:**

**Family Life**

- Ladies fall bible study begins September 22
- The Book Club begins October 21
- Bible-in-a-year
- 3rd grade bibles

Some stools in the kitchen are broken and there aren't enough for some gatherings. There is currently \$1200 in the Memorial fund. Pastor John will discuss this with the Memorial committee after Pat G. and Amy O. have researched possibilities and costs.

Revisit at a later date: A question was raised by Pat G. about doing a decorative "refresh" on some rooms (particularly the Fireside room and Fellowship Hall) – paint paneling, contemporary artwork, shampooing carpet in multiple rooms. The question was asked if cleaning carpets is an expectation of the custodians or if it must be hired out (Grothes). Ellen cautioned that we must weigh the cost of supplies and carpet cleaning vs. apportionment payment needs

- Costs to consider: supplies (paint), carpet cleaning, electrician to look at enhancing lighting in the Fireside room.
- Memorial gifts need to be offered to their family first if they will be removed/replaced during these updates.

(continued from page 12)

## CUTTING EDGE ISSUES:

**Area Charge Conference** Nov. 1, 2025 at 10:30am in Marshall, MN – seeking 2-3 people to attend with Pastor John

**Mission Haiti:** on Oct. 5 the Mission Haiti organization will conduct the children's Sunday School lesson, something upstairs at 9:00am for the adults, share in the service, and provide a meal after church. Adrian church will be joining us that Sunday

- Communion will be served (World Communion Sunday)

**FUMC will be hosting the Thanksgiving Eve service** and providing pies. More details will be discussed in October.

- Eric Parrish will be directing a "show up and sing" choir during this service


## FINANCIAL REPORT:

There were no unexpected expenses in August, but overall expenses were up a bit for the month. Giving was down from July but July was a great month for giving. Our apportionments are still behind 2.5 months (\$7571).

The Covenant Council agreed with Pastor John's suggestion to print the monthly financial statements and physically share them at the church for those who would like to view them.

**Next Council meeting date: Oct. 23**

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Shirbroun, Covenant Council Recording Secretary



We want to provide to you are list of leaders for the church and their function. The updated list is also on our website. If you like to serve on any ministry area, please contact Pastor John or the chair person.

### COVENANT COUNCIL

The council plays a central role in the life of a local church or charge, guiding its mission and ministry. According to the UMC Book of Discipline 2024 ¶ 252, the church council is responsible for planning and implementing a program of nurture, outreach, witness, and resources. It also manages the administration of the church's organizational and temporal life. The council is tasked with envisioning, planning, implementing, and annually evaluating the church's mission and ministry. In its role as the administrative agency of the charge conference, it ensures that all aspects of the church's work are aligned with its larger vision. Additional responsibilities of the church council include reviewing membership within the congregation, filling vacancies on other program committees between charge conferences, collaborating with the finance committee to develop the annual budget, and reviewing recommendations from other committees.

Randy Shirbroun Chair  
Sherry Benton  
Mike Brignac  
Richard Dalrymple  
Patricia Grimmus  
Sally Hibma  
Ellen Hoefker  
John David Mitchem  
James Nickel  
Gretchen O'Donnell  
Amy Shirbroun  
Pam Soderholm  
John Steinle


We have two openings in this Ministry Area.

### FINANCE

The finance committee works with the council to propose a budget, then raises, manages, and distributes the financial resources of the congregation to support and strengthen its mission and ministry. A monthly financial report is reviewed by the council, and a recap is published in the Key Newsletter.

Mike Brignac Chair  
John Mitchem  
Ellen Hoefker

If you wish to join the finance team or have questions, please get in touch with any of it's members.





## STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Works closely with the pastor and staff concerning their relationship with the congregation and the entire work of the church. This committee, in essence, serves as the personnel committee of the pastoral charge. The pastor provides day-to-day supervision of the staff.

John Steinle Chair  
Patricia Grimmus  
Diane Honermann  
Amy Oberloh  
Linda Reese  
Clyde Scheevel  
Richard Schlichte

We have two openings in this ministry area

## TRUSTEE

Trustee is responsible for the stewardship and care of the church's real estate, property, and equipment in trust for the congregation and The United Methodist Church. This includes maintaining buildings, managing insurance, ensuring proper legal documentation, overseeing gifts and trusts, and regulating the use of facilities, all while being accountable to the charge conference. They serve as the official corporation officers of the church.


James Nickel. Chair  
Dennis Bonsma  
Debra Horne  
Kyle Johnson  
John Mitchem  
Dana Oberloh  
Richard Schlichte

## MISSIONS

Is responsible for guiding and coordinating a church's involvement in local, national, and global missions and ministries. Their work often includes organizing service projects, collecting monetary donations for various causes, educating the congregation about mission work, and partnering with other mission-focused organizations such as the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), Love Inc., Operation Christmas Child, and Mission Haiti.

Pam Soderholm, Chair  
Madonna Carlson  
Dianne Dalrymple  
Brenda DeSmith  
Hollie Hibma  
John Mitchem  
Terry Perkins

This ministry team has openings for anybody who would like to join







### FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY TEAM

This ministry team is responsible for discipleship for all ages, from children to adults. They also offer the “face of the church” to the community of Worthington by providing outreach events. They are do on in-person gatherings for our church to create community.

Madonna Carlson  
Patricia Grimmus  
John Mitchem  
Amber Nielsen  
Amy Oberloh  
Gretchen O'Donnell  
Pam Soderholm  
John Steinle

### MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Responsible for maintaining an accurate record of memorial contributions to the church. Responsible for assuring the use of contributions in accordance with the desires of the contributors or the family of the deceased. Assist the Pastor in recommending appropriate uses for un-designated memorial funds on a yearly basis.  
Committee meets as needed.

Pat Grimmus  
Judy Schmidt  
Betty Taarud

We need two people.



This past spring the leadership gathered and look ahead at where God is calling our congregation and what gifts do we have now to make a difference in the world for people who do not know Jesus.

A sub working group was assign to create a new mission and vision statements for the next several years. The work then was affirmed by the Council. You will not we tied each of the vision to biblical standards. As a church we want to make sure we make all decisions that are based on the teaching of Jesus.

A copy of this is also posted on the website for visitors to learn more about our church.

Worthington First UMC -

**A church where Jesus is known. All are loved, and neighbors are served.**

**The Vision of First UMC Church is to be biblically centered, welcoming to everyone, vibrantly praying, worshipping, serving, and caring for our neighbors.**

Summary Table: Vision and Values Draft (For Council Review)

Core Value	Summary Statement
<b>Biblically Centered</b>	We believe that the Bible is the holy word of God that we share with everyone.
<b>Welcoming</b>	We believe all are welcome to know God through Jesus and commune with our Creator.
<b>Praying</b>	We believe in praying every day so that we may connect with God.
<b>Worshipping</b>	We believe in worshipping together so that all may know Jesus in our loving community.
<b>Serving</b>	We believe in serving God, rooted in love and gratitude in response to God’s grace and mercy.
<b>Caring</b>	We believe in caring for our neighbors through our prayers, our actions, and our service.

*Happy Birthday!*

1	Dennis Bonsma	9	Linda Doeden	23	Janelle Johnson
	Jayse Geertsema	11	Jaelynn Johnson	24	Sherry Benton
	Shelly Klooster	13	Sullivan Erlandson		Anita Leach
2	Cheryl Bonsma	14	Micah Langendorfer		Taya Oberloh
	Nicole Grimmus	15	Gordon Moore	25	Ann Schieck-Solomon
5	Davis Moore	16	Huck Heidebrink		Ben Wieneke
6	Jason Childers		Noah Reyne	26	Craig Carlson
7	Eldon Bents	17	Shannon Klooster	27	Denise Schlichte
	Angeline Cunningham	21	Galen Bents	28	Logan Kluever
8	Tom Vagt	22	Alyssa Hietbrink	30	Steve Leach

*Happy Anniversary!*

4	Trevor & Erin Nickel	21	Scott & Stacy Lee
6	Kevin & Brenda DeSmith	29	Dale & Mary VanHorsen
16	Shawn & Kelly Kluever		

**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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408 11th Street P.O. Box 668  
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:

<u>First UMC</u>		<u>Sound/Video</u>	<u>Media Shout</u>
Sunday	October 5	Kari Meyer	Claire Meyer
Sunday	October 12	Rick Dalrymple	John Steine
Sunday	October 19	Kari Meyer	Claire Meyer
Sunday	October 26	Deb Steinle	

<u>First UMC</u>		<u>Greeting Team</u>
Sunday	October 5	Clyde Scheevel & Pat Grimmius
Sunday	October 12	Randy & Amy Shirbroun
Sunday	October 19	Eldon & Sue Bents
Sunday	October 26	James & Amy Stefferud

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 Tetrick-Hoffbeck (Pastor @Jeffers)	



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...

Jim Stefferud family at the loss of his sister  
Lois Carlberg family of her passing

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...

## 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