



The Key Newsletter

August 2022

Volume 9 Issue 8

**And we know that all things work together
for good to them that love GOD**



**to them who are the called
according to HIS purpose.**

Romans 8-28

Worship Times

Adrian UMC
9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship

First UMC
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

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408 11th Street
Worthington, Minnesota
56187

Phone: (507) 372-2939

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August. One month left of summer. For students, the summer has flown right by and a return to school is fast approaching. For parents, that return may not be fast enough. But, it's August... and summer is almost over.



Time has a way of moving on so quickly. Ephesians 5:16 tells us to make "the best use of the time, because the days are evil." It's an interesting reason to make the best use of the time we have been given... because the days are evil. What might that really mean?



It's Paul's letter to the Ephesians and he is trying to communicate to them how they utilize time. I think of this encouragement as "making the most of every opportunity." Paul was personally familiar with the perspective that each day could be his last. He had been beaten, shipwrecked, stoned, and imprisoned, not knowing if he would live to see another day (2 Corinthians 11:24-28). In addition, he taught Christ would return at any moment (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). Believers are to live holy lives and share the gospel in preparation for our inevitable departure.

Paul also notes another purpose to make the best use of time: the time he lived in was rampant in sin. Just as Noah lived a godly life prior to a time of judgment, Paul urged his readers to live holy lives in obedience to the Lord, knowing the evil days in which they lived indicated that judgment could come soon.

My friends, it's August and as I look around, I see shadows of what Paul saw. The days can be evil. What Paul is saying is important - we need to make the most of our time... the most of every opportunity!

Blessings to you...

Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck

First United Methodist Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck

Administrative Assistant: Jeffrey Ludes

Family Life: Gretchen O'Donnell

Youth Leader: Lisa Gerdes

Choir Director: Jeanette Jenson

Bell Choir Director: Brenda DeSmith

Finance Manager: Sue Johnson

Custodians: Sarah & Chad Nickel

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

August Worship: "Come and worship the Lord!"

Sunday, August 7

The 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Terry Miller @ Adrian & First

"Waiting for God"

"How do we wait for God?

With patience, expectation, and faith."

- based on Luke 12:32-40

Sunday, August 14

The 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Terry Miller @ Adrian & First

"Setting the World on Fire"

"Jesus desired to bring a burning presence of God to the lives of people."

- based on Luke 12:49-56

Sunday, August 21

The 10th Sunday after Pentecost

"Touched by The Word"

"Where does our inspiration to live well come from?

Are we touched by God's Word...
...at all?"

- based on Jeremiah 1:4-10
and Hebrews 12:18-29

Sunday, August 28

The 11th Sunday after Pentecost

"Helping Hands"

"We can give people a chance at hope

- a chance at transformation

- a chance to experience a new life
as long as we have helping hands."

- based on Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16



Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship:

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 10:00 a.m.. We are always on the lookout for persons to help serve on a rotating basis. Please contact Pam Soderholm if you are willing to help.

Volunteers:

One of the challenges we are experiencing right now is the absence of volunteers in some important areas of the church. We need persons to help secure and count our Sunday offerings. We need persons to help prepare and serve Holy Communion. We are in need of more persons to help with the live stream sound and media. If you can volunteer and are willing to help out, please contact the church office for more details. Prayerfully consider your involvement. We need you!





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

As I look out my office window I see that the light is fading as a storm rolls in. But here inside the Family Life Office, things are lighting up as we plan for Sunday School, Wednesday evening activities, and special events for the coming school year!

One event you can put on your calendar is **Rally Sunday**, which will be held on Sunday, September 18, starting at 9:15 a.m. This fun event kicks off our Sunday School year. Students of all ages are invited to join in the fun!

Another event to add to your calendar is our annual **All-Church Hay Ride**, which will be held, weather permitting, on Sunday, September 25. Details will follow but for now, plan on being out at Soderholm's that evening as we join together with our church family for food, fun and fall festivities!

I am excited that we will offer an **Adult Sunday School** option this fall! We are lining up teachers now, so please let me know if you feel led to teach a short-term class - like for 6 weeks or so. Watch for more details to come on our adult class!

Anyone interested in being involved with our children and youth, please contact me! We can use helpers and teachers for Sunday mornings and/or Wednesday evenings. If you have a heart for our young people, we can use you! Teaching materials, supplies and training will be provided.

Thank you so much and as always, please be in touch with me if you have questions or ideas. You can email me at familylifewgtn@gmail.com or call the church at 507.372.2939

Thanks so much!

Gretchen

Family Life
Coordinator



Card of Thanks

Thanks for Sherry Benton, who has been filling in for Chad and Sarah Nickel while they've been on vacation. Thanks for helping keep our church clean, Sherry!

Special thanks to Taya Oberloh and Ivy Jenson, who assisted in the office while Jeff Ludes was on vacation with his family last week. They both did a fabulous job in the office!

Card of Thanks

I am so very grateful for every prayer, kind thought, email, text, call, card, flower, and food given me and my family during my surgery and recovery. I am very blessed for sure!!!

Pat Grimmius

Card of Thanks

On behalf of my mother, Rhoda, my sisters and brothers, Nancy and our children, we thank you for the marvelous understanding and compassion you have shown to us while we remembered my father's life last week. Your words of comfort in these past six months have meant a great deal to me and to my family. A special thank you for each church and to the Choir for the two floral arrangements - they touched our hearts.

I am particularly grateful to Terry Miller and Gretchen O'Donnell for their leadership on Sunday mornings. You must know the peace of mind they both have given me, knowing that you are all in very capable hands on Sundays - it is such a blessing. I praise God for their gifts.

*Blessings to all of you,
Pastor Daren and Nancy and family*

Operation Christmas Child:

We are collecting items for the Operation Christmas Child boxes which will be packed in November. From now until October each month, we will highlight an area that we will be collecting items for that can be packed in the boxes. These items can be brought to the church and put in the collection box in the narthex. The age groups that the boxes will be packed for are ages 2-4, 5-9 and 10-14 for both boys and girls. You will still have the option to pack a box on your own if you wish.

For August we will be collecting school supplies for boys and girls. Ideas are pencils, small manual pencil sharpeners, colored pencils, small pencil cases (zipper type), erasers, pens, boxes of crayons, boxes of markers, notebooks, index cards, solar-powered calculators, scissors, rulers, protractors and glue sticks.

Monetary donations will also be accepted which will go toward purchasing additional items for the boxes and also to help with the postage to send the boxes overseas. The Missions Committee thanks you for your interest in this project. If you have any questions, please contact Pam Soderholm.

UMCOR: Helping the People of Ukraine:

United Methodists and others wishing to provide humanitarian assistance to the Ukrainian people in the wake of the Russian invasion of their country may contribute to Advance #982450, UMCOR (United Methodist Committee On Relief) International Disaster Response and Recovery. This fund will provide direct assistance to those in Ukraine as well as assistance to Ukrainians fleeing to neighboring countries.

You can make your gift to support the people of Ukraine by check made out to First UMC with "Advance #982450 - Ukraine" written on the memo line. One hundred percent of all Advance contributions go to the designated cause.



Our Church App:

Download our free app on your smartphone or iPad. You can view the church schedule, or watch previous Sunday messages. You can send a question directly to the pastor. 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.

Our Church Website:

Our church website has all the information you need to stay informed and connected! Check the most recent newsletter or bulletins, listen to last Sunday's message, set up your tithe to give electronically. Check it out today at <http://firstumcworthington.com/>

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. Set up your personal account today at no charge! Contact Susan at the church office - she can help you set up your account to get started.

Online Directory...

The official church directory is accessible to members from First and Adrian 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. We can easily print an up-to-date directory with all of the normal activity pages we desire.

You can download this digital Church Directory from the App Store. The only thing you will need is that your email address is already stored in the church directory under your profile. Contact Pastor Daren for more details or if you'd like a printed copy.



*Here are the highlights from
the First UMC Council meeting held on
Thursday, July 21st*

Celebrations: The Foundation reported that they have received nine college scholarship applications. They will be acting on those requests during the first part of August.

The Taco Bar Lunch was held on July 10th. Pam Soderholm (the Missions Team chairperson) reported that they served 60 people and raised \$731. That amount will be donated to The Banquet in Sioux Falls (The Banquet is a relief organization that provides three meals a day for those who are in need). All expenses from the Taco Bar will be taken out of the operating budget.

Pam also reported that Sunday Coffee Fellowship continues to go well. A four month schedule will be set up for September through December - interested persons should contact Pam to get on the schedule.

Gretchen O'Donnell (Family Life Coordinator) shared that her open house had over twenty people show up and share their ideas. Gretchen was pleased so many people came by to speak with her. Chad Nickel has installed a window air conditioning unit in Gretchen's office (thanks to the trustees). The air conditioning unit for the fellowship hall has been repaired and seems to be working just fine.

Challenges: Nancy Galland reported her progress on getting the curbs in the front of the church repaired - she has been discussing the need for getting our front curbs repaired with city officials. Stay tuned. There is no news on when the church bus will be available. The Education Team reports that we may need Sunday School teachers for this fall. The Finance Team also reported that they could use several persons to help secure and count the offering. Lastly, we need persons who will help to set up for communion each month, taking a turn in the rotation. In short, we need volunteers to help us accomplish the goals of our church - to raise disciples for the transformation of the world! We discussed the need to host a ministry fair at some point this fall, to help raise awareness of each of the work areas of the church and the need for volunteers.

Current Focus: Gretchen shared that she has met with the Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging representative, Kris Hohensee, to discuss existing opportunities to explore care giving for aging parents and other issues. She is also seeking information to do the proper training for volunteers on matters such as boundaries. We briefly discussed Rally Sunday (September 11th) - more information will be forthcoming at our next meeting.

The PSPRC has been discussing hiring someone to work as the part time administrative assistant from Tuesday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to noon for the four days, while working one of those days as a

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full day. There is one candidate in mind who may come in August to shadow Jeff and learn more about what he is doing.

The 150th Anniversary Team announces to the congregation that they need to save the date for the 150th anniversary celebration - Sunday, May 21st, 2023. The team is working on the planning for that day - the worship service celebrating our 150 years in ministry to the Worthington area followed by a catered meal in the fellowship hall.

The Missions Team supports the new Hispanic Church in their desire to host the Early Meals distribution project which will be starting this fall. Pastor Angel and Lourdes will be heading up that effort at the Middle School.

Cutting Edge Issues:

Item #1: Church Bus and Sign: The Council discussed the church bus usage when it finally arrives. Pastor Daren shared that the Trustees have discussed the idea of allowing Pastor Angel to use the church bus to pick up several of the families who are attending his church service. There are certain conditions which must be met in order for this to happen: physical for the driver, schedules must not conflict with First Church's schedules, and any extended use of the bus must have approval from the Trustees. We also discussed the purchase of two magnetic signs which would be attached to the bus (\$85). The Trustees will need to approve that purchase.

Item #2: First Church has been invited to participate in the Change Management Workshop scheduled for Saturday, November 5th - the location to be determined. The workshop is for ten rural churches in Minnesota who are interested in moving forward with an important project or change initiative in their church. With Pastor Daren's retirement scheduled for two years from now, the council agreed that issue was a big enough change. Pastor Daren and three persons are invited to attend.

Item #3: Denominational Issues: We reviewed the most current information on the issues challenging our denomination (most notably, the impending division which will be addressed at the General Conference in 2024). The discussion content was informational.

Item #4: 2021 Year End Financial Update: Ellen Hoefker updated our financial situation. We have used 1/2 of our reserve which we began the year with - much of the expenses included the high cost of heating the church. However, our apportionments continue to be paid and we are very grateful for the faithful giving of our congregation.

The next council meeting is **Thursday, August 18th at 5:30 p.m..**

Respectfully Submitted, Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck

Adrian Council Highlight Reel:

Here are the highlights from the Adrian Council meeting, held on Zoom on Monday, July 25:

Celebrations: We are grateful to have live in-person worship.

Challenges: Working at getting youth and their families more involved.

Current Focus: The interior portion of the church windows need to be painted - contact Dave to volunteer to paint. Dave has been looking at different options for heating the church next winter because of the rising fuel costs. Looking into grants for helping energy efficient locations or putting in some cost saving measures such as heat pumps or other external heating sources. Dave will bring more specific information to the August meeting. Pastor Daren will contact BTU and others to determine if there are grant funds available for churches that are looking to reduce their energy usage. All is well at the parsonage - the renter has paid another six months worth of rent. Ann reported that the streets are being repaired (water main replaced) on Louisiana Street (in front of the parsonage) and will be resurfaced later this summer.

Cutting Edge Issues:

Item #1: State of the Church: We discussed the current state of Adrian UMC and the denominational issues.

Item #2: 2022 Financial Update: Ann shared the most recent financials up until April. Our apportionments are fully paid year to date.

The next meeting is set for **Monday, August 22nd at 7:00 p.m..**

Respectfully Submitted, Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck

Missions Team Thank You!

The Missions Team would like to say thank you:

- ◆ to those who attended the Taco Lunch.
- ◆ for the generous donations that were given to help support The Banquet in Sioux Falls.
- ◆ to Pastor Angel for preparing the tacos.
- ◆ to Pastor Angel, Lourdes, and the Cristo En Tu Ayuda congregation for serving the tacos.

We received \$731.00 as a part of the lunch. As a team we discussed giving all that comes in for donations to The Banquet and take the expenses out of the general fund. The Banquet is a mission located in Sioux falls which helps provide meals for those who are in need. We were all very pleased with how it all went on Sunday - a fun event!

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/>

Broadcast on Channel 3...

Worship services for First UMC are scheduled to be broadcast on public access Channel 3 in Worthington. The broadcast times are Monday at 3:00 p.m. and Tuesday at 3:00 p.m. for the current week.

Live Stream and Media Tech Schedule...

Our adjusted worship schedule has made changes to each church's Sunday volunteer list. Here are the persons who are scheduled to help with the sound, media, and live stream services:

First UMC		Sound/Video	Media Shout
Sunday	August 7	Deb Steinle	Jeffrey Ludes
Sunday	August 14	Rick Dalrymple	
Sunday	August 21	Kari Meyer	Claire Meyer
Sunday	August 28	Andrew Brandt	Rebecca Kramer

Media Tech Ministry Online Training:

The ministry of our live stream broadcast has grown into a rather huge deal. Our media tech volunteers are remarkable in what they do as volunteers. We are beginning an new online training that you can do right from home to learn how to operate the sound board. There is no cost to you, other than the time it takes to go through the training. We are reaching more people than ever before! If you can volunteer and are willing to be trained to take a turn in the monthly rotation, please contact the church office.

Happy Birthday!

1	Coleen Bui	9	Karen Cook	20	David Reese
2	Robert Darling	10	Sharon Algood		Nicholas Reyne
	Arlo Mogck	12	Kevin Polson		Brielle Bullerman
	Thelma Yager		Haley Hendel	22	David Carstensen
	Melissa Geertsema	13	Merle Belz	23	Phoenix Erlandson
4	Julie Lopez		Tim Meyer	26	Rick Dalrymple
	Deb Nelson	14	Joyce Gravon		Jerald Green
6	Margaret Loger	16	Alan Rye	28	Chad Essman
	Kim Grussing	17	Derek Lee		Terry Miller
	Sandra Schulz	18	Tim Blume	31	Steven Kluever
8	Treyson Polk	19	Tayler Nickel		Shawn Kluever



Happy Anniversary!

2	Kevin & LeAnn Donovan	20	Tim & Kris Tripp
5	Dana & Amy Oberloh	22	Steven & Terry Johnson
8	Larry & Jan Heidebrink	23	Randy & Marjo Taarud
12	Merlyn & Maxine Cranston	24	Daren & Nancy Flinck
17	Paul & Tracy Reyne		



Please pray for:



Prayers for immediate health concerns:

Pat Grimmus
Gary Hibma
Karen Schulz

Rhoda Flinck
Diane Yahnke
Mary Prins

Bob Shore & Etta Schroeder

Those impacted by COVID 19: Persons who are long haulers

Those those dealing with cancer:

Laurie Blume
Glen Crowley
Scott Klooster

Connie Bramer (Betty Taarud's daughter)
Anthony Tate (Corky & Ginny's grandson)
Kristi Johnson (Dave/Linda Reese's daughter)
Sheryl (Thelma Yager's sister) Makenzie Gist (Nancy Galland's niece)
Christopher Alan Brown...

Those recovering/dealing with health issues:

Elaine Mess
Henry Mess
Rick Dalrymple
Gerald Fisher
Ariana Lopez
Aiden Remme
Bill Carlberg
David Carstensen

Marlene Wieneke
Phil Glembin
Tim Yager
Nancy Hyink
John Clease
Ajulo Ochala
Mike Miller
Emma Schnyders

Claribel Grussing
Casen Hotzler
Ken Bipes
Weston Erlandson
Steve Timmons
Bruce Lease
Monica Veil

Giving thanks for: Area farmers

Front line health care workers
Law enforcement & emergency workers...
Service women & men and their families...

For those dealing with grief and loss...

Prayer Chain

Please send requests to our
email or phone prayer
chain:

[email prayer chain]

Church Office
dflinck@gmail.com or
(507) 372-2939

[phone prayer chain]

Janelle Johnson
(507) 376-5479.

Care Centers:

South Shore Care Center
First UMC:
Lois Carlberg

Mary Jane Brown Center
Adrian UMC:
Mary Prins

Country Living Cottage
Adrian UMC:
Margaret Loger

Also watch for prayer updates in the Prayer Corner
of the Friday Update.



First & Adrian United Methodist Churches
408 11th Street, P.O. Box 668
Worthington, MN 56187-0668

Seeking
the Truth

Growing
in God's Wisdom

Serving
All Persons

Return Service Requested

