Happy Birthday!

30 Sara Berte
Khanh Bui
Nancy Galland

February

1 Aryah Marsh
Heidi Klingenberg

2 James Hibma
3 Allan Miller
4 Ellen Darling
Curt Hendel
5 Marlene Iblings

Our Church Family

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.

Mark Ludes & Lisa Gerdes & Family
Marcus & Kelly Maras & Family
Sandi Mead & Family
Linda Doeden
Skeeter Doeden
Jennifer Erwin & Family
Brian Hokeness
David & Cindy Hokeness
Ray Hokeness, Jr.

If you have a loved one
you would like to have added to
the Prayer Corner list
(on the back of the bulletin),
or if any name needs
to be removed from this list,
please contact the church office.

Prayer Corner

Prayers for:
Dianne Dalrymple (procedure on Tuesday)…
Le Ann Donovan (surgery recovery)...

Persons impacted by COVID 19:
Gary Hunter (friend of Nancy & Denny)
Persons who are long haulers

Persons recovering/dealing with health issues:
Marlene Wieneke
Mary Rydeen
Elaine Mess
Bob Shore
Mary Prins
Rick Dalrymple
Tim Yager
Irv Flinck
Nancy Hyink
Claribel Grussing
Diane Yanke

Prayers for those dealing with cancer:
Connie Bramer (Betty Taarud's daughter)
Anthony Tate (Corky & Ginny's grandson)
Laurie Blume
James Krosch
Scott Klooster
Kristi Johnson (Dave/Linda Reese's daughter)
Sheryl (Thelma Yager's sister)…
Makenzie Gist (Nancy Galland's niece)...

These persons with health concerns:
Weston Erlandson
Henry Mess
Phil Glembin
Ariana Lopez
Aiden Remme
Mike Miller
Emma Schnyders
Albert Matthiesen
Bruce Lease
John Clease
Gerald Fisher
Brian Bretzman
Ajulo Ochala
Casen Hotzler
Bill Carlberg
David Carstensen
Shellie Williams
Steve Timmons
Ken Bipes
Monica Veil

For those dealing with grief and loss…
The family of Bob Buchele...

Giving thanks for:
Our teachers, administrators, students…
Front line health care workers…
Law enforcement & emergency workers…

First UMC Worthington

Sunday, January 30, 2022
Worship - 10:30 a.m.

Full HD 1080 livestream links

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

PASTOR: Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck
ACCOMPANIST: Jolene Kuhl
CHOIR DIRECTOR: Jeanette Jenson
BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR: Brenda DeSmith
TECH TEAM: Andrew Brandt, Rebecca Kramer
CUSTODIANS: Sarah & Chad Nickel

408 11th Street - Worthington, MN 56187 - 507.372.2939

Church Office Hours - Monday through Friday - 8:00 am - 4:30 pm
- Church Office Phone >> **507.372.2939**
- Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck >> **dflinck@gmail.com**
- Susan Noerenberg, Office Manager >> **methodistoffice@gmail.com**

The 4th Sunday after the EPIPHANY

Sunday, January 30, 2022
10:30 a.m.

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

Please stand as you are able

CENTERING WORDS [1]

God has known us, loved us, and been with us since
before we were knit together in our mothers' wombs.
Sink into the arms of Love this day, and trust the hand that holds you,
for we have abided in this love long before we first drew breath.

PRELUDE

WELCOME - ANNOUNCEMENTS

We Come to Worship God

PRAISE UMH #473 - "Lead Me, Lord"

CALL TO WORSHIP [2]

Offer God your worship and your praise.

Before God formed us in our mothers' wombs,
God knew and loved us.

Offer Christ your love and your devotion.

Before we drew our first breath,
Christ consecrated us as his own.

Offer the Spirit your gratitude and your thanksgiving.

Before we heard the call to heal the world,
the Spirit sustained our every heartbeat.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

We will offer God our worship and our praise.

PRAISE UMH #408 - "The Gift of Love"

Sunday Morning Coffee:

The First Church Council had decided to host Coffee Fellowship on the third Sunday each month. However, with the changes in our community that are COVID related, we have decided to delay that at least one month. We will evaluate the situation before deciding to have coffee fellowship in February. We appreciate your understanding.

Operation Christmas Child Help:

Do you have any unused 8-10" zippers (any color) or any empty pill bottles (2" top opening are the best, but smaller ones can be used also)? These items can be used to make items to include in the Operation Christmas Child boxes that we will be packing later in the year. Myra Palmer can use the zippers to make pencil cases with fabric that she donates and the pill bottles will be used to make fishing kits and sewing kits. You can drop off your items in the box in the narthex. Thank you for your help!

Souper Bowl/Soup Cook-Off Postponed:

The Mission Team has decided to postpone the annual Souper Bowl Soup Cook-off that was originally set for Sunday, January 30th. Please look for updates as they are presented. Thank You for understanding. The Missions Team.

Human Trafficking program:

Your Child is **"NOT A NUMBER"!** The Southwest Crisis Center is offering a program on child trafficking and exploitation. It will be held on February 9th, 16th and 23rd which are Wednesdays from 6:30-8 pm and will be held at the First Lutheran church. These sessions cover their current knowledge of human trafficking, how society influences behaviors, the red flags, how vulnerabilities are exploited, and how to reduce the risk and unsafe situations. Feb. 16th has a session for parents at the same time and will cover trafficking, exploitation, safety planning and resources. This adult session is open to any caring adult even if you don't have someone attending the youth sessions. Please discuss this with your youth and consider signing up for the program. You can register by contacting Pat Grimmius, pagrimmius@gmail.com; Pastor Jeanette, pastorjeanettemccormick@gmail.com; or Allan Bakke, allan@mnswcc.org. **This program is a huge asset for us to empower youth through education!**

Last Week's Offering:	$2,472.00
Carry Over Revenue (2021):	$32,515.90
Year-to-date Revenue:	$26,083.91
Year-to-date Expenses:	$30,104.26

Thank you for your faithful giving! Apportionments have been paid in full again this year!

This Week

SUN	**January 30**
9:00 am	Worship @ Adrian UMC
9:30 am	Sunday School @ First
10:30 am	Worship @ First UMC
6:30 pm	Encounter Youth at Hy-Vee
MON	**January 31**
3:00 pm	Worship Re-Broadcast on WGTN TV3
TUES	**February 1**
9:30 am	Ladies Coffee Hour First UMC @ Hy-Vee
3:00 pm	Worship Re-Broadcast on WGTN TV3
WED	**February 2**
7:00 am	Men's Breakfast @ Blue Line
5:30 pm	Youth @ First
6:00 pm	Bell Choir Practice @ First
6:15 pm	G1 @ Adrian
7:00 pm	Choir Practice @ First
SUN	**February 6**
9:00 am	Worship @ Adrian UMC
9:30 am	Sunday School @ First
10:30 am	Worship @ First UMC
6:30 pm	Encounter Youth at Hy-Vee

Our Church App:

Download our free app on your smartphone or iPad. You can see the upcoming church schedule, listen to or watching any previous Sunday messages or services. You will find the app in the App Store - search for First United Methodist Church Worthington.

Care Center Residents:

South Shore Care Center
First UMC:
Lois Carlberg LaDee Grant

Mary Jane Brown Center
Adrian UMC:
Mary Prins

Minnesota Veteran's Home
Adrian UMC:
Marvin Klooster - Luverne, MN

Adrian Country Living Cottage
Adrian UMC:
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. If you have any questions about our broadcasts, please contact the church office.

❄❄❄❄❄❄❄❄❄❄❄❄❄

Men's Breakfast Group...

The Men's Breakfast group meets every Wednesday at 7:00 a.m. at the Blue Line. All guys are welcome!

2022 Summer Camping:

A camping experience with your Minnesota United Methodist Camps has been part of countless people's faith stories for generations. Each camping event provides children, youth, families and adults with an opportunity to learn, play, experience God's love in the outdoors, grow in faith in a safe atmosphere, and to reach their personal best! Lives are changed forever! The 2022 summer camping brochures are in the back of the church. Please visit the website at: www.campminnesota.org to registrar.

OPENING PRAYER [3]

Wrap us in the arms of your love, Loving God, for we need to feel your healing touch. As we gather to worship you this day, humble our hearts, teach us patience, and touch us with kindness. Open our eyes, that we may see ourselves as you see us. Open our hearts to your Spirit of gentleness, that our words may be true and our love may be pure. Bind us in a love that does not fail or fade, that we may bear all things, believe all things, and hopes all things in your love, which never ends. Amen.

PRAISE "Love Was When"
Trombone Solo by Pastor Daren Flinck

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE - THE LORD'S PRAYER

We Hear God's Word

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

MESSAGE *"Love: Endgame"*

We Respond to God's Word

RECOGNITION OF OFFERING
(please place your offering in the plates as you depart worship)

DOXOLOGY UMH #95 - "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We Go Forth to Serve God

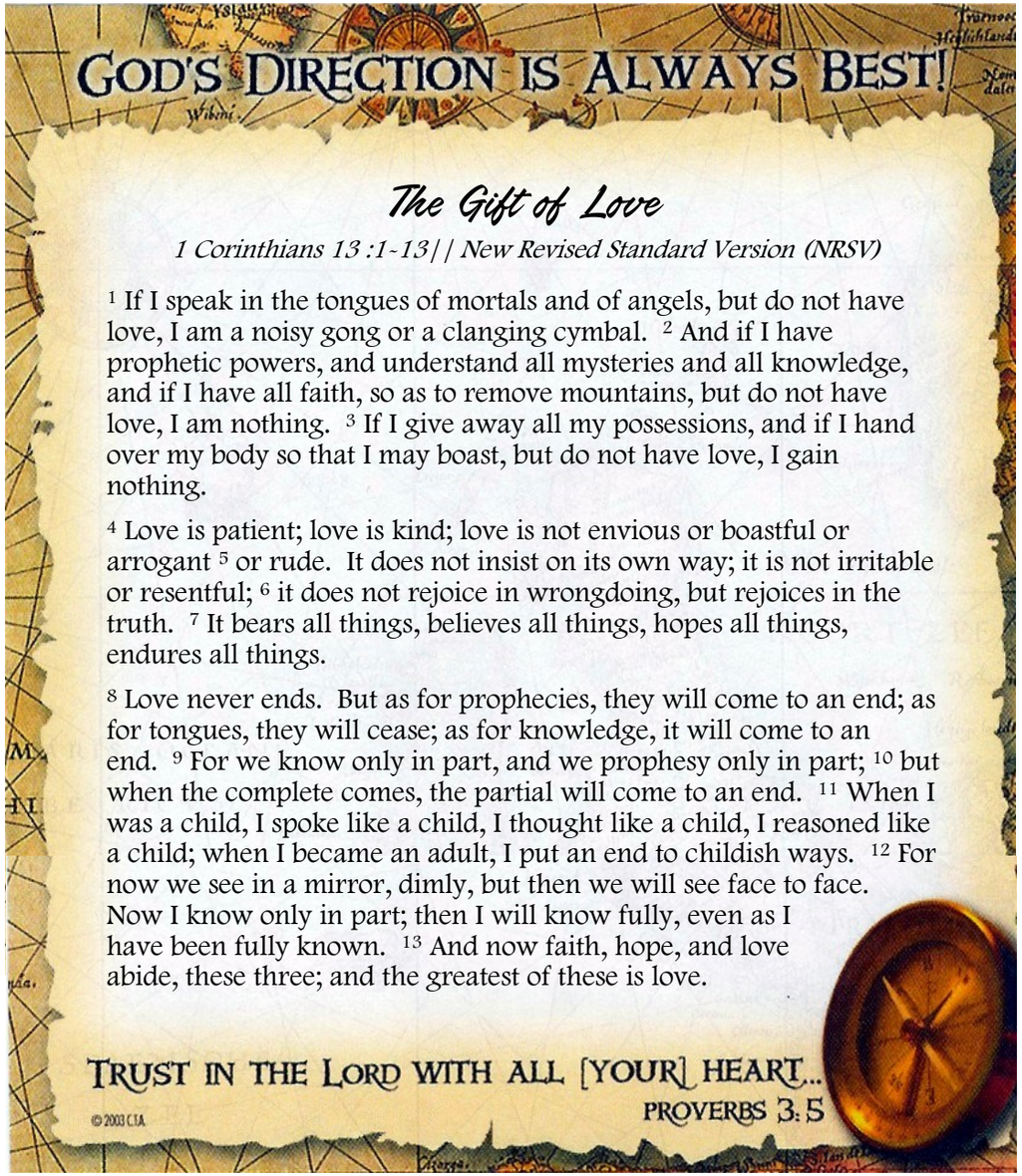
PRAISE UMH #549 - "Where Charity and Love Prevail"

THE BENEDICTION - POSTLUDE

[1] The Centering Words are based on or inspired by Psalm 71, Jeremiah 1, and 1 Corinthians 13.
[2] The Call to Worship is based on or inspired by Psalm 71.
[3] The Opening Prayer is based on or inspired by Jeremiah 1 and 1 Corinthians 13.
All are based on [or taken from] "The Abingdon Worship Annual 2022", edited by Mary J. Scifres and B.J.

Interested in 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!



Ladies Coffee @ Hy-Vee...

Women from the church and the community are invited to join together for friendship and conversation during the Ladies Coffee Time. The group meets every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. at Hy-Vee. We discuss everything under the sun, updates on concerns and celebrations, and the best recipes are shared. Hope to see you there!

Family Life Coordinator Position Open at First Church:

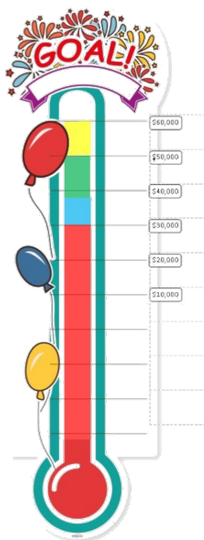
First United Methodist Church is looking for a dynamic, faith-filled person to serve as the full-time Family Life Coordinator. The person will work in coordination with the pastor and the church leadership to meet the faith development needs of all ages and levels of our parishioners.

Specific responsibilities will focus on providing overall leadership for Children's Ministries, Christian growth and direction to team volunteers who are committed to discipling and shepherding children from birth – fifth grade. The Family Life Coordinator also provides overall leadership for Youth Ministry and provide Christian growth and direction to youth, staff, and team of volunteers who are committed to discipling and shepherding youth from sixth – twelve grade.
In addition, the Family Life Coordinator provides leadership for family ministry events which include the above groups. Evening and weekend work required. Previous ministry experience preferred.

To fill out a job application and/or to submit a resume, contact the church office (507.372.2939 or email to methodistoffice@gmail.com). Contact James Jenson or Pastor Daren Flinck if you have any questions about this position.

Give to Ride:

We have met our goal! You did it! With the help of a rather large gift in memory of Roger, Norma, and Anne Doeden, we have met the $60,000 needed to purchase the new church bus! Thank you to everyone who participated and kept this ministry in prayer. We anticipate the new bus to be ready within 2 to 5 months. PTL!



Worship Attendance	Last Sunday		
IN PERSON FIRST	43	LIVE STREAM VIEWS	212
IN PERSON ADRIAN	21	TOTAL	276

What's Happening

The Coat Closet:

The Coat Closet is an outreach ministry of Love INC of Worthington. It's goal is to meet the winter clothing needs of our community by providing coats to men, women, and children. First UMC is collecting new and gently used winter clothing of all sizes, including coats, boots, hats, snow pants, gloves and mittens. The highest need is for children's sizes. You may drop your donation off at First Church. The Missions Team will distribute the donations to the Coat Closet, housed at First Lutheran Church. Thank you for your donations!

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...

First Church has an online church directory that can help you stay connected with your church members and friends. It has all the features of a printed directory (which we can print for you if you prefer). Accessible to members 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! This means the directory should always be current!

The online directory is safe and secure (all the available protections and practices to safeguard our data). Persons can opt out of the online directory. If this is the case, please contact the church office to have your information removed. You can access your version of the online directory today - all you need an active email address which will be linked/connected to your online information. Contact Susan or Pastor Daren in the church office for more details or if you are in need of assistance.

Media Tech Volunteers:

We are in need of volunteers for our Sunday morning media team. Our sound tech volunteers are stretched to the limit. One or two persons would make a huge difference. If you can volunteer and are willing to take a turn in the monthly rotation, please contact the church office for more details.

First UMC, our nursery has been temporarily closed.
A baby changing station is available in 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.

Our latest COVID guidelines are relatively simple - if you feel the need to distance and/or wear a mask, we encourage you to do so. We do not have a mask mandate in effect at this time. We do acknowledge that our county has one of the higher infection rates in the state, so be cautious in which ever approach you choose to take. Your health is very important to us!

Here are the
highlights from
the First UMC Council meeting held on
Thursday, January 20th

Celebrations:

The Education Team reports that the Sunday School Christmas program went well - we are proud of the kids who participated. Special thanks to those teachers and parents who helped out. The ecumenical youth gathering Encounter on Sunday nights is going well. We have had a few more from other churches (St. Mary's?) coming a couple of weeks ago. Special thanks to Kari Meyer for accompanying and leading the group. Lastly, we were able to give Brooklyn her 3rd grade Bible on January 9th (Ayden was sick, so will present his at another time).

The Missions Team shared that they have received $2,500 from the Foundation, a gift that is very much appreciated. We thank the persons who have donated warm clothing for the Coat Closet. We have delivered over 108 pounds of food to the food pantry. We have shared a review of our goals for 2021 (shared that information in the past newsletter). The Team is pleased to welcome two new members (Sandi Schulze and Brenda DeSmith). The First UMC Finance Team has donated $2,000 to the Missions Team as a one time gift from the operating fund, largely due to the fact that we had a great year.

Our Night Lights Circle continues to reach out to our members by delivering flowers to members of the congregation during the Christmas holiday. Sherry Benton reported that she continues to connect with the confirmation class.

Pastor Daren shared that updates to our church website and mobile app have included the weekly bulletins and the monthly newsletters. In addition, a person can now watch previous services or listen to just the messages on our church app.

The Trustees and Finance Teams share the good news that the fundraising efforts for our church bus project have been completed. We are grateful for the gifts we have received, including several for memorials remembering Colleen Potts, Roger, Norma, and Anne Doeden. The bus is anticipated to be ready sometime later this spring - early summer.

Challenges:

Youth Pastor Jon from First Lutheran is done leading Encounter, moving on to serve in another church. Our Kari Meyer is leading when she can. Pastor Jeanette and Pat Grimmius will be the second adult there or lead and will help find games.

We are not able to have the youth play bells in church because Galen doesn't feel comfortable leading (due to Covid). We'll see how things go and maybe do at a later date.

We discussed the challenge of having media volunteers for the sound, video and projection system for Sunday morning. We talked about the possibility of making this a compensated position to help get us through these tougher times. No decision was made.

The Missions Team has decided to hold off on hosting the Souper Bowl Cookoff - they will be looking at when that might be re-scheduled.

Current Focus:

The Southwest Crisis Center is offering classes at First Lutheran for all youth and families on Human Trafficking. The sessions are three 1.5 hours in length and will begin in February. You can find more details in the bulletins and the Friday Update. Families are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity.

Myra and Doris Palmer would like to host a jewelry sale before and a little after church some Sunday. After a very minimal cost was covered, all profits would go to a ministry or a need of the church. The Council discussed this and decided to support this event, whenever it would be scheduled.

Pastor Daren shared an update on the new Hispanic church start. Pastor Angel are Lourdes continue to make connections within the community, volunteering at Love INC, the area food shelf, and other venues. Pastor Angel enrolled in an English speaking class in January to help his communication skills.

The Missions Team reported that we are taking donations for the Minnesota West Pop Up food pantry, which helps students make ends meet. The Coat Closet is still in need of warm clothing for all shapes and sizes. This year, the Missions Team will bring forth Easter Offering possibilities (supporting a local, national, and international mission) Watch for more details in February.

Cutting Edge Issues:

Item #1: COVID Revisited

Realizing that the COVID situation has experienced a resurgence in our area, we discussed our current strategy for dealing with it and keeping people safe. Currently, our Sunday School is doing their best to address the system by mirroring the school district's strategy (which currently is mandatory masking). The teachers will evaluate their response should the school adjust its position. We do not require masks for Sunday morning worship, only recommending people consider wearing them should they feel they need to do so. Our fellowship gatherings are still on hold.

Item #2: 2023 - 150 Years!

Just a reminder that we plan for 2023, the year of First's 150th Anniversary. (It is also the 150th for Westminster Presbyterian Church.) We will briefly discussed developing a planning team to plan for the celebration of this milestone.

Item #3: 2021 Year End Financial Update

Ellen Hoefker reported the final figures for 2021. All expenses have been paid, including apportionments for 2021. We carried over just over $31,000 from the previous year to begin the 2022 operating budget. We transferred $2,000 to the Missions Team for them to use for their missional needs. We are also grateful to share that we have a emergency fund started which holds a $35,000 balance. Ellen presented the 2022 budget, which reflected a few increases in salary for staff, operating expenses, and other areas.
It's important to note that 2022 apportionment amounts have been reduced for this year.
Thank you to everyone for your generous contributions in the past year.

The next council meeting is set for
Thursday, February 17th at 5:30 p.m..

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck