

Happy Birthday!

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 3 Susan Bents | 6 Dave Palmer |
| 4 Chelsea Homan | Martha Lursen |
| 5 Matthew DeSmith | 7 Kristine Tripp |

Happy Anniversary!

- | |
|------------------------|
| 1 Wayne & Sharon Jones |
| 3 Tim & Thelma Yager |

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.

Jim & Amy Stefferud
John & Deb Steinle
Betty Taarud
Brett & Alanna Essman
Chad & Maddie Essman
Donna Essman
Keith & Margaret Essman
Larry Doeden
Linda Doeden
Skeeter Doeden

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 immediate health concerns:

Geneva Drachenberg (Galen Benton's mom)
Bob Shore & Etta Schroeder
Diane Yahnke Chris Nelson

Persons impacted by COVID 19:

Mary Prins
Persons who are long haulers

Prayers for those dealing with cancer:

Glen Crowley
Bruce Boltjes *(Gary's brother)*
Connie Bramer *(Betty Taarud's daughter)*
Anthony Tate *(Corley & Ginny's grandson)*
Laurie Blume
Scott Klooster
Kristi Johnson *(Dave/Linda Reese's daughter)*
Sheryl *(Thelma Yager's sister)*
Makenzie Gist *(Nancy Galland's niece)*

Persons recovering/dealing with health issues:

Marlene Wieneke	Tim Yager
Nancy Hyink	John Clease
Claribel Grussing	Bruce Lease
Elaine Mess	Dianne Dalrymple
Henry Mess	Rick Dalrymple
Weston Erlandson	Shellie Williams
Monica Veil	Ken Bipes
Phil Glembin	Ajulo Ochala
Ariana Lopez	Casen Hotzler
Aiden Remme	Bill Carlberg
Mike Miller	David Carstensen
Emma Schnyders	Gerald Fisher
Albert Matthiesen	Steve Timmons

For those dealing with grief and loss...

Giving thanks for:

Our teachers, administrators, students...
Front line health care workers...
Law enforcement & emergency workers...
Service women & men and their families...



Sunday, May 1st, 2022
Worship - 10:30 a.m.



livestream links

The Boxcast TV Channel
First UMC YouTube Channel
First UMC FaceBook Channel
First UMC Website

PASTOR: Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck
ACCOMPANIST: Jolene Kuhl
CHOIR DIRECTOR: Jeanette Jensen
BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR: Brenda DeSmith

TECH TEAM: Kari & Claire Meyer
FINANCE MANAGER: Sue Johnson
CUSTODIANS: Sarah & Chad Nickel

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS - Monday through Friday - 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

408 11th Street - Worthington, MN 56187 - 507.372.2939

- ♦ Church Office Phone >> **507.372.2939**
- ♦ Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck >> **dflinck@gmail.com**
- ♦ Office email >> **methodistoffice@gmail.com**

The 3rd Sunday of EASTER

Sunday, May 1, 2022
10:30 a.m.

Worship Leader: Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck

Accompanist: Jolene Kuhl

✚ *Please stand as you are able*

CENTERING WORDS ¹

*We think we know what will happen and how things will turn out.
But then God's Spirit surprises us. Trust the Spirit at work in you now.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME - ANNOUNCEMENTS

We Come to Worship God

PRAISE TFWS #2086 - *"Open Our Eyes, Lord"*

CALL TO WORSHIP ²

Sing praises to God, you people of faith.

We give thanks to God, who heals and restores.

Praise God who transforms us, who heals and loves us.

Praise God, who clothes us with joy.

Do not be silent. Praise the Lord!

We give thanks our God, today and always.

✚ PRAISE UMH #369 - *"Blessed Assurance"*

✚ OPENING PRAYER ³

Lord of Life, come and dwell among us. We gather to hear your word, and to sing your praise. We come as we are, trusting that your grace will perfect us. Interrupt our lives with your vision of truth and love. We thank you for the straight truth of your Word. We praise you now and always. Amen.

Sunday School Update:

The last day of Sunday School for this year will be May 8th, Mother's Day. The youth will be singing in church that day, so please have your youth attend - if at all possible. We'll also be celebrating our Sunday School Teachers that day. Please join us in THANKING them whenever you may see them: Melissa Geertsema, Lisa Gerdes, Amber Nielsen, Amy Shirbroun and Randy Shirbroun

Vacation Bible School:

Due to lack of volunteers, we will not have a Vacation Bible School program physically at our church this year. We are encouraging all of our youth to join in the program being offered at First Lutheran. We have partnered with them during this last year for Encounter and other events, so your children may already know some of their youth and some of our adults may be helping with the program as well. Here are the details: The Food Truck Party Vacation Bible School is coming June 12-15 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at First Lutheran Church. We will start each evening with dinner and then have TONS of fun learning, singing, making and playing. Go to felcwgtn.mycokesburyvbs.com to register! Also, we are in need of volunteers. If you would like to help out, with decoration, meals, stations, or shepherding kids, please contact: Mark at 507-376-6148.

507 Youth Rally:

The quarterly meeting of area youth (grades 7-12) is scheduled for Wednesday, May 4th at 6:30 p.m. at the Worthington Christian Church (1501 Douglas Ave in Worthington). Pizza will be served followed by the youth rally from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.. If the weather is nice, the group plans to meet outside. Bring a blanket or a chair to sit on!

Confirmation Sunday:

Confirmation Sunday is set for Sunday, May 15th at 10:30 a.m. at First United Methodist Church. Four of our youth are looking forward to be confirmed: Peyton Nickel, Sadie Nickel, Spenser Nickel, and Kylee Shirbroun. Please join us before worship as we celebrate this spiritual marker for these four youth - in the Fellowship Hall from 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m..

Graduation Sunday:

We are so proud of our graduates! Kory & MaKenna Nickel and Abby & Elly Hibma will be graduating from Worthington HS and Ky Ruppert will be graduating from Adrian HS this spring. At First UMC, please join us as we celebrate their high school graduations on Sunday, May 22nd from 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. at the Fellowship Hall of First Church. At Adrian, please join us as we celebrate Ky's graduation, right after church on Sunday, May 22nd for a reception at the Fellowship Hall at Adrian Church.

High School Grad Scholarships:

The First UMC Foundation once again is offering scholarships for young people who are considering entering college or tech school. The awards are \$600.00 for the first year, \$800.00 for the 2nd year and \$1,000.00 for the third year. First & Adrian (and former Emmanuel) UMC students may apply each year. Applications may be picked up in the church office or emailed to the student upon request. The deadline for applications is July 31st.

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 May, we will be collecting games, activities, and crafts for boys and girls. Suggestions are: coloring books and crayons, picture books, watercolor paint sets, play doh (with cutters and etc), stickers, jump ropes, markers, travel-size games, puzzles (small boxes), chalkboard and chalk, binoculars, craft kits, compasses, gardening kits (with gloves and garden trowel), playing cards, building blocks, tools set (with small tools), fishing kits, sewing kits, kaleidoscopes, marbles. The age groups are 2-4, 5-9 and 10-14 for boys and girls.

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.

Easter Offering Thank You!

Thank you for the generous donations for our Easter offering. We received \$5,644.84. Sharing Seeds, Emma Norton Services, and Linda Doeden's teaching ministry in Laos will all benefit greatly from your generosity. We are so thankful for our caring and giving congregation - The Missions Team

Mobile Meals Thank You!

We want to express our deepest gratitude and thanks to all those who delivered Mobile Meals in April. We are humbled by your willingness to volunteer to serve others in this way. We believe each of you is blessed by giving your time for this much needed mission in our community. Our church family is amazing! You truly are the hands of GOD. Thank you and GOD bless you, Kathy and Sally.

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.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

The young Christians are invited to come forward.

PRAISE

"Open My Eyes"

Solo by Pastor Daren Flinck

We Hear God's Word

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 9:1-20

MESSAGE

"Straight Talk"

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.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE - THE LORD'S PRAYER

We Go Forth to Serve God

✠ PRAISE

UMH #451 - *"Be Thou My Vision"*

✠ THE BENEDICTION - ✠ POSTLUDE

¹ The Centering Words are based on or inspired by Acts 9 and John 21.

² The Call to Worship is based on or inspired by Psalm 30.

³ The Opening Prayer is based on or inspired by Acts 9.

All are based on [or taken from] "The Abingdon Worship Annual 2022",
edited by Mary J. Scifres and B.J. Beu

Worship Attendance	Last Sunday		
IN PERSON FIRST	67	LIVE STREAM VIEWS	251
IN PERSON ADRIAN	23	TOTAL	341

GOD'S DIRECTION IS ALWAYS BEST!

Saul's Conversion

Acts 9:1-20 - New International Version (NIV)

¹ Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. ³ As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

⁵ "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. ⁶ "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

⁷ The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

¹⁰ In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!"

"Yes, Lord," he answered.

¹¹ The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. ¹² In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

¹³ "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."

¹⁵ But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. ¹⁶ I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

¹⁷ Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord - Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here - has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, ¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. ²⁰ At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.

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

PROVERBS 3:5

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Just a note:
our nursery is temporarily closed. A baby changing station is available 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.

Welcome to First Church!

UMC 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. By the way, students attending Methodist Church Camps are eligible for camping scholarships from the First UMC Foundation. Please visit the website at: www.campminnesota.org to register - contact the church office for camp scholarship information.

New Staffing Addition!

We are also pleased to announce that Sue Johnson has accepted the position as our new finance manager! Sue brings a wealth of experience and practical know-how to the position. She has worked in the area of finance in the Worthington for most of her adult life. She will begin the part-time position starting May 2nd. Welcome, Sue!



Ladies Coffee @ HyVee...

Ladies CoffeeTime 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!

Men's Breakfast Group...

The Men's Breakfast group meets every Wednesday at 7:00 a.m. at the Blue Line Cafe. The men discuss shared concerns, solve the problems of the world, pray for one another and make sure the rain gauges are up to speed. All guys are welcome to join us each week!

UMCOR: Helping the Ukraine People...

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 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.

Gifts to support the people of Ukraine can be made in the following ways:

Online at <https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/982450>

By toll-free telephone: 888-252-6174

By check made out to Global Ministries/UMCOR with "Advance #982450-Ukraine" written on the memo line, either mailed and addressed to Global Ministries/UMCOR, GPO, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY, 10087-9068 or given at or through any United Methodist church

One hundred percent of all Advance contributions go to the designated cause. The United Methodist community in Ukraine, though quite small, is actively engaged in assisting neighbors in need. Global Ministries is in touch with the church's leadership as well as with church leaders in countries welcoming those who are fleeing from violence in Ukraine.

Cristo En Tu Ayuda Sunday Bible Study...

The Hispanic New Church Start is sponsoring a new worship service each Sunday at 12:30 p.m. in the Emmanuel Chapel at First Church. Of course all are welcome - and it will help if participants can speak Spanish. Many blessings in this early stage of Pastor Angel's ministry to begin a new Hispanic Church in this area! (Note: *Cristo En Tu Ayuda* means "Christ at Your Aid")

National Day of Prayer...

How wonderful it is to live in a nation where by law, every year on the first Thursday of May the President proclaims a day of prayer for our nation. Join others at the Worthington Fire Hall at noon on Thursday, May 5th or visit Love INC of Worthington's FaceBook page to join others as we pray "from sea to shining sea".

This Week

SUN	May 1
Holy Communion @ both churches	
9:00 am	Worship @ Adrian
9:00 am	Sunday School @ First
10:30 am	Worship @ First
12:30 pm	Cristo En Tu Ayuda Worship
MON	May 2
3:00 pm	Worship Re-Broadcast on WGTN TV3
TUES	May 3
9:30 am	Ladies Coffee Hour First UMC @ Hy-Vee
3:00 pm	Worship Re-Broadcast on WGTN TV3
WED	May 4
7:00 am	Men's Breakfast @ Blue Line
5:00 pm	Confirmation @ First
5:30 pm	Youth @ First
6:15 pm	G1 @ Adrian
7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Practice
THU	May 5
12:00 pm	National Day of Prayer @ Wgtn Fire Hall
SUN	May 8 - Mother's Day
9:00 am	Worship @ Adrian
9:00 am	Sunday School @ First
10:30 am	Worship @ First
12:30 pm	Cristo En Tu Ayuda Worship

Care Center Residents:

Golden Horizons

First UMC:

Bob Shore & Etta Schroeder

South Shore Care Center

First UMC:

Lois Carlberg

Good Samaritan Care Center Window

First UMC:

LaDee Grant

Mary Jane Brown Center

Adrian UMC:

Mary Prins

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. For questions about our broadcasts, please contact the church office.

Sunday Coffee Fellowship:

Beginning on Sunday, May 1st changes are in store for 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 some fellowship; we will begin at 10:00 A.M. We are looking for persons to help serve on a rotating basis. Please contact Pam Soderholm if you are interested and willing to help.



Last Week's Offering:	\$7,329.00
Carry Over Revenue (2021):	\$32,515.90
Year-to-date Revenue:	\$137,787.35
Year-to-date Expenses:	\$96,356.60

Thank you for your faithful giving!



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

Celebrations:

Confirmation has been working well - the four students are responding well to the Wednesday night meetings. We will host Confirmation on Sunday, May 15th. Grateful that Sherry Benton is helping the group. Please join us for a celebration reception before worship at 9:15 a.m..

Our worship attendance has seen a definite increase in recent Sundays. 113 persons attended in person worship on Palm Sunday and 182 on Easter Sunday. We continue to have very strong live stream broadcast numbers, with persons from all over the United States viewing our service each week. Holy Week was also very popular online. We are grateful for the dedicated volunteers who help make our live stream a success: Kari and Claire Meyer, Deb and John Steinle, Andrew Brandt and Rebecca Kramer have all been so important to our sound, media, and live streaming capability. Thanks, Team!

A special note of thanks for our musical team who have been so faithful in presenting the gospel message in our worship settings. Jeanette Jenson, Brenda DeSmith, Jolene Kuhl, and Carolyn Beerman have all shared their talents in leading our praise response in music. In addition, thanks to the Bell Choir ringers and the Chancel Choir singers who dedicated themselves to practice and sharing their joy in music.

Mobile Meals has gone well thanks for the many volunteers who have stepped forward to deliver meals the last three weeks of April. We are so blessed to have so many who are committed to helping others.

The Missions Team reports that we have raised funds for the Food Shelf (\$195), the special advance for Ukraine Relief (\$930), and the Easter Offering (\$5,669.84 - the most we have ever received for that particular offering). We are amazed at the faithful giving of our congregation.

Challenges:

We are hoping that more volunteer money-counters will return to help count Sunday offerings. There is no news yet on the new church bus arrival, but when it does come in, we will need to determine who will volunteer for driving the new bus and helping pick up members who want a ride to Sunday services.

Current Focus:

We will celebrate our high school graduates on Sunday, May 22 - a reception begins at 9:15 a.m.. The Education Team announces that Sunday, May 8th will be the last Sunday School day. We will celebrate our teachers as well as our

mothers on that Sunday. The Encounter Youth group will meet a few more times in May - check the schedule elsewhere in this newsletter.

We are combining with the Lutheran Church for Vacation Bible School this summer. Registration information can be found in the newsletter article, again elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Missions Team lifted up that the Annual Conference is the third week of May - a Love Offering will be taken the first two Sundays in May - watch for more details on that offering.

Pastor Daren reported he is resuming the Children's Moment during Sunday worship. The Council discussed upgrading our coffee fellowship to having persons preparing coffee and refreshments, including picking up items from HyVee. Pam Soderholm will be organizing this team effort. It appears that we are edging near normalcy after two years of COVID restrictions.

James Jenson reported that the PSPRC has made no progress in hiring someone for either the Office Manager position or the Family Life Coordinator. Steps are being taken to address alternate ways of filling the church needs in these areas.

Cutting Edge Issues:

Item #1:

The Council discussed the past two years. Generally, we are very blessed. We have been able to hold our own. We are very grateful that the church has not experienced a downfall - financially speaking. The Council expressed its deep gratitude for all who continue to support the church with their prayers, their presence, their gifts, their witness and their service.

Item #2: 2023 - 150 Years!

No report on the plans for celebrating next year's 150 Birthday of First Church.

Item #3: 2021 Year End Financial Update

Mike Johnson reported that the church finances are in good condition. LaVonne Wolf has been taking care of the financials for the church. We are so blessed to have her experience and wisdom! Thanks, LaVonne!

The next council meeting is set for

Thursday, May 19th at 5:30 p.m..

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck

