



The Key Newsletter

July 2022

Volume 9 Issue 7

Sunday, July 10th - 11:30 a.m.
Fellowship Hall

TACO BAR

**Tacos made
by Pastor
Angel!**

details on page 6

Worship Times

Adrian UMC
9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship

First UMC
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

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Worthington, Minnesota
56187

Phone: (507) 372-2939

Church Office email:
methodistoffice@gmail.com
www.firstumcworthington.com

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Among the many endearing memories I have about my father is around this time of year - specifically, the Fourth of July. My dad worked for the Blandin Paper Company in Grand Rapids. The company would shut down completely for the Fourth of July celebration and would host a company picnic at a place called Gunn Park, just north of Grand Rapids on Highway 38. We'd pile into the family vehicle and take the seven mile drive to the park, where games, food, beverages, and ice cream were all on the house, courtesy of Blandin.



While the kids were involved with eating and the relay races, the men had their own activity - a horseshoe pitching contest. My father was a very good horseshoe player. He had a smooth throwing action with his right arm, letting go of the horseshoe just perfectly. The horseshoe would rotate purposefully as it flew

toward the targeted stake, making a clanging sound more times than not, signifying a ringer or something close to it. A lot of the Blandin employees were good horseshoe players - my dad was counted among them.

The same characteristics that make someone a better than average horseshoe player can also be found in the persons who aspire to be followers of Jesus. Consistency, patience, practice, diligence - to name a few - help followers of Jesus to hit their target more times than most. I think about those characteristics my father shared with his children and I am grateful for his example. I don't imagine it was easy to be patient with seven boys and three girls, but my dad (with mom by his side) hit a ringer more times than not.

Friends, stay the course no matter what you are planning for the Fourth (and beyond as well), stay focused on the matters of the heart. Philipians 4:9 says it well: ***"Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me — put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you."***

Blessings to you as you celebrate freedom in Christ...

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daren Flinck".

Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck

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

July Worship: "Come and worship the Lord!"

Sunday, July 3

The 4th Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion

"The Signature of Declaration"

"When John Hancock signed the Declaration of Independence he wanted someone to notice his large signature. Paul's letter to the Galatians was written with large letters, giving us the hint that his words need to be noticed!"

- based on Galatians 6:1-16

Sunday, July 10

The 5th Sunday after Pentecost

"The Wayside Rest"

"Looking for that one place where you can pull off the side of the highway of life to be recharged and reenergized?"

Paul offers us this direction."

- based on Colossians 1:1-14

Sunday, July 17

The 6th Sunday after Pentecost
Terry Miller @ Adrian

"Service and Devotion"

"With the story of Mary and Martha, God teaches us spiritual priorities."

- based on Luke 10:38-42

Gretchen O'Donnell @ First

"Mr. Gorbachev, Tear Down this Wall"

"Walls are inanimate objects that serve a purpose in the world. But spiritual walls are not so good. Thankfully, Jesus is the way through our spiritual walls."

- based on Ephesians 2:11-22

Sunday, July 24

The 7th Sunday after Pentecost
Terry Miller @ Adrian & First

"Teach Us to Pray"

"Jesus points out the importance of persistent prayer. Prayer is the basis of our relationship with God."

- based on Luke 11:1-13

Sunday, July 31

The 8th Sunday after Pentecost

"So Long, Self!"

"Paul teaches us about our new self - renewing our image according to our Creator."

- based on Colossians 3:1-11

Sunday Morning Coffee:

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 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 willing to help.

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

Summer is a quiet time in the halls of our church, which means it's a great time to make plans for exciting days to come! July will see me beginning to narrow down our Wednesday evening activities for the fall. If you have ideas for what you think our Wednesdays should look like, please let me know. Likewise, if you have other ideas of things that you'd like to see happen in the life of our church - special events, on-going activities, Bible studies and of course Sunday School for all ages - please give me a call! It's also possible that I'll have ideas of how you can be a part of things, in which case, I may be calling you!

In the interests of getting your input and having the chance to meet you, we will have a "Come and Meet Gretchen Day" on Wednesday, July 12! Please come by my office for treats and strawberry lemonade (or a cup of coffee at the very least - I'll have flavored creamer!) at any time between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. that day. I truly want to meet you and get to know you all a little bit better.

As always, you can contact me by calling the church or emailing me at familylifewgtn@gmail.com.

See you on July 12 if not before!



Gretchen O'Donnell
Family Life Coordinator

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.

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: www.campminnesota.org to registrar.

Come and Meet Gretchen Day!

Please come by Gretchen's office for treats and strawberry lemonade (or a cup of coffee at the very least - she'll have flavored creamer!) at any time between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Tuesday, July 12th. Come with your ideas for church activities, your thoughts on Sunday School or Wednesday nights... basically your hopes and dreams for what you'd like to see happen - and how you can fit into - the future programming of our church!

If that day won't work for you, you can contact Gretchen by calling the church (507.372.2939) or emailing her at familylifewgtn@gmail.com.



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

Office: (507) 372-2939

Fax: (507) 372-2404

Address: 408 11th Street, P.O. Box 668, Worthington, MN 56187

methodistoffice@gmail.com

www.firstumcworthington.com

Authentic Taco Bar:

Mark your calendar!! The Missions Team is planning an authentic taco lunch to be held after worship on Sunday, July 10th. This will be a fundraiser with the proceeds going to The Banquet to help pay for a meal. Keep an eye out for more details!

Ecumen Meadows Open House:

Join us for our Open House on Wednesday, July 13th from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at 1801 Collegeway in Worthington. We invite you to view our beautiful community and newly remodel lobby area! Check out our variety of floor plans on a personal or self-guided tour. Refreshments and snacks will be served.

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 June and July we will be collecting WOW items for boys and girls. A WOW item is a bigger gift that is added to box with the other items. Ideas for girls are a baby doll with accessories, Barbie doll, small musical instrument (recorder or harmonica), backpack, stuffed animal. Ideas for boys are a toy truck or car, soccer ball with pump, small musical instrument (recorder or harmonica), backpack, stuffed animals.

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
Wednesday, June 22nd*

Celebrations: Pam Soderholm reports that Coffee Fellowship on Sunday morning is going well. We have 6 people who are serving right now. We have a standing order of pastries at Hy-Vee which is picked up by whoever is serving. Free will donations have been good and we are averaging about 15 people who are attending. Pastor Angel's congregation completes the fellowship time with their own moments after their worship service. They have been cleaning the area after they are done. It seems to be working well and people seem to enjoy that the fellowship time is back.

The Missions Team did not meet in June, but there are a few things that can be shared. The Team approved sending \$500.00 from the general missions fund to the 2022 Love Offering at Annual Conference. \$1,500.00 was given to New Life International Mission, the non-profit organization of Delbert & Sandy Groves, who we have supported for a few years and are now retired.

We are very grateful to have two marvelous lay speakers (Randy Shirbroun and Terry Miller) who have filled in when Pastor Daren is on vacation. Thanks, Randy & Terry for your willingness to lead our congregations in this way!

We are also very grateful to have our new staff persons becoming more and more acclimated to their roles. We celebrate Sue Johnson (finance manager), Gretchen O'Donnell (family life coordinator), and Jeff Ludes (administrative assistant) as additions to our staff. Each one has been doing a terrific job!

Challenges: Gretchen was wondering about the formation of a family life team. In addition, she is looking at beginning a Wednesday night ministry in the fall and what details that might mean. We discussed hosting a ministry fair in September as a possible solution to invite persons to consider volunteering for a new family life team.

Nancy Galland will update the Celebration of Life booklet with new names of persons who have volunteered to help families with celebration of life gatherings.

Nancy has conversed with the engineering department at City Hall about the curb at the west entrance of the church. There are sections of the curb which are in need of repair. We are concerned about someone potentially falling as a result of the poor condition of the curbs. Generally the City does not fix the curbs unless they are fixing that particular street. There are no current plans in store for our street.

True Green was in this week and spraying for weeds and such.

(Continued from page 8)

The cross and flame sign needs to be repainted. Pastor Angel has volunteered to repaint the sign.

The sanctuary roof is due for an inspection and possible patching. Mike Johnson will be following up on this.

Pastor Daren would like to purchase a monitor for the Heritage Room. We could use it for presentations, Zoom channel connections, etc. Nancy mentioned using memorial funds for this purchase. Pastor Daren will follow through on this.

Current Focus: Gretchen will be hosting an open house at her office on Tuesday, July 12th from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.. She is also looking forward to meeting with the Education Team to discuss fall options and other programs. Gretchen shared that on Sunday, September 25, the fall hayride event would return - more details to follow.

Billion Auto has no information on when the new church bus will be here. Josh Oberloh is checking into it.

The team that is looking at observing our 150 years in ministry continues to meet. They are talking about distributing a "save the date" card (next meeting is July 14th). The date that is tentatively set is Sunday, May 21st, 2023 - which is the first day that First Church became an official church.

The Mission Team shared plans for an authentic taco bar lunch, prepared by Pastor Angel. This will be a fundraiser for The Banquet. It is set for Sunday, July 10th following worship. The Team also will continue to collect items for the Operation Christmas Child boxes, which will be packed in November.

Cutting Edge Issues:

Item #1: The Council discussed the latest news on the Annual Conference and the United Methodist Church denomination.

Item #2: 2021 Year End Financial Update Ellen Hoefker updated our financial situation. We have used 2/3 of our reserve which we began the year with - much of the increased 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 set for
Thursday, July 21st 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 Tuesday, June 28:

The Adrian Council was scheduled to meet via Zoom, but due to scheduling conflicts, the meeting was only attended by Pastor Daren and Terry and Darlene Miller. Discussion by those present focused on the celebrations of the church (our worship numbers, while small, are steady - and our financial outlook is very solid. We discussed the upcoming schedule for July (Terry will be preaching in worship on Sunday, July 17th and July 24th - Pastor Daren will be at his father's celebration of life on July 19th). We also discussed several topics of interest regarding the denominational divide, the most current news of the day (with respect to Roe vs Wade), and we shared thoughts about what we might be doing differently (hosting a Bible study at the church for adults, for example). Ann reported that all things financial look very well. Our apportionments are current for this year and we anticipate paying them in full for the next six months. This would be our fifth year in a row that we have met our apportionment obligation. Finally, we talked about the next two years and preparing for Pastor Daren's estimated retirement date. We will need to meet with the PSPRC next summer to provide details of our needs for the next pastor coming in who will take Pastor Daren's place. Pastor Daren closed with prayer.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 25th at 7:00 p.m.

Adrian American Red Cross Bloodmobile...

The American Red Cross Bloodmobile will be at the Adrian American Legion on Wednesday, July 27th from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.. The goal of their efforts this month is to reach 50 units of blood. Please contact Alan or Cindy Cox (507.483.2218 [office] or 507.360.0537 [cell]) for more information. Together, we can save a life!

Card of Thanks

Thank you for thinking of me for my graduation.
Your blessings and prayers are much appreciated
as I go on to my next step in life.
And thank you for having the reception for me.
It was nice to spend that time of fellowship with you all.

Thank you - Ky Ruppert

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	July 3	Kari Meyer	Claire Meyer
Sunday	July 10	Deb Steinle	John Steinle
Sunday	July 17	Kari Meyer	Claire Meyer
Sunday	July 24	Andrew Brandt	Rebecca Kramer
Sunday	July 31	Kari Meyer	Claire Meyer

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	Ariana Lopez	8	Ky Ruppert	20	Clara Jewson
2	Kal Solomon	9	Jeffrey Ludes		Meredith Moore
	Sheila Kleuver	12	Elaine Mess	21	Brody Bonsma
3	Don Erlandson		Kim Ruppert	22	Debra Steinle
	Jean Doeden		LaDee Grant		Jolene Kuhl
4	Marcus Maras	16	Lola Davis	23	Sarah Nickel
	Mary Monthei	18	Peyton Nickel		Skeeter Doeden
6	James Ruppert		Raeya Hietbrink		Ty Klingenberg
	Riley Nickel	19	Judy Mitchell	28	Jason Winselman
7	David Hokeness			29	Gary Hibma



Happy Anniversary!

15	Christopher and Charisse Hill	28	John and Pamela Soderholm
19	Dr. Mark Ludes and Dr. Lisa Gerdes	29	Eldon and Susan Bents
21	Michael and Janelle Johnson	31	Jim and Iris (Jordan) Pierce



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
Sheryl (Thelma Yager's sister)

Connie Bramer (Betty Taarud's daughter)
Anthony Tate (Corky & Ginny's grandson)
Kristi Johnson (Dave/Linda Reese's daughter)
Makenzie Gist (Nancy Galland's niece)...

Those recovering/dealing with health issues:

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

Marlene Wieneke
Phil Glembin
Tim Yager
Gerald Fisher
John Clease
Ajulo Ochala
Mike Miller
Emma Schnyders

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

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
methodistof-
fice@gmail.com or (507)
372-2939

[phone prayer chain]
Janelle Johnson
(507) 376-5479.

Care Centers:

South Shore Care Center
First UMC:

Lois Carlberg

Good Samaritan Care Center
Windom - First UMC:

LaDee Grant

Mary Jane Brown Center
Adrian UMC:

Mary Prins

Country Living Cottage
Adrian UMC:

Margaret Loger

Also watch for prayer updates in the Prayer Corner



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

