



The Key Newsletter

December 2021

Volume 8 Issue 12



5:30 p.m. (First UMC) *** 9:00 pm (Adrian UMC)

More Details on Page 3

Worship Times

Adrian UMC

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship

First UMC

10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

Church Office

408 11th Street

Worthington, Minnesota

56187

Phone: (507) 372-2939

Church Office email:

methodistoffice@gmail.com

www.firstumcworthington.com

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Right after the Worthington Area Symphony Orchestra Christmas Concert was completed, I packed up my trombone in its new case and sent it to Aberdeen, South Dakota. It was time for a refinishing job and the Taylor Music Store in that city does exactly that - it will take a brass instrument and make it look like new. They take out all of the dents, smooth out the little nicks and imperfections, buffer it down so the horn is nice and smooth and then recoat it with some kind of brass coating that will look like a brand new horn when it's done.

I've had this horn for almost fifty years. I bought it from a classmate of mine when he no longer needed it. So, yeah, it's due for a make-over.

Just over 2,000 years ago, humanity was in need of refinishing as well. Too many imperfections, nicks and flaws were present. The illustrious shine that humanity wore when it was first created had been tarnished. It needed to be renewed. A tiny baby in a manger came to accomplish all of that and more. It's the primary reason that celebrating Christmas makes so much sense for humanity. We remember what God has done for us by sending us Jesus. He came to change the world and He did. He came to renew us and He did. He restores us like we are new and gives us the opportunity to shine with Christ's blinding light. And, yeah, we were due for a make-over.

Friends, unless you are perfect in every way, this is a message that we need to hear. May the celebration of the birth of Christ show you the way to peace and joy in each and every day!

Blessings to you during the season of Christmas...



Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck



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

December Worship: "Come and worship the Lord!"

Sunday, December 5

The 2nd Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion

"All I Want for Christmas"

*"The Christmas wish list that really matters
is the wish list of the heart."*

- based on Luke 3:1-6

Sunday, December 12

The 3rd Sunday of Advent

"The Most Wonderful Time"

*"We are reminded of the love of God
through Christ, which remains steadfastly
by our side no matter what we face"*

- based on Philippians 4:4-7

Sunday, December 19

The 4th Sunday of Advent

*"Being Holy When
You Can't Be Good"*

*"Try as we might, God makes us holy - espe-
cially when we can't be good."*

- based on Hebrews 10:5-10

Friday, December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

"Blinding Light"

*"Tonight, we experience the blinding light
of peace on earth."*

- based on Isaiah 9:2-7 & Luke 2:1-20

Sunday, December 26

The 1st Sunday after Christmas

"Friend Requests"

*"God's call is real and available to everyone...
if we log on to His Page!"*

- based on 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
& Luke 2:41-52

*Peace
on
Earth*

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship:

Christmas Eve worship is scheduled for Friday, December 24th! In the celebration of our Savior's birth, First UMC will worship at 5:30 p.m. and Adrian will host worship at 9:00 p.m. First's service will be live streamed. Please join us as we celebrate the reason for the season!



Holiday Parade & Hot Chocolate:

Worthington is hosting its Holiday Parade, Friday, December 3rd at 6:00 p.m.. At First Church, we are serving Hot Chocolate and Cookies after the parade! We need bakers and lots of workers! Sign up now by contacting:

Nancy (360-8833) nancyfancy62@gmail.com;
Jolene (329-3771) jolenekuhl@hotmail.com; or
Pat (360-1400) pagrimmius@gmail.com.

Youth Group Update...

If you have questions or concerns at any time about the education or youth program, please feel free to contact us.

Blessings,

The First Church Education Committee

Pat Grimmus	(Chair)
507.360.1400	pagrimmius@gmail.com
Randy Shirbroun	(9th-12th)
507.360.1009	randydvm@iw.net
Lisa Gerdes	(6th-8th)
507.329.2162	lgerdes67@gmail.com
Melissa Geertsema	(3rd-5th)
507.329.6867	missygeert@hotmail.com
Amy Shirbroun	(Pre-2nd)
507.360.8503	amyshirb@iw.net
Amber Nielsen	(Substitute)
	amber_blume@yahoo.com
Pastor Daren Flinck	(Adult)
507.372.2939	dflinck@gmail.com

Encounter Youth Group at Hy-Vee:

All middle and senior youth groups are invited to come to Hy-Vee from 6:30-8:00 p.m. every Sunday evening for fun with your friends from First United Methodist, First Lutheran and Westminster Presbyterian churches. Named "Encounter", all youth are invited to come and encounter renewed friendships, making a new friend, or even bringing a friend! There will be games, drinks,

snacks, fellowship and devotion led by Jon Wendt, First Lutheran youth pastor. Sunday nights at 6:30 p.m. at Hy-Vee!

God First...

Our G1 class (God First) meets each Wednesday at Adrian UMC starting at 6:15 p.m. G1's focus is on building the relationships between God and kids. Each night the classes run until about 7:00 p.m. Questions, please contact:

Heidi Klingenberg 507.360.7617
Diane Honermann 507.370.0012

Online Directory...

The official church directory is now 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. It also has a printable option for persons who do not use the internet. We can easily (and cost-effectively) print an up-to-date directory with all of the normal activity pages we desire. Lastly, it is updatable - almost instantly!

The online directory is safe and secure (all the available protections and practices to safeguard our data). A handy companion app is available for smartphones or iPads. Phone numbers link directly to immediate dial, addresses link to maps, in addition to many other features we haven't even thought about yet. You can access your version of the online directory today - as stated above, you will need an active email address which has already been connected to your online information. Contact Susan or Pastor Daren in the church office for more details.

First United Methodist Church Staff

Pastor: *Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck*

Office Manager: *Susan Noerenberg*

Custodian: *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

Love Inc. Drive Thru Light Display...

Love Inc. is hosting their annual Drive Thru Light Display Fundraiser once again this year on consecutive days - Wednesday, December 1, Thursday, December 2, Friday, December 3, and Saturday, December 4 at Olson Park from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. each day. If you'd like to register to present a light display, please contact Love INC. at 507.727.7291. Free will donations are also encouraged. Love INC's goal is to raise \$4000 to help support their mission to this area. There is no registration fee to put up a light display, only to set it up and take it down when the event is over.

Chamber Singers

Worthington Brass Christmas Concert:

This afternoon (Sunday, December 5th) the Worthington Chamber Singers (along with the Worthington Brass) will present their annual Christmas Concert at First United Methodist Church. The concert is set to begin at 2:00 p.m.

Under the direction of Eric E. Parrish, the singers will be sharing the theme "Repeat the Sounding Joy". Kris Stewart will be accompanying the singers, in addition to the organist Sylvia Anderson. After missing last year's concert due to COVID, the Chamber Singers are looking forward to sharing the message in music! While there is no cost, a free will offering will be taken.

Christmas with Bells and Choir!

Our Bells and Choir will be joining together for special Christmas music during worship on Sunday, December 12th at 10:30 a.m.

Christmas Sunday School Program:

Adrian and First Church are hosting their children's Christmas Sunday School program is scheduled for Sunday, December 19th at 9:00 a.m. (Adrian) and 10:30 a.m. (First). Please put this special program on your prayer list and calendar as the Sunday School prepares to tell the story of Jesus' birth.

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 and Sunday at 4:30 p.m. for the previous 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 live stream service:

<u>First UMC</u>	<u>Sound/Video</u>	<u>Media Shout</u>
Sunday, Dec. 5	Chad, Kristin & Ty Jaycox	
Sunday, Dec. 12	Kari Meyer	Claire Meyer
Sunday, Dec. 19	Deb Steinle	John Steinle
Friday, Dec. 24	Deb Steinle	John Steinle
Sunday, Dec. 26	Kari Meyer	Claire Meyer

Media Tech Volunteers:

If you are still willing and available to help with either sound or media tech on Sunday mornings we would truly appreciate the help. Training is always available. Please contact the church office if you can help with these important ministries. Thank You!



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

Celebrations:

The Missions team reports that 134 Operation Christmas Child boxes have been returned or put together so far - they will be blessed on Sunday, November 21st and taken to the American Reformed Church. The team also was given \$1,800.00 (\$800 was donated for items and \$1,000 will go for postage) in monetary donations along with lots of donated items to put in the boxes. We were able to include 47 soccer balls in the boxes - they are a hot item for the receivers! The team had great help from the Sunday School kids & teachers and members of the Night Light Circle and a few others to get the boxes packed. 103 boxes were packed on Sunday, November 7th. Thanks to everyone who contributed! The Missions team also reports that \$200 (donations coming from individuals of the church) in gift cards were delivered to Minnesota West for their Pop-up Pantry.

Friday night is the Youth Lock In starting at First Lutheran Church. The group will then proceed to First UMC, American Lutheran and finally Westminster Presbyterian Church in a progressive lock in. Sharing with four congregations should be a fun time together. Lisa Gerdes, Amy Shirbroun and Pat Grimmus helping with the lock in.

Pat Grimmus reported that the Holiday Parade cancelled last week is rescheduled for December 3rd - we are planning to serve hot chocolate and cookies after the parade.

The Halloween party was a nice success, with plenty of participants and volunteers. Thanks to everyone who helped! The Encounter Youth Group continues to meet (the ecumenical Sunday night youth group that meets at Hy-Vee).

Challenges:

The Mobile Meal program is going through some volunteer staff changes. Some churches are experiencing shortages in volunteers as well. The future of this program has some uncertainty. The church pipe organ may need some repairs in the next year. New leathers may need to be installed (\$3000 - \$4000).

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We hope to have more information for the next meeting. The UMW has closed their financial account and the larger group is no longer an active unit. The Night Lights Women's Group will continue as an independent group. Pastor Daren spoke of the need to look at different alternatives designed to keep people and groups connected.

Current Focus:

The Missions team shared that they are working on how we can help the Love Inc. Gap ministry through the donations of warm clothing - organized by First Lutheran Church. Be watching for more details. In addition, the team continues to support the Sharing Seeds program which is also organized at the First Lutheran Church. Lastly, plans are being made for the annual Souper Bowl Soup Cookoff in January. We have not held this event for two years! Looking forward to this gathering in 2022!

The Trustees report progress made on a possible church bus replacement. More details will be shared with the congregation as a decision is reached - perhaps by next month. They also report the acceptance of a bid from Culligan to replace the kitchen ovens. The UMW has donated the necessary funds (\$6000) for this purchase. A few projects that are still in the works or just completed: 1) The sanctuary sound system has been worked on and the central unit that will encompass all antennas is working perfectly; 2) The new laminate flooring will be installed in the parsonage living room on November 23rd; 3) The church storage shed has been moved to the parsonage and has been leveled up by Mike Johnson and Denny Bonsma - looks great guys!; 4) The new parsonage refrigerator has been installed - total cost \$2000 - and it is working very well; 5) The trustees approved the purchase of a new clothes washer for the parsonage - Bill Geertsema reports that the existing washer has seen its last days. A washer from Culligan will be installed within a week.

First UMC is hosting the Thanksgiving Eve Service on Wednesday, November 24th at 7:00 p.m. The Night Lights Circle will be handing out blessing bags to those who attend. This service will be live streamed. A reminder that on Sunday, Decem-

(Continued from page 11)

ber 5th the Chamber Singers will perform their Christmas Concert at First UMC at 2:00 p.m.. The Christmas Music Service featuring the Bell Choir and Chancel Choir is scheduled for Sunday, December 12th at 10:30 a.m.. The youth Christmas program is set for the following Sunday, December 19th at 10:30 a.m..

The Foundation reported that they have set up donations for next year - \$2000 to LOVE Inc and \$2500 to the Missions team.

The PSPRC has been working with various persons and groups within the church to develop a family life coordinator position at First Church. The group has determined this staffing need to be very important for the

present youth and children's ministry of the church. The group has met several times to work on the job description. The First UMC Foundation unanimously decided to support this position by providing a graduated scale for financial support - \$40,000 in year one, \$30,000 in year two, \$20,000 in year three and \$10,000 in year four. This will greatly assist the church in adjusting to having a full time staff person in this role. The group will finalize its proposal and present it to the council in December.

Cutting Edge Issues:

Item #1:

The council spent some time discussing the current COVID situation in our state and community. At this time, no changes were made in our existing recommendations. We will continue to monitor the conditions and adjust as needed.

Item #2: 2021 Financial Update

We are grateful for the faithful giving from the members and friends of the congregation. Through the month of November, the church financial status continues to look strong. We are current on our apportionments through this month. Overall, the church is sitting in a strong position for this time of year.

The next council meeting is set for

Thursday, December 16th at 5:30 p.m..

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck

Adrian Council Highlight Reel:

The Adrian Church Council met on Monday, November 29th at 7:00 p.m. on the Zoom channel. Here are some of the key items from that meeting:

Celebrations:

Attendance at G1 has been fairly steady. The group is planning to share on Sunday, December 19th their Christmas Program during worship at 9:00 a.m.. The kids are excited to be there and look forward to sharing the message of Christ's birth with the congregation. It was nice to see the Kellen's in church yesterday. Apportionments are almost completed being paid off for this year - one more payment and we are at 100% for the fourth year in a row! Nice!

Challenges:

We still need someone to remove the snow for the winter. Dave has contacted some persons and is awaiting a response.

Current Focus:

We discussed our current stance on COVID protocols. Currently we do not have a mask mandate. Our position has been that if someone desires to wear a mask, we encourage them to do so. We still have masks and hand sanitizer at various locations in the church. As a council, we decided to keep the status quo for now. We are planning for the Christmas Eve Service on December 24th at 9:00 p.m.. All things are running smoothly in the church - Dave mentioned he will change the air filters for the church furnace. We discussed the parsonage - all seems well on that front as well.

Cutting Edge Issues:

Item #1: 2021 Financial Update

We are grateful for the faithful giving from the members and friends of the congregation. Through the month of October, the church financial status continues to look strong. We are current on our apportionments through this month. Overall, the church is sitting in a strong position as of the end of November 2021.

The next council meeting (on Zoom) is set for

Tuesday, December 21st at 7:00 p.m..

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck



Happy Birthday!

2	LeAnn Donovan	13	Dennis Miller	22	Amy Molter
	Kelli Hendel	14	Tim Kor	25	Delores Berkness
3	Burdell Kuhl		Cade Heidebrink		Dianne Dalrymple
6	Justin Roelfs	15	Keyona Klingenberg		Carol Krosch
8	Julie Hohensee	16	Gabriella Zebe		Gary Boltjes
9	Jeffrey Homan	17	Brooke Erwin	26	Brent Hokeness
10	Austin Klaassen		Taylor Heidebrink	27	Paul Reyne
	Laura Schuett	20	Dane Jeppesen	28	Cindy Langendorfer
11	Jean Monthei		Andrew Johnson		Nathan Reyne
12	Rebecca Brignac		Nancy Flinck		Mary Rydeen
13	Nancy Hyink		Kelly Maras	30	Tracey Reyne



Happy Anniversary!

22 Dick & Denise Schlichte

Please pray for:



Prayers for those impacted by COVID 19...

Carolyn Beerman

Persons who are long haulers

Persons recovering/dealing with health issues:

Mary Rydeen, Irv Flinck, Elaine Mess, Nancy Hyink,

Bob Shore, Diane Yanke, Mary Prins, Clairbel Grussing

Prayers for those dealing with cancer:

Anthonty 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

Ariana Lopez

Bill Carlberg

David Carstensen

Albert Matthiesen

John Clease

Phil Glembin

Brian Bretzman

Aiden Remme

Mike Miller

Emma Schnyders

Steve Timmons

Monica Veil

Bruce Lease

Tom Feit

Casen Hotzler

Marlene Wieneke

Shellie Williams

Ken Bipes

Ajulo Ochala

Gerald Fisher

Those who have lost loved ones:

Prayer Chain

Please send requests to our email or phone prayer chain:

[email prayer chain]

Church Office

methodistoffice@gmail.com or

(507) 372-2939

[phone prayer chain]

Janelle Johnson

(507) 376-5479.

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

Care Centers:

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



Adrian
United
Methodist Church



First
United
Methodist Church
Worthington

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Seeking
the Truth

Growing
in God's Wisdom

Serving
All Persons

Return Service Requested

