

The Key Newsletter

February 2022

Volume 9 Issue 2

Souper Bowl

Souper Bowl Soup Cookoff

Date to be announced later - postponed

More Details on Page 6

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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So many things about holidays are traditional. For example, Valentines Day has the tradition of giving a card or a box of chocolates to a loved one. I recall in grade school it was traditional to make your valentine box which would hold all of the special valentines you got from your classmates. There was always the hope that you'd get some kind of special message from that special someone. That was a traditional thing as well!



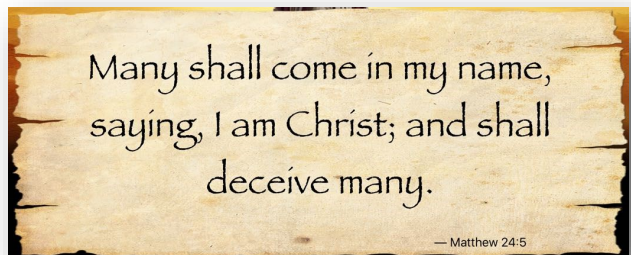
In my home, one tradition has ended this year. In the past, I've always purchased five bags of the Brachs Sour Cherry Jells and sent them to Erin's family. Largely because they cannot find that product anywhere. I remember even sending them to Italy when Erin was overseas. But this year, no cherry jells were found anywhere. I was desperate to carry this tradition forward. I even contact the Brachs main office, asking what was happening. The response I got back was this item has been discontinued. No longer would this candy be a part of our tradition. Sure, there are other cherry jells out there, but they are not from Brachs. That company knew how to make that product. I will change the tradition narrative, but not with a substitute.

I ponder this as I reflect on how the world so easily offers us substitutes for Jesus and his way. It's true - there are so many conflicting things out there in the world that point toward things that sound like Jesus, look like his way, and even can make sense like Jesus teachings can and do. But they are not what we need. Not at all.

"For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many" - Matthew 24:5 NIV. Jesus has given us the standard of his example and all we can do is seek after that standard. The moment we yearn for anything else, we miss the point and place ourselves in danger. I hope your Valentines Day is filled with traditional good things and that your spiritual life is filled with the Lord's love.

Blessings to you in the month of February...

Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck



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

February Worship: "Come and worship the Lord!"

Sunday, February 6

The 5th Sunday after Epiphany
Holy Communion

"Casting the Line"

"Fishing can be a tough profession, but Jesus shows us how to fish for people!"

- based on Luke 5:1-11

Sunday, February 13

The 6th Sunday after Epiphany

"Great Expectations"

"Everyone must deal with the inevitable: death, not with fear and uncertainty, but with great expectations!
The best is yet to come!"

- based on 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Sunday, February 20

The 7th Sunday after Epiphany

"Life Preserver"

"Joseph was used by God to preserve life not complicate it."

- based on Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Sunday, February 27

Transfiguration Sunday

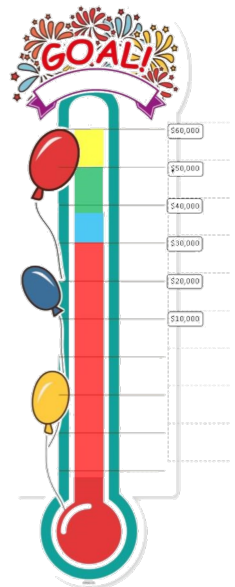
"The Tunnel at the End of the Light"

"We are called to be people who bring beacons of light into the tunnels of darkness."

- based on Luke 9:28-43a

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!



Education - Youth Group...

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	pagrimmus@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	amysbirb@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. See you Sunday!

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 or Diane Honermann.

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.

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.

Family Life Coordinator Position 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.

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!

First United Methodist Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck

Office Manager: Susan Noerenberg

Youth Leader: Lisa Gerdes

Choir Director: Jeanette Jenson

Bell Choir Director: Brenda DeSmith

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

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 Grimmus, pagrimmus@gmail.com; Pastor Jeanette, pastorjeanettemccormick@gmail.com; or Allan Bakke, allan@mnsbcc.org. **This program is a huge asset for us to empower youth through education!**

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.

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:

First UMC	Sound/Video	Media Shout
Sunday, Feb 6	Deb Steinle	John Steinle
Sunday, Feb 13	Kari Meyer	Claire Meyer
Sunday, Feb 20	Kari Meyer	Claire Meyer
Sunday, Feb 27	Not Yet Filled ----->	

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, 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.

(Continued from page 10)

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 Grimmus 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 and 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) More details in February.

(Continued from page 11)

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

Adrian Council Highlight Reel:

Celebrations:

Our worship numbers have been holding steady. Our fourth year in a row of paid apportionments is an awesome feeling! G1 has had about five youth attending. The Christmas Eve offering was given to the school to help students who are in need.

Challenges:

We still have not heard anything from the City regarding the public access channel. We will continue to upload the worship video to the YouTube channel (it is usually uploaded on Sunday night). We discussed the possibility for live streaming. Pastor Daren will bring possible cost options for live streaming to our next meeting - Terry will research the internet costs. Dave mentioned that some churches use an iPad as the primary camera system, which could be an option. This topic will be discussed at our next meeting as we gather more information.

Current Focus:

We are in good shape regarding the fuel oil levels - enough in the tank for this winter. Terry will monitor the levels going forward. Dave had the tank filled last Friday. He changed the gauge on the tank so that we will be able to read that gauge and have a more accurate reading. We discussed mission options for Adrian Church.

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 end of the year, the church operating budget ended up with a positive balance. We have paid ALL apportionments through December - yes, for the fourth year in a row! Praise God for your faithful giving! Ann reports that overall, the church is sitting in a strong position as we near the end of 2021.

The next council meeting is set for

Monday, February 21st at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck

Happy Birthday!

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Aryah Marsh | 11 Donald Dirks | 18 Keylee Steinle |
| Heidi Klingenberg | 12 Marlene Miller | Stacie Miller |
| 2 James Hibma | Trevor Nickel | Johnathon Heidebrink |
| 3 Allan Miller | Dorothy Sietsema | 19 Dave Bushard |
| 4 Ellen Darling | 13 Ivy Jenson | 20 Julie Shore |
| Curt Hendel | Ceta Zebe | 22 Braxton Vortherms |
| 5 Marlene Iblings | 14 Judy Schmidt | 23 Kylee Shirbroun |
| 6 Connor Tripp | Mary Van Horsen | 24 Dustin Oberloh |
| 8 Josh Taarud | 16 Autumn Grussing | 25 Bob Shore |
| Owen Heidebrink | 17 Jim Nickel | 26 Kyle Johnson |
| 10 Brady Palaschak-Smeins | | |

Happy Anniversary!

21 David & Elizabeth Bushard

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

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

Please pray for:



Prayers for:

Dianne Dalrymple
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:

Mary Rydeen	Irv Flinck	Elaine Mess
Nancy Hyink	Bob Shore	Claribel Grussing
Mary Prins	Diane Yanke	Marlene Wieneke
Tim Yager	Rick Dalrymple	

Prayers for those dealing with cancer:

Laurie Blume	Connie Bramer (Betty Taarud's daughter)
James Krosch	Anthony Tate (Corky & Ginny's grandson)
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	Gerald Fisher	Henry Mess
Brian Bretzman	Phil Glembin	Ariana Lopez
Casen Hotzler	Aiden Remme	Ajulo Ochala
Bill Carlberg	Mike Miller	Monica Veil
David Carstensen	Emma Schnyders	Shellie Williams
Albert Matthiesen	Steve Timmons	Bruce Lease
Ken Bipes	John Cleave	

For those dealing with grief and loss...

Giving thanks for:

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

507 Youth Rally:

The 507 Youth Rally is for all youth from 7th—12th grade which will take place on February 2, 2022 with pizza @ 6:30 p.m. and the rally starting from 7:00-8:00 Youth Rally @ St Matthew Lutheran Church, 1505 Dover St. Worthington, MN the speaker topic is Youth Mental Health and Suicide.



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

