



The Key Newsletter

May 2022

Volume 9 Issue 5



Peyton Nickel
Sadie Nickel
Spenser Nickel
Kylee Shirbroun



Congratulations!

Ky Ruppert
Abby Hibma
Elly Hibma
Kory Nickel
MaKenna Nickel

Sunday, May 15th - 9:15 a.m. - Sunday, May 22nd

(See details on page 5)

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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There is a song that has the phrase "*we'll remember always... graduation day*". As I age gracefully, I realize this: that line is getting harder and harder to keep true. I don't always remember graduation day. I have snapshots that I recall... the graduation cap and gown, "Pomp and Circumstance", and being on stage to help hand out diplomas because I was the class president (that's another story). Other than that, I don't remember that much.



That being said, I know graduation was one of the high moments of my young life. The completion of 13 years of education in one school district is a memory that I do hold precious in my mind. I have so many of those collective memories that warm my heart when I think of them. This year, I will return to the scene of those educational venues and celebrate with my classmates 50 years since we graduated. It seems like so long ago...

In our community, the graduation cycle continues. This year, we will celebrate five young people from our two churches who will be graduating: from Adrian, Ky Ruppert - from Worthington - Abby & Elly Hibma, Kory and MaKenna Nickel (the first two are twin sisters, the second two are cousins). I pray that these five (and the remainder of their classmates) would "*remember always... graduation day*".

Graduation does bring a newness of life. The old routines of school are replaced by the new schedules of college life. Soon, the reality of forging a career becomes the primary focal point. Then perhaps, beginning a family of one's own and the cycle of learning continues as children grow up and go to school.

A word that comes from the Bible about forging ahead... from Proverbs 16:3 - "**Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.**" Frankly, I would love to tell you that I did that when I started my life after graduation day, but I know that wouldn't be totally true. I took a while to connect to that verse and what it means. There are days when I still am working on connecting to it. It's a life long process that we all must endeavor to take.

The Four Freshmen (who recorded "Graduation Day") sang this song during a time in our history when it seemed easier to commit to the Lord everything you are doing. Perhaps. I might not remember all of graduation day, but I'm glad to remember the commitment to the Lord.

Blessings to you as you celebrate the newness of life...

Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck

May Worship: "Come and worship the Lord!"

Sunday, May 1 Sunday, May 22

The 3rd Sunday of Easter Holy Communion The 6th Sunday of Easter Graduation Sunday

“Straight Talk” *“Spirit Care”*

<p>“God sent Ananias on a mission. He went and talked straight to Saul,</p>	<p>“The Holy Spirit is ready for us to be placed in His care.”</p>
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changing his life and his mission."
- based on Acts 9:1-20

Sunday, May 8 Sunday, May 29
Ascension Sunday

The 4th Sunday of Easter
Mother's Day

"The Voice of the Still Waters"

"Sheep regularly hear from the Shepherd. They trust his voice

and they follow it to the still waters.”
- based on John 10:22-30 & Psalm 23

The mission of the church is to share
the good news that Jesus is alive and

Sunday, May 15 well and active in human life.
To that end we must be as committed "

The 5th Sunday of Easter
Confirmation Sunday

Terry Miller @ Adrian

"Search for tomorrow"

"We don't need to wait for tomorrow to

bring brighter days. We can get there by
living God's Way today!

- based on Revelation 21:1-6



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.

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:

We are encouraging all of our youth to join in the Vacation Bible School 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. 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, contact: Mark at 507-376-6148.

Encounter Youth News and Notes:

Encounter will continue through the end of the school year (last meeting on May 22nd). We will not meet on Mother's Day (May 8th). On Sunday, May 22nd, the Encounter Youth would like to play laser tag. Mark Richards will be checking on locations to determine the best one. The group would get dinner on their way home. More details on this event later. Encounter Youth will be looking at one or two big events for the summer: camping or other events. Encounter Calendar for the rest of the year:

- May 1 - Encounter 6:30-8 at Hy-Vee
- May 8 - No Meeting (Mother's Day)
- May 15 - Encounter 6:30-8 at Hy-Vee
- May 22 - Laser Tag Outing (place and time TBD)

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.

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 at 9:15 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 in 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.

First United Methodist Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck

Office Manager:

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

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.

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.

Easter Offering Thank You!

Thank you for the generous donations for our Easter offering. We received \$5,669.84. 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.

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
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

(Continued from page 8)

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

Adrian Council Highlight Reel:

Here are the highlights from the Adrian Council meeting, held on Zoom on Monday, April 25:

Celebrations:

We celebrate the Easter Sunday service. The music and participation was fabulous! We are grateful that our worship numbers have been larger on a few Sundays recently and hope that trend continues. Some of our G1 students invited a few friends to G1. They attended that night and were looking forward to the next time! The kids are enjoying the return of the children's message. We have received a letter from the District Superintendent and a certificate of full payment of last year's apportionment amount.

Challenges:

While we always have challenges in our lives, all obstacles and difficulties at the church have been addressed and have been resolved.

Current Focus:

Finishing off the school year with G1 - May 4th will be the final day. Everyone is invited to Ky Ruppert's graduation reception (sponsored by the church) on May 22nd right after worship. You may bring your cards for Ky to the reception. Dave is checking with Caleb to see if he is going to be doing that lawn mowing. The tree on the east side of the church might need to be removed. Dave will contact the tree company after inspecting the tree. Installation of a chain link fence at the parsonage is still undecided.

Cutting Edge Issues:

Item #1: 2021 Financial Update

Property insurance runs from July 1st to July 1st. The policy is renewable through the insurance company. It was reviewed within the last five years. Dave will contact the insurance company and review the policy.

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

Tuesday, May 17th at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck

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	May 1	Kari Meyer	Claire Meyer
Sunday	May 8	Kari Meyer	John Steinle
Sunday	May 15	Kari Meyer	Chris Dybeveck
Sunday	May 22	Chad, Kristen & Tyler Jaycox	
Sunday	May 29	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!

3	Susan Bents	11	Cameron Steinle	24	Robyn Silver
4	Chelsea Homan	13	Gerald Langendorfer		Ron Vogel
5	Matthew DeSmith		Lori Palaschak		Erin Nickel
6	Martha Lursen	14	Linda Reese	25	Cole Bonsma
	David Palmer	17	Nicolle Donovan		Emma Hietbrink
7	Kristine Tripp	19	Amy Shirbroun	26	Christopher Hill
8	Susanne Murphy	20	Miranda Tripp		Clara Hietbrink
	Craig Soderholm	21	Cheryl Homan	28	Cheryl Matthies
9	Hannah Barrie	22	Savannah Homan		Rick Honermann
	Naomi Hill	23	Mike Johnson	30	Ben Lopez
	Madonna Carlson		Nicole Bonsma		Colby Nickel
10	Violet Erlandson		Kelly Kluever	31	Dorothy Hector



Happy Anniversary!

1	Wayne & Sharon Jones	20	Kurt and Melissa Geertsema
3	Tim & Thelma Yager	25	Chris & Diane Dybevic
14	Dave & Lorraine Carstenson	28	Roger and Patricia Grimmus
18	Chad & Sarah Nickel	28	David and Myra Palmer
		30	Kyle and Andrea Johnson



Celebrations

Please pray for:



Those with health concerns:

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

Those impacted by COVID 19:

Mary Prins Persons who are long haulers

Those those dealing with cancer:

Laurie Blume Connie Bramer (Betty Taarud's daughter)
Glen Crowley 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)...

Those recovering/dealing with health issues:

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

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...

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.

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

