

# Happy Birthday!

- |                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 12 Marlene Miller | 14 Mary Van Horsen   |
| Trevor Nickel     | 16 Autumn Grussing   |
| Dorothy Sietsema  | 17 Jim Nickel        |
| 13 Ivy Jenson     | 18 Kaylee Steinle    |
| Ceta Zebe         | Stacie Miller        |
| 14 Judy Schmidt   | Johnathon Heidebrink |

# Happy Anniversary!

February 14 Angel & Lourdes Franco

# 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.

Christopher & Charisse Hill & Family  
 Ryan & Naomi Hill  
 Kenny & Ellen Hoefker & Family  
 Scott Hoffman  
 Julie Hohensee  
 David & Cindy Hokeness & Family  
 Ray Jr. & Bonnie Hokeness  
 Willis & Rose Homan  
 Jeffrey & Cheryl Homan & Family  
 Richard & Diane Honermann  
 Robert & Debra Horne & Family  
 Larry & Nancy Hyink

Let's remember to visit those who are in Care Centers or are homebound: especially reach out to Genola Uden, Bruce Lease, Betty Taarud, Katherine Willey, Lois Carlberg, Margaret Loger, Mary Prins, Claribel Grussing, and LaDee Grant.

One visit goes a long way!

# PRAYER CORNER

Prayers for immediate health concerns:  
 Sharlene Hohensee (Paula Behren's mother)  
 Marlene Wieneke                      Corky Tate  
 LaDee Grant                              Tom Vagt  
 Steve Potts                                Tim Yager  
 Alyssa Hietbrink                        Rhett Scheevel

Persons impacted by COVID 19:  
 Mary Prins                                Covid long-haulers

Prayers for those dealing with cancer:  
 Connie Bremer                            (Betty Taarud's daughter)  
 Laurie Blume  
 Christopher Allen Brown  
 Scott Klooster  
 Makenzie Gist                            (Nancy Galland's niece)

Persons recovering/dealing with health issues:  
 Emma Schnyders                        Randy Taarud  
 Nancy Hyink                                Gerald Fisher  
 Claribel Grussing                        Kristi Johnson  
 John Clease                                Bruce Lease  
 Weston Erlandson                        Steve Timmons  
 Monica Veil                                Ken Bipes  
 Phil Glembin                                Karen Schulz  
 Ariana Lopez                               Casen Hotzler  
 Aiden Remme                               Bill Carlberg  
 Mike Miller                                Gary Hibma  
 Pat Huisenga

For those dealing with grief and loss...

Giving thanks & praying for:  
 Our new Bishop and District Superintendent...  
 Our teachers, administrators, students...  
 Front line health care workers...  
 Law enforcement & emergency workers...  
 Service women & men and their families...

If you have a loved one you would like to have added to the Prayer Corner list, or if any name needs to be removed from this list, please contact the church office:

507.372.2939 methodistoffice@gmail.com



Sunday, February 12, 2023  
Worship - 10:30 a.m.



The Boxcast TV Channel  
 First UMC YouTube Channel  
 First UMC FaceBook Channel  
 First UMC Website  
 (<http://firstumcworthington.com/>)

<b>PASTOR:</b>	Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck	<b>ORGANIST/ACCOMPANIST:</b>	Jolene Kuhl
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:</b>	Lori Nienkerk	<b>CHOIR DIRECTOR:</b>	Jeanette Jenson
<b>FAMILY LIFE:</b>	Gretchen O'Donnell	<b>CHOIR ACCOMPANIST:</b>	Brenda DeSmith
<b>CUSTODIANS:</b>	Sarah & Chad Nickel	<b>BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR:</b>	Brenda DeSmith
<b>GREETERS:</b>	Doris Palmer	<b>TECH TEAM:</b>	Deb & John Steinle

408 11th Street - Worthington, MN 56187 - 507.372.2939

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

♦ Office Phone >> 507.372.2939

- ♦ Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck >> [dflinck@gmail.com](mailto:dflinck@gmail.com)
- ♦ Office email >> [methodistoffice@gmail.com](mailto:methodistoffice@gmail.com)

The 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
after the  
**EPIPHANY**

Sunday, February 12, 2023  
10:30 a.m.

Worship Leader: Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck  
Accompanist: Jolene Kuhl  
\* Please stand as you are able

**CENTERING WORDS** <sup>1</sup>

Surely God yearns, as any loving parent would, that we choose wisely.  
In this and in every moment, let us bring joy to God's heart  
by choosing compassion for ourselves, our neighbors, and all of God's creation.

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME - ANNOUNCEMENTS**

We Come to Worship God

**PRAISE**

Insert - "Jesus Stand Among Us"



1 Song #2648383 || By William Pennefather and Frederick Mann  
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**CALL TO WORSHIP** <sup>2</sup>

Come, walk in the way that leads to life.

**It is better to be reconciled with another than to be proven right.**

Come, choose to live a genuine life.

**Life is too short for petty resentments.**

Come, walk in the way Christ invites us to travel.

**We give thanks for Christ's way, and for the freedom to follow!**

✠ **PRAISE**

UMH #555 - "Forward Through the Ages"

✠ **UNISON PRAYER of CONFESSION** <sup>3</sup>

God of grace and glory, you are ever ready to forgive and free us from our

*New Book Club Starting!*

Get your book now and join us in our first ever Fireside Book Club! Anyone is invited to join us to discuss the book Ordinary Grace, by William Kent Krueger. We'll meet on Thursday, March 30th, at 7p.m. This novel is not overtly "Christian" but has themes of forgiveness, honesty and grace, which will make for good discussion at this, our first book club meeting.

*Coat Closet - Warm Winter Clothing Needed*

First Lutheran Church works through Love INC to help provide for those who need warm clothing for the winter months. We are taking donations of new or clean, gently used coats and snow pants for all ages. We are also taking donations of new hats, scarves, mittens and boots for all ages. If you would like to donate any of these items, please bring them to the church and place them in the collection spot in the church hallway. These items will be taken to First Lutheran Church Coat Closet for them to distribute to those in need. Thank you for your consideration to this mission which is being coordinated by the members of our church's mission team.

*Pop Up Food Pantry*

Minnesota West has a "Pop-up Food Pantry" for their students who are on campus or off campus. It is a program designed to help the students attending Minnesota West. If you would like to help with this ministry, simply make out your gift to "First UMC" with "Pop Up Food Pantry" in the tag line. Thank you for your consideration to help this local mission.

*Grief Recovery*

GriefShare is a special weekly seminar and support group for people who are grieving the death of someone close to them. This group is led by caring people who have experienced grief and want to help others through the difficult days ahead. The group meets on Tuesdays from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. at First Lutheran Church beginning April 4th until June 27th. Contact First Lutheran Church to register (you may join at any time) at 507.376.6148. We know it hurts - we want to help. Call us today.



Last Week's Offering	\$ 3,970.00
Carry Over Revenue (2022):	\$ 31,543.00
Revenue Year to Date:	\$ 30,114.06
Expenses Year to Date:	\$ 23,022.80

*Thank you for your faithful giving!*

# GOD'S DIRECTION IS ALWAYS BEST!

## Following the Law of the Lord

**Psalm 119:1-8**

*New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>1</sup> Blessed are those whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the Lord. <sup>2</sup> Blessed are those who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart <sup>3</sup> they do no wrong but follow his ways. <sup>4</sup> You have laid down precepts that are to be fully obeyed. <sup>5</sup> Oh, that my ways were steadfast in obeying your decrees! <sup>6</sup> Then I would not be put to shame when I consider all your commands. <sup>7</sup> I will praise you with an upright heart as I learn your righteous laws. <sup>8</sup> I will obey your decrees; do not utterly forsake me.

## Choose Life

**Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

*New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>15</sup> See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction.

<sup>16</sup> For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.

<sup>17</sup> But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, <sup>18</sup> I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

<sup>19</sup> This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live <sup>20</sup> and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

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

PROVERBS 3:5

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burdens. Forgive us for judging ourselves and others harshly. Free us from the times we have made others stumble. Forgive us for lifting ourselves up by putting others down. Free us from self-condemnation and regret. With every breath we take, help us choose to live in Christ's ways. This we pray in your holy name. Amen.

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PARDON <sup>4</sup>

*God delights when we choose to leave self-destructive ways behind.*

**In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

### MOMENTS WITH THE YOUNG CHRISTIANS

#### PRAISE

*"What Does the Lord Require of You?"*

*First UMC Chancel Choir*

*Directed by Jeanette Jenson - Accompanied by Brenda DeSmith*

### PRAYERS of the PEOPLE - THE LORD'S PRAYER

We Hear God's Word

### THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Psalm 119:1-8 & Deuteronomy 30:15-20

### MESSAGE

*"The Wild Wild Test: Taming the Human Spirit"*

We Respond to God's Word

### RECOGNITION OF OFFERING

*(please place your offering in the plates as you depart worship)*

#### ✠ DOXOLOGY

UMH #95 - *"Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"*

#### ✠ PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We Go Forth to Serve God

#### ✠ PRAISE

UMH #575 - *"Onward Christian Soldiers"*

#### ✠ THE BENEDICTION - ✠ POSTLUDE

<sup>1</sup> The Centering Words are based on or inspired by Deuteronomy 30 and Matthew 5.

<sup>2</sup> The Call to Worship is based on or inspired by Deuteronomy 30, Psalm 119, and Matthew 5.

<sup>3</sup> The Prayer of Confession is based on or inspired by Deuteronomy 30, Psalm 119, and Matthew 5.

<sup>4</sup> The Words of Assurance are based on or inspired by Deuteronomy 30, Psalm 119, and Matthew 5.

All are based on [or taken from] "The Abingdon Worship Annual 2023",  
edited by Mary J. Scifres and B.J. Beu

## Souper Bowl Cookoff Thank You!

The Mission Committee would like to thank all those who helped to make our Souper Bowl Soup Cook-off a success. To sum it all up: we had 11 participants that shared their time, talent & soup; 11 soups that all tasted great; 60 tasters; great workers that helped with preparation, serving and clean up; great music by Galen Benton on the accordion; the weather was great; a great committee that helped get everything prepared and ready; and great fellowship! Plus, we took in over \$600 from our great supporters of our mission projects to be used in 2023! Thank you for your fabulous support! This all equals a successful event!!

## All Church Craft Night!

An All Church Craft Night is planned for February 15 from 4:30-7p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will be doing Acrylic Paint Pouring - so don't wear your best clothes, just in case! The cost will be \$5, to be paid that night. We'd like to have people sign up ahead, however, so we know how many to prepare for.

## All Church Archery Day!

Save the date for an all-church Archery event! February 26 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Southwest Bowbenders Archery Club! Anyone ages 6 and up is invited to this fun event. Watch for details to follow!

## Women's Lent Bible Study: 40 Days with Jesus

Women's Lent Bible study books are in! Please see Pat Grimmus after church today to pick yours up. If you haven't signed up, there is still plenty of time. We will meet as a group once a week during Lent to discuss the daily readings. Two meeting times are available: Monday mornings at 9:00 and Monday evenings at 5:15. This study can also be done on your own without meeting as a group but the meetings will be a time of encouraging fellowship, so we'd love to have you join us! This study will take about 10-15 minutes a day on our own for each day of Lent, February 22 - April 9. Cost of the book will be \$10. Feel free to invite a friend! Sign up in the Narthex today or contact Gretchen O'Donnell.

## Care Center Residents:

### South Shore Care Center

#### First UMC:

Lois Carlberg LaDee Grant

### Mary Jane Brown Center

#### Adrian UMC:

Mary Prins

### Adrian Country Living Cottage

#### Adrian UMC:

Margaret Loger

### Sunrise View Assisted Living

#### First UMC:

Claribel Grussing

## 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.

## New Church Drop Box

There is a new drop box installed in the office door of the church. It can be used to safely drop off your offerings, letters, communications, etc to the church. The box is locked and secure, with the only access inside and the code given to the money counters.

# This Week

<b>SUN</b>	<b>February 12</b>
9:00 am	Worship @ Adrian
9:15 am	Sunday School @ First
10:00 am	Coffee Fellowship @ First
10:30 am	Worship @ First
1:00 pm	Cristo En Tu Ayuda @ First
2:00 pm	Meet The Bishop in Mankato
6:30 pm	Encounter @ HyVee
<b>MON</b>	<b>February 13</b>
3:00 pm	Worship Re-Broadcast on TV3
<b>TUES</b>	<b>February 14</b>
9:30 am	Ladies Coffee Hour @ Hy-Vee
3:00 pm	Worship Re-Broadcast on TV3
5:00 pm	PSPRC (HR)
<b>WED</b>	<b>February 15</b>
7:00 am	Men's Breakfast @ Blue Line
12:00 pm	Finance (HR)
4:30 pm	All Church Craft Night (FH)
5:15 pm	Fellowship Meal
5:45 pm	Bell Choir Practice
6:15 pm	G1 in Adrian
6:30 pm	Confirmation
7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Practice
<b>THUR</b>	<b>February 16</b>
5:30 pm	First Council (HR)
<b>SUN</b>	<b>February 19</b>
9:00 am	Worship @ Adrian
9:15 am	Sunday School @ First
10:00 am	Coffee Fellowship @ First
10:30 am	Worship @ First
1:00 pm	Cristo En Tu Ayuda @ First
2:00 pm	Meet The Bishop in Mankato
6:30 pm	Encounter @ HyVee

Worship Attendance	Last Sunday	LIVE STREAM VIEWS	148
ADRIAN UMC	18	CRISTO EN TU AYUDA	20
FIRST UMC	75	TOTAL	261