

The Key Newsletter

June 2026

Volume 14 - Issue 05

COMMUNITY KIDS' CAMP

CREATE!

June 8-11

(Location: American Lutheran Church)

5-5:45pm Meal ✦ 5:45-8pm Activities

NEW!

Adult Engagement
(6:15pm-7:45pm)

REGISTER USING THE QR CODE.



Community Kids Camp



TO REGISTER:
SCAN THE QR CODE (BY MAY 26)
OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE.



For children age 3 (& potty trained) through completed grade 5.
Suggested donation: \$5/child

Sunday Worship

Adrian UMC
9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship

First UMC
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

408 11th Street, Worthington,
Minnesota 56187
Phone: (507) 372-2939
methodistoffice@gmail.com

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



I could start this off the same way I started off last month: it's pouring rain outside right now! Funny because we haven't gotten all that much, really, just I guess rainy days make me feel like writing.

I want to say a huge THANK YOU to all who helped out with **Connect** this past year! The food and meal donations, the discussion leading, the nursery, leading the children...all of it was vital and though it's cliché to say, we couldn't have done it without you. THANK YOU so much.

Our **ladies' summer Bible study** is titled "Amen: the story of Scripture from Eden to Eternity." We will meet on each Monday in June at 9:00a.m. in the Fireside Room. You are welcome to join us! Cost of the book is \$10.

Community Kids' Camp will be June 8-11! Sign up your kids or grandkids now! This will be a terrific four days of fun, learning, playing and growing together!

Ladies by the Lake on June 23rd at 7:00 pm. Find us at a picnic table at Centennial Park near the Beach Nook—grab yourself some ice cream or bring your own snack and drink.

The **Fireside Book Club** meets on Tuesday, July 28th at 7:00p.m. in the Fireside Room. We are reading ***A Man Called Ove*** by Fredrik Backman. Please come with the book read and be ready to discuss this heartwarming story of a neighborhood shaken up by love. This is a great summer read!

One more event for the women of our church to add to their calendars is **RESURFACE**, coming on Saturday, October 24th. We are praying that this day-long conference will renew your mind, body and soul. **Please watch for more information and for ways that you can help make this event happen.** Tell your friends and plan on attending this meaningful day.

Serving Him Together,
Gretchen

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

Mission Haiti Trip

Our 2025 Christmas offering raised over \$11,000 to support Elder Care within the Mission Haiti project. As part of this giving, we wanted to build stronger relationships. This includes our kids making shirts for them, some members sending notes, and opportunities for us to visit the projects in Mission Haiti

We have an opportunity to take several adults to Mission Haiti with Pastor John during the second week of November for about four days. The trip cost is \$2,500, which includes round-trip airfare from Sioux Falls, an overnight hotel stay in Miami, and transportation in Haiti and all meals in Haiti. This is a golden opportunity for us to love our neighbors.

If you would like to go, please contact Pastor John. This trip will focus more on building relationships than on construction. We will visit all the Mission Haiti sites and spend significant time at the house where the elders we support are staying.



MISSION-HAITI

LOVE JESUS. LOVE OTHERS. MAKE DISCIPLES.

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Come to the Fellowship Hall on Sunday morning before church to enjoy a cup of coffee or juice and a roll, and visiting with other members and friends of the church. It all begins at 9:45 a.m.!

Women's Coffee

The women's weekly coffee group meets every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. at HyVee in the Starbucks serving area. All women are invited to come and join this fabulous group!

Men's Breakfast Group

The Men's Breakfast group meets every Wednesday at 8:00 a.m. at the Blue Line Cafe. The men discuss shared concerns, solve the problems of the world, and make sure the rain gauges are up to speed. All guys are welcome to join us each week!

Thank you

We want to say a huge THANK YOU to Mary Monthei for making the beautiful and yummy cupcakes for Confirmation Sunday. They made the table look so special. Many people were asking who made them, and we were glad to give Mary full credit. Everyone was very impressed. THANK YOU MARY!!

Thank you

Thank you to the Night Light Circle for the prayer pocket quilt. A lot of work was put into them. I so much appreciated it.

Ladee Grant

Food Shelf Donations

Your donations for the local food shelves of non-perishable food items are accepted throughout the year, please place your items in the wagon located in the narthex. Please be aware of the "best by" or "use by" dates on the items that you are donating. Items are taken alternately to the two food shelves.

Blankets Needed

During the long cold snap in January, we discovered students who struggled with warmth. In our community, there are homes with multiple families living in them. The kids often share a bed and blankets. When one person turns, someone is without a blanket. To save expenses, many of these homes have the heat set relatively low and the house is drafty. Older kids often prioritize the health of their younger siblings and will give them the blankets. The blanket supply at the Middle School has dwindled down to nothing. If you would like to donate warm, used blankets of any size, please put them in the box in the hallway by the kitchen.

Thank you!
Missions Committee

Operation Christmas Child-2026

In 2026, we will once again be participating in Operation Christmas Child.

Please note that we will begin collecting donated items in

August, continuing through October. The shoeboxes will then be packed in November.

If you would like a list of the items needed for the shoeboxes, copies are available in the Narthex.

If you have any questions, please contact Pam Soderholm.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued support of this meaningful project.

FUMC Foundation College Scholarships

The FUMC Foundation is again awarding college scholarships to qualified candidates planning to pursue post-secondary education in the upcoming academic year, 2026-2027. Members of Adrian United Methodist Church and First United Methodist Church of Worthington are eligible to apply.

The scholarship program has now been expanded to provide up to four years of financial support. Candidates must re-apply each year to qualify for the annual scholarship of \$1,000.

Past scholarship winners that have completed their three years of \$1,200 annual scholarships prior to the 2024-2025 academic year are no longer eligible for this scholarship.

Applications are available in the FUMC office and must be submitted no later than June 30, 2026.

Help needed for meal for Kids' Camp

We are getting excited for our fourth annual Community Kids' Camp coming up June 8-11! Our church is responsible for the meal on Wednesday, June 10th. We will be serving BBQ sandwiches, chips, fruit, a bar for dessert and drink. We are in need of people to provide bars! (No Peanuts, please.) Bars need to be delivered to AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH by 4:00p.m. on that day. We are also in need of workers for the meal - to prepare and serve. Workers need to show up at 4:00p.m. and will stay through approximately 6:00.

Please let me know if you can help with either of these important parts of our meal!

Thank you!

Sincerely ,Gretchen O'Donnell

Did you know that Community Kids' Camp isn't just for kids this year?!

- Join us for **adult engagement during Kids' Camp** (June 8-11, 6:15-7:45pm).

Adult engagement is separate from the kid's activities (**Adults meet in the Gathering Room at American Lutheran Church. Kids will be in the lower level**) but both are based on the same theme (CREATE!) and theme verse (Matthew 5:16). Each day focuses on a new Bible Point: Created BY GOD, Created FOR GOD, Created FOR OTHERS, and Created FOR THE WORLD. It's going to be a fun week of digging into our theme.

Here are the details:

Adult Engagement (led by me! Gretchen O'Donnell)
devotion, refreshments, variety of activities
(6:15pm-7:45pm)

Schedule (June 8-11):

5-5:45pm Meal (You're invited, Fellowship Hall)

5:45-6:05 Worship (Join us, in the sanctuary, if you'd like.)

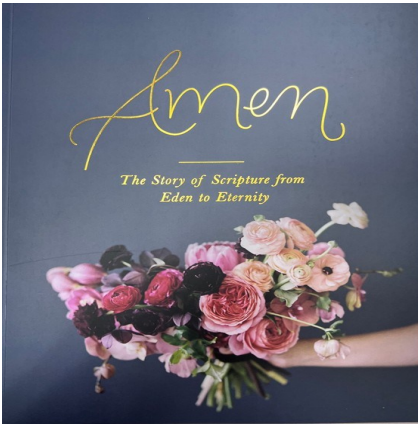
6:05pm Kids' Activities begin (lower-level)

6:15 Adult Engagement begins in the Gathering Room (It's staggered from the Kids' Activity Time, to allow time to use the restroom, chat, get settled, etc.)

7:45pm Worship (Join us, in the sanctuary, if you'd like.)

We'd love for you to join us each night, but we also know how busy life is, **so just let us know** which nights you can attend and we'll make note of it (It helps for prepping supplies). You don't have to register online if you don't want to, just reply to this email and I'll sign you up! Let me know if you plan to eat there as well, please.

It's going to be a fun week and I'm super excited! Let me know if you can attend! Sincerely, Gretchen O'Donnell



Ladies' Summer Bible Study

Join us each Monday in June at 9:00a.m. in the Fireside Room!

Pick up your book ahead as we will discuss the first week at our first meeting. Cost of books is \$10.00.

Ladies by the Lake!

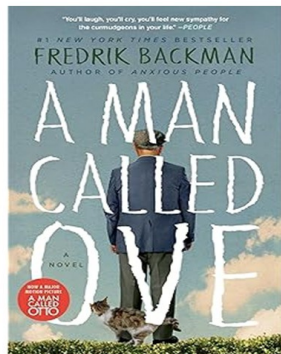
Join us at the Lake on June 23rd at 7:00p.m.! Find us at a picnic table at Centennial Park near the Beach Nook - grab yourself some ice cream or bring your own snack and drink and we'll hang out like the cool kids!

(Watch for a church email if the weather doesn't cooperate.)

Fireside Book Club!

July 28 / 7:00p.m.
Fireside Room

Please come with the book read and be ready to discuss this heartwarming book of a neighborhood shaken up by love.



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RENEWING YOUR MIND, BODY & SOUL

Resurface

A Women's Conference

Saturday, October 24, 2026

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

First Methodist Church, Worthington



2026 Graduates

Hannah Hill, Dylan Schuett, Alex Romero, Jayse Geertsema, James Spartz—missing from the photo is Judah Luevanos



2026 Confirmands

Kenli Geertsema, Leah Schuett, Emma Hill, Owen Heidebrink
(Adrian)
Teachers/Mentors—Sherry Benton, Mike Brignac, Pastor John



Finance update for April

- 1) Income \$17000.00 was very nice. We are hoping that, with Confirmation, Grad Sunday, and a fifth Sunday, income will be good in May. That said, we know we will have low attendance on Memorial Day.
- 2) We are still working hard to control our costs.
- 3) The overall income is off by \$18,000 from earlier this year.

A complete printout of expenses and income is in a folder outside the main office. As you travel this summer, please strongly consider using our online giving via our website.



First United Methodist Church - Minnesota

Available in App Stores



SUBSPASH®

Remember to update our mobile app from Apple Store or Google play store. Any difficulties, lease see Pastor John

Happy Birthday!

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Stacy Lee | 12 Ryan Hill | 23 Rod Behrends |
| Chris Reisdorfer | 13 Christine Nelson | Hannah Hill |
| 2 Eagan Hietbrink | Preston Vortherms | Tucker Klinkenberg |
| John Soderholm | 14 Larry Heidebrink | 26 Pam Soderholm |
| 3 Lorraine Carstensen | Amy Oberloh | Tim Tripp |
| 5 Beth Habicht | 16 Ellie Nielsen | 27 Rilee Heidebrink |
| Jeremy Roelfs | 17 Shelby Rivera | Kristin Jaycox |
| 6 Ken Elsing | 21 Justin Steinle | 28 Eunice Behrends |
| 7 Mary Prins | 22 Wren Bui | Ben Spiegelhoff |
| 8 Zachary Hendel | Jeremy Steinle | |
| 11 Austin Steinle | | |

Happy Anniversary!

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Ken & Kathy Elsing | 22 Khanh & Colleen Bui |
| 10 Larry & Nancy Hyink | David & Linda Reese |
| 12 Nathan & Abby Erlandson | 23 Willie & Rose Homan |
| 15 Andy & Cindy Ekedahl | Marcus & Kelly Maras |
| Kenny & Ellen Hoefker | 25 James & Kim Ruppert |
| 16 Rick & Dianne Dalrymple | 28 Micah & Alyssah Hietbrink |
| Cory & Heidi Klingenberg | 30 Walter & Alice Kellen |
| 18 Gary Boltjes & Cheryl Dinsmore | |
| John & Deb Steinle | |

First United Methodist Church Staff

Pastor:	Rev. John Mitchem
Administrative Assistant:	Lori Nienkerk
Family Life:	Gretchen O'Donnell
Youth Leader:	Lisa Gerdes
Bell Choir Director:	Brenda DeSmith
Finance Manager:	Marie Lonneman
Custodians:	Sarah & Chad Nickel

Office: (507) 372-2939 Fax: (507) 372-2404
408 11th Street P.O. Box 668
Worthington, MN 56187

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/>

Worship services for First UMC are scheduled to be broadcast on the public access Channel 3 in Worthington. The broadcast times are Sunday at 6:30 am, Monday at 3:00 p.m. and Tuesday at 3:00 p.m. for the current week. Worship services for Adrian UMC can be found on the church's YouTube Channel.

Greeters, Live Stream and Media Tech

We can use one or two more pairs of persons to help with our live stream media on Sundays. Please contact Pastor John if you are interested. Here are the persons who are scheduled to help with the greeting, sound, media, and live stream services:

First UMC		Sound/Video	Media Shout
Sunday	June 7	Kari Meyer	Claire Meyer
Sunday	June 14	Kari Meyer	Claire Meyer
Sunday	June 21	Deb Steinle	John Steinle
Sunday	June 28	Deb Steinle	John Steinle

First UMC		Greeting Team
Sunday	June 7	Dick & Denise Schlichte
Sunday	June 14	Conrad & Judy Schmidt
Sunday	June 21	Robert & Deb Horme
Sunday	June 28	Randy, Amy & Kylee Shirbroun

Prayers for health concerns:

Rod Behrends Ron Husenga
Chris Nelson Lourdes Franco
Logan Waldner Virgle Buck
Kristin (Dalrymple) Amundson
Julie (Ginny Tate's sister) Sally Hibma Gary Hibma
Margaret Loger Steve Johnson Carol Oberloh Dorothy Sietsema
Rylie Olson's grandpa



Those dealing with cancer:

Christopher Brown Shellie Williams Mike Miller
Marion Reitsma (friend of Jolene Kuhl) Stacey White
Jeff Wachell (friend of Deb Steinle) Nicole Bonsma

Those recovering/dealing with health issues:

Nancy Hyink Bill Carlberg Larry Doeden
Emma Schnyders Pat Huisenga Corky Tate
Ariana Lopez Aiden Remme Dianne Dalrymple
Steve Johnson Pam Soderholm

For those dealing with grief and loss...

Giving thanks & praying for:

Our farmers during this planting season
Our Bishop and District Superintendent...
Our teachers, administrators, students...
Front line health care workers...
Law enforcement & emergency workers...
Service women & men and their families...Galen & Sherry Benton's granddaughter

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

Prayer Chain

Please send requests to our email Church Office methodistoffice@gmail.com or (507) 372-2939

Care Centers

First UMC:

The Shores

Larry Doeden

LaDee Grant

Sibley Specialty Care Center

Norma Swenson

Adrian UMC:

Mary Jane Brown Ctr (Luverne)

Mary Prins

Adrian Country Living Cottage

Margaret Loger