The Key Newsletter

November 2026 Volume 13 - Issue 11



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

Inside this issue

Family Light	2	November Calendar	10-11
Worship	3	Conference Pictures	12-13
Coffee Fellowship, Caleb Tiede	4	Haiti Trip	14
Missions WASO/ Thanksgiving	5	FUMC Highlight Reel	15-17
Upcoming Events	6-7	Novenber Birthdays/ Anniversaries/Staff	18
Conference Pictures	8-9	Live Streaming Broadcast Schedule Sound/Media List Greeter List	19
		Prayer Corner Care Center Residents	20

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

Uff da! I am both thrilled and worn out from our women's **Resurface** conference! What a joy to have seen over 100 women come together to be encouraged in their faith and walk with Jesus. Thank you for the support that you gave us and thank you especially to the **Foundation** for their support and to our **planning team** for the amazing work that they put into making this event be a beautiful and special day.

Join us on Sunday mornings for our **Adult Sunday School class!** We are so appreciative of Rick's teaching our class this fall! Beginning on November 1st at 9:00a.m. in the Fireside Room, Randy will be teaching an Advent-themed class titled, *Eyewitness Bible Series: Christmas*. This class will have videos and discussion of various Bible personalities surrounding the Christmas story.

Please join us for a meal, worship, fellowship and Bible study on Wednesday evenings at **Connect**. Pastor John is leading a discussion of The Andy Griffith Show episodes, seeing how the gospel fits into this classic television series.

Join us for **Family Bingo** on Saturday, November 21st at 4:00-5:00p.m.! It's always a lot of fun!

Ladies, put Friday, December 4th into your calendar for our annual **Ladies' Christmas Party!** 6:00-7:30p.m. Details to follow!

Please help us after church on Sunday, November 22 when we **decorate** the church building for Christmas! It's always a fun time to work together and accomplish this task. Details to follow!

Put Sunday, December 13th on your calendars for our annual **Children's Sunday School Christmas Program!** This event is always a joy and we love to have our church packed to encourage the kids as they present the Christmas Story.

The **Fireside Book Club** meets next on Tuesday, November 3rd at 7:00p.m. in the Fireside Room. We are reading ***Theo of Golden*** by Allen Levi.

Our **Ladies' Advent Bible Study** will meet on Mondays at 9:00, November 30th – December 21st in the Fireside Room. Cost of books is $24. Sign up ahead with Gretchen or Lori in the office. Books are going fast!

Serving Him Together,
Gretchen

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

November Worship: "Come worship the Lord!"

Sunday, November 1 - All Saints Sunday
We remember those in the last year that have passed

First: Kevin Donovan, Myron Grussing, Ray Hinz, Janelle Johnson, Sheila Kluever, Scott Lee

Adrian: Ken Elsing, Scott Homan, Lorraine Klooster, Scott Klooster, Patrick Lange, Margaret Loger, Merlin Winselman

Sunday, November 8 - Packing Operation Christmas Boxes

Sunday, November 15 - Mission Haiti Sunday

Tuesday, November 24 - Adrian Pre-Thanksgiving Eve Service @Adrian Catholic Church - 7:00 pm

Wednesday, November 25 - Community Worship at Westminster Presbyterian Church - 7:00 pm

Sunday, November 29 - First Sunday in Advent

New Adult Sunday School coming on November 1
9:00 am in Fireside Room
Randy Shirbroun will teach an Advent theme class titled, *Eyewitness Bible Series:Christmas.*

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!

Caleb Tiede

We wanted to share contact information for Caleb Tiede. You can go to our website www.firstumcworthington.com and on the left side you will see a page for Caleb and that will take you to his website. You will be able to make a one time or ongoing financial gifts at the bottom of page on the left-hand side. On the right-hand side is the chance to sign up for his newsletter. We would encourage all of us to sign for his newsletter. It is always inspiring.

If you like to mail check instead of giving online. Please mail to:

Time to Revive
PO Box 835943
Richardson, TX 75083

Write it out to Time to Revive with #244 in the memo

Operation Christmas Child Boxes Packing Party

We will be packing the Operation Christmas Child boxes on Sunday, November 8th at 9:00 A.M. Please plan to join us. Everyone is welcome.Items for the boxes will be collected through Friday, November 6th. Monetary donations can be given through Sunday, November 15th.

Boxes are available in the narthex if you would like to pack on your own. Please have them returned to the church by Sunday, November 8th so they can be blessed and taken to the collection site.

Thank you for your generosity with this project. If you have any questions, please contact Pam Soderholm.

Coat Closet

Love INC provides for those who need warm clothing during the winter months, taking donations of new or clean, gently used coats and snow pants for all ages. They also accept 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 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 as we reach out to help others.

Worthington Area Symphony Orchestra Concert

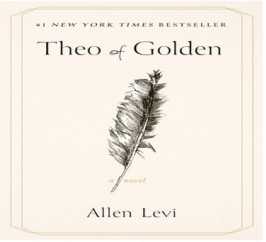
Saturday, November 14 - 7:00 pm at Memorial Auditorium
"Roll Over Beethoven! A Steinway Anniversary"



FIRESIDE BOOK CLUB

THEO OF GOLDEN

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5
7:00P.M. FIRESIDE ROOM.





FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Tuesday, November 10th

Please sign up to help and bring prizes!

Family Bingo Night



Church Decorating

Please join us after church on Sunday, November 22 when we decorate the church building for Christmas! It's always a fun time to work together and accomplish this task! Details to follow.

There is a sign up sheet in the narthex for the Bible Study



Ladies' Advent Bible Study!

Mondays at 9:00
November 30th - December 21st.
Fireside Room
Cost of books is $24
Sign up ahead with Gretchen or Lori in the office



Sunday School Christmas Program

Put Sunday, December 13th on your calendars for our annual Children's Sunday School Christmas Program! This event is always a joy and we love to have our church packed to encourage the kids as the present the Christmas Story.

Resurface Conference












FIRST
CHURCH






EVERLASTING GOD
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord

Resurface Conference








Resurface
Welcome!




Resurface
Jesus

Mission Haiti Trip

The trip is planned from Feb 2nd to the 9th.
- We would leave from Sioux Falls and get to Miami or Fort Lauderdale.
- Stay overnight in a hotel, and the next day take a 7:30 am or noon flight to Les Cayes on a 30-seater plane with IBC Airways that will last about 1 hour and 45 minutes.
- From Les Cayes, we would take the hour-long drive to our compound, where we would stay in the gated yard with night security.
- All rooms that we're staying in have indoor plumbing, fans, solar power, and almost 24/7 electricity.
- Internet is available through Starlink, but we ask to limit usage
- We will spend the time visiting, serving, building relationships through the different arms of ministries (Elderly Home, Orphanage, Schools, Medical Clinic, community events).

- All of your meals and transportation are taken care of while you are in Haiti.
- The cost of the trip is $2,500 due to the high cost of about $1,350 for the Miami/Fort Lauderdale to Les Cayes Flight, the $600 to $800 Sioux Falls, Hotel stay, and meals and lodging expenses.
Mission Haiti staff that will be traveling with us
- The trip will last about 6 to 7 days as we spend 5 nights in Haiti.
- Mission Haiti has made multiple trips to Haiti in the past couple of years with no safety concerns, and this direct route from Miami to Les Cayes has been a game changer. Les Cayes has never faced the kind of gang control Port-Au-Prince has.

Contact Pastor John for more information.



Here are the highlights from the First UMC Council meeting October 20, 2026

CELEBRATIONS:

- There are 108 registrants for the Resurface Conference, which slightly exceeds our goal.

- Missions would like to say thank you to Myra & Diane for another jump rope-making work event. 90+jump ropes have been made for Operation Christmas Child (OCC) boxes!

- Galen Benton continues to enjoy playing his accordion throughout his treatments.

- Per Rick, the Bob Goff book has created some good discussions.

- Two confirmands have started independent work, including watching The Chosen, leading up to meeting in-person in January. They are utilizing the Common English Study Bible to read the book of John as Pastor John feels it is theologically accurate.

- Noisy offerings have brought in over $900 during the 4 offerings. The Council adults agree that it's fun to watch the kids. $255 was most recently collected to go toward soccer balls and pumps for OCC boxes.

CHALLENGES: None were shared.

CURRENT FOCUS:

- OCC boxes will be packed and blessed on Nov. 8. The child and adult Sunday School classes will not meet that morning in order to pack boxes. Others are invited to participate. Supplies will be set up on Friday, Nov. 6 at 9am if anyone would like to assist.

(continued from p.15)

 The annual Friendship Supper will be held Nov. 10. A sign-up sheet for helping that evening will be available and gifts are welcome and appreciated leading up to the event.

 Mission Haiti representatives will visit Nov. 15. They plan to provide another meal after the service, give the sermon, meet with the Sunday School kids, and possibly gather in the Fellowship Hall prior to the service.

 FUMC will be hosting another community BINGO event next month.

 There will be a pre-Thanksgiving service at Adrian church.

CUTTING EDGE ISSUES:

 Pastor's salary: John Steinle brought forth recommendations from the PSPRC. The current salary is $63,308 and a 3% raise of $1900 (totaling $65,208) was recommended by the PSPRC. John Steinle made a motion to approve, and Rick seconded. The council unanimously agreed.
- Conference covers part of the benefits, such as health insurance and pension.
- Adrian UMC's portion increases 3% as well.

 Two new projectors have been installed in the Fellowship Hall.

 Charge Conference: afternoon of Nov. 15. Cluster conferences will be held again this year and we will attend the closest meeting in Slayton. We will share ministry updates and pass along required items, such as the pastor's compensation package. We need 3-4 individuals to attend – let Pastor John know if interested.
 Space rental: Pastor John presented a new opportunity for our church with the closing of Cristo en tu Ayuda. A Spanish-speaking Pentecostal Church from Marshall is interested in renting space in our church on Friday or Saturday evenings to hold services in Worthington. They will use the Fellowship
Hall, kitchen and possibly nursery regularly. They will provide a certificate of insurance with $1 million liability coverage. The tentative rental agreement is $750/month for first 6 months, then moving to $1000/month, due at the first fo the month. Both parties will have a 60 day "escape" clause.

(continued from p.16)

 Updated information: During conversations with the church, they will be meeting on Friday Evening (7:00 pm) and Sunday at 2:00 pm. They paid $750.00 for November and then pay $1000.00 per month.
- Details still need to be discussed and finalized.
- 18 individuals in Worthington have committed to attending this church.
- Memo of Understanding will provide specifications in writing, such as returning rooms to how they were found. Jim N. and Randy S. will be involved in reviewing this document.
- Council discussion included a reminder of our mission of "knowing God" and concerns about having everything in writing. The council decided that presenting this during a service would help ensure communication with our congregation.
- A motion to continue working with this seeded church was made by Mike, seconded by Sally. Unanimously agreed upon by CC.
- Our conference would like to try another Hispanic church plant, but estimate it will be at least a year. If that were to happen, we may host both churches if scheduling allows for it.

 Line of Credit Update: Mike is continuing to work on this.

FINANCIAL REPORT:
 September brought a financial net total of **-$11, 262.**
 October giving appears to be rebounding, with one week remaining.
 In general, giving was up after Ellen addressed the congregation and requests were made to get current on commitments, which the church appreciates.
 Office expenses and salaries were higher in Sept. due to the timing of extra pay periods (not an increase in either of those categories).
- Gretchen was hyper-focused on keeping her hours under the position's allotted 30 hours/week in preparation for the conference. We appreciate her hard work and delegation to committees as much as possible in order to make this event a success both financially and for our community.
 $750 left to pay on Fellowship Hall projectors. Any donations to that fund are appreciated.

Next Meeting: 19Nov2026

Respectfully submitted, Amy Shirbroun,

Covenant Council Recording Secretary

Happy Birthday!

5 Kurt Geertsema
Julie Winselman
8 Robin Erlandson
Terry Johnson
Clyde Scheevel
9 Clarisse Hill
10 Andy Ekedahl
11 Ellen Hoefker
Emmett Karels
12 Sarah DeSmith
13 Ashley Williams
16 Kya Nickel
17 Cindy Ekedahl
18 Alisa Maras
20 Kari Meyer
21 Bailey Grussing
25 Amy Stefferud
26 Roger Grimmius
30 Emma Hill
Steve Johnson
Jaren Winselman

Happy Anniversary!

14 Don & Robin Erlandson
27 Corky & Ginny Tate

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:	Jenna Ahlers
Custodians:	Sarah & Chad Nickel

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

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	November 1	Kari Meyer	Claire Meyer
Sunday	November 8	Kari Meyer	Claire Meyer
Sunday	November 15	Deb Steinle	John Steinle
Sunday	November 22	Deb Steinle	John Steinle
Sunday	November 29	Deb Steinle	John Steinle

First UMC		Greeting Team
Sunday	November 1	
Sunday	November 8	Gary & Sally Hibma
Sunday	November 15	David & Hollie Hibma
Sunday	November 22	Micah & Alyssa Hietbrink
Sunday	November 29	Kenny & Ellen Hoefker



Prayers for health concerns:

Gordon Moore Rod Behrends
Ron Husenga
Chris Nelson Virgle Buck
Logan Waldner Katherine Willey
Kristin (Dalrymple) Amundson Julie (Ginny Tate's sister)
Carol Oberloh Galen Benton Bill (friend of Kari & Claire Meyer)
Rylie Olson's grandpa
Melodic Tate (daughter-in-law of Corky & Ginny Tate)

Those dealing with cancer:

Christopher Brown Shellie Williams Mike Miller
Marion Reitsma (friend of Jolene Kuhl) Stacey White
Nicole Bonsma (mother of Dennis & Cheryl Bonsma's grandson

Those recovering/dealing with health issues:

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

For those dealing with grief and loss…

Giving thanks & praying for:

Our farmers during this Harvest 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…

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
LaDee Grant

Sibley Specialty Care Center
Norma Swenson

Adrian UMC:

Mary Jane Brown Ctr (Luverne)
Mary Prins

Adrian Country Living Cottage