



The Key Newsletter

October 2022

Volume 9 Issue 10

sunday night youth
 Middle and High Schoolers
 Sunday, October 2
 6:30 p.m. @ HyVee Dining Room

encounter

(See more 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

Inside this issue...

From the Pastor Church Staff	2	October Calendar	8-9
October Worship Themes Sunday Morning Coffee @ First	3	First UMC Council September Highlight Reel	10-11
Family Light Update	4	Adrian Council September Highlight Reel	12
	5	Live Streaming Broadcast Schedule Sound/Tech Schedules	13
Missions News	6	October Birthdays & Anniversaries	14
Get Connected	7	Prayer Corner	15

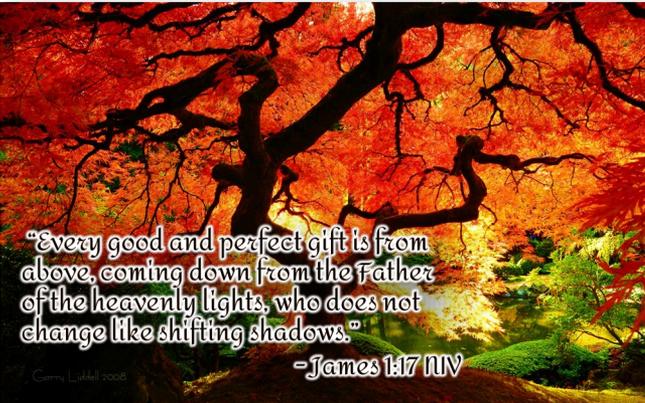
When nature marks the changing seasons, at the very least it is a change that we can and usually do embrace. We watch for the leaves to burst forth with brilliant colors. It's a landscape that our upper Midwest area provides to us, a vista of hues that thrill our sense of sight. These changes help give us a sense that all is right with the world because we've seen them before. We know that nature will recover and after the winter months, spring will once again bring new life to the earth. We seen it before so we have no reason to fear the changing seasons.



If only this lesson would always apply to our daily life. If only we would realize that our lives are filled with a panorama of changing times, but we need not fear or be concerned about because we trust in God. We trust in God who cares for us. God who is ultimately in control. We have no reason to fear the change.

It is so because we've been taught that God will never change His position of love, care, and concern toward us. God will always be there for us, even in the moments when we are less certain of His presence than we ought to be. It can be a comforting moment when we embrace this truth and live each hour, each day, every month in the joy of a God who gives us every perfect gift.

This month, it's the gift of creations colors. Enjoy it... thanks be to God!



Blessings to you
this autumn,



Rev. Dr. Daren
Flinck

First United Methodist Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck

Administrative Assistant: Lori Nienkeerle

Family Life: Gretchen O'Donnell

Youth Leader: Lisa Gerdes

Choir Director: Jeanette Jenson

Bell Choir Director: Brenda DeSmith

Finance Manager: Sue Johnson

Custodians: 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

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

October Worship: "Come and worship the Lord!"

Sunday, October 2

The 17th Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion

"The Standard"

"Paul reminds us that there is a common denominator to learning more about our faith - the standard of sound teaching."

- based on 2 Timothy 1:1-14

Sunday, October 9

The 18th Sunday after Pentecost

"Wrangling Over Words"

"Paul encourages us to avoid wrangling over words, but by seeking to share God's truth."

- based on 2 Timothy 2:8-15

Sunday, October 16

The 19th Sunday after Pentecost

"Finding Faith on Earth"

"Prayer plays a large role in showing what our faith is made out of."

- based on Luke 18:1-8

Sunday, October 23

The 20th Sunday after Pentecost

"The Man in the Mirror"

"Examining our own motives and agendas is not the easiest thing to do, but it is so necessary for our development."

- based on Luke 18:9-14

Sunday, October 30

Reformation Sunday

"Watching Waiting and Wondering"

"Making change happen often takes watching, waiting and wondering."

- based on Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

Sunday Morning 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 visiting in Fellowship with other members and friends of the church. It all begins at 10:00

a.m.. We are always on the lookout for persons to help serve on a rotating basis. Please contact Pam Soderholm if you are willing to help.

Credo Confirmation Starts in October...

The Credo Confirmation class will begin on Wednesday, October 12th at 4:30 p.m. for First UMC eighth and ninth graders. The class will meet in the Heritage Room. Parents are invited to be a part of the journey. Please keep this Confirmation class in your prayers as they learn to develop and shape their beliefs and faith in God, in Christ, and in the Holy Spirit: Alisa Maras, Claire Meyer, Hannah Hill, Jayse Geertsema, and Dylan Schuett.

I began working at First United Methodist Church in the middle of May, when the program year was winding down. The church was a quiet place to be most days! Quiet...but anticipating. Anticipating Sunday School. Anticipating Wednesday evening activities. Anticipating Bible studies and seasonal parties and planned activities for all ages.

Now all of that anticipation and planning is coming to fruition!

What joy it was last week to hear children's voices downstairs as they participated in Sunday School! How fun to hear them practicing a song on the bells along with skilled and caring leaders! How wonderful to sit down with ten adults to discuss the Word of God together in our Sunday morning study! And how good it has been to see people eating and fellowshiping together on Wednesday evenings! God is so good!

Thank you to all who are serving in these various ways! And to everyone, please join us where and when you can as together we grow and enjoy life together here at FUMC.

Serving Him together,
Gretchen

Family Life Coordinator



Advent Bible Study for Women...

All women are invited to join together in an Advent Bible study, beginning the last week of November. In this five-week Advent experience we will celebrate Jesus's first coming as the baby born in Bethlehem and anticipate His second as the glorious King over all. We will meet together several times to discuss the study, but even if you can't meet, the book is an excellent one to use on your own each day of the Advent season. Exact meeting times are yet to be determined, but we'd like to start getting an idea of how many books to order so please sign up on the sheet in the narthex today! Cost of the book will be approximately \$25.

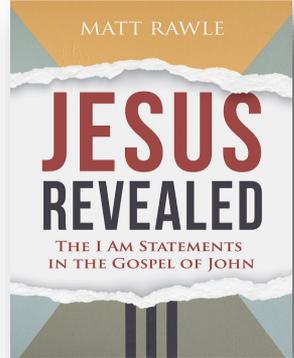
All to God's Glory!

Gretchen

Family Life Coordinator

Sunday Morning Adult Study

Any and all adults are invited to join us for a six-week Sunday School study of the book, *Jesus Revealed*, by Matt Rawle, an in-depth look at the "I AM" statements of Jesus in the Gospel of John. *Through his "I AM" statements, Jesus describes himself with rich imagery, showing us that he is both fully human and fully divine.* This class, led by Gretchen, will meet at 9:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room. Books will be available for a suggested donation of \$12.99. Following that we will offer a study of a book of the Bible, led by Pastor Daren. This will take place in November on Sunday afternoons. Exact time to be determined.



First Sunday

Beginning soon on the first Sunday of each month at 9:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All ages will meet together for ten minutes of intergenerational connection and fun! Join us on Sunday right before coffee fellowship!

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. Sunday nights at 6:30 p.m. at Hy-Vee!

Hayride "Thank You!"

A special "Thank You!" to John and Pam Soderholm and their family for hosting and providing food for the Fall Hayride last week. We had 30 persons who came for an afternoon of fresh air and fun! Thanks also to Micah and Alyssa Hietbrink for driving the flatbed trailer. Lastly, thanks to Pat Grimmus for her planning and support. We all had a great time!

It's a Halloween Party!

On Sunday, October 30th at 6:00 p.m., First Church is sponsoring a Halloween Party in the Fellowship Hall for everyone 1 to 100! It's Halloween fun for all ages. There will be fun stations around the room: Boo Bingo; tattoos; Pumpkin Golf; Make a treat; Mummy Wrap; and much more!!! Something for everyone! The boo buffet will serve punch and treats. Costumes are recommended but not required.

Operation Christmas Child:

Thank you for all of the donations that have been coming in for Operation Christmas Child; your generosity is very much appreciated. Here is a list of some things that we would could use yet for the boxes. The boxes are packed for kids ages 2-14. We will be packing the boxes in early November.

Personal Care Items: Bars of soap, washcloths, toothbrushes, hair brushes and combs, small water bottles, nail clippers and files, non-liquid lip balm, deodorant

School Supplies: Pencils, scissors, notebooks, glue sticks, pens, crayons, markers, colored pencils, big erasers, solar calculators, index cards, watercolor paint sets

Clothing (for boys and girls ages 2-14): pants, shorts, shirts, tank tops, dresses, skirts, socks, flip flops, underwear

Accessories: sunglasses, hair accessories (bows, scrunchies, & pony tail holders), hats & visors, tote bags, small purses

Toys: Yo-yos, slinkies, stuffed animals, Barbies or other small dolls, small toy trucks or cars, small Etch A Sketch, playdough and cutters, playing cards, card games or other small games, small puzzles, harmonicas, recorders, small plastic animals, jump ropes, small foam balls, marbles, finger puppets.

Also, monetary donations are accepted to purchase extra items and to use for postage to send the boxes overseas. Please make your check payable to First United Methodist Church with OCC on the memo line.

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.

Gretchen's Blog

Please check out Gretchen's new blog on our website! *First Things First* will publish every Wednesday (or at least that's the goal) and can be accessed by going to the FUMC homepage and clicking on "Gretchen's BLOG" on the menu. Please stop by her blog and leave a comment if you're so inclined!

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.

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.

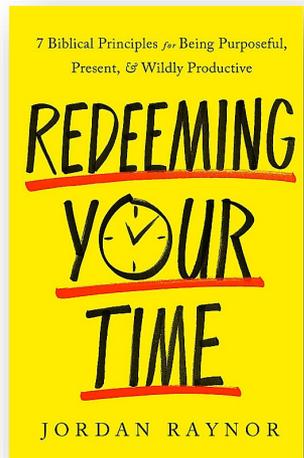
You can make your gift to support the people of Ukraine by check made out to First UMC with "Advance #982450 - Ukraine" written on the memo line. One hundred percent of all Advance contributions go to the designated cause.

Redeeming Your Time - Adult Study

Pastor Daren will be leading a four-part adult study group beginning Sunday, November 6th at 4:00 p.m. in the Heritage Room at First UMC. The topic is time. Our schedules are overwhelming. Even with the countless time-management resources available to us, our ability to find balance between work and life can feel fruitless. But when we look at the lifestyle of Jesus, we see an example of what it looks like to be efficient while finding balance.

In this four-session series, bestselling author Jordan Raynor discusses seven principles, rooted in the example of Jesus, that will help us use the time we have in the best way. You may pick up the books at the church starting the last week of October.

Set aside this time to manage your time more wisely!





*Here are the highlights from
the First UMC Council meeting held on
Thursday, September 22nd*

Celebrations: The Missions Team reports that they have given \$700 to The Banquet in Sioux Falls and \$300 donated to Project Ag Grad. They continue to be grateful for the many donations given for Operation Shoebox. The Family Life Team shared that they served 34 people at the first Wednesday Night Meal! Nice job! The Education reported that even though there were small numbers at Rally Sunday, they felt it was a success. We are all looking forward to the Fall Hayride at Soderholm's Farm on Sunday, September 25th at 3:30 p.m.. Lori Nienkerk, our new administrative assistant, is doing a fabulous job getting acclimated to the position.

Challenges: The church bus is still not any closer to being delivered than it was last month. Jim Nickel (Trustees chair) and others are working with Billion Auto representatives to determine where we are in this purchase. We have learned that we will be getting the newest 2023 version, not a 2022 one. The repair of the curb in front of the church is in the works to be done at some point this fall. Finance shared that there still remains a need for financial counters on Sunday morning for the offering. If you have done it in the past and would lend your ability to team up with another person, please contact Ellen Hoefker or Mike Johnson. In addition, the Team is still looking for a few persons to be a part of the finance team.

Nancy Galland shared that the new oven in the kitchen only has one baking rack, when we could use two or three more. It was encouraged that we contact Wayne McKuen to determine if he could make them, rather than purchasing new ones that cost over \$400.

Finally, please note that changes made to the account information on our Church Directory Online will not be made instantly, but will be sent for approval to the administrator. Once that notification is received, the changes will then be approved and take effect.

Current Focus: The Education Team is still trying to recruit one or two persons who would be willing to volunteer as co-teachers for Sunday School. The Team reports that for safety reasons, the north and south education doors will be locked at 9:20 a.m. each Sunday (Sunday School begins at 9:15 a.m.) Chris Dybevic (from the Nobles County Sheriff's Department) will be doing a preventative safety training session for Sunday School leaders and teachers. The Family Life Team would like to revisit the safe sanctuaries policy. We discussed restoring greeters and moving the offering inside the sanctuary

The Council has set the date for the upcoming Ministry Fair for

Sunday, November 13th at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The Ministry Fair will be an opportunity for various teams to share their work with the congregation, inviting new persons to consider joining with the team that fits their passion and skill set.

Missions reported the schedule for the processing of the Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes (please see the bulleting or newsletter announcement for more details). They also reported that the need is large for the Minnesota West Pop Up Food Pantry, with that program helping students at Minnesota West by giving them gift cards for food and other supplies. The program is currently donating \$400-\$500 per week. If you would like to give to this effort, please make your check out to "First UMC" with "Pop Up Food Pantry" in the tag line. This will be the second year we are participating in the Love INC Coat Closet, a ministry which shares new and gently used winter clothing for clients of Love INC in the community.

Family Life lifted up two more upcoming events - the annual Halloween Party set for Sunday, October 30th at 6:00 p.m. and an Advent study for women (watch for more details). The Night Lights Circle has been discussing the possibility of picking up people with a rented vehicle as a temporary measure, until we have the new church van. The Trustees will need to make this determination.

Finance reports that they will be reconfiguring the process of securing the offering for Sunday morning... simply by making a drop box where the offering can be secured on Sunday morning for counting later. Reminder: 150 year celebration on Sunday, May 21st.

Cutting Edge Issues:

Item #1: We discussed various issues which all churches (and everyone) is facing: lower attendance, lack of volunteers, rising costs, low numbers of youth, health situations, etc. We did not arrive at any one solution, but resolved to continue to be aware of how we can best serve the church and the community.

Item #2: 2022 Financial Update: Ellen Hoefker updated our financial situation. We have used almost \$24,000 of our reserve which we began the year with - much of the increased expense is due to the high cost of heating the church. Our apportionments continue to be paid and we are very grateful for the faithful giving of our congregation. The finance team announced that they will be conducting a pledge drive in November.

The next council meeting is set for

Thursday, October 20th at 5:30 p.m..

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck



Here are the highlights from the Adrian Covenant Council meeting held on Monday, September 26.

Celebrations:

G1 has started last Wednesday with only 3 youth showing up. The group continues to look toward building a new bulletin board. They are working with the theme "Pieces of God's Plan". Church attendance is steady, with 30 in person last Sunday. We still hold out hope that more persons will return to worship in the very near future. The Gideon's were in church Sunday, September 25th and left with a \$105.00 donation from the congregation. Dick Eilders made a nice presentation that was helpful for many.

Challenges:

Work has begun in front of the parsonage today. The street was torn up and it may be a couple of weeks it should be completed. Street improvements will be assessed when the work is completed.

Current Focus:

Dave reported the purchase of a 75" screen tv with a bracket, a wireless hdmi connection, and a 5 year warranty - all for \$785.00 (the funds will come from our memorial fund). The tv will replace the projector and screen. Installation will take place when an opportune time presents itself. Dave also reported on the shingles estimate for the replacement of the roof damage on the church. It appears that the Wagner bid is the preferred one. The replacement will happen weather permitting this fall or next spring. It was agreed that if Ann verifies that Wagner has done a good job (she has had them do some work for her recently), then we should move ahead.

Cutting Edge Issues:

Item #1: 2022 Financial Update: Ann Schiek-Solomon provided figures on our financial situation. Our apportionments continue to be paid and we are very grateful for the faithful giving of our congregation.

The next council meeting is set for

Monday, October 24th at 7:00 p.m..

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck

Southern Prairie All Church Conference:

Save the date for the Southern Prairie District All Church Conference, scheduled for Saturday, November 12th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.. The theme and the workshops are still to be determined, but it will include worship and the ratification of our annual local church conference forms/votes. The location for the conference has not been set at this time, but the District Leadership is considering Redwood Falls or Mankato. Important to note: it will not be offered online! All churches in the Southern Prairie are encouraged to attend. Contact Pastor Daren if you are interested in attending.

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	October 2	Kari Meyer	Claire Meyer
Sunday	October 9	Rick Dalrymple	Need 1 Person!
Sunday	October 16	Kari Meyer	Claire Meyer
Sunday	October 23	Rick Dalrymple	Need 1 Person!
Sunday	October 30	Deb Steinle	Sadie Nickel

Happy Birthday!

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Dennis Bonsma | 8 Tom Vagt | 23 Janelle Johnson |
| Jayse Geertsema | 9 Linda Doeden | 24 Sherry Benton |
| Shelly Klooster | 11 Jaelynn Johnson | Anita Leach |
| Henry Mess | 13 Sullivan Erlandson | Taya Oberloh |
| 2 Cheryl Bonsma | 14 Micah Langendorfer | 25 Ann Schieck-Solomon |
| Nicole Grimmus | 15 Gordon Moore | Ben Wieneke |
| Stephanie Jaycox | 16 Huck Heidebrink | 26 Craig Carlson |
| 5 Davis Moore | Noah Reyne | 27 Denise Schlichte |
| 6 Jason Childers | 17 Shannon Klooster | 28 Logan Kluever |
| 7 Eldon Bents | 21 Galen Benton | 30 Steve Leach |
| Angeline Cunningham | 22 Alyssa Hietbrink | |

Happy Anniversary!

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 4 Trevor & Erin Nickel | 16 Shawn & Kelly Kluever |
| 6 Kevin & Brenda DeSmith | 21 Scott & Stacy Lee |
| 9 Jason & Julie Winselman | 29 Dale & Mary VanHorsen |

Card of Thanks

Thank you to everyone who participated in the first annual Sewing Days for Operation Christmas Child. 15 people contributed to the success of the project. We now have 19 completed dresses, 3 pairs of shorts and 6 tote bags!

If you would like to do some sewing at home, contact Myra Palmer for more details.

Thank you - Myra Palmer & Dianne Dalrymple

Please pray for:

Prayers for immediate health concerns:

Karen Schulz Mary Prins
Bob Shore & Etta Schroeder



Those impacted by COVID 19: Persons who are long haulers

Those dealing with cancer:

Laurie Blume	Connie Bramer (Betty Taarud's daughter)
Glen Crowley	Melyn Cranston
Scott Klooster	Kristi Johnson (Dave/Linda Reese's daughter)
Sheryl (Thelma Yager's sister)	Makenzie Gist (Nancy Galland's niece)
Christopher Alan Brown	

Those recovering/dealing with health issues:

Elaine Mess	Marlene Wieneke	Claribel Grussing
Henry Mess	Phil Glembin	Casen Hotzler
Rick Dalrymple	Tim Yager	Ken Bipes
Gerald Fisher	Nancy Hyink	Weston Erlandson
Ariana Lopez	John Clease	Steve Timmons
Aiden Remme	Ajulo Ochala	Bruce Lease
Bill Carlberg	Mike Miller	Monica Veil
Emma Schnyders	Rhoda Flinck	Gary Hibma
LaDee Grant		

Giving thanks for: Area farmers

Front line health care workers
Law enforcement & emergency workers...
Service women & men and their families...

For those dealing with grief and loss...

Prayer Chain

Please send requests to our email or phone prayer chain:

[email prayer chain]
Church Office
dflinck@gmail.com or
(507) 372-2939

[phone prayer chain]
Janelle Johnson
(507) 376-5479.

Care Centers:

South Shore Care Center

First UMC:

Lois Carlberg 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 of the Friday Update.



Adrian
United
Methodist Church

Firs
UM
Worthington

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

