



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

First United Methodist Church

338 Third Street, PO Box 492, Henderson, KY 42419

270-827-2100

Mother's Day

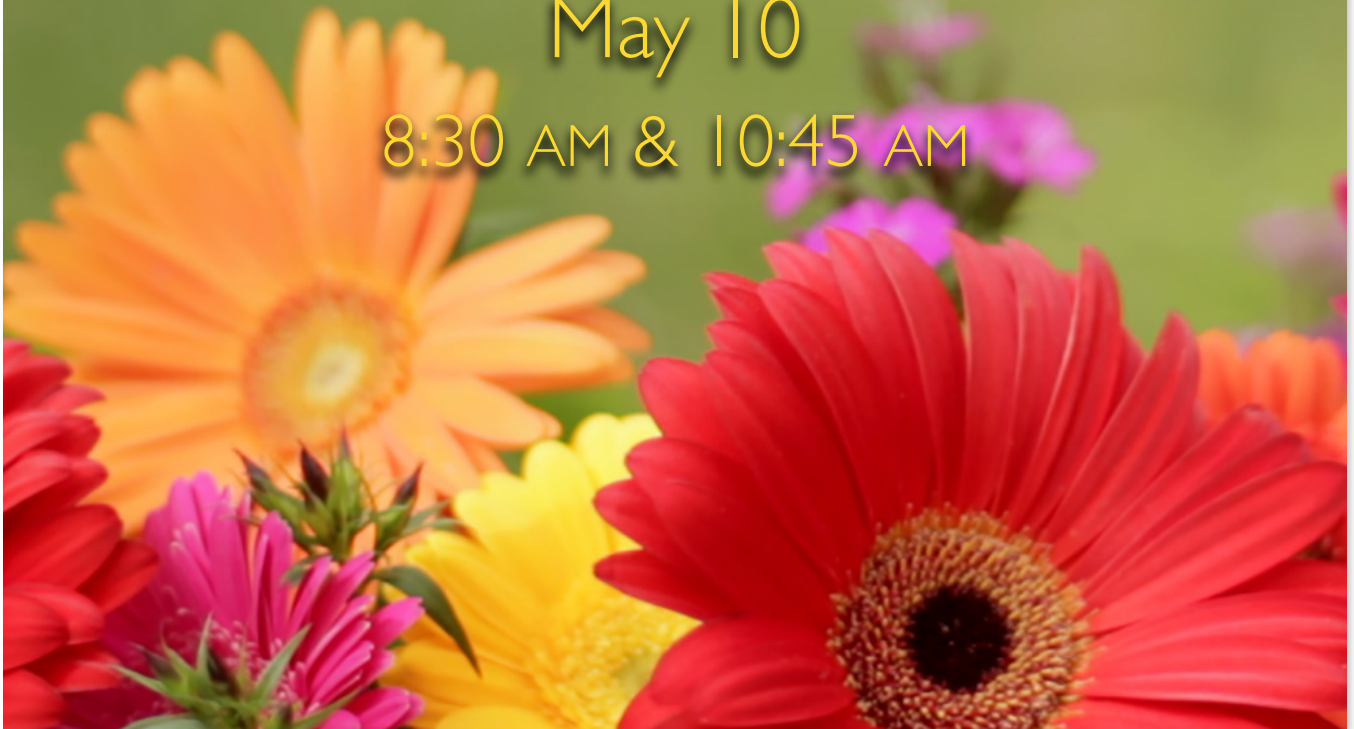
Proverbs 31:10-31

...a woman who fears the LORD
is to be praised.

at
First UMC

May 10

8:30 AM & 10:45 AM



May 2026

**STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE
ANNOUNCES NEW FIRST UMC
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND ORGANIST**

We are excited to welcome Maria Cusick to our congregation as our new Director of Music and Organist, starting August 1.

Born and raised in New Haven, Connecticut, Maria found a deep association with and love for music at an early age. She began playing piano at age 7 and at age 8 was singing in choir and playing organ. She attended Vassar College majoring in music and education for 2 years before making the commitment

to pursue her music degree at Indiana University's (IU) prestigious Jacobs School of Music, where she will graduate this May with a Bachelor of Music in Organ Performance (4.0 GPA).

She was a recipient of an American Guild of Organists Scholarship in 2018 and 2019, and received the Robert Carwithen Music Foundation Scholarship in 2024 and 2025.

During college she also provided music leadership experiences as follows:

- She served as Assistant Organist at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in New York while attending Vassar College, playing weekly services and directing the choir in worship.
- She served as Choral Scholar at Trinity Episcopal Church in Bloomington, Indiana, while attending IU where she sang as a soprano section leader in weekly worship services and in monthly Evensong small group sings.
- She served as Director of Music at First Presbyterian Church in Martinsville, Indiana, for 8 months where she supplied music for weekly worship, directed a quartet of paid singers and expanded choral program to include eight other volunteer singers. She attended monthly worship and music committee meetings as part of this role.
- Recently, she served as Choral/Organ Scholar at St. Francis in the Fields in Louisville, where she provided musical support, both as organist and soprano section leader, for three weekly worship services. She also served as the choral librarian and assisted the Director of Music in other duties as assigned.

It should be noted that she was taking a full load of music academic coursework, including hours of organ and vocal practice, all while driving back and forth serving in the above referenced leadership roles. Her commitment to excellence and love of music is indicative of her high level of dedication and work ethic. Maria has a delightful personality and will work and engage with all age groups in our church and community.

When you get a chance, please give Maria a warm First UMC and Henderson welcome!





THOUGHTS FROM

Pastor Janet

A SONG IN MY HEART!

How many times have you thought of a specific song, and for some reason you could not stop singing it, or humming the melody, or thinking about the message from that particular song? This one greeted my day as one of my favorites from the old Cokesbury Hymnal. Do you remember this hymn?

In times like these you need a Savior,
 In times like these you need an anchor;
 Be very sure, be very sure,
 Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!

This Rock is Jesus, yes, He's the One;
 This Rock is Jesus, the only One!
 Be very sure, be very sure,
 Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!

I am certain, God placed that hymn (*that tune and those words*) within my heart today, because I needed to be reminded of that Solid Rock, Jesus the Christ. However, I have been reminded of that Solid Rock, Jesus the Christ, especially during the past few weeks. There are no adequate words I can express to share my deepest gratitude and thankfulness for your many, many thoughts, prayers, calls, visits, food provided for us, cards and get well wishes, gift cards, beautiful floral arrangements, and numerous acts of agape love you sent during my hospital stay and recovery time at home. Your gifts of love have overwhelmed my heart, dear friends. Thank you so much... for everything! 1 Corinthians, chapter 12, speaks of those spiritual gifts, and *being* the body-of-Christ. This reading reminds us of our part and how it takes numerous parts to create one body and all the parts must be in “working order” to be effective. The Scripture says, “*If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.*” So... thank you again, for showering us with your overwhelming love, kindness and thoughtfulness. Thank you so again, for *being* the body-of-Christ for “*God has arranged the parts in the body, everyone of them, just as he wanted them to be.*” And you... “*are the body-of-Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.*” We love you dearly!

Love in Christ,

Pastor Janet



**West District
Conference**

Sunday, May 17
3:00 PM (CDT)

Hanson UMC
2740 Brown Badgett Loop
Hanson, KY 42413

All First UMC members are encouraged to attend this connectional time of worship, fellowship, learning, and discerning God's direction for our district.

Use Breeze ChMS to access the church directory, view the church calendar and manage your online giving to First UMC. Contact Beth Hayes during church office hours for help with creating your account and using Breeze.

Thank you to **The Men's Bible Study Group** for volunteering to provide and serve lunch at The Salvation Army on **Saturday, May 9.**



For more information, contact Cathy Motter.

**THE FOLLOWING
CONTRIBUTIONS
HAVE BEEN RECEIVED**

**IN MEMORY OF
LES MURDACH**

TOM & JO LOGAN
DON SASSE
FIRST UMC ALLEN CLASS
PAT WORKINS



"She Loves to Eat Out"

All Women Are Invited!

**Golden Corral
Thursday, May 14, 12:15 PM**

Please RSVP by Monday, May 11

Susan Latham (270-826-1191)
or Joyce Lutz (270-577-5300)

Worship Service Volunteers

May 3, 10:00 AM Service

Announcements: Donna Stinnett
Affirmation of Faith: Linda Floyd
Offertory: Ray Nix
Scripture: Stacy Powell
Communion Stewards: Donna Stinnett, Ray Nix,
 Frank & Lisa Tulipana, David & Susan Latham

May 10, 8:30 am Service

Announcements: Donna Stinnett
Affirmation of Faith: Kevin Hein
Offertory: Ray Nix
Scripture: Becky Summers

May 10, 10:45 am Service

Announcements: Pam Moran
Call to Worship: Frank Tulipana
Affirmation of Faith: Jane Shipley
Scripture: Brenda Sasse

May 17, 8:30 am Service

Announcements: Donna Stinnett
Offertory: Ray Nix
Scripture: Chuck Stinnett

May 17, 10:45 am Service

Announcements: Meg Burnley
Call to Worship: Tim Lutz
Scripture: Rev. David Latham

May 24, 8:30 am Service

Announcements: Donna Stinnett
Affirmation of Faith: Mike Grounds
Offertory: Ray Nix
Scripture: Stacy Powell

May 24, 10:45 am Service

Announcements: Cathy Motter
Call to Worship: Cathe Hedgespeth
Affirmation of Faith: Pam Moran
Scripture: Rev. Leslie McKown

May 31, 8:30 am Service

Announcements: Donna Stinnett
Affirmation of Faith: Mike Duffy
Offertory: Ray Nix
Scripture: Stacy Powell

May 31, 10:45 am Service

Announcements: Susan Latham
Call to Worship: Tim Lutz
Scripture: Frank Tulipana

Thank you to everyone who helped with our Maundy Thursday Agape Meal, Good Friday Service and Easter Sunday worship service. This past Lenten Season provided many meaningful services as we journeyed to Easter Sunday! Thank you again!



May 1

Robby Duncan
 Ali Greenwell
 Cathy Motter

May 2

Scott Keach
 Len Stovall

May 3

Bella Jourdan
 Jess Park

May 4

Tim Carden
 Josh Hein

May 6

Janet Williams

May 7

David Cohron
 Dee Schnake

May 10

Dorothy Duncan
 Kathy Park

May 11

Rosemary Melton

May 15

Jackie Logan

May 16

Becky Summers

May 18

Janice Evans

May 19

Judy Burton
 Sam Moore

May 21

David Hatchett
 Allen Morris
 Daisey Shannon

May 23

Franchecia Littlepage

May 26

Marsha Logan

May 27

Melissa Pritchett

May 28

Rita Stagg

May 29

Mary Lee
 Ashton Logan

May 31

Emily Hayes

Worship With Us!

First Sunday of Each Month at 10:00 AM

All Other Sundays at 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM

(Nursery Care is available for children up to age 4.)



Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday: 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
(The office may close each day for a 30-minute lunch break.)

Friday: 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Articles for The Circuit Rider

All articles for the June issue
should be submitted to the church office
by Monday, May 25.

Church Staff

Rev. Janet Carden, *Pastor*

Rev. EJ Simmons, *Associate Pastor*

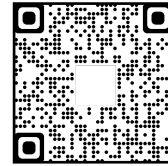
Mary Fuller, *Financial Secretary*

Beth Hayes, *Administrative & Executive Assistant*

Doug Sasse, *Custodian*

Gifts to First UMC

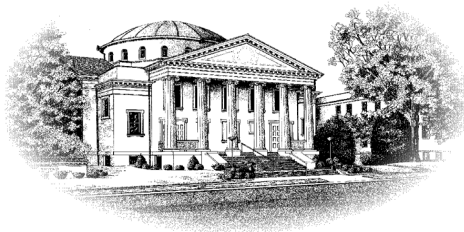
may be mailed to the church, given in person
during worship services or church office
hours, or given online by scanning
the QR code below.



H e n d e r s o n F i r s t U M C . o r g

First United Methodist Church
338 Third Street
PO Box 492
Henderson, KY 42419

NonProfit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 132
Henderson, KY 42420



Our Mission is To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ
for the Transformation of the World

