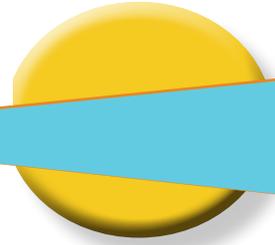




First Wayne Street
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
uplifting. inspiring. downtown.



November 2022

GOOD NEWS

SEASON OF THANKFULNESS

Thanksgiving Day elicits a bounty of wonderful memories for many people in the U.S. The crisp air. The smell of a turkey roasting and a pumpkin pie baking. The sound of a cheering crowd at a football game. All these can create warm feelings during this special time of year.

While the Thanksgiving holiday is celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November in the U.S., thanking God for our blessings is a spiritual discipline that should not be limited to a single day. Along with expanding our waistlines, our preparation for and celebration of the holiday can be the impetus toward growing an attitude of gratitude that will carry over into the rest of the year.

In his commentary on I Thessalonians 5:16-18, John Wesley writes, "Thanksgiving is inseparable from true prayer; it is almost essentially connected with it." Giving thanks is as essential to our spiritual growth as prayer, which I

Thessalonians calls us to do continually. These creative ideas will help us get started this Thanksgiving.

Fill a family Thanksgiving box. As part of your Thanksgiving preparation, create a Thanksgiving Box. Each day family members write on slips of paper something for which they are thankful that day and place them in the decorated box. The box will make a nice Thanksgiving table centerpiece, and when opened, a way to remember how blessed we are every day. You could add to it all year too of course.

Serve someone. In the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving, many agencies serving those in need expand their work. Food banks, churches, and other service organizations supply meals to the hungry on Thanksgiving. Ask Pastor Jason for suggestions of ways to serve.

Take time for quiet reflection. As the big day approaches, things get busier. Set

aside some time each day to say thank you to God for all he has provided.

Share blessings together. When gathered around the table, many families will ask guests to share something for which they are thankful. In Thanksgiving Celebrations for the Home, MaryJane Pierce Norton suggests creating a list together, such as foods each person enjoys. Then together offer "thanks for the Earth and all with which we are blessed in the world God created."

Create a keepsake of thanks. When you take that group photo around the table or in front of the fireplace, record not only the names of those in attendance, but also something for which each person is thankful. This will be a great item to revisit when everyone gathers again next year.

However you can, find ways to give thanks to God for all of his blessings throughout your celebration this year.

— UMC Resources

Join us for a Friendsgiving celebration

We are so excited to announce that we can (finally!) bring back our annual Friendsgiving celebration! After church on Sunday, November 13 we will gather in Fellowship Hall for fellowship and a meal together. The church will provide

the turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, rolls, and drinks. We are asking all participants to bring a side dish and/or dessert to share! We will need all the available youth to help prepare food the morning of Friendsgiving. We will also

need adult volunteers to help prepare and serve before and during the event and a team of volunteers to help clean up afterwards. Please see Audra and/or Kim for more adult/youth volunteer information.

Holidays at First Wayne Street

Christmas VBS: "Journey to Christmas"

12:30 pm Sunday, December 4

FWS is partnering with Trinity UMC and Faith UMC this year to offer a one-day Christmas VBS for children ages 3 yrs.-5th grade. This fun filled afternoon of crafts, games, Christmas carols, and learning about the Christmas story will take place Sunday, December 4 from 12:30-3:30 at Trinity UMC. Pizza will be served. There is no cost to participate, but preregistration is encouraged. Adult and youth volunteers are needed for this fun event!

Gingerbread House Decorating

6:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 14

Bring the whole family and decorate a gingerbread house together! Each family (or individual) will receive a prebuilt

gingerbread house, icing and decorating candies.

Cost: \$10, preregistration is required.

Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is an opportunity to share the joy of Christmas with local families who are facing challenging circumstances this holiday season.

FWSUMC partners with the Allen County Christmas Bureau for this annual mission project. Various tags with individual gift information will be hanging on the Giving Tree, which is in the Narthex.

To participate:

- 1) Select an ornament and item tag from the tree in the narthex
- 2) Buy the listed item in the tag, gift wrap it, and attach the original tag to the front of the gift. The ornament is yours to keep, made by our church children as a thank you!

3) Return the gift back under the tree no later than Sunday, November 27.

If you choose to buy clothing, please include a gift exchange receipt. In addition to the tagged items, we are also collecting these additional items to give to the family: household cleaners, and nonperishable food items.

To make a monetary donation for groceries and a Christmas dinner, please see Audra Reinders.

Worship services

Join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus!

Christmas Eve:

4 pm – Carols, Communion and Candlelight

7 pm – Carols and Candlelight

Christmas Morning:

10am – Online Only

Congregational Life

Outreach Focus: The Rescue Mission

National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week is celebrated each year one week before Thanksgiving. It takes place November 12 to 20 this year.

With the upcoming holiday season

and upcoming winter season, it can be a particularly difficult time for many, especially those who are struggling with hunger and shelter.

Throughout this month, donations can be made and volunteers sign up to support programs that aim to feed and

rehabilitate those in need.

Cooks needed for Gather

There is an ongoing opportunity and need for volunteers to cook our Wednesday night meals. Please see Audra if interested!

Let's connect

FACEBOOK

Connect with First Wayne Street. Our Facebook page is the place for current events, inspiration, and more. It's also a way to share our church with your connections. Go to Facebook.com and search First Wayne Street.

YOUTUBE

Stream our weekly worship service. Previous sermons and concert events are also available. Go to YouTube.com and search First Wayne Street UMC and be sure to subscribe so you don't miss an upload.

WEBSITE

Stay up-to-date with the news at First Wayne Street, as well as learn more about the congregation and building. From the website, you can also access the pastor's blog, event calendar, and online giving platform. Our church website is at FWSUMC.org.

Embrace an attitude of gratitude

During our stewardship campaign, we focused on the importance of “surprising the world” as we take intentional steps to bless, eat with, listen to and learn from our neighbors as we are sent into our community.

As the Holy Spirit guides us, these intentional steps will lead to divine appointments where we are able to have transformational conversations about the love, hope and grace of Jesus Christ.

Throughout the month of November, we will talk about the importance of embracing an attitude of thankfulness,

compassion and empathy. These characteristics will continue to help us “surprise the world,” as they are often missing from our increasingly divided and polarized culture.

We will hear stories about God’s miraculous work in the lives of some of the folks we regularly worship with at First Wayne Street. We will be encouraged, challenged and inspired as we learn from one another. We will be reminded of the importance of 2nd, 7th, 70th and 490th chances! We will remember that God invites us to take a posture of welcoming

hospitality for all. It’s like the old saying goes, “Never judge a book by its cover.”

“And why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye when you have a log in your own? How can you think of saying to your friend, ‘Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,’ when you can’t see past the log in your own eye? Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend’s eye.” ~ Matthew 7:3-5

— Pastor Jason Morris

Monthly Calendar

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

5 pm Episcopacy Committee Dinner

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4

8 am Church Women United - World Community Day

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6

2:30 pm SAI Benefit Concert

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

11:15 am Friendsgiving
6 pm Charge Conference

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14

6 pm Staff Parish Meeting

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

11:30 am Foundation Meeting
1 pm Stephen Ministry
5:30 pm Outreach Committee

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16

7:30 am Finance Committee

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17

6 pm Alive Support Group

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18

6 pm Boomerangs Gathering

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21

6:30 pm Trustees Meeting

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

No Gather Fellowship

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Happy Thanksgiving — Office Closed

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Office Closed

WEEKLY EVENTS

WEDNESDAY

4 pm FaithShare
5 pm Gather —Dinner
6 pm Gather programming

SUNDAY

8:45 am Preschool Child Care
9 am Sunday School
10 am Worship (in-person and online)

EDITOR’S NOTE

As we shift to a digital newsletter, we are no longer publishing birthdays and anniversaries. This move is an effort to protect our members, as it makes us vulnerable to scams. Want to wish our members a happy birthday or anniversary? Contact the church office to receive a monthly list.

GOOD NEWS

FIRST WAYNE STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
300 EAST WAYNE STREET
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA 46802

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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NOVEMBER 2022 ISSUE

FIRST WAYNE STREET STAFF

Senior Minister: Rev. Jason Morris

Visitation Pastor: Rev. Barry Belknap

Executive Director of Alive Community Outreach:
Rev. Angelo Mante

Ministry Staff

Director of Music & Organist: Dr. Geoffrey North

Director of Congregational Life & Nurture:
Audra Reinders

Children's Choir Director: Phyllis Boester

Youth Director: Kim Truesdell

Support Staff

Facilities Manager: Cesar Anzaldua

Security Officer: Kenneth "Bart" Bartholomew

Communications Coordinator: Kim Truesdell

Audio Visual Media Director: Barclay Hall

Alive Community Education Coordinator: Chris Lahr

Childcare Providers

Jane Daniels, Brooke Orellana,

Angi Reinking, Carrie Hogle