



FIRST WAYNE STREET

United Methodist Church

GOOD NEWS

APRIL 2023

Embracing the 'new thing'

"Look! I'm doing a new thing; now it spouts up; don't you recognize it? I'm making a way in the desert, paths in the wilderness." (Isaiah 43:19, CEB)

Olu Brown recently shared that he believes we are living in the greatest evangelistic season of our lifetime. When looking at demographic reports, it's difficult to argue with Brown's observation.

The Pew Research Center has shared that 63% of the US population identify as Christian. While that is still a majority, that number is down from 75% just a decade ago. During that same time period, those who self-identify as having no religious affiliation (often referred to as "the nones") account for 29% of our population. That number is up from 19% just a decade ago.

These numbers indicate that the field is ripe for the harvest! If roughly 3 out of 10 of our neighbors have no religious affiliation, that means we have more people we can share the love, grace and hope of Jesus

with! Yes, the numbers are heading in the wrong direction. But, they provide us with an incredible opportunity to be the Church. As the people called Methodists, we have a mission to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

Today, we have greater opportunities to reach people for Jesus than ever before!

Given the decline of Christianity and the rise of the nones, we have to assess how we are attempting to reach those beyond our walls. You see, if "the way we've always done things" was an effective evangelistic tool, churches around the nation would be bursting at the seams.

I believe we are at a time when God is inviting us to prayerfully consider what the "new thing" is at First Wayne Street. I believe God is inviting us to be open to the "new thing," to be willing to try, to fail...and to even be willing to succeed! I believe God is calling us to open our

hearts and minds so that we will recognize the "new thing" God is inviting us to participate in.

While I might not have a clear picture on what that "new thing" is right now, I do know that God is calling us to be faithful to the mission. God is calling First Wayne Street to be a church committed to making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of Fort Wayne and the world as we love God and love people by serving together. God is calling us to create a community of faith where hope is found, healing takes place and transformation happens.

God is calling us to place a high value on authenticity, creativity, community, inclusiveness, joy, missional service and peacemaking.

Are we open to the "new thing" God desires to do at First Wayne Street? Will we "recognize" that "new thing" as God "makes a way in the desert, paths in the wilderness?"

— *Pastor Jason Morris*

Children, Families, and Youth

Gather calendar

Gather will be on pause Wednesday, April 5, for Spring Break.

Last night of Gather will be Wednesday, May 10. Gather will start again in the fall.

Easter egg hunt

All children are invited to participate in our Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, which will take place at 9 a.m.

Children will gather in Fellowship Hall to decorate their Easter bags, then will head up as a group to the third floor for the hunt!

Allen & Pond Memorial Scholarships

Packets have been sent to all graduating high school seniors of FWS regarding the two scholarships awarded by our church. Please review the information in these packets and contact Ann Kreamer (lkreamer@msn.com) with any questions.

If you are a graduating senior planning to attend a post-secondary institution but did not receive a packet, please contact Ann Kreamer. Scholarship deadline is April 30.

Camp iCash code

Hard to believe summer camp is right around the corner! Registration is open, and First Wayne Street families are encouraged to sign up. While families can sign up their children individually, FWS is recommending weeks for each

age group, and FWS families are encouraged to communicate with each other if they are interested in signing their children up for the same weeks.

Elementary Camp week: Impact Camp at Camp Lakewood, June 11-16

Senior High Camp week: That Thing @ Epworth Forest June 25-30 (entering grades 9-13 in the fall)

FWS children and youth are eligible to go to camp at 50% discount by using our church's icash code. All scholarship money is paid for by the Minnie Jones Fund.

Please use the code Wayne496 when registering.

If you need additional financial assistance, please contact Audra to receive free camp tuition for your child. All requests will be kept confidential.

Save the dates

Church Workday

FWS is in dire need of some rearranging, reorganizing, and decluttering in order to make our building the best that it can be!

Join us on Saturday, May 6, for a church cleanup day. A pizza lunch will be served.

Contact Pastor Jason, Audra or Kim for information.

Mother's Day pancake breakfast

Give Mom a break and come get a delicious pancake breakfast on Mother's Day, May 14.

The youth ministry is hosting the breakfast.

Enjoy pancakes, bacon, and other treats beginning at 8 a.m.

Freewill donations are encouraged and will benefit the summer mission trip to Detroit.

Graduation Sunday

First Wayne Street will honor all members graduating high school and college during our worship service on May 21.

All graduates will be acknowledged and receive a small gift from the church. A reception will follow worship.

Graduates and/or their families should send a photo, graduation information, and future plans to our youth director, Kim Truesdell, at kmtruesdell@gmail.com.

Summer events

Believe it or not, summer is right around the corner! Please put these events on your calendars.

July 8: Annual Rummage Sale

July 15: Ice Cream Social

July 17-20: VBS

Volunteer with children and youth ministries

Our Children and Youth Ministries are growing!

We truly praise and thank God for this, however it also means that we need additional volunteers to continue to provide exciting and safe programs to our youngest FWSUMC members — they are the future!

Whether you can volunteer on a regular basis, sporadically, or even for a single event, we would love to talk with you! Volunteers are especially needed on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights.

Contact Audra or Kim for information.

Congregational Life

Mission offering

Alive Community Outreach is our focus mission for April.

Pastor Angelo Mante is the executive director for this ministry.

The ministry's mission is to cultivate a community of nonviolence through relationships and education. Providing support to families affected by violence and educating youth and youth-serving organizations in nonviolence is the focus of the ministry.

Rooted in Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s philosophy of nonviolence, Alive works to equip our next generation with skills to navigate conflicts peacefully and a framework for transforming the underlying conditions that continue to produce violence. "Together, we can build a Beloved Community free from the cycle

of violence."

Celebrate nursery staff for loving service

The Staff Parish Relations Committee wants to honor Jane Daniels for 5 years of service to First Wayne Street as a worker in our nursery - wiping away tears, having fun playing, rocking little ones to sleep - in short, showing our youngest church family members the love of God in a human person. Jane began in April 2018.

Please take a moment to thank her for this invaluable service.

UWF: We need you!

"YOU TALKIN' TO ME?" Yes, ladies!

The UWF at First Wayne Street Church needs your help. Since the passing of Tracie Hoffman on February 6, 2023, we are

experiencing changes—changes in leadership.

Elaine Marker, vice president, will be acting president thru December 2023.

Tracie also served as chairperson for social action and membership nurture and outreach.

If you would like to learn more about UWF please come to one of our board meetings or general meetings. You will learn how UWF members continue to inspire, influence, and impact women, children, and youth in our community and in the world. Perhaps you would like to help.

Good News deadline

DEADLINE for the MAY Good News is April 15. Items should be e-mailed to Kim Truesdell, our newsletter Editor, at kmtruesdell@gmail.com.

Calendar

SUNDAY, APRIL 2

Palm Sunday

TUESDAY, APRIL 4

9:30 am UWF Exec meeting

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

Good Friday

Stations of the Cross exhibit
7 pm Good Friday service

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

Easter

9 am Easter egg hunt

MONDAY, APRIL 10

6 pm Staff Parish

TUESDAY, APRIL 11

11:30 am Staff meeting

FRIDAY, APRIL 14

5 pm Boomerangs event

MONDAY, APRIL 17

6:30 pm Trustees meeting

TUESDAY, APRIL 18

5:30 pm Outreach team meeting

MONDAY, APRIL 24

6 pm Ad Council meeting

WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY

8:30 am Preschool Child Care
9 am Sunday School
10 am Worship
11 am Sanctuary Bells

WEDNESDAY

4 pm FaithShare
5 pm Gather community meal
6pm Gather fellowship

TUESDAY, APRIL 25

11:30 am Staff meeting

Good News

First Wayne Street United Methodist Church
300 East Wayne Street
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802

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FIRST WAYNE STREET

United Methodist Church

Email: FirstWayneStreet@fwsumc.org

Website: www.fwsumc.org

Facebook.com/FirstWayneStreet

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

Office Assistant: Jill Harris
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,
Carrie Hogle