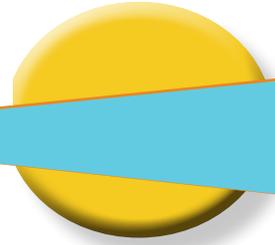




First Wayne Street
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
uplifting. inspiring. downtown.

March 2023



GOOD NEWS

Why? Children matter most

The Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church has an important campaign called Children Matter Most. This initiative reminds us that “children are highly valued in God’s Kingdom. Jesus takes children seriously and harshly warns against harming them.”

This campaign urges congregations to “do all the good” we can by “promoting nonviolence, eliminating food insecurity and partnering with schools.”

At First Wayne Street, we see these three areas of focus in action through our partnership with Alive Community Outreach, our support of local organizations that help alleviate hunger and our Rising Stars program at Indian Village Elementary School.

As easy as it would be to pat ourselves on the back and say, “Job well done,” we need to keep pressing forward.

One of the resolutions of the Children Matter Most campaign is to “offer love that leads to fullness of life.” I am convinced that one of the key ways to offering that love is by providing safe, secure and relevant ministry for our children and youth.

Why? Because children matter most.

We have seen growing numbers of young people participating in our Sunday morning children’s church! This is something to celebrate! This is an invitation to pray that this area

of ministry will continue to grow! Of course, this also presents some opportunities to make some shifts in order to provide safe and secure ministry in an appropriate space.

Why? Because children matter most.

We are going to be invited to make some adjustment to the who, what, when, where and how we do some of our programming for all ages. During Sunday school, the second floor hall where our children’s classes meet needs to be a space that is limited to only our young people and approved volunteers.

If you visit our local schools, you can’t get into a classroom without going through background checks or some type of accountable check in system. Yet, we currently allow just about anyone to enter our children’s ministry area to access classes. A change is necessary. By not providing a secure area for children’s ministry, we make ourselves vulnerable for harm to take place.

This will mean creating a space for a children’s check-in kiosk and moving some adult classes to other areas of the building.

Why? Because children matter most.

With that, some areas that have been historically used for adults will be repurposed for ministry with young people. We will be seeking to design

spaces for young people that are appropriate for the age groups utilizing those spaces while also making our parents and children feel comfortable and safe.

Some spaces that have been used for storage will need to be reclaimed for discipleship purposes. In addition to addressing needs on our second floor, we will be looking to declutter, paint and provide furnishings and equipment that are appropriate for youth ministry on our third floor.

Why? Because children matter most.

Our children and youth ministry staff, along with input from myself and Pastor Angelo, will be making a proposal to our Administrative Council to make both our second and third floor spaces more inviting for ministry with children and youth. We see these changes starting to take shape over the spring and summer so everything will be ready to go at the beginning of the next school year (August 2023).

Why? Because children matter most.

If you would like to help make this shift happen, I would encourage you to make a financial gift to First Wayne Street, indicating “children’s ministry” in your gift. Your giving will help with the cost of design, supplies, equipment.

Children, Families, and Youth

Volunteer to help 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.

Please prayerfully consider whether you can help us fill this need and contact Audra or Kim for more information.

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

Middle High Camp week: CIT @ Camp Lakewood, June 10-16 (entering grades 7-9 in the fall)

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

All 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 following code when registering to receive 50% off registration cost (case sensitive with no spaces): Wayne496

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

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 at First Wayne Street 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 with cake and punch 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 the following events on your calendars.

More info for all events will be coming soon.

July 8: Annual Rummage Sale

July 15: Ice Cream Social

July 17-20: VBS

Easter at First Wayne Street

Lenten Fishes & Loaves

We are collecting cans of tuna, mackerel, salmon, and boxes of crackers for the East Wayne Street Center for Lent.

Easter flowers

We want to fill the sanctuary with beautiful potted spring flowers to celebrate Easter. We are seeking individuals and families who would like to honor and remember loved ones by providing underwriting.

We need donations of \$22 each to cover the costs of Easter lilies, hyacinths, tulips, mums, daffodils and hydrangeas.

For information or to sponsor flowers, contact the church office.

Children's egg hunt on Easter Sunday

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

Easter candy donations are needed and a donation basket will be outside of the office during the month of March.

Last year we filled more than 400 eggs! so candy is very much appreciated!

Hot cross buns

We just need to have someone sign up to pay for them. They are \$56.00. Please sign up on the doughnut order list in Fellowship Hall if you can cover the cost.

Congregational Life

Mission offering

The Juvenile Justice Ministry is a program initiated by Northern Indiana Youth for Christ that has worked with the Allen County Juvenile Center to come alongside students in a variety of juvenile justice settings including detention centers, probation, and expulsion schools.

The ministry works with at-risk young people that are often outside the scope and reach of mainstream ministry, breaking the cycle of repeat offenses and despair for youth in the 21st Century.

The ministry focuses on building trusted, reciprocal relationships with students in crisis so that through love, hope, freedom, restoration and the power of Jesus Christ, these hurting young people can connect with caring Christian adults. And through that focused intervention they can successfully reintegrate into their communities.

Gather calendar

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

The last meeting date for spring will be May 10.

UMW News

Executive Meeting – Tuesday, March 7, 9:30 a.m. in Room 115

Journey Beside Mothers Event at FWSUMC

Journey Beside Mothers, a ministry through Associated Churches, will be holding their annual event at First Wayne Street at 6 pm Monday, March 20.

Dinner and a keynote speaker will be featured.

Journey Beside Mothers is a motherhood mentoring program. The mentors are community volunteers who offer emotional and practical support, education, and companionship to mothers while creating a long-lasting relationship.

They are always in need of new volunteers to be mentors. Any FWSUMC members who may be interested in learning more about this ministry is

encouraged to contact coordinator Julie Reece at julie@associatedchurches.org

Journey Beside Mothers is also looking for individuals willing to help provide childcare for this event. Older youth can also help. If you would like to volunteer, contact Audra.

Devotionals available

The Upper Room devotionals are available in the literature rack by the coat racks.

Daylight Saving begins

Don't forget to turn your clocks FORWARD one hour before bed on Saturday, March 11.

Good News deadline

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

Calendar

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

9:30 am UWF Executive Meeting

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

7 pm Mad Ants game

MONDAY, MARCH 13

6 pm Staff Parish Meeting

TUESDAY, MARCH 14

11:30 am Staff Meeting

FRIDAY, MARCH 17

Noon Boomerangs lunch

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

11 am Youth serve lunch at Rescue Mission

MONDAY, MARCH 20

6 pm Journey Beside Mothers (Associated Churches)

6:30 pm Trustees meeting

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

5:30 pm Outreach team meeting

TUESDAY, MARCH 28

11:30 am Staff Meeting

WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY

8:30 am Preschool Child Care

9 am Sunday School

10 am Worship (in-person and online)

11 am Sanctuary Bells Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY

4 pm FaithShare

5 pm Gather fellowship begins

GOOD NEWS

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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MARCH 2023 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

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,
Angi Reinking, Carrie Hogle