



FIRST WAYNE STREET

United Methodist Church

GOOD NEWS

September 2023

Break free, defy gravity

Participate in our 'Clean-Out Day' challenge

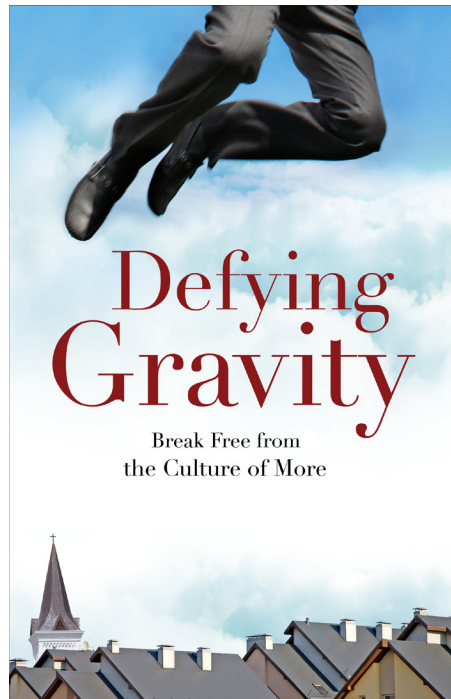
Dear Friends,

During the month of September, we'll be celebrating a churchwide stewardship program called "Defying Gravity." We'll examine the generous life—what it is and why it can be hard to experience. We'll be studying the topic of generosity, including data from surveys, insights from experts, and conversations with generous people about their goals and habits.

We want to understand why generosity brings people joy and what forces work against it.

Many of us want to experience the significance of blessing others but feel trapped by past decisions and misled by a society that bombards us with messages of having more and having better.

The good news is that Jesus offers us a way to "defy gravity"



and break free from the culture of more!

I invite you to come and hear what the Bible and others say

about how to experience a generous life. There will be exercises and challenges during this series to help you consider your relationship with money, possessions, and giving. One of these is the Clean-Out Challenge.

Mark your calendar now for Saturday, September 30 as your "Clean-Out Day." We want you to take pictures making donations to local agencies, dropping off clutter at the landfill, shredding unnecessary documents or however you participate in the Clean-Out Challenge!

You won't want to miss a single Sunday of "Defying Gravity."

In Christ,

Rev. Jason Morris

Senior Pastor, Creator of Joy and Fun

Sunday school begins Sept. 10

Starting this year, we're thrilled to announce that Children's Sunday School (ages 4 years-5th grade) will be moving to the Children's Church hour during worship.

This adjustment aims to provide our children with an even more engaging and cohesive learning experience. Here's how the new arrangement will work:

1. Worship Together

Children will continue to join their families at the beginning of the worship service as usual. This time of coming together as a community is essential to our shared faith journey.

2. Transition to Sunday School

Following the initial worship

segment, children will be dismissed for Sunday School before the sermon. This change enables our young learners to engage with age-appropriate teachings in a way that resonates with them.

3. Communion Sundays

On the first Sunday of every month, children will remain in worship and participate in communion alongside their families. This allows us to celebrate the sacred act of communion as a united congregation.

We're thrilled to share that Children's Sunday School will now take place in the newly renovated Children's Ministry room, formerly known as the

Parlor, on the second floor.

Change can sometimes bring questions, and we're here to help. If you have any inquiries about this new arrangement, please don't hesitate to contact Audra.

Calling all volunteers!

Our Children's Sunday School program thrives with the help of dedicated volunteers. If you're interested in contributing your time and enthusiasm to this vital ministry, please reach out to Audra. Whether you can commit to a regular schedule (once a month, every other month, etc.) or simply want to be on the substitute list, your support is greatly appreciated.

Find connection, faith in adult classes

Attending an adult Sunday School Class is a great way to study God's word in a small group setting, build valuable relationships, and enjoy a special time of fellowship. Classes begin at 9 o'clock Sunday mornings.

R.O.C.K. Class

This class is a diverse group in terms of age, socio-economic group, political & theological leanings, and life experiences, and the class welcomes adults of all ages. R.O.C.K. values open, informed discussion on current & relevant topics, and aims to enrich their understanding of God's Word, the life and message of Christ, our Methodist heritage,

and apply what they learn to their daily lives and their witness to the world. Meets in Room 220.

Koinonia Class

The worst place to think about what you believe and why you believe it is with people who are trying to destroy your faith. The best place to think about what you believe and why you believe it is with Christian friends, many of whom have been through the Bible several times. Koinonia class is where we discover our faith, wrestle with it, ask the challenging questions, and come to deeply satisfying belief. The Koinonia group also engages in Outreach Ministry, including

support and tutoring at Indian Village Elementary School. Koinonia meets in room 115.

The Seekers

Our newest Adult Sunday School class is composed of young adults, middle-aged adults, and seniors. It includes couples and singles. Each week's lesson is led by a different class member on a wide range of topics — current events, self-awareness, and biblical teachings — all with a focus on following God's plan for us. If you are new to First Wayne Street, feel free to give The Seekers a try; they would love to have you! Class meets in Room 119.

Going beyond the numbers

I was never good at personal budgeting. I would, however, balance my checkbook and follow my dad's advice to live within my means. As someone whose faith journey is not a straight path but one of ups and downs and switchbacks, I did not always attend church. When I finally got onto a better path, I joined a church, attended on a regular basis and got involved. When it came time to pledge, I sweated over "is it based on before or after-tax income," am I able to tithe 10% or get to close to it? What if there is not enough left for moi??

The multinational company I worked for required not only an annual budget, which is extremely rational, but also updates to the budget several times throughout the year. Running various budget update iterations gave us finance people most of our *raison d'être*. All that work went into a simple calculation of total revenue less

total expenses that could give cause for alarm or generate a sigh of relief.

For FWSUMC, the simple calculation of total revenue less total expenses is best viewed not as profit or loss but as net cash positive or negative. The past several years, the church has been in a net cash negative position. Recent cash deficits as well as the 2023 anticipated deficit are draining the cash reserves that were built up during the pandemic when the church received funds from the Payroll Protection Plan program to pay for part of the staff's salaries. I believe you as the congregation need to be aware of this situation.

Simply put, FWSUMC is not yet operating within its means. I say "not yet" because there are so many great things happening at the church that hold so much hope and optimism for the future.

Our greatest resource - our

wonderful staff of four full-time and six part-time staff -brings the church building to life with meaningful worship, inspiring music, streaming worship services and WOW concerts, fellowship and numerous programs nurturing spiritual growth, development of faith and first-hand mission experiences as well as all the back office and custodial support.

And let's not forget the five or so child care workers who tend to our little ones. And you, the congregation, contribute your time, talents and treasures faithfully each year in addition to just being a welcoming and supportive community that radiates Jesus' love.

I am grateful to be part of this church community.

By the way, there was always enough left for "moi" because tithing changed my perspective.

Marcia Futter
Chair, Finance Committee

Love in action: Celebrating the UWF

First Wayne Street will celebrate the mission and purpose of United Women in Faith at worship on Sunday, September 17.

The UWF seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.

As part of UWF Sunday, Paula Hughes-Schuh, CEO of YWCA Northeast Indiana, will speak during the service. The YWCA is a 116-bed shelter specializing in services for domestic violence survivors and addiction treatment in Fort Wayne.

Hughes-Schuh has served on the boards of over 20 local and regional non-profit organizations and has focused her volunteer

activities in three areas: economic development, social service, and arts organizations.

First Wayne Street's UWF chapter hosts events throughout the year, most recently the Back to School Prayer Breakfast. It also organizes the holiday craft bazaar.

For more information, contact the church office at 422-2681.

Staff celebrate anniversaries

First Wayne Street UMC is known for the meaningful contribution that music makes to our worship. Throughout the years, some very important parts of the music in our church have been the performances of the children's choirs and occasional youth musicals that have put smiles on the faces of the participants and of the congregation.

Since September 2003 those choirs and the singers in those musicals have been directed by Phyllis Boester. That is 20 years of finding music appropriate to the kids' age level, recruiting kids to join the groups, and corralling their high energy with patience and skill. Please take time in September to tell Phyllis how much you appreciate the hard work and caring attitude that have enabled the younger members of our congregation to be participants in the ministry of our church.



This Is a Quiz! If you combine a foodie, teacher/counselor/cheerleader, and a journalist/copy editor, social media presenter, who do you get?

Answer – Our own Kim Truesdell!

Many of our congregation members may know about Kim's role presenting restaurant news in the Journal Gazette. Some may know about her work in communications for Master Spas. But that's far from



for fellowship, and walking with them on their faith journeys.

As communications coordinator, she prepares the Good News, produces the church website, and publishes social media posts.

Maybe she should be renamed Wonder Woman. Whatever you call her, please let Kim know how much you value her years of service to our church.

— Staff Parish Committee

Congregational Life

Boomerangs event

On September 29, join your senior friends for a string concert of "Autumn" and "Winter" from Vivaldi's The Four Seasons performed by players from the Ft. Wayne Philharmonic. This concert is at 12:10 pm at Trinity English Lutheran Church, 450 West Washington Blvd. if your

schedule permits, stay for a light \$2 lunch with your friends following the concert.

Save the date: Halloween Party: Saturday, October 28

Support Buddy Walk

The Down Syndrome of Northeast Indiana (DSANI) Buddy Walk is coming up on

September 9, 2023, at Parkview Field. Brandon Schmidt is now 20 years old and will be leading his team "Brandon's Buddies" again this year. If you would like to donate and/or walk with his team, please see him and his family in the narthex before or after the service on August 27 and September 3.

We're ready to Gather again!

There is something for everyone on Wednesday nights at First Wayne Street UMC.

Our programming, known as Gather, will resume on September 13.

Gather is a time to enjoy friends, family, fellowship and food.

A light dinner is served from 5:15 to 6 pm in Fellowship Hall. There is no cost for the meal but a freewill donation is encouraged.

Programming for children, ages 3 through fifth-graders, begins at 6 pm. Children participate in the elementary choir, which is led by Phyllis Boester. This choir sings periodically throughout the year in our church services.

Following choir, children have

the opportunity to participate in fun-filled activities including crafts, games, and service.

At 6 pm, a casual worship service and conversation. Pastor Jason will lead an eight-week series exploring spiritual disciplines.

Youth programming begins at 6:15 pm. There will be opportunities for service, fellowship, and fun. Youth periodically take trips to Insomnia Cookies and Sweets on Main.

Activities end at 7:30 pm.

Cooks wanted for Gather meals

Do you enjoy cooking and want a way to donate your time and talents to the church?

We are looking for volunteers to prepare meals for our Wednesday night Gather ministry. Food can be prepared ahead of time and dropped off to church (we can warm it here), or cooked the day of the meal.

All food supplies are paid for by the church.

Past meals have included: lasagna, spaghetti, chicken pot pie, tuna salad, tacos, ham and scalloped potatoes or cheesy potatoes, pulled pork, beef and potatoes, turkey and mashed potatoes, vegetable soup, ham and Swiss sliders, and chili.

If you are interested in this ministry, please contact Audra. Her email is audra@fwsumc.org or you can call the church office at 422-4681.

Children, Families, and Youth

Fright Night festivities

It's no trick — we're preparing for one of our biggest events of the year.

We will once again be hosting a trunk or treat event as part of Downtown Fort Wayne's Downtown Fright Night. The Trunk or Treat will be in our parking lot from noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, October 21.

We are partnering with WMEE 97.3 for the event. The radio station will be there with a DJ playing music.

We are looking for LOTS of cars to participate. You can even

decorate your car and wear costumes if desired, but it is not necessary.

The last few years that we have participated we have had anywhere from 500-800 kids from the community participate. Please consider volunteering so that we can host our most successful event yet!

We will be collecting candy to hand out for this event starting on Sunday, September 17. Candy can be dropped off outside of the church office in the collection box.

Youth kayak/canoe trip

Grab your paddles! It's time to kick off our fall programming with a trip to Chain O' Lakes State Park.

After the Sunday church service on September 17, we're inviting all First Wayne Street Youth to join us for a kayaking adventure.

We'll be back to church by 4 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

To ensure that we have everything ready for a fantastic day on the water, we request that you sign up for this event by September 10.

Support a hero in training

Youth director Kim Truesdell is lacing up her shoes to run her ninth marathon.

But she's also taking on a new challenge as part of the St. Jude Marathon.

The 26.2-mile race will take place on Dec. 2 in Memphis.

The event raises money for the children's research hospital. Kim, though, is taking it one step further as a St. Jude Hero — committing to raising \$4,000.

Kim's decision to lace up her running shoes and participate as a St. Jude Hero wasn't driven by a momentary whim; it was fueled by an unexplainable calling from her heart.

"When I registered, I couldn't tell you why I wanted to run the St. Jude Marathon and why I wanted to be a St. Jude Hero. I just knew, in my heart, it was something I needed to do," Kim shares.

But sometimes, the God reveals himself to us in ways we don't anticipate.

A dear friend of Mark and Kim Truesdell received devastating news — his son, just 17 months old, was diagnosed with a tumor on his spine.

"In his short 17 months, he had already experienced health challenges. Now, he and those who love him most would have to fight. He has already had surgery and could face more procedures. He'll likely undergo chemo. And, still, the prognosis is guarded," Kim shares.

Now, Kim has her why — her driving force behind running the St. Jude Marathon.

Did you know?

Families at St. Jude never receive a bill for treatment, travel, housing, or food. The hospital ensures that families can focus solely on supporting their child's battle against cancer without the added burden of financial stress.

Treatments pioneered at St. Jude have remarkably increased the overall childhood cancer

survival rate from a mere 20% to an astonishing 80% over the past 50 years. The hospital is driven by a vision of eradicating childhood cancer entirely.

St. Jude believes in the power of sharing knowledge. Every child saved at the hospital contributes to the global pool of medical insights that doctors and scientists worldwide can use to save countless more children.

How to donate

You can support Kim's efforts by visiting her St. Jude fundraising page. The link is https://fundraising.stjude.org/site/TR?px=7996230&fr_id=144988&pg=personal

Donations can also be given to Kim in person or dropped off at the church office.



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. Visit us at FWSUMC.org.

Grief support group begins this fall

After a loss, friends and family try to help, but they just don't get it. Connect with those who do.

First Wayne Street United Methodist is pleased to announce that a new GriefShare group will begin this fall. The group will meet 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays from September 16 to December 16.

A GriefShare support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. Through this



13-week group, you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's "normal" in grief.

Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability — and gain solid support each step of the way in a faith based

environment.

Want to know more about this program? Contact Rev. Barry Belknap at 260-750-3538 or barrybelknap@gmail.com.

Are you ready to register? Go to <https://www.griefshare.org/groups/168880>.

This program is in partnership with the Alive Community Ministries, the Central YMCA, and the Skyline YMCA.

Calendar

MONDAY, SEPT. 4

Labor Day

Church office closed

TUESDAY, SEPT. 5

9:30 am UWF executive meeting

MONDAY, SEPT. 11

6 pm Staff Parish meeting

TUESDAY, SEPT. 12

Noon Staff meeting

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 13

5:15 pm Gather programming begins

SUNDAY, SEPT. 17

11 am Youth kayaking trip to Chain O Lakes

MONDAY, SEPT. 18

6:30 pm Trustees meeting

TUESDAY, SEPT. 19

1 pm Stephen ministry

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 20

7:30 am Finance committee meeting

TUESDAY, SEPT. 26

Noon Staff meeting

FRIDAY, SEPT. 29

12:10 pm Boomerangs concert

WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

5:15 pm Dinner
6 pm Children's programming
6 pm Youth programming
6 pm Adult programming
7 pm Sanctuary choir

at Trinity English Lutheran Church

Good News

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



FIRST WAYNE STREET

United Methodist Church

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Website: www.fwsumc.org

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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, Erikka Hall