



FIRST WAYNE STREET

United Methodist Church

GOOD NEWS

August 2024

Finding joy in little moments

A Christian perspective on everyday blessings

In our fast-paced, often chaotic lives, it's easy to overlook the small moments that bring joy and hope. We find ourselves consumed by the big events, the major milestones, and the significant challenges, forgetting that sometimes, it's the little things that can make the biggest difference in our hearts and minds.

Scripture reminds us of the beauty and importance of the small things. Jesus Himself said, "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these" (Matthew 6:28-29). Here, Jesus points out the simple yet profound beauty of nature, urging us to pause and appreciate the wonders that surround us daily.

Finding joy and hope in the small things requires a shift in our perspective. It means taking the time to notice and appreciate the seemingly

insignificant blessings that God places in our paths. It could be the warmth of a morning sunbeam filtering through your window, the unexpected smile from a stranger, or the gentle whisper of a loved one's "I love you." These moments, though small, are reflections of God's love and care for us.

Consider the story of the widow's mite in Mark 12:41-44. Jesus commended the widow not for the amount she gave, but for her heartfelt sacrifice. It was a small act, but it carried immense significance.

Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

In the same way, the small acts of kindness we receive and offer can bring profound joy

and hope to our lives and the lives of others.

As we move through our days, let us be intentional in seeking out and savoring these small moments. Start a gratitude journal, jotting down the little things that bring you joy each day. Share your observations with friends and family, encouraging them to notice the small blessings in their own lives. Together, we can create a community that celebrates and finds hope in the ordinary, transforming our everyday experiences into extraordinary reminders of God's presence.

In these small things, we discover the true essence of joy and hope, grounded not in the grandeur of life but in the everyday evidence of God's grace. Let us open our eyes, hearts, and minds to the simple joys around us, and in doing so, find the deep, abiding hope that sustains us.

— Pastor Jaosn Morris

Youth programming to resume this fall

September 14: Movie Night & Campfire

Join us at Kim's house from 7-10 p.m. for an outdoor movie night and campfire (weather permitting). We'll enjoy s'mores and snacks while watching a movie on an outdoor screen. Youth are welcome to bring swimsuits and invite a friend!

October 12: Corn Maze Adventure

Get ready for a fall favorite

as we head to the corn maze in Kendallville. More details to come!

Adult volunteers may be needed to help with transportation.

November 23: Rake-O-Rama and Lock Out

From 1-7 p.m., our youth will be raking yards and making treat stops along the way. Congregation members can sign up to have their yards raked. It's a

great way for our youth to serve the community!

December 15: Christmas Celebration

Join us after church for a special Christmas event. Stay tuned for more information.

Looking Ahead to 2025

We're excited to announce that we'll be partnering with Canvas again for a youth retreat in February 2025. Save the date!

Children, Families, and Youth

Family pool party

All families are invited to come and have a fun afternoon of swimming and sunshine!

The Tracey family will host the party beginning at noon Sunday, Aug. 4.

Hot dogs and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side dish/dessert to share. Contact Audra or Ally Fortman for more details.

FWS at the TinCaps

FWS is once again heading to the Tincaps game!

Everyone is invited to the ballpark on Sunday, August 18 at 1:05 p.m.

Ticket order forms are available outside of the narthex or in the church office. All order forms will be due no later than Sunday, August 4. This is an all-ages event, and families and youth tickets will be paid for by the Childrens Fund. Contact Audra for more information.

Children's ministry needs volunteers

It's hard to believe that summer is wrapping up and our Fall programming is right around the corner! That means that Sunday school and Wednesday night Gather programming will be starting in September.

Please check our website or

contact a church staff member to learn about all of the unique and wonderful opportunities that FWS offers for all ages!

Contact Audra for more information.

Thank you to summer volunteers

Thank you to all the volunteers this summer that helped with our countless events, including our Rummage Sale, and Ice Cream Social.

We raised over to \$5,000 for our Youth and Children's Ministries through our Rummage Sale, as well as served ice cream to hundreds of people in our community ... and we couldn't have done any of it without our amazing volunteers!

Congregational Life

Mission focus

The mission focus for August will be the Mission Guatemala scholarship program.

Mission Guatemala, founded by Indiana United Methodist pastor Tom Heaton has been dedicated to uplifting the communities of San Andrés Semetebaj and beyond since its inception in 2009 through programs focused on health, education and nutrition.

One of Mission Guatemala's most transformative programs, "Becas con Misión" (Scholarships with a Mission), aims to break barriers and provide educational opportunities to deserving students who lack the financial resources to continue their education beyond the 6th grade. In Guatemala, where the government's educational provision ends at the elementary level, the percentage of students continuing to middle and high school drops drastically.

Through the "Becas" program, Mission Guatemala identifies students with determination and excellent grades, offering them scholarships that cover crucial expenses such as tuition, school supplies, uniforms, and even free access to Mission Guatemala's medical clinic.

For an average monthly cost of just \$25 for middle school students and \$50 for high school students, we have the power to make a lasting impact on the lives of these ambitious youngsters, their families, and the entire community. Your generous contribution will enable these students to not only fulfill



their academic potential but also pave the way for a brighter future, breaking the cycle of poverty and creating lasting positive change. We hope to raise the funds to provide at least one middle school and one senior high scholarship this school year.

Guatemala meeting

First Wayne Street will be sending a team for a week of missional service with our friends at Mission Guatemala, July 19-26, 2025.

If you are interested in joining this team, Pastor Jason will be hosting two informational meetings following worship service August 11. If you attended the meeting in July, you do not need to attend the August 11 session.

There will be an opportunity for you to ask any questions. The meetings will last approximately 45 minutes.

If you are not able to attend, please contact Pastor Jason to receive more information.

Support Rising Stars

School supplies are arriving

in stores! Our partner school in the Associated Churches Rising Stars program is Indian Village Elementary, and your help is needed in providing school supplies for the upcoming school year.

The following school supplies are needed: colored pencils, crayons, broad tip/thin line markers, pink erasers, dry erase markers, Play-Doh, sidewalk chalk, sticky notes, tissues, socks, underwear, folders with prongs, glue sticks, hand sanitizer, loose leaf notebook paper, pencil boxes, disinfectant wipes, plastic storage bags and reusable water bottles

Donations are being collected at the hot pink box in the hallway near the sanctuary. Your donations are greatly appreciated!

Also, tutors for one-on-one help with students at Indian Village are needed.

Won't you consider helping out this coming school year? Call Ron Marker (755- 0220) for further details. Your contribution of one hour per week could be the most rewarding thing you will do.

Good News

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