



FIRST WAYNE STREET

United Methodist Church

GOOD NEWS

February 2024

Exploring love: A lenten journey

As we embark on the upcoming season of Lent, we find ourselves in a unique alignment of the liturgical calendar with the more secular calendar. This year, the season of Lent commences on none other than Valentine's Day, with Ash Wednesday falling on February 14th.

It may seem paradoxical at first – the juxtaposition of the “day of love” and the day of ashes.

However, as we delve into this season of reflection, repentance, and fasting, we discover that the two concepts intertwine in profound ways. Lent is not merely a period of self-examination in isolation, but an opportunity to align our lives with the life of Jesus.

Discipleship Ministries aptly describes Lent as “a time of self-reflection and spiritual examination. It is a sobering journey as we lay our lives alongside that of Jesus.

“Yet, what we find in this examination is not condemnation; instead, we are overwhelmed by the depths of



love that Jesus has for each one of us. Lent beckons us to get our spiritual house in order, but above all, it extends an invitation to commit to love as Christ loves.”

Throughout this Lenten season, our focus will be on exploring the Gospels and reflecting on the profound love that Jesus has for each of us.

Let us approach this season with a spirit of sacrifice, fasting, and deep reflection. May we also find time for increased prayer, delve into the scriptures

through Bible study, and engage wholeheartedly in worship. These practices are not mere rituals but avenues that draw us closer to God and deepen our faith.

As we navigate this season together, let us support and uplift one another in our individual journeys of spiritual renewal. May the sacrifices we make and the time we invest in prayer, study, and worship become stepping stones to a richer and more profound connection with God.

— Pastor Jason Morris

Monthly mission focus

UMCOR Sunday supports the work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief, our UMC humanitarian relief and development organization. This special offering underwrites UMCOR's "costs of doing business."

Through UMCOR, the United Methodist Church can respond quickly with funds to address both the immediate disaster relief needs but also issue grants to support long-term recovery. UMCOR focusses on disaster preparedness and disaster recovery as well as migration and sustainable development in both the United States and globally.

Gather programming

Join us for a time of fellowship, faith, and more!

Our Wednesday night programming —called Gather — will resume on Feb. 7. This session will wrap up on March 27.

Volunteers are needed to cook meals for Gather Wednesday

Nights. Please contact Audra for more information.

Boomerang lunch set

The Boomerangs, First Wayne Street's social group for seniors, invites all interested members and friends to a Valentine-themed lunch on Friday, February 9, at noon in the Fellowship Hall.

The meal will be catered by Zianos. Choose either baked chicken mozzarella with pasta or stuffed shells with Alfredo sauce on linguini.

The menu includes a house salad, breadsticks, dessert and a beverage for \$10. Enjoy Lionel Kreamer on the piano playing a variety of songs about love.

Please RSVP to Marilee Gilliland using a text or voicemail at (260) 750-1335. Be sure to include your NAME and your CHOICE of chicken or stuffed shells.

Chili cook-off set for Super Bowl Sunday

Join us after service on Sunday, February 11 for our second annual

chili cook-off.

There will be three competition categories: classic, veggie, and soup.

Bring a slow cooker with your chili or other soup (already cooked) to First Wayne Street's kitchen by 9:30 am.

Questions? Email Kim at kim@fwsumc.org.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the mission trip to Henderson Settlement.

Rock class

Are you searching for a place where you can explore thought-provoking topics, engage in meaningful discussions, and experience the power of shared leadership? Consider joining the Rock Class.

From social justice issues to global events, the Rock class offers an opportunity for discussion while looking at it through the lens of faith.

The class, which meets at 9 am on the second floor, uses the Wired Word to guide discussions.

Summer fun starts now: Sign up for camp

BRRR...it's hard to believe that it's time to start thinking of summer camp already!

Registration is open for elementary and youth summer camps. All camp information and online registration can be found at <https://impact2818.org/summer-camps/>

Pastor Jason and Pastor Dave (from Canvas Community) are running Middle and High

camp concurrently this year the week of July 14, 2024 at Epworth Forest. We are encouraging all families with middle and high school-aged youth to attend that week if possible.

While we do not have a set date for Camp Lakewood for elementary children, we encourage families to communicate with each other so children can attend together.

Please remember that the church pays 50% of tuition towards any FWS children who attend camp. This code MUST be entered at the time of registration. The code is: Wayne528 (case sensitive).

If the cost of camp is a financial barrier, we do have a limited number of 100% camp scholarships. Please contact Audra if needed. Any requests will be kept confidential.

Overcoming grief, one step at a time

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 in March.

The group will meet 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays from March 9 to June 15 in room 220. 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.

"GriefShare taught me that



if the Lord leads you to it He will lead you through it," one participant in the program shared with Pastor Barry. "The Lord meets us where we are and helps us grow from there."

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

barry@fwsumc.org.

Are you ready to register? Go to <https://www.griefshare.org/groups/181572>.

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

Monthly Calendar

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 7

5:15 pm Gather resumes

FRIDAY, FEB. 9

Noon Boomerang lunch

SUNDAY, FEB. 11

Chili cook-off

MONDAY, FEB. 12

6 pm Staff Parish Meeting

TUESDAY, FEB. 13

Noon Staff meeting

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 14

6 pm Ash Wednesday service

TUESDAY, FEB. 20

1:30 pm Stephen Ministry

5:30 pm Outreach Committee

FRIDAY, FEB. 23

Youth retreat

SUNDAY, FEB. 25

No youth Sunday school

TUESDAY, FEB. 27

Noon Staff meeting

WEEKLY EVENTS

WEDNESDAY

4 pm FaithShare

5:15 pm Community meal

6 pm Gather

SUNDAY

8:45 am Preschool Child Care

9 am Sunday School (adults and youth)

10 am Worship (in-person and online)

11 am Canvas worship

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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FIRST WAYNE STREET STAFF

Senior Minister: Rev. Jason Morris
Visitation Pastor: Rev. Dr. 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