



# FIRST WAYNE STREET

United Methodist Church

GOOD NEWS

November 2024

## From pessimist to perspective

### *A journey in gratitude*

As part of my seminary studies at MTSO, I was asked to participate in a simple exercise: write down three good things that happened each day. While the assignment only required one week, I decided to extend it to three. What unfolded was an unexpected journey of self-discovery.

I'll be honest — I've always considered myself a pessimist. What started as perfunctory, forced entries in a gratitude journal gradually evolved into something more meaningful.

Don't get me wrong. I was still grateful when my wife made me breakfast or washed the dogs at home with minimal fuss. However, as days turned into weeks, I found myself noticing moments, people, and blessings I had previously taken for granted. A hug from Silas, watching Miles run at a cross country meet, completing chores — these small moments began to take on new significance.

A breakthrough came during an early morning run when I stopped to look at the stars. In that peaceful moment, I realized my greatest challenge was internal — my own perspective was often my biggest obstacle.

This practice led me to important questions: How does my attitude affect others? Does my self-perception influence how people view me? Can my outlook actually change outcomes?

What I've learned is that while I may still have pessimistic tendencies, I'm discovering how emotionally and spiritually rich my life truly is. Our support systems and the way we perceive our daily experiences profoundly shape our lives.

The most surprising outcome has been how this simple practice has deepened my spiritual connection. When we actively look for blessings in our daily lives, we begin to see God's presence in the smallest moments—a kind word from a stranger, the beauty of a sunrise, or the comfort of a familiar hymn. It's changed not only how

I approach my pastoral studies but how I hope to serve our community in the future.

If you're interested in trying this practice yourself, here are some takeaways from my experience:

**Start small:** Just three things each day, no matter how minor

**Be patient:** The impact isn't immediate, but builds over time

**Stay consistent:** Even when it feels forced, keep going

**Look deeper:** Simple moments often hold profound meaning

**Be honest:** Acknowledge both struggles and progress

**Share your journey:** Consider finding a partner to practice gratitude with

**Connect it to prayer:** Use your gratitude list as a starting point for daily devotions

Remember, as the Chinese proverb says, "The hardest part of any journey is the first step." I invite you to take that step with me.

—Mark Truesdell, Pastoral Candidate

# 50th anniversary hymn festival

The beloved Beckerath pipe organ reaches a remarkable milestone this year, and we invite you to join us for a special Hymn Festival celebrating its 50 years of faithful service.

The festival will take place at 3 p.m. Sunday, November 10, in our sanctuary.

This masterpiece of craftsmanship — the last of its kind built in the continental United States — features over 2,000 pipes and has enriched thousands of services and performances since its installation. Its rich, diverse tones have accompanied countless moments of worship and praise in our church community.

"This instrument is wonderful for hymn singing," Dr. Geoff North told WANE TV. "[The Beckerath Pipe Organ] provides a really encompassing, warm, rich sound to support the congregation when they sing,"

The afternoon's musical celebration will feature hymn



singing, organ solos, and choral anthems performed by an outstanding lineup of musicians, including:

- Dr. Geoffrey North
- Special guest Irene Ator (former First Wayne Street organist)
- Music ensembles from First Wayne Street
- Purdue Fort Wayne University

Singers and Choral Union

While admission is free, a free-will offering will be collected to support the organ's long-term maintenance, ensuring this musical treasure continues to serve our congregation for generations to come.

Join us for this joyous celebration of our cherished Beckerath organ's golden anniversary!

## 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. Our church website is at FWSUMC.org.

# Join us for a Friendsgiving celebration

As the leaves change colors and the air grows crisper, we find ourselves approaching a season of thanksgiving.

It's a time to gather together and express our gratitude for the blessings we've received. We are excited to announce that this year, we will come together in the spirit of gratitude for

Friendsgiving.

Our annual meal will be after church on Sunday, November 17. The church will provide the turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, rolls, and drinks.

We are asking all participants to bring a side dish and/or dessert to share!

We will need all the available youth to help prepare food the morning of Friendsgiving. We will also need adult volunteers to help clean up afterwards. Please see Audra and/or Kim for more adult/youth volunteer information.

## Better be-leaf it!

Join us for our annual Rake-O-Rama on Saturday, November 23. Our youth group will spend the afternoon raking leaves for church members and neighbors who need a helping hand with their yards.

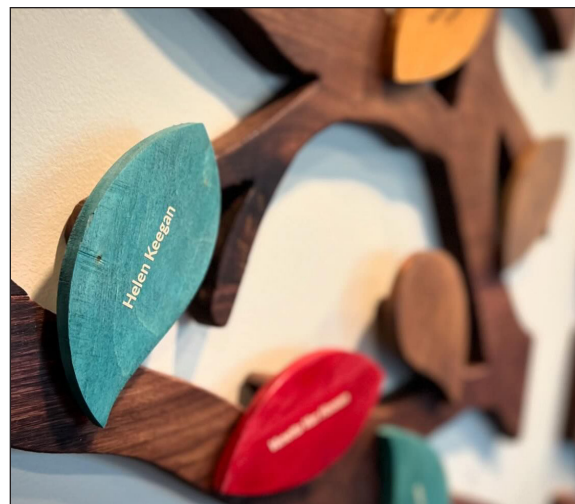
After the yard work, we'll head out for dinner and laser tag – a well-earned reward for our service.

If you need help with fall cleanup, please email Kim at [kim@fwsumc.org](mailto:kim@fwsumc.org) to add your address to our raking list.

Please let us know if your leaves will need to be bagged so we can plan accordingly.

Youth: Wear work clothes and bring gloves and rakes if you have them.

We're looking forward to a day filled with service, fellowship, and fun.



The Firrst Wayne Street UMC Foundation dedicated a new art installation at the church on Nov. 2. The piece recognizes all those who have contributed to the church's foundation through their will or estate. The piece was designed by member Kristen Bayman and was created by woodworker Don Kiel.



## Holidays at First Wayne Street

### Holiday Bazaar

First Wayne Street UWF will have items for sale at a Holiday Bazaar on Sundays, November 24, and December 15 and 22, 9am to after worship in the narthex. Sweet treats and small craft items will be available for purchase. Proceeds benefit church programs.

### Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is an opportunity to share the joy of Christmas with local families who are facing challenging circumstances this holiday season. The Giving Tree will be up in the narthex throughout the month of November. FWSUMC is working again this year in partnership with the Allen County Christmas Bureau to sponsor a local family in need. To participate in this ministry, just follow these steps:

1. Select an item tag from the tree in the narthex
2. Purchase the item on the tag, gift wrap it and attach the original gift tag to the front of the wrapped gift. The attached ornaments were made by the Children's Ministry and are yours to keep!
3. Return the gift under the tree no later than Sunday, Nov. 24.

If you choose to buy clothing, please include a gift receipt so that they may exchange the item in case it is the incorrect size. In addition to the tagged items, we are also collecting non-perishable food items, cleaning supplies, personal hygiene products, and laundry detergent for the families. If you



are unable to shop but would still like to participate in this ministry, a monetary donation can be given towards purchasing items. Please indicate "Giving Tree" on any monetary gifts so we can be sure to allocate it correctly. Please contact Audra for more information.

### Gingerbread House Decorating

6:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 4

Bring the whole family and decorate a gingerbread house together! Each family (or individual) will receive a prebuilt gingerbread house, icing and decorating candies.

Cost: \$10, preregistration is required.

### Christmas Pageant

The FWSUMC children will be having a Christmas Pageant incorporated during the service on December 15. We would

like all FWSUMC children to participate in some capacity, so please reserve this date now. There will be one rehearsal on Wednesday, December 11. We are asking families to be in attendance for the rehearsal if possible. After service, there will be a cookie reception for families in Fellowship Hall, and there will be a special visitor all the way from the North Pole in attendance! Any members with grandchildren who may not regularly attend FWSUMC are also invited to participate.

If there are any youth who would be interested in providing speaking parts or special music for this service, please contact Audra or Kim as soon as possible.

### Worship services

Join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus!

We will have two services on Christmas Eve — 4 pm – and 7 pm.

# Finding Hope: Holiday grief workshop

The holiday season can be particularly challenging for those who have lost loved ones.

First Wayne Street United Methodist Church is offering a free workshop, "Surviving the Holidays," designed to provide support and practical coping tools for people experiencing grief during the Thanksgiving and Christmas season.

Join us on Saturday, November 16, from 10 a.m. to noon for this supportive two-hour

session. While there is no cost to participate, donations will be accepted to cover the cost of participant materials.

Our doors are open to both church members and the wider community. The workshop will be held at our downtown location (300 East Wayne Street, Fort Wayne).

Free parking is available in our east and west lots, the adjacent city lot, and street parking (free on Saturdays). For

those requiring accessibility accommodations, we recommend using the west lot entrance. Enter through Door #2, facing Wayne Street, where greeters will welcome and direct you to the meeting room.

Registration is required. Please sign up at [griefshare.org/events/248953](https://griefshare.org/events/248953).

For more information, please contact Rev. Dr. Barry A. Belknap, [barry@fwsumc.org](mailto:barry@fwsumc.org), 260-750-3538.

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## Congregational Life

### Longest night service

First Wayne Street will host a Longest Night service at 7 p.m. Dec. 21.

This day the Advent season marks the longest night of the year.

### Mission focus:

#### Rescue Mission

The FWS Outreach focus mission for November is The Rescue Mission.

The Rescue Mission provides restorative care to men, women, and children experiencing a homeless crisis. The Rescue Mission serves Fort Wayne, Allen County, and its eleven surrounding counties. The Mission is comprised of four ministries, or houses, that function as communities

of compassion: Life House, Restoration House, Charis House, and Treasure House.

With the upcoming holiday and winter seasons, it can be a particularly difficult time for those who are struggling with hunger and homelessness. Please pray for this ministry, volunteer if able, and donate generously to this focus mission.

### Praises

A big thank you to everyone who donated to Brandon's 2024 Buddy Walk team. It was a great day filled with a lot of people and celebration. Your continued support means so much to all of us.

Thanks,  
KayAnn Schmidt

## WEEKLY EVENTS

### WEDNESDAY

4 pm FaithShare  
5 pm Gather —Dinner  
6 pm Gather programming

### SUNDAY

8:45 am Preschool Child Care  
9 am Sunday School (adults and youth)  
10 am Worship (in-person and online)  
11 am Canvas Community 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

Email: [FirstWayneStreet@fwsumc.org](mailto:FirstWayneStreet@fwsumc.org)  
Website: [www.fwsumc.org](http://www.fwsumc.org)  
[Facebook.com/FirstWayneStreet](https://www.facebook.com/FirstWayneStreet)

## 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