



# FIRST WAYNE STREET

United Methodist Church

**GOOD NEWS**

October 2024

## LIVING THE KINGDOM

### *October series to focus on Sermon on the Mount*

I am excited to announce an upcoming sermon series for the month of October that will take us to the heart of Jesus' most profound teachings — The Sermon on the Mount.

Over the next few weeks, we will dive deeply into Matthew chapters 5-7, where Jesus calls us to live in ways that radically reflect the values of God's Kingdom. From the Beatitudes to the Lord's Prayer, from loving our enemies to building our lives on the firm foundation of Christ's words, these teachings challenge and inspire us to embrace a life shaped by God's grace, love, and justice.

In each sermon, we will explore key passages from the Sermon on the Mount, uncovering what it means to be "salt and light" in a world hungry for justice and peace, and how we can live as people who reflect God's Kingdom here on earth. As United Methodists,

we believe in both personal holiness and social holiness — following Jesus inwardly and outwardly. This series will encourage us to embrace that calling fully.

Alongside this sermon series, we are offering a Three-Week Daily Devotional that you can follow at home, based on the Sermon on the Mount and grounded in our Methodist tradition. Whether you are seeking personal transformation, reconciliation in relationships, or a deeper commitment to justice, this devotional is a perfect complement to our Sunday messages.

As we journey together through this series, we encourage you to follow the daily devotional for a more personal and transformative experience. Each day offers a scripture passage, reflection, and question to help you grow

in your faith. The goal is to not just hear these teachings but to live them out — becoming a community that embodies God's Kingdom in real and practical ways.

You will be able to pick up a copy of the devotional in the church narthex beginning Sunday, October 6. We will also make it available for download on our website.

You can also join us for Gather on Wednesday nights in October where we will reflect on the scriptures and sermon together, supporting one another as we put Jesus' words into action.

We hope that this sermon series and devotional will lead to meaningful growth in your personal relationship with Christ and inspire you to live out the values of His Kingdom in every aspect of your life.

— Pastor Jaosn Morris

# Congregational Life

## October Focus Mission – Redemption House

Redemption House is a transition home for women that serves as an alternative to incarceration.

Residents seek to redeem their lives from past destructive behavior by developing a faith-based lifestyle and by gaining the skills needed to live successfully on their own. Redemption House has grown to multiple location and includes housing for program graduates.

All of the residents are assigned by the court system and Redemption House screens all of the women and chooses whether or not to take them. Some of the women have been incarcerated for a while; others come to Redemption House directly from sentencing. Court-imposed conditions vary in strictness from person to person.

The women living at Redemption House recognizing it as a chance for a fresh start, and they are very appreciative of the compassionate leadership that “Tomi” Cardin provides.

## Fright Night Trunk or Treat

Everyone is invited to participate in our Annual Trunk or Treat event in collaboration with Downtown Fort Wayne Fright Night.

It will be 12:30 to 2 p.m. Oct. 19.

This has quickly become one of our biggest community outreach events, and the more cars we have participate, the better! This is always a fun time not only for

the children who come to get candy, but for all the volunteers as well. While it is not required, volunteers are welcome to wear costumes and decorate their cars as much or as little as possible.

We are asking all people to be at the FWS Sanctuary parking lot no later than noon in order to have sufficient time to setup. Signup sheets are in the church hallway.

## Candy collection

As we prepare for Trunk or Treat, please consider donating candy for this event.

We need LOTS of candy to help make this event a success.

The collection box is outside of the church office. If you can't make it to the store to purchase candy but would like to donate cash towards a candy purchase, please contact Audra. Thanks in advance for your help!

## Church holiday bazaar

The holidays might be a couple of months away, but we're already feeling the spirit here at First Wayne Street! We're excited to announce our upcoming Churchwide Holiday Bazaar, a festive event that will surely get you in the mood for the season.

Mark your calendars for these special dates:

November 24th: 9 a.m. to noon

December 15th: 9 a.m. to noon

December 22nd: 9 a.m. to noon

The Holiday Bazaar will feature a delightful array of handcrafted items, baked goods, and holiday decorations. It's the perfect opportunity to find unique gifts

for your loved ones or treat yourself to something special.

Sign-up sheets to donate goodies and crafts will be available this month.

Proceeds will benefit church programs.

## Mark your calendar: Friendsgiving

We will have our annual Friendsgiving event after church on November 17. Please plan to attend church and stay after for food, fun, and fellowship. FWS will provide turkey, gravy, stuffing, rolls, mashed potatoes, and drinks. All families are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share.

We also need volunteers to help setup, serve, and (most importantly) clean up after the event. More information will be coming soon.

## Gather cooks needed

We are looking for volunteers to help prepare our Wednesday night meals. This can be done ahead of time (food can be dropped off to the church to be frozen and/or warmed up the day of), or volunteers are welcome to prepare food that afternoon. All food supplies will be paid for by FWSUMC. Menus can be as simple and easy as you would like!

If you have any questions, please contact Audra. If you are interested in signing up, you can do so here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084EAFAB2CA0F4C61-50745636-gather>

# The Beckerath Organ turns 50

In the loft at the back of the sanctuary of First Wayne Street church is a true musical treasure.

The Beckerath pipe organ, with its striking honey colored wood case and soaring silvery pipes makes a powerful visual impression. And it sounds even better.

The organ was hand built in 1974, in Hamburg Germany, by one of the finest organ builders of the 20th century, Rudolph von Beckerath (1907-1976). Dismantled, packed into large crates, and then shipped – by ship and truck before arriving in Fort Wayne. Installation and tonal finishing (called voicing) would take weeks.

Herr von Beckerath was born in Munich in 1907 into an artistic family. He would grow up in Hamburg and had initially planned a career as a mechanical engineer. Existing historic German pipe organs, especially those built by the renowned builder Arp Schnitger (1648-1719) made a powerful impression on the young von Beckerath and he changed his mind, deciding to become an organ builder. Von Beckerath studied those historic instruments and constructed his new instruments with similar techniques, especially in the construction and distribution of the pipes.

The playing action (which is mechanical, using a series of wooden rods called trackers) is also historically informed. He built his first large organ in 1949 and would go on to build several dozen instruments in

countries around the world, influencing a generation of organ builders. The Beckerath name is widely admired in the organ world. The instrument at First Wayne Street was the one of the last, personally voiced by von Beckerath himself, before he passed in 1976.

Von Beckerath custom designed the instrument for the newly built First Wayne Street sanctuary, from the number and type of pipes to their exact dimensions and voicing, to sound their very best in our sanctuary. Thankfully, the room was designed with wonderful acoustics for music, which is critical for the success of any pipe organ. Von Beckerath also argued with the architect regarding placement of the organ in the loft. The architect wanted it pushed back and out of the way. Von Beckerath said no! It wouldn't sound or look as good that way, it must be forward, at the edge of the loft. Thankfully von Beckerath prevailed.

The Beckerath pipe organ is a unique instrument that has thrilled and delighted organists and congregants alike for 50 years now. The congregants, along with musicians John Loessi and Irene Ator (then Irene Orr) dreamed and planned and fundraised (and fundraised and fundraised) for years to bless our church family with the gift of this exceptional musical instrument. The instrument had to be capable of leading a large, singing congregation with vigor and sensitivity, while also playing

the great organ repertoire from all historical periods, with beauty and grace. The Beckerath organ is a complete success in this regard, being “practically perfect in every way.”

## Celebrating organ music

To celebrate and honor 50 years of this wonderful instrument, all of the Wednesdays on Wayne Street recitals in October will feature local organists. And at 3 p.m. Sunday, November 10, we will have a celebratory hymn festival, with special guests Irene Ator and the Purdue Fort Wayne University Singers and Chamber Treble Singers, as well as music groups from the church.

## Support the music ministry

Purchasing and maintaining a fine pipe organ is very costly. A new organ like ours would easily cost in the millions of dollars. Though well built and in excellent condition, our Beckerath pipe organ will need some extensive, yet routine maintenance, in the near future. If you are interested in making a financial contribution towards the long-term maintenance of the instrument, please make a gift to the Loessi organ fund. The Beckerath organ has been a wonderful gift to the congregation, inspiring many to greater love for God and a deeper Christian faith. Here's to 50 more years of wonderful music at First Wayne Street... and many more!

— Dr. Geoff North

# Good News

First Wayne Street United Methodist Church  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**FIRST WAYNE STREET**  
United Methodist Church

Email: [FirstWayneStreet@fwsumc.org](mailto:FirstWayneStreet@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