



# FIRST WAYNE STREET

United Methodist Church

**GOOD NEWS**

September 2024

## Embracing joy in all seasons

As we journey through life, we are often faced with challenges, disappointments, and uncertainties. It's easy to get caught up in the busyness and stresses of our daily routines, losing sight of the deeper joy that God offers us. Yet, as followers of Christ, we are called to embrace joy—not just in the good times, but in all things.

The Apostle Paul, writing from a prison cell, encourages us in Philippians 4:4: "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" These words remind us that joy isn't dependent on our circumstances; it is rooted in our relationship with God. True joy comes from knowing that we are loved by God, that we are part of God's Kingdom, and that nothing can separate us from God's love.

But how do we cultivate this joy in our everyday lives? It starts with a mindset of gratitude. When we take time to reflect on God's blessings, big and small, we begin to see how God is at work in our lives. Gratitude opens our hearts to

joy, allowing us to experience God's presence in new and profound ways.

Another key to embracing joy is worship. When we gather together as a community of believers, lifting our voices in praise, we tap into a deep reservoir of joy. Worship shifts our focus from our struggles to God's greatness, reminding us of God's faithfulness and power.

Let us also remember that joy is meant to be shared. As we experience God's joy, we are called to spread it to those around us. Whether through a kind word, a helping hand, or simply a smile, we can be vessels of God's joy in a world that desperately needs it.

As we move forward as a church, let us commit to embracing joy in all things. Let us choose to rejoice in the Lord, even when life is tough. Let us seek out moments of gratitude, worship, and service, knowing that through these, we draw closer to the heart of God.

May our lives be a testimony of the joy that comes from walking with Christ, and may

we shine His light brightly in our community.

### Confirmation

Confirmation classes will start in October! Pastor Jason will meet with our middle school and high school students who are interested in becoming a member of First Wayne Street each Sunday in October and November at 9am. We will welcome our confirmands as members on Sunday, December 15. Confirmation is open to any 6th through 12th grade students. Please contact Pastor Jason for more information.

### Membership

Are you interested in learning more about becoming a member of First Wayne Street?

Pastor Jason will host three sessions for those interested in exploring membership on October 13, 20 and 27th. If you would like more information, please contact Pastor Jason.

— Pastor Jason Morris

# Welcome back to Gather fellowship

We're thrilled to announce the return of our beloved Gather program, starting Wednesday, September 11th. Gather is our midweek opportunity for everyone in our church community to come together, share a meal, grow in faith, and have fun. Whether you're a long-time attendee or new to our church, Gather has something for you!

## 5:15 to 6 p.m.:

### Community Dinner

Start your evening with us over a delicious meal. It's a great chance to catch up with old friends and make new ones. No need to rush home from work to cook – we've got you covered!

## 6 to 7 p.m.: Adult Study with Pastor Jason

Dive deeper into your faith with an engaging study led by Pastor Jason. This is a wonderful opportunity to explore the

Bible, ask questions, and grow spiritually alongside others.

## 6 to 6:30 p.m.:

### Children's Choir

Does your child love to sing? Our Children's Choir is the perfect place for them to develop their musical talents and praise God through song.

## 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.:

### Children's Programming

After choir, the fun continues! Children will head up to the 3rd floor for age-appropriate activities, games, and lessons designed to nurture their faith in engaging ways.

## 6 to 7:30 p.m.:

### Youth Programming

Teens have their own special time to connect, learn, and grow together. Our youth program is designed to address the unique challenges and questions facing

young people today.

We're here to help! If you have any questions about Gather or want to know more about how you can get involved, please don't hesitate to reach out to: Pastor Jason, Kim, Audra

## 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>

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## Children, Families, and Youth

### Save the Date

We will be participating in Downtown Fright Night again this year by hosting a Trunk-or-Treat in our parking lot on Saturday afternoon, October 19. The more cars we have the better, so please put the date on your calendar now! More information will be coming soon.

### 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.

## Upcoming youth events

Join us at Kim's house from 7-10 p.m. Sept. 14 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!

On Oct. 12, we will enjoy a fall favorite as we head to the corn maze in Kendallville.

Adult volunteers may be needed to help with transportation.

# Celebrating 50 years of music

This October, First Wayne Street is proud to commemorate the 50th anniversary of our beloved Beckerath pipe organ. To honor this milestone, we've planned a series of special events that showcase the instrument's rich history and beautiful sound.

## WOWs: October Organ Recitals

Join us every Wednesday in October for free 30-minute recitals featuring acclaimed organists from Fort Wayne and beyond. All recitals begin at 12:15 PM.

### October 2: Dr. Ryan Kennedy

Fresh from his doctoral studies at Yale University, Dr. Kennedy will demonstrate his virtuosic technique and sensitive musicality in what promises to be a thrilling performance.

### October 9: Dr. Daniel Schwandt

Dr. Schwandt, organ professor and music associate at Trinity English Lutheran, will present an enjoyable yet eclectic program.

### October 16: Dr. Geoffrey North

Our own Director of Music, Dr. Geoffrey North, will perform favorites by Bach and other renowned composers.

### October 23: Michael Dulac

In his Wednesdays on Wayne Street debut, Michael Dulac, Director of Music and Liturgy at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, will showcase our magnificent Beckerath.

## 50th Anniversary Hymn Festival

To cap off our anniversary celebration, we invite you to our

Hymn Festival at 3 p.m. Sunday, November 10.

This afternoon of musical celebration will include hymn singing, organ solos, choral anthems, and more, all highlighting our wonderful Beckerath pipe organ.

Among those presenting pieces are:

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

Admission is free, with a free-will offering to be collected. All proceeds will go towards the long-term maintenance of the Beckerath organ.

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## Congregational Life

### Adult Sunday School

Great news! Our ROCK and Seekers classes have decided to join forces. This merger will bring together the best of both groups, creating a vibrant, diverse community for adult learning. We're looking forward to the rich discussions and new friendships that will emerge from this union.

We understand that many parents want to participate in Adult Sunday School but need a safe space for their children. We've got you covered!

Where: The Children's Room (formerly the Parlor) on the 2nd floor

When: 9 to 9:45 a.m.

Who: Elementary-aged children of parents attending Adult Sunday School

Please note: Due to volunteer staffing, we ask that only children whose parents are participating in the 9:00 AM programming use this room.

### 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 in October.

Proceeds will benefit church programs.

# 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. 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