



FIRST WAYNE STREET

United Methodist Church

GOOD NEWS

July/August 2025

Made to serve: How to plug in

At First Wayne Street, we believe that living out our mission — to love God, love people, and serve together — starts with showing up. One of the most meaningful ways you can do that is by offering your time and gifts through volunteer service.

Whether you're greeting someone with a smile on Sunday morning, helping teach a class, prepping a meal, or running sound for worship, you're making an impact. And when we serve together, something powerful happens: our church grows stronger, our relationships grow deeper, and our faith grows more real.

We're inviting every member and friend of the church to consider:

Where might God be calling you to serve?

There are opportunities for every age, every personality, and every schedule — from visible roles on Sunday mornings to behind-the-scenes work during the week.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

— 1 Peter 4:10

Ways to get involved

Hospitality: Be a greeter, serve coffee, or help with receptions and Wednesday night meals.

Music & Worship: Join the choir, praise team, handbells, or help run audio/visual.

Teaching & Spiritual Growth: Be a teacher or helper for children, youth, or adults.

Outreach: Tutor at Indian Village, help with the water bottle ministry, serve meals, or assist with events like the Rummage Sale.

Care & Connection: Join a prayer group, help with funeral

dinners, knit prayer shawls, or serve in Stephen Ministry.

Office & Facility Help: Answer phones, assist with mailings, or help keep the church grounds tidy.

Committees & Planning Teams: Share your ideas and leadership on various ministry teams.

A full list of volunteer opportunities is available at the Welcome Center desk. When you're ready, check off one or more areas of interest and drop your selection into the boxes located at the back of the sanctuary or Welcome Center. Someone already serving in that area will follow up with you.

We know life is busy. But we also know the value of stepping into something that matters — not just for the church, but for you. Serving is a way to meet new people, grow spiritually, and live out your faith in practical, meaningful ways.

Volunteers truly are priceless. Thank you for being part of a church that shows love through action. We can't wait to see where you'll serve!

Indian Village school supply drive

First Wayne Street UMC is once again collecting school supplies for our partner school, Indian Village Elementary, through the Associated Churches Rising Stars program.

Many students at Indian Village rely on school-provided supplies each year, and our ongoing support helps ensure they're ready to learn.

The principal shared how impactful these donations can be. "We had foster children come in with nothing, and we were able to give them donated backpacks and supplies. They were overjoyed, and the foster parent was very grateful." Another student was so proud of his new backpack that he didn't want to take it off.

About one-third of Indian Village students need supplies each year. Many come from single-income homes where budgets are tight. Your donations



help students participate more fully in class—and feel more confident doing so.

Beyond supplies, our church's partnership has become part of the school's support system. "The friendships formed with your volunteers give children a sense of hope and security," the principal said. "It helps both students and teachers feel supported."

Needed Supplies

Colored pencils, crayons, composition notebooks, pink erasers, dry erase markers, Play-Doh, sidewalk chalk, sticky notes, tissues, socks, underwear (child sizes), folders with prongs, glue sticks, hand sanitizer, storage bags, pencil bags or boxes, disinfectant wipes, book bags, and reusable water bottles.

Donations can be placed in the SHOCKING PINK box near the sanctuary.

Tutors Needed

We're also looking for volunteers to help students one-on-one during the school year. If you're interested, contact Ron Marker at 755-0220. Even one hour a week can make a real difference.

Thank you for supporting Indian Village students and staff again this year.

Boomerangs to host August events

Our Boomerangs group—open to retirees and friends—is hosting two upcoming events this August. Whether you're looking to connect socially or learn something important, we hope you'll join us.

Sunday, August 3 Lunch at Red Lobster

After worship, meet us at Red Lobster (4825 Coldwater Road) for food and fellowship from 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM. It's a great

chance to catch up with friends and enjoy a relaxed Sunday meal together. Please RSVP to Janet H. by August 1.

Friday, August 22 Lunch & Speaker

Join us from 12:00–2:00 PM for lunch and a helpful presentation by Tracy Brook on advanced directives—an important topic for anyone planning for the future.

Tracy will address common

questions:

What are advanced directives?

Why are they important?

What happens if I don't have one?

Why might someone choose a Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) order?

Lunch is \$10. Please RSVP by August 20 to the church office.

Whether you're coming to one or both events, we'd love to see you there!

Join us around the campfire this fall

Everyone is invited to pack up those tents and come to Pokagon State Park for a night of camping, fellowship, and fun!

Our camping weekend will be September 13-14.

FWSUMC will provide dinner (cooked over the fire), smores, and other fun activities for all ages.

We will also have an outdoor worship service on Sunday morning in the amphitheater!

All ages are welcome. FWSUMC has reserved a limited number of primitive (non-electric) campsites. These will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis, so let Audra know ASAP to reserve one of these spots.

If you have an RV and are wanting an electric site, please reserve on your own through the Pokagon website; the bottom of campground 4 is adjacent to the area where our primitive sites will

be (non-electric campground 2).

If you want to participate but the idea of sleeping outside is not for you, there is always the option of staying at the Pokagon Inn but reservations would need to be made on your own and rooms fill up quickly!

So we can plan for this event, please RSVP to Audra if you plan to attend, even if you are not needing to reserve a FWS campsite!

Children and family ministry

Pool Party, August 3

Bring the whole family and join us for an end-of-summer pool party on Sunday, August 3 at Jury Pool at noon. Admission will be paid for by the Children's Fund.

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 that helped with our Rummage Sale.

We raised over to \$4,000 for our Youth and Children's Ministries through our Rummage Sale. We couldn't have done any of it without our amazing volunteers!

Mark your calendars

We're thrilled to announce the return of our Gather program, starting Wednesday, September 10. 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!

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.

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
Website: 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