



FIRST WAYNE STREET

United Methodist Church

GOOD NEWS

September 2025

An invitation to live generously

What does it mean to live generously? For many, the word “generosity” immediately brings to mind financial giving. But Scripture paints a bigger, more beautiful picture — one that includes the generosity of our time, our talents, our presence, our hospitality, our compassion, and yes, our treasures.

This fall, we invite you to join us for a new four-week sermon series, “Living Generously: A Life Poured Out”, as we explore what it means to embrace generosity as a way of life. Together, we will see how generosity is not just a financial transaction — it’s a spiritual posture rooted in God’s extravagant love for us.

Each week will focus on a different aspect of holistic generosity:

September 7: The Heart of Generosity - Luke 21:1–4

September 14: Generosity in Action - Luke 10:25–37

September 21: Gifts Given, Gifts Shared - 1 Peter 4:8–11

September 28: A Life Poured Out - Romans 12:1–2

LIVING GENEROUSLY A LIFE POURED OUT



SERMON SERIES

October 5: One Table, One Mission: Joyfully United - 2 Corinthians 9:10–15

Throughout the series, we will be asking important questions:

- How is God calling me to give of myself?
- What gifts and abilities do I have that could bless others?
- Where might I make space in my schedule to serve?
- How might I invest my resources in ways that honor

God and build the kingdom?

As we prayerfully reflect on these questions, we will also be preparing our hearts for a special moment of commitment on Sunday, October 5, which is also World Communion Sunday. On that day, we will join Christians across the globe in sharing the Lord’s Supper and will consecrate our gifts and commitments for the coming year — our pledges of time, talents, and treasures — as an act of worship and unity.

This is more than a series about giving. It’s an invitation to step into a richer, more joyful, and more connected way of living. Holistic generosity reflects God’s heart — and when we live this way, the world catches a glimpse of the Kingdom of God.

We encourage you to be present each week, to open your heart to the Spirit’s leading, and to prayerfully consider how you might live generously in the year ahead.

Let’s discover together the joy of a life poured out.

Concert series returns to sanctuary

The Wednesdays on Wayne Street* (WOWS) concert series returns this October with free, 30-minute concerts in the sanctuary at 12:15 pm.

If you can't attend in person, each concert will also be livestreamed on our YouTube channel.

This fall's lineup includes:

October 8

Cassandra Lee Petrie, mezzo soprano & Geoffrey North, piano
Opera singer Cassandra Lee

Petrie joins First Wayne Street's own Dr. North for an afternoon of classical favorites.

October 15

Jane Heald, cello & Eric Clancy, piano

Fort Wayne Philharmonic cellist Jane Heald and jazz pianist Eric Clancy perform a mix of classical crossover, pops, and jazz.

Jiang will present piano transcriptions of superhero movie music.

October 29

Andrew Danielson, organ

PFW senior Andrew Danielson closes the series with an eclectic program on the Beckerath organ, including a suite based on sea shanties.

Join us on Wednesdays this October — either in person or online — for a great lineup of music.

Congregational life

Gather resumes

September 10

Everyone is invited to join us as our weekly Gather activities begin for the year. Dinner will be served from 5:15-6:00, followed by activities for all ages. Please let Audra know if you have any questions

Gather cooks needed

FWS is always looking for individuals who are interested in helping prepare food for our Wednesday Gather meals. Food can be prepared and dropped off ahead of time or prepared the same day (freezer-friendly meals are welcome!). FWS will reimburse for all food costs. We serve food to roughly 25-30 people. This is a great time of food and fellowship, and any help is appreciated. Please contact

Audra if interested.

Save the date

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 18, from noon to 3:00 pm as First Wayne Street once again takes part in Downtown Fort Wayne's Fright Night!

We'll be a stop on the official Trunk or Treat route, welcoming hundreds of costumed children and families into our parking lot for candy and fun. Volunteers are encouraged to participate—decorating your trunk and wearing a costume is optional but always adds to the fun!

This year, we're adding something new: a chili potluck inside for our church family and volunteers. It's a great way to warm up, share a meal, and keep the fellowship going throughout

the afternoon.

Stay tuned for more details on how you can sign up to bring chili or sides.

September Focus mission: Stewardship

September is designated as an "Open" focus mission month. The Outreach committee's intent is to encourage members to prayerfully determine the many service/volunteer opportunities available, as well as their 2026 pledge to next year's FWS Operating Budget.

Also, please continue praying as we work to reduce events of violence and injustice, and create transformation for our community, our nation, and our world.

Sweet times ahead: Fall youth fun

This fall, First Wayne Street youth are jumping into a new theme: "Bake the World a Better Place."

Our Wednesday night gatherings will mix fun, food, and friendship with activities like cookie taste-tests, baking for our partner school, Indian Village Elementary, and plenty of lighthearted games. The idea is simple: small things — like a batch of cookies — can make a big difference.

On Sundays, our schedule will look a little different. We won't have regular Sunday School this fall, as we're offering Confirmation Class for students in grades 6–12.

To make sure we still have space for casual connection, we'll also be heading to Crescendo Coffee & More a few times during worship. These coffee shop visits are a way to try something



new and build relationships in a relaxed setting.

Dates for our coffee and conversation outings are October 19, November 23, and December 16.

Alongside our weekly gatherings, youth can look forward to special events:

Oct. 18: Fright Night (chili

potluck + Cookie Trail starting at Insomnia Cookies)

Nov. 7–9: Youth Retreat at Epworth Forest

Dec. 30: Cookie Trail continues with a trip to Dirty Dough and lunch.

Friends are always welcome — because everything's better when shared.

Take your next step with First Wayne

Are you thinking about membership at First Wayne Street?

We have two exciting opportunities this fall to explore what it means to be part of the family at First Wayne Street UMC!

For students in 6th through 12th grade, we will be offering confirmation classes on Sunday's at 9am. We will meet on the 3rd floor in one of our youth rooms. Classes will begin on September 21 and run through

November. Students will learn about our Methodist traditions, church history, the meaning of membership and what it looks like to follow Jesus every day.

As an added bonus, we will have a youth retreat on November 7-9, which is open to all students, but will be especially beneficial for our confirmation students.

For adults interested in membership, Pastor Jason will be hosting membership conversations following worship on September 21,

28 and October 5th in Room 119. In these sessions, you will learn more about our church, our mission and how you can connect with others and grow in faith here at First Wayne Street.

Mark your calendars, bring your questions and come ready to take your next step!

If you have questions about confirmation or the membership conversations, don't hesitate to reach out to Pastor Jason (jason@fwsumc.org or 422-4681).

Good News

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



FIRST WAYNE STREET
United Methodist Church

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FIRST WAYNE STREET STAFF

Senior Minister: Rev. Jason Morris
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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

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Facilities Manager: Cesar Anzaldua
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Communications Coordinator: Kim Truesdell
Audio Visual Media Director: Barclay Hall
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