



FIRST WAYNE STREET

United Methodist Church

GOOD NEWS

November 2025

Gratitude and grace

I'm not good at gratitude journals.

That might sound odd coming from someone who considers herself a writer, but whenever I sit down to list what I'm thankful for, it all seems so ... ridiculous. I'm grateful for coffee. For missing the train by seconds. For finding one last can of Diet Coke in the back of the fridge.

They're small moments, little sparks of joy that often fade as quickly as they come. And yet, sometimes, those small things are all that feel within reach — especially in the seasons when we're waiting for God to show up in our lives. Or, if we're honest, show up the way we want Him to. When health struggles linger, when work feels heavy, when family life is complicated — gratitude can feel like a stretch. Coffee and Diet Coke might feel like all we've got.

But on a recent morning, God reminded me otherwise.

Driving to work before sunrise, Spotify decided my day needed a little "Eye of the Tiger." The world was quiet, the stars maybe

still out, and in that stillness I felt something like a whisper — not loud or dramatic, but clear. A realization of gratitude I didn't even know I needed:

I have a true home, a true family, at First Wayne Street.

Finding my place

It's been nearly 11 years since I first attended a service here — just an Advent promise to Mark that I'd go. I didn't plan to stick around much beyond Christmas. Surprise! Here I am. (Lucky for you all.)

Somewhere along the way, you drew me in. From casual attendance to volunteering at VBS to working at the church — and eventually realizing I wasn't just serving a congregation. I'd found a family.

A family that stands up to hug me on Sunday mornings.

A family that shares stories in the hallway or laughs together at Trunk or Treat.

A family rooted in faith, care, and connection — all the things that make this place feel like

home.

Gratitude in the small things

I think a lot about God's timing and how He shows up. Sometimes it's in the big, dramatic ways — the answered prayers, the life-changing moments. But more often, it's in the quiet, ordinary ones: a familiar hymn, a shared laugh, a small kindness that reminds you you're seen.

As we move into November, many of us will pause to count our blessings — to name what we're thankful for. But if that feels hard this year, that's OK. I'm not going to tell you to keep a gratitude journal or to force thanks when things feel too heavy to carry.

Sometimes, it's enough to lean on the family we have here — to let someone else carry a bit of that weight. And who knows? They might just be grateful that you trusted them with your heart.

— Kimberly Truesdell

Congregational life

Mission focus

Our monthly mission focus for November is NeighborLink.

NeighborLink is an organization whose mission is to exemplify God's Love by helping our neighbors in need. By serving others, they fulfil this mission as Christ intended...."Love they Neighbor". NeighborLink connects neighbors in need with people that volunteer to help with their time, talents and generosity.

NeighborLink encourages relationships between neighbors no matter where they live or who they are. The needs may be as basic as shopping, yard work, snow removal to more skilled work like ramp construction, plumbing/electricity, roofing or painting!

Church-wide work day

Mark your calendars! First Wayne Street UMC will partner with NeighborLink for a church-wide Workday on Saturday, November 22.

This is a wonderful opportunity to serve our community together, strengthen connections, and make a difference in the lives of our neighbors. More details on projects and sign-ups will be shared soon.

Gather updates

As we move into the busy



Mark your calendar: Friendsgiving

We will have our annual Friendsgiving event after church on November 16. 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.

holiday season, our Wednesday night Gather fellowship schedule will look a little different!

No Gather on November 26 (Thanksgiving week)

Our final Gather of 2025 will be Wednesday, December 10

We are also 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 as you would like!

If you have any questions, please contact Audra.

Holidays at First Wayne Street

Holiday Bazaar

First Wayne Street UWF will have items for sale at a Holiday Bazaar on Sundays, November 23, and December 7 and 14, 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.

3. Return the gift under the tree no later than Wednesday, Dec.
3. 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. 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 3

Bring the whole family and decorate a gingerbread house together! Each family (or individual) will receive a prebuilt

gingerbread house, icing and decorating candies.

Christmas Pageant

The FWSUMC children will be having a Christmas Pageant incorporated during the service on December 14.

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 10.

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.

Youth ministry

Coffee & Conversation

Our next outing takes place Sunday, November 23. After worship, we'll walk together over to Crescendo Coffee & More for casual conversation, fellowship, and a chance to try something

new. Friends are always welcome!

Special events

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

lunch

Alongside these events, our weekly gatherings will continue to provide space for connection, fun, and faith.

Good News

First Wayne Street United Methodist Church
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United Methodist Church

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