

The WORD

Sept 2025

Volume 56 Issue 9



Westville United Methodist Church

**Communion
Aug 31, 2025**

**“Reach up, Reach in, Reach out
Reach up to God, Reach in to know
God, Reach out in Love”**

Sunday Morning Schedule:

Sunday School 9:15 am –

Worship in the Sanctuary 10:15am

Drive In Service Radio Station 91.3



Community Meal

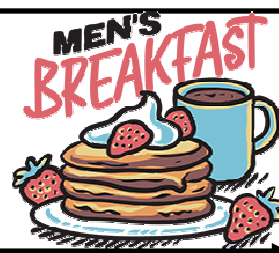
Free Community Meal Sept 17th

5-6:30pm, Cookout

A message from Pastor at 6:30pm

Men's Breakfast

Sept 13th 9 am



Free Farmers Market

5-6pm every Monday



JESUS IS COMING AGAIN!!!

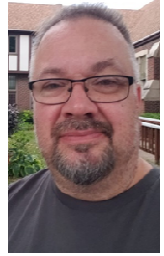
THE WORD is a publication of Westville United Methodist Church at 154 Main St.,
P.O. Box 619; Westville, IN 46391 (219) 785-2314

*******CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday 9-noon /Tues.—Thurs. am**

Our Web Address is www.westvilleumc.org

In order to go green The Word will be e-mailed to you. Be sure to e-mail your address to Jane at
secretarywumc@csinet.net

Printed copies will continue to be available at the church for those who do not have e-mail.



From the Pastor – September 2025

Dear Church Family,

As we step into the month of September, I am reminded of the beauty of change and the promise of new beginnings. The transition from summer to autumn is a gentle reminder of God's ever-present hand in our lives, guiding us through each season with grace and love.

This month, I want to challenge each of you to embrace the theme of **renewal**. Just as the leaves change color and the air becomes crisp, let us seek to renew our spirits and our commitment to our faith. Take time to reflect on your personal journey with God and consider ways you can deepen your relationship with Him. Whether it's through prayer, reading scripture, or acts of kindness, let us strive to grow closer to our Creator.

Scripture Highlight: *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"* - 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

This powerful verse reminds us that in Christ, we are made new. Our past mistakes and failures are washed away, and we are given a fresh start. Let this scripture be a source of encouragement and inspiration as we seek renewal in our lives.

A Story of Renewal: Let me share a story about a man named John. John had always been a hard-working individual, but over the years, he found himself feeling disconnected from his faith and his community. He was going through the motions of life, but something was missing. One day, while walking through a park, he noticed a small sapling struggling to grow amidst the tall, overshadowing trees. Despite its challenges, the sapling continued to reach for the sunlight, determined to thrive.

Inspired by the sapling's resilience, John decided it was time for a change. He began to attend church regularly, joined a Bible study group, and volunteered at a local shelter. Slowly but surely, John felt a renewed sense of purpose and connection. Just like the sapling, he found his way to the light, growing stronger in his faith and his commitment to serving others.

Monthly Challenge: I encourage you to find one area of your life where you can make a positive change. It could be something as simple as setting aside time each day for prayer, reaching out to a friend in need, or volunteering in our community. Small changes can lead to significant transformations, and together, we can make a difference.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank You for the gift of new beginnings. As we enter this new month, we ask for Your guidance and strength to embrace the changes ahead. Help us to renew our spirits and draw closer to You. May we be a light in our community, sharing Your love and grace with those around us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

May this month be filled with blessings and opportunities for growth. Let us walk together in faith, supporting and uplifting one another as we journey through this season of renewal.

Blessings, Pastor Toby



BE a Blessing -Extending a Hand of Help in Christ's Name

As a church, God has called us to be His hands and feet in a world full of real needs. Since we began our Benevolence Fund three years ago, we have been able to bless many, many families and individuals in their time of hardship. Through your generosity, our church has helped with rent, electric bills, appliances, gas cards, food, and even free-will donations when emergencies arose. Each of these gifts was more than financial support—it was a reminder that someone cared, and that God's love is alive and active.

Scripture tells us, *"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ"* (Galatians 6:2). That is what our Benevolence Fund does—it allows us, together, to lift up our neighbors when life becomes overwhelming.

With the rising cost of electricity, groceries, and gas, we anticipate even greater requests for help this winter. Many families in our community are struggling to make ends meet, and we want to be ready to meet them with compassion, grace, and practical help.

We are asking you to prayerfully consider making a contribution to our Benevolence Fund. Every dollar given goes directly to those in need—whether it's keeping the heat on during the coldest months, assisting them in remaining in their home, helping someone get to work with a tank of gas, or aiding them in numerous other ways when they have nowhere else to turn. We can't look at the trials others face as merely THEIR problems; as Christians, we should see them as OUR opportunity to be a blessing.

Your gift, no matter the size, becomes a testimony of God's love at work. Together, we can continue to be a light in the darkness and a source of hope for those who feel forgotten.

Let us join in faith and action, remembering the words of Jesus: *"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me"* (Matthew 25:40).

Join us in local missions!**Items needed for the Food Pantry:**

9/7 Cleaning products: laundry soap, dish soap, mopping products

9/14 Pastas, noodles, macaroni, sauces, Pasta sauces

9/21 Canned fruits and vegetables, soup

9/28 Crackers, Cereal, Canned Meat, Hamburger Helper

TIME & LOCATION**Food Pantry Information:**

The American Legion is now working in cooperation with the WMC Food Pantry ministry. Please drop off donations of the above mentioned items at the Legion. **For those receiving donations, items may be picked up at the American Legion on Thursdays from 4:30—5:30.**

IMPORTANT REMINDER

INFORMATION FOR THE WORD IS DUE BY Sept 25th IN ORDER TO BE READY FOR PUBLICATION BY Sept 30th AT THE LATEST. CAN BE EMAILED TO secretarywumc@csinet.net



**Family Life Center is available for rental for parties and celebrations.
Contact the church office at 219-785-2314 for more information.**

Save your pop cans and bring them to the church. The money earned from the can collection supports the Heifer Project.



*****Please note if no one signs up for the Halloween Maze by Oct. 1st, there will not be a Maze this year! *****

Join Us in Making This Halloween Special!

Dear Congregation,

As the vibrant colors of autumn begin to paint the world around us, we are excitedly planning our annual Halloween festivities here at the United Methodist Church. This year, we are reaching out to you, our beloved church family, with an invitation to volunteer and lead the ministry of our Halloween events in October. This one-night event has historically brought in over 100 guests from our community. What an amazing way to reach out to our neighbors.

Why Volunteer?

Volunteering is a wonderful way to engage with our community, strengthen our bonds, and create memories that will last a lifetime. By stepping forward to help with our Halloween events, you will not only bring joy to our children and families but also embody the spirit of service and compassion that lies at the heart of our faith.

Trunk-or-Treat Coordination

One of the highlights of our Halloween celebration is the Trunk-or-Treat event. We need enthusiastic volunteers to coordinate and oversee this delightful tradition. Your role will involve:

Organizing a team of volunteers to decorate their car trunks in creative and spooky themes.

Ensuring there are enough treats for all the children attending.

Setting up and managing a safe and fun environment for families to enjoy.

Your creativity and organizational skills will make this event a memorable experience for everyone involved.

Decorating the Church Basement for the Creepy Crawly Maze

Another exciting part of our Halloween festivities is the Creepy Crawly Maze in the church basement. We are looking for imaginative and dedicated volunteers to transform the basement into a thrilling and safe maze for our young adventurers. Responsibilities include:

Designing and setting up the maze with spooky decorations and surprises around every corner.

Ensuring the maze is safe for all participants.

Guiding children through the maze and assisting them as needed.

Your efforts will bring laughter, excitement, and a few fun frights to our church's Halloween celebration.

How to Get Involved

If you feel called to lead or participate in these wonderful events, please sign up on the volunteer sheet located on the church bulletin board or contact the church office directly. Every hand helps, and together, we can create a Halloween celebration that our community will cherish.

We are incredibly grateful for your dedication and support. Let's come together to make this Halloween a spectacular event for all!

Blessings, The Westville United Methodist Church Leadership Team



Church Council & Trustee Meeting, August 11, 2025

Present Jane, Amanda, Kay, Richard, Alan, Evert, Jan, Pastor Toby, Mark

Trustee:

Items Discussed: Mulch for the church landscaping. We will ask in church for donations for mulch or the mulch and the spreading of mulch.

Fascia and soffit of the church needs painting. Jane will contact the painters from the sanctuary for an estimate. There was more discussion of the color of the arch in the sanctuary.

The parsonage walk through is scheduled later in August to comply with charge Conference Report. We agreed to continue with the same amount for the rent of the parsonage. Our rents are very responsible and reliable. We are happy with their care of the parsonage.

Mark asked if the church would be willing to allow him to rent the old garage on the church property for the storage of an old car that he owns. He will sign a letter of No Liability if something happens to the garage. Amanda Made a motion to allow Mark to rent the garage at \$50.00 a month with no liability for any damage while on church property. Kay 2nd the motion and the motion passed.

Church Council, Kathie joined the meeting

Kay shared a reading and the minutes from the July meeting were approved.

Education: Amanda stated that VBS went very well. Sept 14th will be Education Sunday and recognition.

There will be a float in the Pumpkin festival parade with a theme of Bee Kind. We will need candy to toss from the float and we have stuffed animals to toss also.

Halloween, we are still hoping someone will be willing to help with the Halloween actives. Amanda has agreed to be in charge of the kitchen and the truck or treat. We are in need of someone to plan and execute the Maze. Jane will make a signup sheet for this for the bulletin board.

Worship: Pastor has signed up for a subscription to help with worship guide.

Outreach/Mission: Kathie reported the Farmers Market is getting a slow start. We are signed up for the water booth at the Pumpkin Festival on Oct. 4th. Kay reported that we served 9 families over the summer food giveaway.

Resale shop: The \$3.00 bag sale is going on and the fall items are out for sale.

Finance Reports were passed out. They look great and accounts have been better organized.

Jan made a motion to transfer \$500.00 to Youth outreach Fund from the General fund for costs from the parade float and preparation for the Halloween activates. Kay 2nd the motion and the motion passed.

New Business: Looking for a sponsor for the Sept Free Community Meal

Cont.

Cont.

Pastor comments: Pastor Toby is interested in having a community outreach with events planned in our church through "Outreach" They would help plan mailing to areas of our community that we would like to reach.

Pastor has been using his personal laptop for the worship service. And asked if a new one could be purchased from the church funds. It would be used for live streaming of the worship service and etc. Amanda made a motion for Jane to look into purchasing a laptop not exceed 1000.00. Kay 2nd the motion and the motion passed.

Also the Mevo camera is wearing out and needs to be replaced. We are in need of 2 of these cameras to reach around the church. There was a deal on Amazon if we purchased 3 cameras. Jane made a motion to purchase the 3 mevo cameras for approximately 1200.00. Amanda 2nd the motion and the motion passed.

Jane will make signup sheets for the information board, Community meals, maze coordinator, prayer sign up and etc.

Pastor will be absent on Sept 7 and Jan will give the message.

There is interest in a weekly bible study, but we need a coordinator – make a signup sheet.

We are looking for a tree to put in the front of the sanctuary that looks very nice. Shopping!!

WUMC NEEDS BOTTLED WATER DONATIONS

for our Pumpkin Festival Outreach Water Booth. Donations can be
dropped off at the Family Life Center before Oct. 3rd.

There will also be a sign up sheet to work the booth and
give out water !!

Trunk or Treat and and Hot Dogs

Oct. 25th

Maze?????



Care & Concern

Health and Healing

Kelly Murphy	Kristi – Health Journey
Pete Buckmaster	Jerry Adrian
Sheryl Elliott	Lee Bently
Jayne Richards	Rita White
Bob & Sheila McCaughey	Nash & Family
Richard Lee	Donna Bunch
Hemi Ostroski	Tina Dickinson
Diane Toomire	George & Bev. Sharpe
Kurt Krause J	Joshua Rab
Lucas Bradshaw	Julie Epperson
Rennie Stallings	Tom Jennings
River Allen	Tom & Joanne Green
Evonne	June Evans
Amir DePuis	David, Sylvia & Nancy Spudic
Letrishia Falls	Chris Wise

The Family of Dustin Unger

Those suffering with addiction, poverty, &/or depression

*Unspoken Prayers **Families **Youth **First Responders

**Law Enforcement

The Care Corner,
Adele LundahlGuidance & ProtectionQuinn Bacon Preston Wilson
Aaron HaleAll Military Personnel
All Victims of War

**HAVE YOU
TALKED
TO GOD
TODAY?**

HE
(cares for you)

PRAYER CHAIN

If you have a special need for prayer, the prayer chain can be activated by calling church Secretary Jane Bachman (785-2314)

Pastor Toby Guill maybe reached @ **219-850-3768**

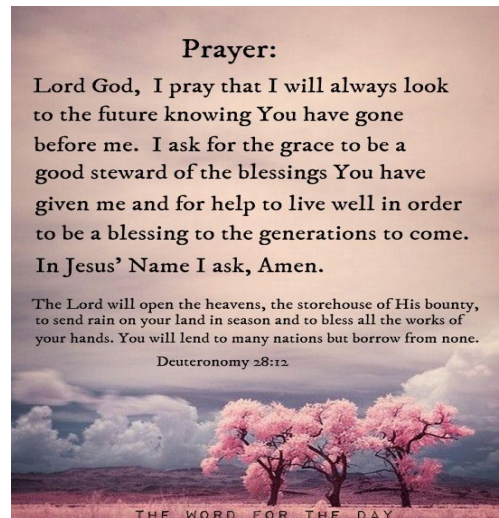
Or email at **toby.guill@inumc.org**

Prayer:

Lord God, I pray that I will always look to the future knowing You have gone before me. I ask for the grace to be a good steward of the blessings You have given me and for help to live well in order to be a blessing to the generations to come. In Jesus' Name I ask, Amen.

The Lord will open the heavens, the storehouse of His bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the works of your hands. You will lend to many nations but borrow from none.

Deuteronomy 28:12



***** **Church Office Hours** *****

Monday 9am—noon, Tues-Thurs am

My hours vary, please call 219-898-3077

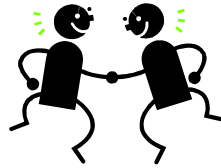
Sept Wedding Anniversary's

Dennis & Kathy Kolosci	1-Sep
Tony Michele Pundrich	9-Sep
Kandi Jo & TJ Kaminski	21-Sep
Ron & Renni Stallings	2-Sep



Sept Dates of Joining

9/17/1961	Jane Bachman
9/5/2008	Charlene Glassley
9/18/2005	Rebecca Engstrom
9/18/2005	Adele Lundahl
9/18/2005	Shane McClintock
9/20/2009	Teresa Stowers
9/27/1992	Gary Van Meter
9/27/2015	Victoria Zimmerle
9/27/2015	James Zimmerle
9/27/2015	David Clayton



Sept Birthdays

Russ DeGarmo	2-Sep
Jaylyn Newman	8-Sep
Dylan Hale	10-Sep
Cathy Jo Grostefon	11-Sep
Rick Tetzloff	12-Sep
Mark Glassley	14-Sep
Richard Parker	16-Sep
Betsy Schramlin	17-Sep
Sara Tetzloff	19-Sep
Stephan Jerde	20-Sep
TJ Kaminski	20-Sep
Cory Stark	21-Sep
Doug Tharp	21-Sep
Cheryl White	21-Sep
Paul Eichelberg	24-Sep
Tony Pundrich	27-Sep
Phil Koss	28-Sep
Kolton Bennett	29-Sep
Chloe Herrold	30-Sep
Kathie Long	30-Sep
Denitta Newenhouse	30-Sep

WELCOME STATEMENT

"With open hearts, open minds and open doors; we welcome people of all races, nationalities theologies and abilities. We welcome people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. We offer a safe and compassionate place to reconcile faith, identity, hope, understanding and mutual respect".



Westville United Methodist Church

Give as the Lord calls you to give:
be as generous to God as God has been to you!

Aug Giving

Date	Worship	SS	Giving
7/27/2025	52	15	\$1,147.25
8/3/2025	44	13	\$1,842.00
8/10/2025	47	12	\$1,309.80
8/17/2025	56	14	\$1,705.59
8/24/2025	43	12	\$948.85

Thank you for being Faithful Givers

Your tithes and offerings maybe mailed to :

WUMC P O Box 619, Westville, In 46391

September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Free Farmers Market 5-6pm	2 TRI KAPPA 4-9 PM RESALE SHOP 9-NOON	3	4 Lions Club FLC Resale Shop 1-4pm	5	6 Resale Shop 9-12
7	8 Free Farmers Market 5-6pm Trustee/Church Council 6 pm	9	10 Mulch delivered—Come Help Spread 11am —??	11 Resale Shop 1-4 pm	12	13 <u>Men's Breakfast 9 am</u> Resale Shop 9-12
14 <u>Education Sunday</u>	15 Free Farmers Market 5-6pm	16 Resale Shop 9am-12	17 <u>Free Community Meal 5-7pm COOKOUT!</u>	18 Resale Shop 1-4pm	19	20 FLC Rented Resale Shop 9-12
21	22 Free Farmers Market 5-6pm	23 Resale Shop 9-12	24	25 Resale Shop 1-4pm	26	27 Resale Shop 9-noon
28	29	30 Resale Shop 9-12 pm	Oct 1	2 Resale shop 1-4 pm	3	4 Resale Shop 9-12 noon