



November 10, 2024

Dear Beloved Friends of the UMC in Wayne,

Here's something that might surprise you: this is one of my favorite times of year.

It is the season of gratitude at the United Methodist Church in Wayne when we turn our attention toward the abundant gifts that God has given us! And our response to God's extravagant generosity is to think deeply about our God given vocation as stewards of God's amazing creation. (Genesis 1:26, 2:15, Psalm 8:6)

The word "steward" comes from two ancient roots: *stige*, or "path, hall, part of a house," and *ward*, or "guardian, person who watches over." A steward is someone who protects a path, who watches over a house, who takes care of a treasure.

Biblical stewardship invites us to see that everything we have, everything our congregation has, is entrusted to us to be used, not for our own purposes, but for God's purposes. It invites us to take risks like the courageous servants in the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30) who risked their talents and increased them. They were praised and rewarded on their trustworthiness see verses 21 & 23. Stewardship is directly tied to trust that God will use us to make God's love real for the transformation of our world. It is a risky and courageous business!

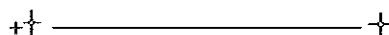
The season of Gratitude is a season of continuing to become the people God created us to be. Trusting that God is working in and through us as we; protect and care for a path, a house, a treasure – and not just our individual home or church, but also the wider community we all share, love, and serve. God's path, God's house, the bright and beautiful temple of creation, full of God's amazing creatures, great and small.

In the weeks ahead, you'll hear from our "All Creatures Great and Small" campaign team, with more information about how you can help make this season an inspiring success. And on Sunday November 24th we'll celebrate the manifold works of God inviting you to bring your "All Ages" prayer poster (on the back of this letter) and pledge cards up to the Communion table.

Thank you in advance for being a part of this special time of year, and most of all, for everything you do – great and small – to help protect, watch over, and care for God's bright and beautiful world.

Grace and peace,

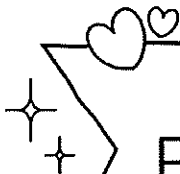

Pastor Ninabeth



O God, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures. + Psalm 104:24

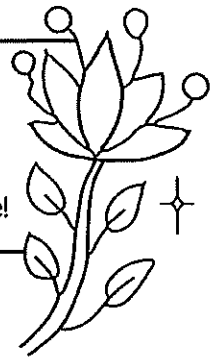


ALL CREATURES
great and small



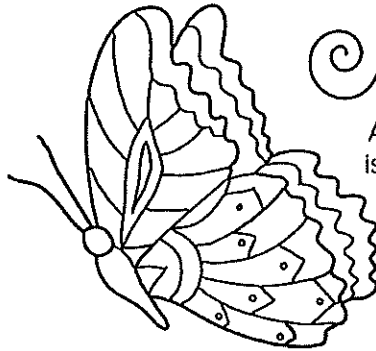
"ALL AGES" PLEDGE POSTER

great or small, every gift makes a difference!

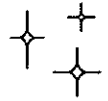


HERE ARE THREE THINGS
WE LOVE ABOUT
The UMC in Wayne

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



Cool Fact:
A monarch butterfly's heart
is about the size of a sewing
needle (it's long and thin)!



HERE ARE THREE WAYS
WE CAN HELP
The UMC in Wayne

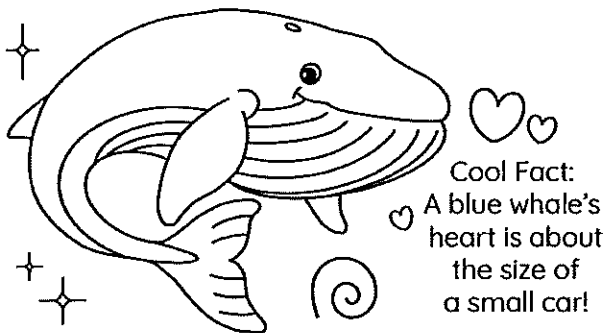
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

HERE ARE A FEW WAYS WE
CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- Send handwritten thank-you notes to organizations doing great things
- Collect gluten free and/or low salt items for the Wayne Interfaith Food Pantry
- Play an instrument in worship
- Team up for a neighborhood clean-up
- Have a Hot Cocoa Stand and give the proceeds to a great cause
- _____
- _____
- _____

HERE ARE THREE WAYS
WE CAN HELP THE WORLD

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



Cool Fact:
A blue whale's
heart is about
the size of
a small car!

O God, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

+ PSALM 104:24