



Faith WESTWOOD

Stewardship Celebration Brochure 2025

As we prepare for this year's **Stewardship Sunday** on **November 9**, let's celebrate the **mission & ministry** of FaithWestwood United Methodist Church. What an exciting year for **worship, study, and service!**

Worship

At FaithWestwood, **worship** inspires us to love God, love our neighbors, and to make disciples. **We want to celebrate some of the amazing worship experiences from this past year.**



In December, *The Bethlehem Beat* **Christmas Pageant** shared a powerful message of Jesus' birth, and then the **new** **Little Drummer Band** drummed their way into our hearts on Christmas Eve.

At **Easter**, we celebrated the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The worship center was adorned with spring flowers, and what a wonderful celebration through music, word, and liturgy. In June, **Vacation Bible School Sunday** inspired us to claim the *True North* Jesus Christ.



On June 29, our district superintendent, Rev. Stephanie Ahlschwede, joined us in worship to **celebrate and dedicate** the **Micah Center**.

Also in the summer, some of our **MidWeek Meals** participants created a video for the Oct-Nov sermon series, **"Come to the Table."**

Join our church in **celebrating** each and every opportunity to **worship & praise** God!



Study

Our FaithGroup Ministry is at the heart of fulfilling our Wesleyan heritage of study. It plays a vital role in growing, connecting, and discipling our congregation. Most of these groups meet weekly to discuss the current sermon series using the provided study guide, while other groups choose their own study topics.

Each August for the last several years, we have launched our FaithGroup ministry year by doing what Methodist do best- sharing a meal- with our “Church and Brunch All at Once” event. This year we served almost 225 people between the two services and provided the congregation with the opportunity to experience and learn more about our small group ministry.



We also continue to provide several shorter term FaithGroup offerings like our current **Alpha, Bethel Bible Study, Financial Peace, and GriefShare.** Between these four groups we have more than 50 participants growing and deepening their relationship with Christ.



This fall we celebrate **16 permanent FaithGroups** with **175 participants.** While some members attend multiple FaithGroups, if we include the short-term groups from above our participation rate **exceeds 100% of our average in-person weekly attendance- quite an accomplishment!**



We also remain grateful for our FaithGroup leadership team which works year-round to provide these opportunities and clearly lives up to their mission statement of **Creating small caring communities that love and serve Jesus together.**



Service

As a church FaithWestwood excels at many things, but foremost is the heart our congregation has for serving our community. Some of our service projects are annual events, while others allow us to serve year-round.

Each September our **Outside the Walls** weekend invites everyone in our congregation to be in service side by side with others. **This year our Missions Team offered 14 different serving opportunities covering a broad range of tasks available for a variety of ages and abilities, and over 150 members participated!**



Our Family Ministry Team offers four outreach events every year including Trunk or Treat each October, a drive through Live Nativity every December, our spring Easter Eggstravaganza, and Vacation Bible school every June. All these family-focused events are offered free of charge to our community and serve as the front door in welcoming new guests to FaithWestwood.



Our **Blanketed with Prayer** volunteers knit, crochet, and tie prayer shawls and blankets for those experiencing illness, hospitalization, grief, or other challenges. They also crochet baby afghans for families welcoming a new baby, and winter hats and scarves that are donated to community organizations. **Each year hundreds of these handmade keepsakes are created and distributed throughout the community by FaithWestwood members.**

We are also blessed to have several ministries that provide on-going chances for congregation members to serve and be the hands and feet of Jesus. Our **FaithWorks Pantry** provides much needed assistance to our food-insecure neighbors three times a month. During the growing season this also includes fresh vegetables from our **Pantry Garden**. **On September 27 we tied a record by serving 70 families which fed 270 individuals.** Each Thanksgiving our church and this team offer 250 complete meals so other less fortunate families can enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving celebration.



Another FaithGroup we started in 2024 bridges the gap between **study** and **service**, and they currently have an inward focus. Our **5 M's (Monday Morning Methodist Maintenance Men)** has had a particularly busy year. Their tasks included a complete renovation of our 16,000 square foot lower level now named the **Micah Center**. This transformation took nine months and allowed us to move our nursery downstairs, create a library, and instrument petting zoo for our children, expand our pantry, and add two larger classrooms/meeting spaces.

Service

This also provided FaithWestwood with the ability to lease out the remaining space to **Mosaic** allowing them to combine several of their locations into our building. The creative collaboration between two non-profits benefited both organizations financially and created a unique partnership for years to come. So far in 2025 our 5 M's group of dedicated volunteers has saved the church more than **\$191,000 in labor and other costs over the cost of outside services!**

The **Gardening Angels** spend endless hours caring for and beautifying our church grounds and landscaping. **Their dedication to honoring God by caring for His creation is amazing.**

We also provide on-going support for numerous other community partner organizations including Central Middle School, Norris Elementary School, Iglesia Comunitaria, The Furniture Project, and Cub and Boy Scout troops.



Preparing Faith Commitments for 2026

As we prepare to make our Faith Commitments for 2026:

Pray for our congregation, our ministries, and those we serve in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Be in a spirit of gratitude for all God has done in and through our church,
and for all that He has planned for us in the future.**

**Prayerfully consider how you will support FaithWestwood in 2026
with your prayers, presence, service, witness, and financial gifts.**

Attend one of the 2026 Vision & Budget Preview meetings:

Sunday, October 19 at 10 am and Noon (Chapel)

Wednesday, October 22 at 5:30 pm (Fellowship Hall during MidWeek Meals)

Sunday, October 26 at 10 am (Chapel)

**Pick up your FaithCommitment letter & sheet in worship on October 26
(those letters not picked up will be mailed on October 27).**

**Attend worship IN-PERSON on November 9 when we will bring our Faith Commitment
sheets forward during each service.**

If you are unable to attend worship on **November 9**, or if you worship with us online,
please fill out the form online and/or mail your commitment sheet back in the return envelope
provided no later than **December 1**.