

## Offering Statement

Receiving tithes and offerings  
Prayer of thanks and dedication

**Series** Christmas Letters

**Sermon:** *The Day Draws Near* Pastor Chris Farmer

**Scripture Lesson:** Romans 13:11-14

**Song:** *Blessed Is He Who Comes*

## Prayer

Pastoral Prayer with Joy and Concerns  
The Lord's Prayer (*use trespasses*)

## \*Benediction



The Christmas bows on the wreaths  
were donated in loving memory of

*Bill and Marilyn McCracken*

by their family: Mike and Pam Whetstone,  
Kent and Kim McCracken, James and Susan McCracken,  
Tony and Mary Lou Smith, Sherri Arn and  
Eric and Melody McCracken.



Pastor Chris Farmer

November 27, 2022

8:15 a.m.

## *The Day Draws Near*

*“And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.”*

Romans 13:11

# WELCOME

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:15 AM  
NOVEMBER 27, 2022

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

**Embracing, equipping & empowering persons to  
know and follow Christ.**

### CONTACT US

We are so glad you have joined us today! We want you to feel at home. You can find out what is happening at First Church on our website: [www.vanwertfirst.net](http://www.vanwertfirst.net). Also, check our Facebook Page for inspiration and information.

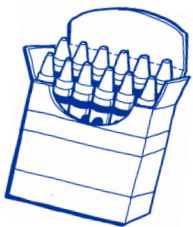
Of course, we do have a telephone: 419-238-0631

And the post office finds us at 113 W. Central Avenue,  
Van Wert, OH 45891

### KID'S MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AT 8:15

**Nursery Ministry** (infant to age 2) is located near the Jefferson Street entrance. You may drop your child off at any time during the service. There are also rocking chairs located at the back of the sanctuary for your use.

**10:45 AWE** - AWE is an exciting interactive pursuit of personally knowing God through His Word and embedding all the found treasures into our hearts, minds, and daily lives. This class includes scripture memorization and presentation during service.



**Uptown Kid Praise Packs** are available in the Narthex (near the Welcome Table) for your children to use during worship. Please return the bags after worship.

\*Denotes please stand if able

Please sign the attendance pad located in each pew.

## The Gathering

**Welcome & Church Life**

Matt Proctor

**\*Worship through Praise**

Jeremy Laukhuf & Praise Team

**Lighting of the Advent Candle** Eric & Leah Schaffner Henry, Etta and Leo

Leader: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

**People: That we may learn God's ways and walk in the light of the Lord.**

Leader: The house of the Lord is a house of goodness and peace.

**People: A time is coming when swords will be beaten into plowshares, and spears into pruning hooks.**

Leader: The house of the Lord is filled with justice and mercy.

**People: Salvation is near to us, so let us live honorably and put on the armor of light.**

Leader: The house of the Lord has been firmly established in Jesus Christ.

**People: Let us clothe ourselves in Christ, ready and awake for his return.**

Leader: Christ is coming to establish the house of the Lord forever.

**People: All nations will stream to the light of Christ, Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

(Light one advent purple candle)

Leader: Christ is coming to establish the house of the Lord forever.

**People: Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

**Song**

*O Come, O Come, Emanuel*

## Opening Prayer

**O kind and living God, we thank you for coming to establish Your reign among us. We long for days when peace, justice and righteousness serve as the foundation of our world. Come and clothe us with the beauty of Your righteousness and mercy. Amen.**

**Blessing the Children**

*Children may be dismissed to AWE*