

**Song** *Lift Up Your Eyes*-J. Raney (see insert)

**Opening Prayer**

**God in heaven, as we learn to watch for signs of your presence, open our eyes that we might see the ways you call us to bear fruit for your coming kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.**

**Offering**

Offertory: *Advent Meditation* arr. Edward Broughton

\*Doxology: *Praise God From Whom All Blessing Flow*  
(to the tune of What Child Is This?)

\*Prayer of Dedication

**\*Scripture Lesson** Romans 15:4-13 Pastor Chris Farmer

**Series** Christmas Letters

**Sermon** *Letters from the Past*

**Hymn** *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* #626 vs.1,2

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

Invitation

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

Distribution of the Bread and Juice

Prayer

**\*Choral Anthem** *Sing We Now of Christmas: I, Come and Rejoice*

\*Congregation stand as directed and join in *O Come, All Ye Faithful*.

**\*Spoken Blessing** -

**Postlude:** *On A Familiar Christmas Tune* arr. Lani Smith

*You may be seated to enjoy the postlude or leave quietly in*

*Peace. Thank you for worshiping with us this morning. We*

*hope to see you again soon!*



Pastor Chris Farmer

December 4, 2022

10:45 a.m.

*Letters from the Past*

*“May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ”.*

**Romans 15:5-6**

# WELCOME

\*Denotes please stand if able

Please sign the attendance pad located in each pew.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:45 AM  
DECEMBER 4, 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 10:45

**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.

## Leaders in Today's Worship

**Pastor:** Chris Farmer

**Organist:** Scott Turner

**Acolyte:** Johnse & Addie Breese

**Videographer:** Dave Thompson

**Usher/Greeter Coordinator:**

Neil Shaffer

**Liturgist:** Ned Compton

**Choir Director:** Paul Hoverman

**Sound Engineer:** Ron Allison

**Projectionist:** Cayden Laukhuf

**Graphics:** Cheri Oechsle and

Sherri Arn

## The Gathering

Christmas music provided by Joyce Morris, piano

## Order of Worship

### Welcome and Announcements

Ned Compton

**Voluntary** *Away in a Manager* arr. Mark Hayes

Scott Turner

**\*Call to Worship** With all our heart, we take refuge in God most high, who created all things, He is the merciful Father, and Source of pure love and abounding goodness. With all our heart, we take refuge in Christ Jesus, our Redeemer from sin, who restores our true nature and who is the perfect and living WORD. With all our heart, we take refuge in the Holy Spirit who fills all the universe, who at all times and in all places responds to the cries of our hearts. Let's worship our Living God with all our heart.

**\*Opening Carols** *Angels from the Realms of Glory* #220 Vs. 1,4

*Angels We Have Heard on High* #238 Vs. 1,2

**Lighting of the Advent Candle** Aaron & Teresa Gardner & grandchildren

Leader: We have come to worship the Lord, the God of all nations.

**People: The righteous and faithful judge. Christ the coming King.**

Leader: The Spirit of wisdom and understanding rests upon him.

**People: Under his reign righteousness will flourish and peace will fill the earth.**

Leader: The Spirit of counsel and might rests upon Him.

**People: He will judge the poor with equity and compassion, defending the cause of the needy.**

Leader: The Spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord rests upon him.

**People: The earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters over the sea.**

Leader: In those days the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid..

**People: The calf and the lion together, and a little child shall lead them..**

Leader: A voice is crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord!"

**People: Repent and bear fruit for the coming Kingdom of God.**

Leader: Christ is coming! May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace as we worship

**People: May we abound in hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.**

(Light two advent purple candles)