

Song: *Lift Up Your Eyes*-J. Raney

All: Father in heaven, we look to you from a distance; from a world filled with darkness. Help us seek the light of your truth, as we remember your promises and offer our praise for your amazing gifts to us. Amen.

Giving of Tithes & Offerings

Offertory: *The Coventry Carol* arr. Todd Kendall

*Doxology: *What Child is This* #219 vs. 3

*Prayer of Gratitude and Blessing of Angel Tree gifts

Worship with the Word

* **Scripture Lesson:** Romans 1:1-7 Pastor Chris Farmer

Series: Christmas Letters
Message: *A Letter from a Church Planter*

Worship through Prayer

Choral Anthem *Coventry Carol*-arr. H. Helvey Scott Turner and Annette Hoverman, Piano

Prayer with the People

Various joys and concerns will be received from the congregation. After each praise and thanksgiving the congregation is asked to respond by

Praying: Hear our Prayer, O Lord.
The Lord's Prayer (use trespasses)

Going Into the World

Carol *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* #240

***Benediction**

Postlude: *In the Bleak Midwinter* arr. Scott Turner

Handbells, Scott Turner-organ, Jeremy Laukhuf-bass, Noah Krites and Larry Taylor-percussion

You are invited to be seated to enjoy this special musical offering, arranged by our organist Scott Turner. Thank you for worshiping with us this morning!

Happy Holidays!



Pastor Chris Farmer
December 18, 2022
10:45 a.m.

*A Letter from a
Church Planter*

“...the Gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding His Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Romans 1:2-4)

WELCOME

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:45 AM
DECEMBER 18, 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. 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: Aidan Bockrath

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

*Denotes please stand if able

Welcome and Moments of Sharing and Giving

Prelude *Once In Royal David's City*-C. Mokelbust

Handbell Choir

Welcome and Announcements

Ned Compton

Choral Introit *Christmas Presence*-M. Parks

*Call to Worship

Leader: Now is the time of watching and waiting.

People: The time of pregnant expectation of new life.

Leader: Now is the season of hope unfolding.

People: The dark winter season when hope is waiting to be born.

***Carol** *In the Bleak Midwinter* vs. 1

Leader: Let us come before God with receptive and willing spirits.

People: May our souls magnify God's name and may our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!

All: Rejoice! God comes to bring the birthday of light and hope. Amen.

***Carol** *Angels We Have Heard on High* #238 vs.1

Chat with the Children A very special guest

Children are dismissed to AWE

Carol *Away in a Manger* #217 vs.1

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle Greg and Michele Amstutz

Leader: The voice of the prophets cry out: "Look, the young woman shall bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel which means "God with us."

People: Restore us, O God; let your face shine that we may be saved.

Leader: His name is Jesus and he will save us from our sins.

People: Stir up your might and come to save us!

Leader: He is descended from David according to the flesh.

People: You who reign on high with the angels, shine forth your light.

Leader: He was declared to be the Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead.

People: Restore us, O God of hosts, let your face shine that we may be saved.

Leader: We belong to him, obedient in faith for the sake of his name.

People: The we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

Leader: Jesus is coming, prepare the way of the LORD

People: Restore us, O Lord God of hosts, let your face shine that we may be saved

(light four advent candles)

Leader: Jesus is coming, and He will save us from our sins!

People: Shine your light, O Lord, and we shall be saved!