

The Altar flowers are given in honor of  
Lloyd Marvin's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday by his family

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR OUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A SERVICE OPPORTUNITY????

- **Prepare baked goods** for the Women's Ministry Booth at the Apple Festival to benefit local mission projects. Items may be dropped off across from the church office on Thursday, Oct. 19 between 8:30am-3:00pm. You may also drop them off at the booth on Friday or Saturday morning. *Please use clear plastic wrap/bags, mark what the item is and if the ingredients contain nuts.*
- We still need 2 people to **host the coffee hour on Sundays**. This means making sure the coffee pots are full and the donut replenished. It does not mean making the coffee or purchasing the donuts. Could you help us **once a month** from 8:30 -10:00 on Sunday morning
- Are you bored and need to make contact with the outside world? We need some help **coordinating greeters and acolytes**. Requires some phone calls and ability to make a schedule.
- On October 29<sup>th</sup>, fellowship and have lunch after service at our **Youth Spaghetti Bar**. Support our youth as they fundraise for their 2024 youth mission trip.

Contact the church office for more information  
419-238-0631 ext. 302 or [firstchurch@vanwertfirst.net](mailto:firstchurch@vanwertfirst.net)

FREE ACCESS



rightnow MEDIA

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Contact the office  
to sign up  
**TODAY!**

[firstchurch@vanwertfirst.net](mailto:firstchurch@vanwertfirst.net)  
or 419/238-0631

FIRST CHURCH

OFFICE hours

MONDAY – THURSDAY 8:30-1:30  
FRIDAY 8:30-12:00

**TRICK OR TREAT**  
FOR unicef

Our Children's ministry will be collecting change  
on Sunday, October 29th with a goal of \$250

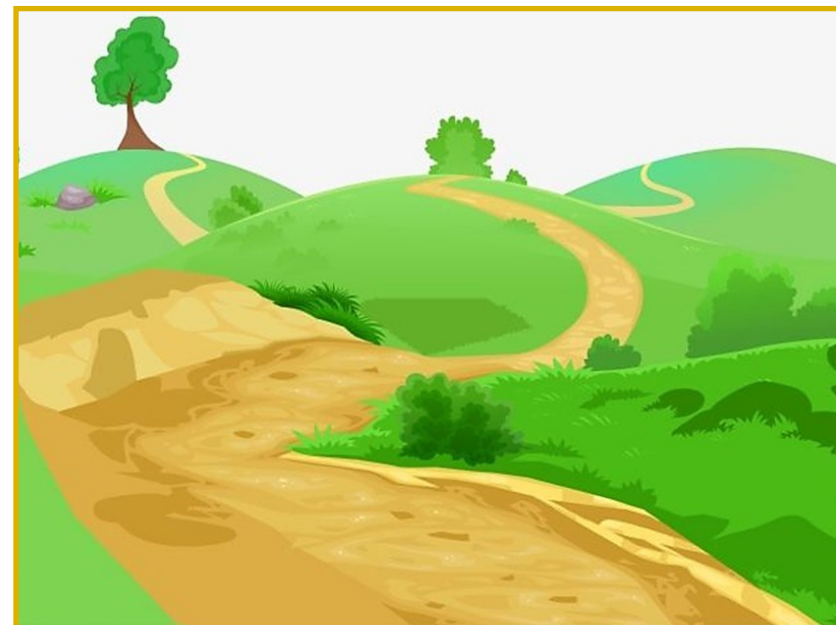
Don't have change? Use the following  
link or QR Code to donate online.

<https://unicefusa.donorsupport.co/-/NJGMHSDB?member=SCEQCDHW>



# FIRST united methodist CHURCH

113 West Central Avenue | Van Wert, Ohio 45891 | 419-238-0631 | [vanwertfirst.net](http://vanwertfirst.net)



## The Path of the Disciple: Imagining a New Reality

"Seeds in the Dirt"

October 15, 2023

Our Vision Statement:

*Enlarging the circle of disciples through Jesus*

*Thanks for joining us today!* If you have any questions while you are here this morning, you can find an answer at the Welcome table, which is inside the doors off Jefferson Street. Whatever your circumstances, and no matter where you've been, you matter to God, and you matter to us. We are glad you are here! If you are a first time guest with us this morning, **Welcome!** Please stop by the welcome table and pick up a welcome packet.

# 10:15 am ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, October 15, 2023

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Psalm 51:10

*\*indicates please stand if you are able*

*Please fill out the attendance pad and pass it to your neighbor*

**Welcome and Announcements:** Susan Burchfield

**Prelude:** *Andante* by Camille Saint-Saens Scott Turner, piano

**\*Call to Worship:** Psalm 119:105-112 Susan Burchfield

Leader: Your word is a lantern to my feet and a light upon my path.

**People: I have sworn and am determined to keep your righteous judgments.**

Leader: I am deeply troubled; preserve my life, O LORD, according to your word.

**People: Accept, O LORD, the willing tribute of my lips, and teach me your judgments.**

Leader: My life is always in my hand, yet I do not forget your law.

**People: The wicked have set a trap for me, but I have not strayed from your commandments.**

Leader: Your decrees are my inheritance for ever; truly, they are the joy of my heart.

**People: I have applied my heart to fulfill your statutes forever and to the end.**

**\*Song:** *Open The Eyes of My Heart Lord* Praise Band

**\*Opening Prayer:** Cheri Oechsle

**Life-giving God, we gather in Your presence to offer You thanksgiving and praise for all that You have done for us. Through the life, death, and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, we have been set free—free from the power of sin that leads to death, free to follow the leading of Your Holy Spirit, free to love You with all our heart and soul and strength, free to worship! May Your Holy Spirit inspire our praise and our prayers. Open our hearts and minds to Your presence among us and within us and to the Word You have for us today. To You alone, life-giving God, belongs all praise and honor and glory and blessing, now and to the end of time. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.**

**Songs:** *As The Deer* Praise Band  
*God of Wonders*

**Chat with the Children:** Chris Gordon  
*Children are dismissed to AWE*

**Life in the Church:** Susan Burchfield

**\*Scripture:** Romans 8:1-11

**Anthem:** Thy Word arr. Jack Schrader Chancel Choir

**Series: The Path of the Disciple: Imagining a New Reality**  
**Message:** "Seeds in the Dirt" Pastor Christian

**\*Hymn:** *Have Thine Own Way, Lord* #382 vs. 1, 3, 4

**Prayers of the People**  
**The Lord's Prayer**

**Giving of Tithes & Offerings:**  
**Offertory:** *Arabesque in C* by Steven Scott  
**\*Doxology:** *Now Thank We All Our God* #102  
**\*Prayer of Gratitude:**

**\*Spoken Benediction:**

**Postlude:** *Postlude* by Franz Joseph Haydn

*You are invited to be seated and enjoy the Postlude or leave quietly in peace.*

## KID'S MINISTRY AWE

Children preschool through 5th grade have an opportunity to build their relationship with Jesus through uplifting songs and impactful Bible lessons by attending our Alternate Worship Experience. Children will be released to AWE after praise and worship time. AWE will not meet Communion Sundays which is the first Sunday of the month.

## Leaders in Today's Worship

**Pastor:** Christian Taylor  
**Announcer:** Susan Burchfield  
**Worship Leader:** Cheri Oechsle  
**Director of Music:** Scott Turner  
**Praise Band:** Susan Burchfield, Noah Krites, Jeremy Laukhuf, Rod Oliver  
**Acolyte:** Elora Hogan  
**Projectionist:** Jill Smelser  
**Sound Technician:** Kent Smelser  
**Videographer:** Dave Thompson  
**Screen Creators:** Cheri Oechsle, Melody Taylor  
**Usher Coordinators:** Dave Lichtle, Neil Shaffer