

The altar flowers are given today:

**in loving memory of
Nicole Massillo
by Kurt, Mona & Family**



**in loving memory of
Carolyn Miller
by Ernie Miller & Family**

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Angel Tree**— The Sarah Soul Friends Women's Ministry is once again sponsoring the Angel Tree for Prison Fellowship. You may select an angel from the tree in the Narthex now through December 10th. Bring your gift to the altar on Sunday, Dec. 17th. We will bless the gifts and they will be distributed to the families by our youth.
- **Charlie Brown Christmas**— Downtown Van Wert is holding their Polar Express event on Sat., Dec. 2 from 10am-2pm. Since we are the downtown church, we are hosting Charlie Brown Christmas activities in the basement. Volunteers are needed and you may sign-up at the Take 5 cart in Krout.
- **Thanksgiving Closings**— Our Church building and Office will be closed Thursday and Friday for our staff to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday with their loved ones.
- **Advent Festival/Hymn Sing, Sunday, Dec. 3rd**— Join us from 4:30-6:30pm to experience the Nativity story in a fun and hands-on way while collecting Nativity story cards and enjoy a delicious meal. Beginning at 6:30pm we will have a Hymn Sing in the Sanctuary. Let's celebrate advent together!
- **Poinsettia Time**—see the enclosed order form or contact the church office. Orders are due NEXT SUNDAY .
- **Healing Services**—it is time for our church to heal and discuss our differences. In this season of change and uncertainty, followers of Jesus must cling to one another. Services are November 28th and December 5th at 6pm in the Krout. Please sign up on the Media Board, next to Krout or contact the church office.

Church office—419-238-0631 ext. 302 or firstchurch@vanwertfirst.net

FIRST united methodist CHURCH

113 West Central Avenue | Van Wert, Ohio 45891 | 419-238-0631 | vanwertfirst.net



November 19, 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, November 19, 2023

Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. Hebrews 13:2 NIV

**indicates please stand if you are able
Please fill out the attendance pad and pass it to your neighbor*

Welcome and Announcements: Martin Burchfield

Prelude: *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* arr. Michael Helman Handbell Choir
Gloria Wendel, Director

***Call to Worship:** Martin Burchfield

Leader: Our lives feel all disjointed as though they were a valley of dry bones.

People: But the Spirit of God will bring connection and continuity to our lives.

Leader: The Spirit of God breathes hope into each one of us.

People: The Spirit of God challenges us to be people of faith.

Leader: Open our hearts, Lord, and bring us to your light.

People: Open our lives, Lord, and break us free from doubt and fear.

***Hymn:** *Every Time I Feel the Spirit* #404

***Opening Prayer:** Martin Burchfield

God of life, present and promised, you are the One to whom we call: for you are the One who hears, and you are the One who acts, bringing us new life with your grace and love and power. Lead us in our time of worship, that we may be prepared to follow your lead in places where life is at risk— places where hope seems far away, places where dreams die during sleep. When we leave these walls, help us live the teachings we proclaim within this place of worship, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Hymn: *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come!* #694 vs 1, 3, 4

Chat with the Children: Sunday School Children Presentation
Children are dismissed to AWE

Life in the Church: Martin Burchfield

***Scripture:** Excerpts from John 11

Anthem: *Good News!* by Ken Berg

Chancel Choir
Gloria Wendel, accompanist

Series: **Valuable Friendships**
Message: "Reaching Out to the Lonely" Pastor Christian Taylor

***Hymn:** *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* #526 vs. 1 & 3

Remembering the Saints



Prayers of the People
The Lord's Prayer

Giving of Tithes & Offerings:
Offertory: *Freely, Freely* by Carol Owens
***Doxology:** *My Tribute* #99
***Prayer of Gratitude**

***Spoken Benediction**

Postlude: *Postlude* by Lani Smith Scott Turner

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