



UP COMING EVENTS

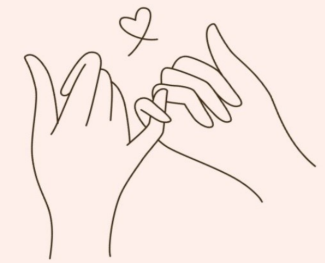
- * **Christmas Poinsettias**—Orders are due TODAY. Please see the enclosed order form. Orders may be placed in the offering plate or dropped off at the church office.
- * **Advent Devotional Books**—Our Advent Festival is next Sunday and today we have available two books; Open Before Christmas which is the Family Devotional and The Light of Grace which is the Adult Devotional. They can be found at each of the entrances and on the table in Krout.
- * **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.
- * **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.
- * **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!
- * **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 this Tuesday, 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

VALUABLE FRIENDSHIPS



“Qualities of a Good Friend”

November 26, 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 26, 2023

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another. Proverbs 27:17 NIV

**indicates please stand if you are able*

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

Welcome and Announcements: Eric McCracken

Prelude: *from Moses* by Ken Medema Scott Turner, piano and organ

***Call to Worship:** Eric McCracken

Leader: Jesus says, "Where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

People: Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil.

Leader: Jesus sent his disciples out two by two and gave them authority.

People: For with two, if you fall, someone is there to help you up.

Leader: Every day the believers continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.

People: Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves.

Leader: Let us consider how we may spur each other on toward love and good deeds.

People: A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Leader: So let us not give up meeting together, but let us encourage one another.

People: Let us worship God together.

***Hymn:** *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart* #160 vs. 1, 2, & 5

***Opening Prayer:** Eric McCracken

Lord, lead me to find and cultivate deeper friendships and be a good friend in all that I do. Shower your blessings upon those I call friends, that you may ever be in our midst. Bind us together, Lord, for a cord of three strands is not quickly broken. Amen.

Chat with the Children: Christie Wendel
Children are dismissed to AWE

Life in the Church: Eric McCracken

***Scripture:** Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Anthem: *My Jesus, I Love Thee* arr. Diane Bish Chancel Choir
Gloria Wendel, accompanist

Series: **Valuable Friendships**
Message: "Qualities of a Good Friend" Pastor Christian Taylor

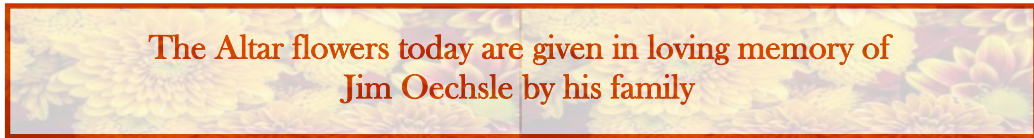
***Hymn:** *In the Garden* #314 vs. 1 & 2

Prayers of the People
The Lord's Prayer

Giving of Tithes & Offerings:
Offertory: *Lead On, O King Eternal!* Arr. Robert Thygerson
***Doxology:** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* #95
***Prayer of Gratitude**

***Spoken Benediction**

Postlude: *The Glory of the Spirit* by Lani Smith Scott Turner
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
Director of Music: Scott Turner
Announcer: Eric McCracken
Acolyte: Elora Hogan
Usher Coordinators: Dave Lichtle, Neil Shaffer
Projectionist: Luke Compton
Sound Technician: Kyle Wendel
Videographer: Dave Thompson
Screen Creators: Cheri Oechsle, Melody Taylor