

UPCOMING EVENTS

- * **THANK YOU**—We want to thank everyone who helped make Thanksgiving a blessing to 40 families. We provided turkey roast, pies, rolls and all the groceries to make a feast! You donated 18 pies, 14 volunteers helped shop and bake and you donated \$790 to families in our community.
- * **Christmas Offering**—Each Christmas the Mission Committee chooses three worthy funds for our church Christmas offering to support. Gifts can be designated to one or more of the funds, or general Christmas offerings will be split equally between the three.
 - FUMC Preschool:** donations will support the FUMC Preschool's operating budget. The school has 30 students and it is the only Christian-based preschool remaining in Van Wert County.
 - FUMC Agape Fund:** donations are administered by Teresa Shaffer and used for a variety of emergency needs for "walk-ins" to the church. Needs may include things such as gas cards, utility payments, hotel stays, rent deposits, etc.
 - Pregnancy Life Center's Langdyn House:** PLC is in the process of building a house in Van Wert to open early summer '24. The mission is to provide a safe residence for expectant mothers and mothers with new babies while also addressing the emotional, spiritual and practical needs of those they serve; bringing forth a holistic transformation with the final goal being empowered independent living.
- * **Advent Devotional Books**—Today is our first Sunday in Advent. We have two devotional books available this season. Open Before Christmas is the Family Devotional and The Light of Grace is the Adult Devotional. They may be found at each of the entrances and on the table 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.
- * **Healing Service**—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. **The next service is this Tuesday, 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



December 3, 2023
First Sunday of Advent

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.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come.” Mark 13:32-33 NIV

**indicates please stand if you are able*

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

Welcome and Announcements: John White

Prelude: *Traditional Carols* arr. Mark Hayes

***Call to Worship:** John White

Leader: If only the heavens would tear open and God would come down!

People: The mountains would shake and tremble — all earth would stand in awe!

Leader: People have turned their backs on God, believing that they, under their own power, can right all wrongs.

People: We have failed miserably when we depend only on ourselves.

Leader: Be with us, O Lord. Tear open our hearts and pour your love into our lives.

People: Give us confidence in you, for you are always with us. Amen.

***Hymn:** *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* #196

***Opening Prayer:** John White

O Holy God, maker of every thought and thing, open our hearts this day, that we may know your presence in this time and place. Restore us now, so we may see the special gift and calling that you have for each of us. Masterful potter of life, mold us into the vessels you would have us be. Help us be ready for your promised return, when you will be among us and within us with new, creative, healing energy. Amen.

Lighting the Advent Candles: Meah Johnson & Lillie Best

Hymn Chorus: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Chat with the Children: Julie Burenga
Children will remain in Worship

Life in the Church: John White

***Scripture:** Isaiah 64:1-9

Anthem: *Emmanuel* by Allen Pote

Chancel Choir
Gloria Wendel, accompanist

Series: **Our Spirit Awaits**
Message: “Our Shocking Hope”

Pastor Christian Taylor

***Song:** *Did You Feel The Mountains Tremble*

Giving of Tithes & Offerings:

Offertory: *Hymns of Advent* arr. various

***Doxology:** *Glory Be to the Father* #70

***Prayer of Gratitude**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion:

Prayers for the People

Invitation

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord’s Prayer

Distribution of the Bread & Juice

***Spoken Benediction**

Postlude: *Let There Be Peace on Earth* arr. Mark Hayes

You are invited to be seated and enjoy the Postlude or leave quietly in peace. Thank you for worshipping with us this morning. We hope to see you again soon!

The Altar flowers are given by the family of
Lloyd & Ike Marvin in honor of their 50th Wedding Anniversary

Leaders in Today’s Worship

Pastor: Christian Taylor

Director of Music: Scott Turner

Worship Leader: Jeremy Laukhuf

Announcer: John White

Acolyte: Dillon Staas

Projectionist: Cayden Laukhuf

Sound Technician: Kyle Wendel

Videographer: Kurt Massillo

Screen Creators: Cheri Oechsle, Melody Taylor

Usher Coordinators: Dave Lichtle, Neil Shaffer