

WHAT'S HAPPENING

- * **Our thanks to so many people who freely give of their time and talents:**
 - Noah Carter & his family** for the outside Christmas lights. They are so pretty!
 - Marsha Morton** for the corner planter upkeep every season.
 - The Liturgical Arts Crew** who transform the sanctuary and church spaces into inspiring Christmas reminders!
 - Wednesday Night FEAST Volunteers** - we so appreciate your good food & clean up.
- * **Christmas Offering**—Our December mission offering will go to the FUMC Preschool, FUMC Agape Fund, and Pregnancy Life Center's Langdyn House. Envelopes may be found in the pew holders or in the Krout attendance pads.
- * **Did you pick up your Advent Book?** It's not too late to start! Advent devotional books are located at the Jefferson and Central Street entrances and on the table in Krout. Books designed for families and books for individuals are available. Enhance this Christmas season by spending some time in the Word!
- * **Our Angel Tree is filled** — The Sarah Soul Friends Women's Ministry has **extended the deadline** to pickup angels for the Prison Fellowship to **this Thursday**. You may select an angel from the tree in the Narthex or see Teresa during the week. **Bring your gift to the altar next Sunday**. We will bless the gifts and they will be distributed to the families by our youth.
- * **Healing Service**—Thank you to everyone who came to our healing services. Our prayer is that you find healing and support through these services. More services will be announced in the coming weeks.
- * **In preparation for 2024:**
 - 2024 Altar Flower Calendar** is available on the media board. We are blessed to have beautiful flowers in honor or memory of someone each and every Sunday. Sign up today or call the church office.
 - 2024 Offering Envelopes** have arrived and are available for pickup across from the office. If you don't see your name and would like to receive envelopes, please contact the church office.
 - 2024 Pledge Cards** should be placed in the offering plate or returned to the church office by Friday, December 29th.

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 10, 2023

Second 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

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Psalms 16:11

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

Welcome and Announcements: Dillon Staas

Prelude: *Grown-Up Christmas List* arr. Mark Hayes

***Call to Worship:** Dillon Staas

Leader: In the middle of dark times, our Lord cries out:

People: “Comfort, comfort my people!”

Leader: When it seems as though we cannot see the light at the end of the tunnel,

People: Our Lord says to us, “ Be at peace, for your time of difficulty has ended.”

Leader: Lord, we await the time of comfort and peace!

People: Lord, we are thankful for your compassion and never-failing love for us. Amen.

***Hymn:** *Let There Be Peace on Earth* (sing twice) #431

***Opening Prayer:** Dillon Staas

As the voice cried out in the wilderness, God, you enter our lives and call to us to be open to hearing the cries of people who feel lost and alienated, who feel that no one cares or ever will care about them. We have been given that opportunity to reach out through the ministries and mission of our church bringing hope and peace to all. Get us ready to become pathways of peace and life-transforming love in your name. It is in the spirit of Jesus’ name that we pray. Amen.

Lighting the Advent Candles: Melissa Joseph & Leah Krites

Hymn Chorus: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Chat with the Children: Cristi Laukhuf
Children dismissed to AWE

Life in the Church: Dillon Staas

***Scripture:** Isaiah 40:1-11

Anthem: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* arr. Elliot Goodwin Chancel Choir
Gloria Wendel, accompanist

Series: **Our Spirit Awaits**
Message: “Our Just Peace” Pastor Christian Taylor

Prayers of the People
The Lord’s Prayer

Giving of Tithes & Offerings:

Offertory: *Shillingford* (#260) by Peter Cutts

***Doxology:** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* #95

***Prayer of Gratitude**

***Hymn:** *It Is Well With My Soul* #377 vs. 1, 2, & 4

***Choral Benediction:** *Go Now In Peace* by Don Besig Chancel Choir

Postlude: *Peace I Give to You* by Craig Courtney

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



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

Worship Leader: Jeremy Laukhuf

Announcer: Dillon Staas

Acolyte: Elora Hogan

Projectionist: Noah Carter

Sound Technician: Ron Allison

Videographer: Dave Thompson

Screen Creators: Cheri Oechsle, Melody Taylor

Usher Coordinators: Dave Lichtle, Neil Shaffer