

# Things You Should Know

- **Family Photo!** Take a minute and head to the Krout Memorial for a photo. After you take your picture #vanwertFUMC on Facebook or Instagram.
- **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.
- **TONIGHT**— Celebrate Christmas Eve and the birth of our Savior with us:
  - 5:30pm—Family Service
  - 6:30-7:15pm—Communion in the Sanctuary
  - 10:00pm—Candlelight Service
  - 9:15-9:45pm—Communion in the Sanctuary
- **Holiday Closings** - The church building and office will be closed December 25 & 26 and January 1.
- **Poinsettias**- If you have a Poinsettia, you may pick it up either after the 10:00pm worship tonight or December 27 or 28.
- **Food Pantry**—December is Baking Mix Month - donations of cake, brownie, and cookie mixes may be brought in and placed in the food pantry baskets at the church entrances.
- **Year-end Giving Important Dates for Donations to be on your 2023 Statement :**
  - Friday, Dec. 22**—Last day for eGiving online and paying by credit card. Credit cards take anywhere from 3-5 days to process.
  - Thursday, Dec. 28** - Last day for cash and check offerings to be turned into the church office.
- **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** may be placed in the offering plate or returned to the church office by Friday, December 29<sup>th</sup>.

Church office—419-238-0631 ext. 302 or [firstchurch@vanwertfirst.net](mailto:firstchurch@vanwertfirst.net)

## FIRST<sup>united</sup> methodist CHURCH

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



December 24, 2023

Fourth 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

“I have installed my king on Zion, my holy mountain.” Psalm 2:6 NIV

*\*indicates please stand if you are able*

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

**Prelude:** *A Nativity Suite* by Wilbur Held

**Welcome & Announcements:** Jordan Dettrow

**\*Call to Worship:** Jordan Dettrow

Leader: Host of Hosts, from sunrise to sunrise, and generation to generation, we are your people.

**People: You have been with us wherever we have gone. You will be with us wherever we may go.**

Leader: You planted us in a land flowing with milk and honey, then you planted our salvation in Mary’s womb.

**People: Jesus, who is the Christ, is planted firmly in each one of us.**

Leader: Our souls magnify the Holy One.

**People: Our spirits rejoice in God, our Savior.**

**\*Hymns:** *O Little Town of Bethlehem* #230 vs. 1 & 3  
*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* #218 vs. 1 & 4

**\*Opening Prayer:** Jordan Dettrow

**Beloved, Holy Lover, we welcome you to our house, the sacred space we have built to gather together as your people. Here we come to offer you our thanksgiving and praise in response to the abundance of your creation. Here we come to share with you our prayers of confession and petition, for they lie heavy on our hearts. Even knowing that you are here and everywhere, we come longing to hear you say, “I am with you always.” Amen.**

**Song:** *Blessed Assurance* #369 vs. 1 & 3  
*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*  
Ethan Best-Acoustic Guitar, Jared Conn-Bass Guitar and Jeremy Laukhuf-Keyboards

**Lighting of the Advent Candles:**  
Caroline Kelly, Maddy Laukhuf, Ashlynn Shaffer & Gabriel White

**Hymn Chorus:** *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* #211 vs. 1 & 2

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

**Life in the Church:** Jordan Dettrow

**\*Scripture:** 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

**Series:** **Our Spirit Awaits**  
**Message:** “Love That Transforms Us” Pastor Christian Taylor

**\*Hymn:** *O Come All Ye Faithful* vs 1, 2, 4, & 6 (words on screen)

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

**Giving of Tithes & Offerings:**  
**Offertory:** *Away in a Manger* arr. Scott Turner  
**\*Doxology:** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* (Tune: Greensleeves)  
**\*Prayer of Gratitude**

**\*Spoken Benediction:** Pastor Christian Taylor

**\*Choral Benediction:** *Sing We Now of Christmas* arr. Mark Patterson

**Postlude:** *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas* arr. Mark Hayes

*You are invited to be seated and enjoy the Postlude or leave quietly in peace.  
Thank you for worshiping with us this morning.  
Join us this evening at 5:30pm and 10:00pm.*



## 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

<b>Pastor:</b> Christian Taylor	<b>Projectionist:</b> Cayden Laukhuf
<b>Director of Music:</b> Scott Turner	<b>Sound Technician:</b> Kyle Wendel
<b>Worship Leader:</b> Jeremy Laukhuf	<b>Videographer:</b> Dave Thompson
<b>Announcer:</b> Jordan Dettrow	<b>Screen Creators:</b> Cheri Oechsle, Melody Taylor
<b>Acolyte:</b> Elora Hogan	<b>Usher Coordinators:</b> Dave Lichtle, Neil Shaffer