

What's Happening

Please keep Pastor Christian in your prayers this week (January 8-12) as he has a heavy week ahead of him. He is in his last semester of seminary and next week is an Intensive. So you might see him in the office with his door closed as he will be attending class all week, all day via Zoom. If you need him, please go through the office. Jody will make sure he receives your messages. Thank you.

FEAST Meals - This Wednesday begins the next session of FEAST Meals at 5pm in the basement dining hall. The cooks are ready to go and would love to have your delicious desserts and help cleaning up. Please take a look at your calendar and sign-up on the media board (outside Krout Memorial), see Melody or call the church office.

This week's meal: Beef & Noodles, Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables, Hot Dogs/Bun, Salad and Dessert

Family Game Night - Gather everyone; your kids, grandkids, neighbors..... and join us Friday, Jan. 19th (*NEW DATE*) from 6-8pm for an evening of fun and fellowship. RSVP to cristi.laukhuf@vanwertfirst.net

Food Pantry - The January Food Pantry item is pasta. Donations may be placed in the baskets near our entrances.

Sunday School Class Assistant & Teacher needed:

The Children's Ministry is looking for an assistant for the Kindergarten thru 2nd grade room for Sunday School. No setup, just assisting the teacher assigned to the class. If anyone would like to participate in this Children's Ministry, please see Cristi or contact her at ext. 306.

The Youth Ministry is looking for a teacher for the middle school room. If anyone is interested in pouring into the lives of our 6, 7, and 8th graders, please see Teresa at her Take 5 Kart or call her at ext. 307.

Altar Flowers - We have several dates available for 2024 Altar Flowers. The signup sheet is on the Media Board outside of the Krout Memorial or call the office.

Offering Envelopes - 2024 Offering envelopes are available for pickup across from the church office. If you don't see your name and would like to receive envelopes, please 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



January 7, 2024

“Sacraments”

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 am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh.” John 6:51

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

Welcome & Announcements: Martin Burchfield

Praise Song: *Taste and See*

***Call to Worship:** Martin Burchfield

Leader: We join together as hungry eaters to be nourished by the food that you offer us.

People: God of sustenance, give us this day our daily bread.

Leader: As you care for the wheat fields that turn into bread and the vineyards that labor to produce sweet wine, tend to our bodies by feeding us what we need for healthy growth.

People: God of abundance, give us this day our daily bread.

Leader: The rich crops that you have prepared are now ready to be harvested by our hands and our hearts.

People: Holy Spirit, come! Give us this day our daily bread.

***Song:** *All Creatures Of Our God And King*

***Opening Prayer:** Martin Burchfield

Loving Father, open our hearts to hidden realities: your love for all people, your presence in the community, your call to justice and peace. May the sacraments stir in us that same love for those with whom we worship and all members of our human family. Christ Jesus, help us to imitate your example: healing the sick, welcoming the stranger, assisting the poor and vulnerable. May the sacraments remind us of your love and self-giving, which we strive to imitate. Holy Spirit, make visible to our eyes what is invisible: your call to your people, your summons to live our faith daily as witnesses of justice and peace. May the sacraments move us to engage in love-inspired action that transforms us and the world. Amen.

Song: *Great Are You Lord*

Chat with the Children: Christie Wendel

Children will remain in Worship

Life in the Church: Martin Burchfield

***Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-25 & Matthew 28:19-20

Series: Church Traditions
Message: “Sacraments” Pastor Christian Taylor

***Song:** *We Will Feast In The House Of Zion*

Giving of Tithes & Offerings:

Offertory:

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

#95

***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:** Pastor Christian Taylor

Postlude: *Chorus Reprise*

*You are invited to be seated and enjoy the Postlude or leave quietly in peace.
Thank you for worshiping with us!*

The Altar flowers are given in loving memory of
Geraldine Welker by her daughters, Kathy & Kristina

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. **Today children will remain in worship.**

Leaders in Today’s Worship

Pastor: Christian Taylor

Projectionist: Cayden Laukhuf

Director of Music: Scott Turner

Sound Technician: Kent Smelser

Worship Leader: Jeremy Laukhuf

Videographer: Dave Thompson

Acolyte: Elora Hogan

Screen Creators: Cheri Oechsle, Melody Taylor

Usher Coordinator: Neil Shaffer and Dave Lichtle, Assistant