

. . . Continued from previous page

**Our Bible, Sex, Gender and Marriage Study** - The 7-week study "Our Bible, Sex, Gender, and Marriage" has already begun and runs through April 7th. The two classes scheduled are full. We are working to schedule at least one additional class for those still interested. Please contact the church office to get on the waiting list. More information coming soon. If you'd like more information about the study, please get in touch with Jeremy Laukhuf, Dr. Jeremy Stoller, or Pastor Christian.

**Flower & Vegetable Sale** - THINK SPRING! Remember those beautiful flowers, vegetable plants and hanging baskets you purchased from our youth last year? It's time to do it again. Order forms with pictures and all the details are available at the church entrances. Orders and payment are due **Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup>** and pickup is April 30<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned for pickup place.

**Food Pantry** - February is Baking items month. Donations of flour, oil, sugar, etc. are suggested. Items may be placed in the baskets near our entrances.

**February Mission Offering** - This month's mission offering will go to the Festival of Sharing Cleanup Buckets and shipping to send the kits in the Fall. Please use the special envelopes in your box, the church pews or write FOS on your check memo line.

**Lenten Calendar** - Together, let's all Fast, Pray and Give as we walk through this Lenten season. Calendars are available on your way out or online.

**Lenten Bible Study** - The Sarah Soul Friends small group invites you to a Lenten Study of the "inhale (exhale)" book by Mercyme. A 40-day journey of Breathing in Grace and Living out Hope. Join them tomorrow evening at 6pm.

**Suds & Grub - Lenten Mission Challenge** - Kids vs. Adults to help the Agape Fund and the Van Wert Community. Kids bring in quarters to reach 100 loads of laundry and Adults bring in gift cards from any restaurant to reach 100 meals. Place items in the specified area in Krout Memorial. Watch the barometers to see how we're doing!

**Preschool Open House March 7th at 10-11 am or 6-7:30 pm** - Take a tour of our Christ-centered preschool which offers classes for children ages 3-5. Our curriculum is guided by the Ohio Department of Education. You may pick up information packets and register for the 2024-2025 school year at this time. Contact Marilyn Agler, Administrator, with any questions at [marilyn.agler@vanwertfirst.net](mailto:marilyn.agler@vanwertfirst.net) or 238-0631 ext. 308.

**Volunteer Opportunities** - There are many ways to get involved throughout our church and community. We are currently looking for H2O Mentors, and Greeters and Projectionists on Sunday mornings. To find out more, contact the church office.

**Wednesday Meal** - Join us for a hot meal and fellowship Wednesdays at 5pm in the basement dining hall. This week's meal is BBQ Pork Sandwich, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Hot Dog/Bun, Tossed Salad and Dessert.

Thank you to all those who make this happen - cooks, servers, dessert makers & clean up crew! There are a few spots available to prepare a dessert or help clean up.

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

# FIRST united methodist CHURCH

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



February 18, 2024

Teddy Bear Sunday

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

“Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way. All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful toward those who keep the demands of his covenant.” Psalm 25:8-10 NIV

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

**Welcome & Announcements** Matt Krites

**Prelude** *Clair de Lune (1909)* by Sigfrid Karg-Elert

**\*Call to Worship** Matt Krites

Leader: John baptized Jesus in the waters of the Jordan.

**People: God said: You are my Son, the Beloved. With you I am well pleased.**

Leader: We are washed by the waters of our baptism.

**People: God says: You are my beloved children. With you I am well pleased.**

Leader: We gather as God's beloved children to worship and to serve.

**People: Let us tell the good news of God's love!**

**\*Song** *Yes And Amen/Great Is Thy Faithfulness/God You're So Good*

**\*Opening Prayer** Jeremy Laukhuf

**Faithful God, you called all creatures into being, and you care for each one. Send your grace upon your people gathered here, that we may follow your ways of truth, and walk in the paths of steadfast love, proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Blessing of Teddy Bears**

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

**Life in the Church** Matt Krites

**\*Scripture** Mark 1:9-15

**Anthem** *That's What the Devil Said* by Jay Althouse Chancel Choir  
Linda Mechling, accompanist

**Series** **Depths of Love**  
**Message** Has Come Near Pastor Christian Taylor

**\*Hymn:** *Nothing but the Blood* #362

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

**Giving of Tithes & Offerings** (Children return from AWE)

**Offertory** *On "Evan"* by Gordon Young

**\*Doxology** *I Surrender All*

**\*Prayer of Gratitude**

**\*Spoken Benediction**

**Postlude:** *Credo in Unum Deum* by Everett Titcomb

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

The Church Calendar and Prayer Concerns list  
are available at each entrance

## 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 and return during offering time. AWE will not meet Communion Sunday which is the first Sunday of the month.

## Leaders in Today's Worship

**Pastor:** Christian Taylor

**Projectionist:** Noah Carter

**Director of Music:** Scott Turner

**Sound Technician:** Kent Smelser

**Worship Leader:** Jeremy Laukhuf

**Videographer:** Dave Thompson

**Acolytes:** Dillon Staas

**Screen Creators:** Cheri Oechsle, Melody Taylor

**Usher Coordinator:** Neil Shaffer and Dave Lichtle, Assistant



**Acolyte Training TODAY** - We invite anyone interested in being an acolyte or learning more about it to join us after service **TODAY** in the sanctuary. All ages are welcome.

**Attention Children, Youth and Young Adults** - Pastor Christian wants to attend and support you at your activities and events. He's already learned more about spelling, soccer and robotics than he ever knew. And he travels. If you'd like to have him at your event, catch up with him after church.

**VBS Save the Date** - Mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School June 3 - 6. It's a fun-filled week for kids and adult volunteers. The theme is Hometown Nazareth Where Jesus was a Kid.

**Cont'd** → → → →