

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.

Our Bible, Sex, Gender and Marriage Study - 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 4th** and pickup is **April 30th at the Fairgrounds EMR Building**.

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.

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 or 238-0631 ext. 308.

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.

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 Cincinnati Chili (served on spaghetti w/shredded cheese, onion, beans), Chili Dogs/Hot Dog, 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

FIRST united methodist CHURCH

113 West Central Avenue | Van Wert, Ohio 45891 | 419-238-0631 | vanwertfirst.net



February 25, 2024

2nd Sunday of Lent

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

Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. Romans 4:16 NIV

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

Prelude *I Love to Tell the Story* arr. Dobrinski

Handbell Choir
Gloria Wendel, Director

Welcome & Announcements

Jordan Dettrow

*Call to Worship

Jordan Dettrow

Leader: Let us turn our minds from human things.

People: Our faith in Jesus saves us.

Leader: Let us set our minds on divine things.

People: Our faith in Jesus saves us.

Leader: We will deny ourselves and take up our cross.

People: Our faith in Jesus saves us.

Leader: We will lose all; that we may gain all.

People: Our faith in Jesus saves us.

***Hymn** *Faith of Our Fathers*

#710

*Opening Prayer

Jordan Dettrow

God, you have given us everything. What can we give in return for our lives? Be our guide on our Lenten journey. Help us to deny ourselves, pick up our cross and follow Jesus. We welcome the chastening direction in our lives as we worship you today.

Song *You Are Holy / Holy, Holy, Holy / Father Abraham*

Chat with the Children

Children are dismissed to AWE

Judy Krites

Life in the Church

Jordan Dettrow

*Scripture

Mark 8:31-38

Anthem *Lonesome Valley* by Gilbert Martin

Chancel Choir
Gloria Wendel, Accompanist

Series Message

Depths of Love
For the Sake of the Gospel

Pastor Christian Taylor

***Song:** *The Old Rugged Cross*

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Giving of Tithes & Offerings

(Children return from AWE)

Offertory *Simple Gifts* arr. Wilbur Held

***Doxology** *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

***Prayer of Gratitude**

*Spoken Benediction

Postlude: *Nun danket alle Gott (Now Thank We All Our God)* arr. Don Hustad

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

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

The Altar flowers are given by Kathy and Kristina Welker
Celebrating their great-niece, Colleen's, 25th Birthday



Give glory to God by honoring or remembering a loved one on Easter morning. Easter Flower Order Forms are available at the entrances or the Church office. Orders are due Sunday, March 10th.

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: Kurt Massillo

Acolytes: Dillon Staas

Screen Creators: Cheri Oechsle, Melody Taylor

Usher Coordinator: Neil Shaffer and Dave Lichtle, Assistant