



Please keep Pastor Christian in your prayers this week (March 4-8) as he has a heavy week ahead of him. He is in his last semester of seminary and this week is an Intensive. If you need him, please go through the office. Jody will make sure he receives your messages. Thank you.

**Easter Morning Breakfast** - The Men of the Church will hold their Annual Pancake Breakfast on Easter Sunday from 8:30 AM to 9:45 AM. Men of all ages are encouraged to help. Text Eric at 419-203-1186 for details.

**FEAST MEAL & Goliath Spear** - Dinner and a Show! March 20th, will be our last Wednesday night FEAST meal @ 5:00pm followed by a presentation in the sanctuary @ 6:00pm on Goliath's Spear, **Giants are no match for my God!** Come hear about and see an exact replica of the spear that Goliath would have used in battle.

**Youth Flower Fundraiser orders are DUE TOMORROW!** Spring is right around the corner and gardening is too! Support our Youth mission trip and place your order today at the Take 5 Cart.

**Good Friday Bake Sale** - Our Women's Ministry Team is having their Good Friday Bake Sale at the Courthouse from 8am-1130am. Baked goods may be dropped off at the church by 3pm on Thursday, March 28 or at the courthouse by 8am Friday morning. Items should be covered in clear plastic and marked with what it is and whether it contains nuts. Goodies from ANY First Church member will be gratefully accepted. Be sure to stop by and pick something up for your Easter dinner. All proceeds benefit local missions.

**Preschool Open House this THURSDAY from 10-11 am or 6-7:30 pm** - Tour our Christ-centered preschool for children ages 3-5. 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.

**Preschool Online Auction Donations Needed** - Our Preschool Online Auction is coming up April 15-19 and we are looking for donations that can be auctioned off. In the past we have auctioned art, themed baskets, jewelry, homemade items including food and crafts, etc. Items are needed by March 25th and may be dropped off at the church.

**Suds & Grub - Lenten Mission Challenge** - Watch our Sloth in Krout for who is ahead! 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. See the Take 5 Cart for baskets to drop off contributions.

**Thank you for donating 133 Teddy Bears!** - The On Our Own group has prepared them for delivery to agencies that use them to give comfort.

**Wednesday Meal - Extended to March 20** - Join us for a hot meal and fellowship Wednesdays at 5 pm in the basement dining hall. This week's meal is Parmesan Chicken, Spaghetti w/ Marinara Sauce, Green Beans, Hot Dog, Tossed Salad and Dessert.

Thank you to all those who make this happen - cooks, servers, dessert makers & clean up crew!  
**Spots are open for pies and clean up on March 13. Sign up on the media board.**

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

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



March 3, 2024

3rd 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

For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. 1 Corinthians 1:25 NIV

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

**Welcome & Announcements** Al Arnold

**Prelude** *Cries from Earth to Heaven* by S. Nichifor, arr. S. Turner

**\*Call to Worship** Al Arnold

Leader: This is the third step on our Lenten Journey.

**People: It is on this journey that we will face our greed and selfishness**

Leader: It is on this journey that God will confront us.

**People: Our hearts are ready to receive God.**

Leader: Come, then, and let us move forward toward the Cross.

**People: Let us faithfully and confidently follow Jesus. Amen.**

**\*Hymn** *Are Ye Able* #530

**\*Opening Prayer** Al Arnold

**O God, your weakness is mightier than human strength, your foolishness is wiser than human wisdom. We rejoice that you are with us today. Open our hearts and discipline our will. Teach us to follow your perfect ways. Test us with your righteous decrees. As with a whip, drive us from unholy living, and turn us toward your holy light. Through your Son, Jesus Christ, comfort and redeem us with your holy gospel. Amen.**

**Song** *Open The Eyes Of My Heart / In You Alone*

**Chat with the Children** Ruth Ann Dowler  
*Children will remain in Worship*

**Life in the Church** Al Arnold

**\*Scripture** John 2:13-22

**Series** **Depths of Love**  
**Message** I Will Raise it Up Pastor Christian Taylor

**\*Song:** *I Will Rise*

**Giving of Tithes & Offerings**

**Offertory** *Offertory* by E. Titcomb

**\*Doxology** *To God Be the Glory* #98 vs. 1

**\*Prayer of Gratitude**

**Anthem** *Come Share God's Gift* by Don Besig

Chancel Choir  
Gloria Wendel, Accompanist

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion:**

**Prayers for the People**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Invitation**

**Prayer of Great Thanksgiving**

**Distribution of the Bread & Juice**

**\*Spoken Benediction**

**Postlude:** *Postlude* by E. Whitt

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

## Easter Offering

Our Easter offering this month is designated to replace our aging rooftop cooling and heating units. Please use the special envelopes in your box, the church pews or write Easter on your check memo line.



Give glory to God by honoring or remembering a loved one on Easter morning. Easter Flower Order Forms are available in your bulletin, at the entrances or the Church office. Orders are due **next Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>**.

## Kid's Worship Kits

**Today, our children will remain in worship instead of going to AWE.** We have **Worship Kits** located in the Narthex if they would like something to work on. The kits include activities that go along with today's service. Please remember to return the kits after service. Thank you.

## Leaders in Today's Worship

**Pastor:** Christian Taylor

**Projectionist:** Cayden Laukhuf

**Director of Music:** Scott Turner

**Sound Technician:** Ron Allison

**Worship Leader:** Jeremy Laukhuf

**Videographer:** Dave Thompson

**Acolytes:** Elora Hogan & Addisyn Karl

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

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