

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.

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.

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 attendee will be gratefully accepted. Be sure to stop by and pick something up for your Easter dinner. All proceeds benefit local missions.

H2O Mentors Wanted—Got 40 minutes? Make a difference in a Middle school or Freshman student's life as well as your own. We have a female and a male opening in our H2O mentor program. Find out more by speaking to mentor Kay Okuley or Director of Outreach, Teresa.

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.

Wednesday Meal - Join us for a hot meal and fellowship **two more** Wednesdays at 5 pm in the basement dining hall. This week's meal is Ham loaf, Cheesy Potatoes, Peas & Carrots, 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 1 pie and 2 clean up for this Wednesday. Sign up on the media board.

VBS Save the Date - Mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School June 3 - 6.

Volunteer Opportunities - There are many ways to get involved throughout our church and community. We are currently looking for **Greeter Coordinator and Projectionists** on Sunday mornings. To find out more, 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



March 10, 2024

4th 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

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8 NIV

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

Welcome & Announcements Jana Thompson

Prelude *What Wondrous Love is This* arr. Dobinski Handbell Choir
Gloria Wendel - Director, Rod Sroufe - String Bass and Martha Balyeat - Flute

***Call to Worship** Jana Thompson

Leader: How awesome God's light is!

People: It pours rays of comfort and hope onto this dark world!

Leader: Come, dance and rejoice in the light!

People: Lord, let your light flood into our hearts and spirits!

Leader: Come, let us celebrate!

People: Let us bring our praise to God! Amen.

***Hymn** *Shine, Jesus Shine*

***Opening Prayer** Jana Thompson

Great Triune God, we have gathered here in your name as an act of faith, believing that you are not only among us, but that you love us. It is often hard to recognize your love, see your mercy, and feel your presence. Help us today in our worship, that we might be transparent to your grace, as you reveal yourself to each one of us. Amen.

Chat with the Children Rachael Dettrow
Children are dismissed to AWE

Life in the Church Jana Thompson

Gideon Speaker Warren Kramer
Offering The Gideon International

***Scripture** John 3:14-21

Anthem *This Little Light of Mine* arr. Neil Johnson Chancel Choir
Gloria Wendel, Accompanist

Series **Depths of Love**
Message Loving the Light Pastor Christian Taylor

Prayers of the People
The Lord's Prayer

Giving of Tithes & Offerings (Children return from AWE)

Offertory *Sunshine of My Life/Let the "Son" Shine*

***Doxology** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* #95

***Prayer of Gratitude**

***Hymn** *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross* #301

***Spoken Benediction**

Postlude: *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken* arr. Don Hustad

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



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.



DUE TODAY

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.

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: Luke Compton

Director of Music: Scott Turner

Sound Technician: Kent Smelser

Worship Leader: Jeremy Laukhuf

Videographer: Kurt Massillo

Acolytes: Ashley Bunker & Dillon Staas

Screen Creators: Cheri Oechsle, Melody Taylor

Usher Coordinator: Neil Shaffer and Dave Lichtle, Assistant