

# What's Happening!

**THIS WEDNESDAY--FEAST MEAL & Goliath Spear** - Dinner and a Show! This week is our last Wednesday night FEAST meal for the season at 5:00pm (Sloppy Joes, Mac n Cheese, Green Bean Casserole, Hot Dog, Tossed Salad and Dessert) followed by a presentation in the sanctuary at 6:00pm on Goliath's Spear, **Giants are no match for my God!** Come hear about and see a hand-crafted, life size, Biblically and historically accurate replica of the spear that Goliath would have used in battle.

**NEXT SUNDAY--Youth Potato Bar Following Service** - Enjoy a Baked potato with topping bar, salad bar, dessert, punch and coffee while supporting our Youth and their Missions. Adults \$8 and Kids under 11 \$5.

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

**Good Friday Bake Sale** - Our Women's Ministry Team is having their Good Friday Bake Sale at the Courthouse from 8-11:30am. 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 our 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** - Suds are at 149 loads & Grubs at 100 meals. The goal is 100 each. So - what would happen if we doubled the goal? Watch our Sloth in Krout for who is ahead! See the Take 5 Cart for baskets to drop off contributions.

**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. (As you begin to make your summer plans, please save this date! We can always use volunteers - please let Cristi know if you can help.)

**Volunteer Opportunities** - There are many ways to get involved throughout our church and community. We are currently looking for a **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](mailto:firstchurch@vanwertfirst.net)**

# FIRST united methodist CHURCH

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



March 17, 2024

5<sup>th</sup> 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

No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more. Jeremiah 31:34

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

**Welcome & Announcements** Martin Burchfield

**Prelude** *Hymn of the Cross* arr. Carol Wilbur

**\*Call to Worship** Martin Burchfield

Leader: This is the fifth step on our Lenten journey, the step of sacrifice.

**People: Be with us, Lord, as we take this step.**

Leader: This requires the willingness to give all of your life to the Lord.

**People: Be with us, Lord, as we commit our lives to you.**

Leader: Come, let us worship and offer our voices of praise to God.

**People: Let us open our hearts and spirits to God this day. Amen.**

**\*Hymn** *Build My Life/God Of Wonders*

**\*Opening Prayer** Jeremy Laukhuf

**Lord, be with us this day as we commit ourselves to being your disciples.  
Help us to face the future unafraid, trusting in your loving care and presence with us.  
We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.**

**Chat with the Children** Chris Gordon  
*Children are dismissed to AWE*

**Life in the Church** Martin Burchfield

**\*Scripture** John 12:20-33

**Anthem** *Adoramus te, Christe* by Quirino Gasparini Chancel Choir  
Gloria Wendel, Accompanist

**Series** **Depths of Love**  
**Message** **Whoever Serves** Pastor Christian Taylor

**\*Hymn** *The Old Rugged Cross* #504

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

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

**Offertory** *Melody* by John Barry

**\*Doxology** *Come Thou Fount*

**\*Prayer of Gratitude**

**\*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!*

## BAKED POTATO BAR

*Youth Fundraiser!*

**PALM SUNDAY MARCH 24TH**




**MENU:**

- Baked Potatoes
- Toppings Bar
- Salad Bar
- Dessert
- Punch
- Coffee

**PRICES:**

Adults: \$8.00  
Kids Under 11: \$5.00



**CARRYOUT AVAILABLE!**

**Immediately following worship in the Dining Hall**  
*Thank you for your support of our youth and missions!*



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.

### 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

**Director of Music:** Scott Turner

**Worship Leader:** Jeremy Laukhuf

**Acolytes:** Vivian Laukhuf & Elijah Pollock

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

**Projectionist:** Cayden Laukhuf

**Sound Technician:** Kyle Wendel

**Videographer:** Dave Thompson

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