


The flowers on the altar are given in Loving Memory
of Roy and Neal by Eleanor Souders



Our **May offering** is designated to Operation Back to School. Please use the special envelopes in the church pews or write OPBTS on your check memo line.

PRESCHOOL GRADUATION
MAY 9TH
@ 6PM
IN SANCTUARY



LOST and Found



Lost and found items in the Narthex
May 5th & May 12th


Moms of preschoolers - 5th graders

You are invited to join your child in the Dining Hall for a fun filled morning of mini games to celebrate all you do



Sunday, May 12th
9:00am

CLASS OF 2024




College Graduates!!!

Please submit your graduation information to Teresa by May 12th

School
Major
Graduation Date
Photo

Graduate Sunday
May 19th
Come Celebrate with our young adults



Card Boxes will be available with our Graduates

- Austin Bockrath
- Sydney Dowler
- Macy Johnson
- Melissa Joseph
- Cayden Laukhuf
- Olivia Ramos
- Kaden Shaffer

Lunch in Dining Hall after service

FIRST united methodist CHURCH

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



May 5, 2024

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 the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. 1 John 5:3-4

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

Welcome & Announcements Jana Thompson

Prelude *All Things Bright and Beautiful* arr. K. Larson Handbell Choir
Scott Turner, Director

***Call to Worship** Jana Thompson

L: We come with joy to this celebration of God's love!

P: Open our hearts, Lord, to receive your love.

L: We come with hope to this witness to God's power!

P: Challenge and encourage our spirits to serve you, Lord.

L: We come with a willingness to proclaim God's presence to all.

P: We thank God for this invitation to worship, witness and serve. Amen.

***Hymn** *Since Jesus Came Into My Heart* see insert vs 1,2,3 & repeat 1

***Opening Prayer** Jeremy Laukhuf

We, who so often take the wonders of creation for granted, welcome the opportunity to make a joyful noise before you, O God. We come here this morning to worship and to praise you, glad that we live in this country filled with such diverse and beautiful examples of your creation. Yet, joyful noises are not easy for everyone to make, as we come from differing situations and lifestyles. Some are burdened down with the stresses of daily living and all that involves; some wearied from tasks of serving others; some worried over the state of the world and where that is all leading. Speak to us all, O God, in the stillness of this time and remind us of Jesus' willingness to take our burdens upon himself and to learn from him - to experience his gentleness and steadfast love for all. Jesus also offers us his joy so that our joy might be complete. Confident in these promises, we offer this time of worship to you, O God, praying that it may reflect our praise and thanksgiving for the gifts of creation and for all that Jesus has done for us. This we pray in his name. Amen.

Sunday School Presentation Cristi Laukhuf
Children will remain in worship

Life in the Church Jana Thompson

Pray for Our VBS Volunteers

“Lord, please bring volunteers to serve at VBS. Fill their hearts with your love and patience to be poured out upon the kids. Give them strength, health, and an overwhelming joy to serve! We pray that our volunteers are given the opportunity to help children experience you and that they would grow closer to you!”

***Scripture** John 15:9-17

Series **How Shall We Love**
Message We Love One Another Pastor Christian Taylor

***Song** *He Leadeth Me*

Giving of Tithes & Offerings

Offertory *Ever Faithful, Ever Near* by Franklin Ritter

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

***Prayer of Gratitude**

Anthem *We Gather At Your Table, Lord* arr. Ehret Chancel Choir
Linda Mechling, Accompanist

Holy Communion
Prayers of the People
The Lord's Prayer

***Spoken Benediction**

Postlude: *Go Forth in Triumph* by Lani Smith

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

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: Noah Krites

Director of Music: Scott Turner

Sound Technician: Ron Allison

Worship Leader: Jeremy Laukhuf

Videographer: Kurt Massillo

Acolytes: Elora Hogan and Ashley Bunker

Screen Creators: Cheri Oechsle, Melody Taylor

Usher Coordinator: Neil Shaffer and Dave Lichtle, Assistant