


December Prayer Partner *prayer*

*Be Kind and Compassionate to one another, forgiving each other,
just as in Christ God forgave you.* Ephesians 4:32

Dear Lord, I pray that you fill (_____) heart with compassion. Give them compassion for the people they will come in contact with at school-friends, teachers, classmates, etc. I ask that you would help (_____) see these people through your eyes and show them the love of Jesus. I also ask for those working with and surrounding this child to have compassion as well. In Jesus' name. Amen."

Considering a last minute gift???
Gift a family a meal through the Food Pantry
Contact the office if interested



Heritage
POTLUCK
Sunday, January 12th
5:00pm - 7:00pm
*bring a dish to share that tells about you

Woman's Event
all women are invited from the youngest to the oldest



The 2025 Offering Envelopes are located outside the church office.
As always, First UMC appreciates your donations to support her ministries, the building operation and the staff. If you are planning to make a year end gift and want it listed on your 2024 giving statement, please submit it to the office by Monday, December 30. If you are using eGiving via credit card (Vanco), please be sure to submit that by Monday, December 23 as credit card companies can take up to a week to process.

We are looking for Volunteers:
Graphics Creator
Sound Technician
Projection Operator
Contact the office if interested

Thank You to Noah Carter for the wonderful landscape work done to the outside of the Church!

FIRST united methodist CHURCH

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



December 22, 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

“My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation .” Luke 1:46b-50 NIV

**indicates please stand if you are able*

Please fill out the attendance pad and pass it to your neighbor

Welcome & Announcements

Eric McCracken

Prelude *O Come, All Ye Faithful* arr. Cathy Moglebust

Handbells/Chancel Choir

*Gathering Meditation

Eric McCracken

Blessed is tiny Bethlehem, from which shall come the ruler of Israel.

Blessed is Mary, who believed in the fulfillment of God’s word.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Blessed is God, who gives us the gift of peace.

Advent Candle Lighting

Wells/Schaffner/Kennedy Families

Congregational Response *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Verse 4

*Christmas Carols

***Hymn** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

#240 Verse 1, 3

*Opening Prayer

Eric McCracken

God of the impossible and unlikely, God of pregnant old women and virgins, you turn our conventional world upside down, where the hungry are fed, and the arrogant rich are turned away. Instill in us unthinkable marvels.

Make us pregnant with wonder through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

***Song** *We Sing (Joy to the World)*

Chat with the Children

Judy Krites

(Children are dismissed to AWE - Preschool through 5th Grade)

Life in the Church

Eric McCracken

***Song/Hymn** *Angus Dei*

*Scripture

Micah 5:2-5a

Series

Come, Let Us Adore Him

Message

Promise

Pastor Christian Taylor

Prayers of the People

Pastor Christian Taylor

The Lord’s Prayer

Giving of Tithes & Offerings

(Children return from AWE)

Offertory *Christmas Setting* arr. Shelly Hamilton

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

(Tune: Greensleeves)

***Prayer of Gratitude**

*Spoken Benediction

Postlude *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas* arr. Shelly Hamilton

You are invited to be seated and enjoy the Postlude or leave quietly in peace.

Thank you for worshiping with us!



Christmas Eve

Family Service - 5:30pm

Family Communion - 6:15pm

Candlelight Service:

Music - 9:30pm

Service - 10pm

The Church Building & Office will be closed December 25th, 26th, and January 1st.

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 Krites

Worship Leader: Jeremy Laukhuf

Sound Technician: Kyle Wendel

Director of Music: Scott Turner

Videographer: Dave Thompson

Acolytes: Ceci Staas/Aubrey Osborn

Usher Coordinator: Neil Shaffer &

Screen Creators: Cheri Oechsle &

Dave Lichtle, Assistant

Melody Taylor