

Lessons in Legos
 Sunday, March 23rd
 4:00pm
 a fun afternoon learning how
 Jesus can use tiny blocks
 to teach big ideas

2025 LENTEN FISH FRIES
 Van Wert Knights of Columbus Hall
 425 Woodland Ave.
 Serving 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm the following Fridays of Lent

March 21 - benefiting Van Wert Co. Cooperative Food Bank
 April 11 - benefiting Haven of Hope

CARRY-OUT or DINE-IN

Fish Dinner - \$10.00
 Shrimp Dinner: \$12.00
 Box of Fish Only - \$17.00

50th Preschool Anniversary
 March 30th 11:30am
 The celebration will
 take place in
 the Dining Hall

Thank You

TO THE WEDNESDAY NIGHT FEAST
 AND THE VOLUNTEERS!

THE ALTAR FLOWERS ARE

In honor of
 Wren's 3rd birthday!

GIVEN BY
 Sue Harting

March Prayer Partner *prayer*

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

“Lord I lift up (_____) to you right now. I pray 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 my child to have compassion as well.

FIRSTunited
 methodist **CHURCH**

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

Steadfast Love

*"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."
 Lamentations 3:22-23*

March 23rd, 2025

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

Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." "This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever." John 6:35, 58

**indicates please stand if you are able*

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Spiritual Medley* arr. Nancy Hascall Susan Burchfield
Handbells
Gloria Wendel, Director
Susan Burchfield

*CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: Children of God, what has God done for you?

People: God saves, provides, and holds us in God's steadfast love.

Leader: Consider and remember: in the joyful times and in the sorrowful times, what has God done for you??

People: God covers us and lifts us up, protecting and empowering us with steadfast love.

Leader: When you have been like the fig tree in Jesus' story that seems unable to produce and that everyone has given up on, what has God done for you?

People: God tends the soil and waters the ground, nurturing us into life with steadfast love.

Leader: Children of God, come, let us worship God who never gives up on us!

People: We come to worship and cling to God, for God's steadfast love never fails!

***HYMN** *Wonderful Words of Life* (#600) Scott Turner

***OPENING PRAYER** Matt Krites

Leader: We are wounded, worried, betrayed, afraid, and injured. We are physically, mentally and emotionally challenged.

People: Drink from these waters, and you will never thirst again.

Leader: We chase thrills, happiness, wealth, health, longevity, him, her, peace, the right job, the right look, anything to lessen our pain. We exhaust ourselves with our efforts.

People: Drink from these waters, and you will never thirst again.

Leader: We continue, broken--day in and day out, hopelessly applying quick fixes. The pain will not subside. We are beckoned by an eternal yearning. We remember a prayer that grandmamma taught us; a lesson learned the hard way, or a word from the Word spoken by a sage. We long for relief, we seek it, search for it, yearn for it--relief that can't be purchased or bartered.

People: Drink from these waters and never thirst again.

All: God, we are grateful that your thoughts and ways are higher than ours. Thank you for forgiving our sins. Thank you for new mercies each new day. Thank you for always welcoming us back into fellowship with you. Thank you for providing waters from which we may drink and never thirst again. Amen.

SONG *Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)* Jeremy Laukhuf

CHAT WITH THE CHILDREN

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

***SCRIPTURE** Psalm 63:1-8
SERIES **Steadfast Love**
MESSAGE *My Soul Clings* Pastor Christian Taylor
ANTHEM *Draw Me Near the Cross* arr. Patti Brennan Chancel Choir
Gloria Wendel, accompanist

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Christian Taylor

GIVING OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

(Children return from AWE)

OFFERTORY *Melody* arr. John Williams Scott Turner

***DOXOLOGY** *My Tribute* (#99) Scott Turner

*PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

***HYMN** *Come Thou Fount* (#400) Jeremy Laukhuf

***SPOKEN BEDICTION** Pastor Christian Taylor

Leader: May God bless you with the hope to cling to God, knowing that in the highs and lows, the joys and the sorrows, the known and unknown of this life, God's love never fails.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

POSTLUDE *Postlude* by Edward Broughton Scott Turner

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

Thank you for worshipping with us!

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
Worship: Jeremy Laukhuf
Director of Music: Scott Turner
Screen Creator: Melody Taylor
Acolytes: Addison Karl & Anna Stoller

Projectionist: Noah Krites
Sound Engineer: Justin Siefker
Videographer: Kurt Massillo
Usher Coordinator: Neil Shaffer & Dave Lichtle