

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 **CARRY-OUT or DINE-IN**
 April 11 - benefiting Haven of Hope

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



Resurrection Sunday

Easter Breakfast @ 8:30am
 Easter Egg Hunt @ 9:30am
 Church Service @ 10:15am

Invite your Friends and Family



Lent Devotionals are available in Krout



First Church Lent Mission Project
Baskets & Blessings
 Collection dates - March 5th - April 5th

Kids VS Adults

Kids bring in:
 Play Dough
 Bubbles
 Sidewalk Chalk
 Chocolate Cross or Bunny
 Ring Pops

Adults bring in:
 Cereal
 Ravioli
 Canned Fruit
 Canned Meat
 Juice
 Dish Soap
 Laundry Detergent

All donations will go to the Cooperative Ministry Food Pantry

Drop items in the bins provided in Krout

Contact Teresa Shaffer 419-203-1538



Good Friday Bake Sale
 @ the Courthouse April 18 8-11:30am

Baked Goods may be dropped off at the church by 3pm Thursday April 17

Please wrap all baked goods with clear plastic wrap and mark whether it contains nuts



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.

FIRST united
 methodist **CHURCH**
 113 West Central Avenue | Van Wert, Ohio 45891 | 419-238-0631 | vanwertfirst.net

50th Preschool Anniversary
 March 30th 11:30am

The celebration will take place in the Dining Hall



March 30th, 2025
 Children's Sunday

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 when he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'"

Luke 15:17-19

*indicates please stand if you are able

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

WELCOME & VERSE

Ceci Staas

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dillon Staas

PRELUDE

Hymn Setting

arr. Janet Rynearson

Scott Turner

*CALL TO WORSHIP:

Addi Karl

Leader: When we struggle to live as you teach us, and we fail to answer your call

People: God, your steadfast love surrounds us.

Leader: When the truth clogs up in our throat, and we fear what will happen if we speak and if we keep silent

People: God, your steadfast love surrounds us.

Leader: When we open our hearts and let the truth of our sorrows, our sins, our joys, and our doubts flow freely

People: God, your steadfast love surrounds us.

Leader: When our stubborn hearts encounter the grace that teaches and guides us into a life of trust and joyful obedience

People: God, your steadfast love surrounds us today and every day. Thanks be to God! Amen.

*HYMN

To God Be the Glory

#98

Scott Turner

*OPENING PRAYER

Jovie Pollock

Loving God, it was said of the Prodigal Son that he "came to himself." Help us to wake up to ourselves and You. Set us free from the illusion of trying to be perfect so that we might be more fully human. Help us not to chase after an imaginary life and to find satisfaction in our real lives. And turn us away from our self-rejection so we might notice Your arms open in welcome. Amen.

LEADERS IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

Pastor: Christian Taylor
Worship: Jeremy Laukhuf
Director of Music: Scott Turner
Screen Creator: Melody Taylor
Acolytes: Jovie Pollock & Dillon Staas

Projectionist: Noah Carter
Sound Engineer: Kyle Wendel
Videographer: Dave Thompson
Usher Coordinator: Neil Shaffer & Dave Lichtle

SONG

John 6:35, 38

Jeremy Laukhuf

CHAT WITH THE CHILDREN

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

Christie Wendel

*SCRIPTURE

Psalm 32

Henry Schaffner

SERIES

Steadfast Love

MESSAGE

Steadfast Love

Pastor Christian Taylor

*SONG

Jesus Loves Me

Jeremy Laukhuf

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Christian Taylor

ANTHEM

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me (Traditional)

Chancel Choir
 Gloria Wendel, accompanist

GIVING OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

(Children return from AWE)

OFFERTORY *Andante*

by W.A. Mozart

Scott Turner

***DOXOLOGY** *Gloria Patri*

#71

Scott Turner

***PRAYER OF GRATITUDE**

*SPOKEN BLESSING

Pastor Christian Taylor

POSTLUDE

Recessional

by Lani Smith

Scott Turner



The District Spring Spiritual Day is on April 12, from 10:00 until noon at Mechanicsburg UMC. It will be sponsored by the Western Lakes District United Women in Faith. All women are welcome to attend! We are looking forward to hearing District Superintendent Rev. Dr. James Wilson's message, "Making a World of Difference." If you are interested in attending, please contact the 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.