

LIBRARY UPDATE

"We hit the jackpot this month! Four new fiction authors to us and one old favorite! You'll be getting some of the new authors in the future. I'm only highlighting one book, *THE AMERICAN QUEEN*. Were you aware that between 1865 and 1889 we had a queen and a king? It is a fictionalized account of real life things that happened. Thanks to church members that think of us when getting rid of books, we'll be adding a 6th book again. The first one is a Fable, *The Garden*, which shares ways to overcome fear, anxiety, and stress.

Enjoy!"

~ Romaine Whetstone

FIRST united methodist CHURCH

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



The Altar Flowers are in honor of...

Debra J. Kramer's Heavenly Birthday!

by her daughter, April VanHousen, and Grand Kids

FAMILY FUN AND FELLOWSHIP

Sunday
Aug 17, 2025
4:00-7:00 PM

Families with children Birth through Grade 5 SAVE THE DATE for an afternoon of fun, food, and connecting with our church family as we kick off the fall season! MORE DETAILS COMING SOON!

FIRST united
methodist CHURCH
Children's Ministry

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

PRESCHOOL
Where kids love to learn & discover

OPEN HOUSE - AUG 7
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM or 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Come tour our Christ-centered preschool for ages 3-5, where our curriculum follows Ohio Department of Education guidelines. Information packets and 2025-2026 registration will be available. For more information, contact Marilyn Agler at 419.238.0631 x308 or marilyn.agler@vanwertfirst.net

Enjoy a last minute Summer activity with your children, before school starts!

Family Summer CHALLENGE

- Grab a Popsicle paper from Children's Ministry bulletin Board
- Choose a Popsicle EACH Sunday
 - Complete the activity
 - Take a photo and share with Cristi
 - Repeat the next week

Everything is
POPSICLE
with God

July 27th, 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

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

EPHESIANS 2:8-9

PLEASE FILL OUT THE ATTENDANCE PAD AND PASS IT TO YOUR NEIGHBOR

+ THOSE WHO ARE ABLE, PLEASE RISE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARTIN BURCHFIELD

PRELUDE

Meditation | by Edward Broughton

SCOTT TURNER, ORGAN

+ CALL TO WORSHIP:

MARTIN BURCHFIELD

One: Children of God, when the journey ahead seems long and hard, full of unknown dangers and all-too-real risks, remember:

All: Keep the faith. God, who made us alive, is our Guardian and Guide.

One: When the voices on the side of the road tempt us with their misinformation full of unearned certainty, simple solutions, and quickness to blame and shame those who disagree with them, remember:

All: Stay the course. God, who made us alive, is our Wisdom and Judge.

One: When those in power place barriers in our way, making it harder to share the love of God in our communities, trying to convince us it is easier to do nothing than to remain firm in God's call to act for the flourishing of all our neighbors, remember:

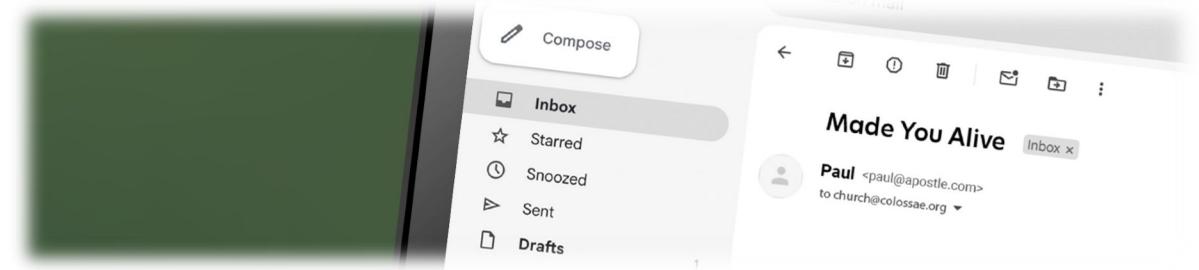
All: Do not be afraid. God, who made us alive, is our Strength and our Advocate.

One: Children of God, come! Let us worship God, whose persistent love empowers us to persevere, to stay the course, to live by faith and not by fear.

All: Come, let us worship God, who makes us alive, through grace to love and serve God and one another.

LEADERS IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

PASTOR	Christian Taylor	ANNOUNCER:	Martin Burchfield
MESSAGE	Teresa Shaffer	PROJECTIONIST:	Noah Krites
WORSHIP LEADER	Jeremy Laukhuf	SOUND ENGINEER:	Kyle Wendel
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC	Scott Turner	VIDEOGRAPHER:	Kurt Massillo
USHER COORDINATORS	Neil Shaffer & Dave Lichtle, Asst.	SCREEN CREATORS:	Mary Ann Falk, Melody Taylor, & Jeremy Laukhuf



+ HYMN #73

O Worship the King | UMH Vs. 1-3

MARY ANN FALK, LEAD

+ OPENING PRAYER

MARTIN BURCHFIELD

Just God, we sense your anger at the injustice that thrives in the world. We share your grief at the discord that rages among your children, the rejection of those who bear your image, and the oppression of those you know by name. We turn toward you for strength and guidance to turn away from the norms of this world, the lure of self-righteousness, and the appeal of comfort over justice. Embolden us to believe that another world is possible and empower us to participate in its creation. Amen.

SONG

Amazing Grace (May Chains are Gone)

EVAN FALK, VOCALS

ERIN FALK, BASS

Colossians 2: 6-19

Dear Children of God: Part 2

Made You Alive

TERESA SHAFFER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

TERESA SHAFFER

+ SONG

10,000 Reasons

JEREMY LAUKHUF

+ SPOKEN BENEDICTION

TERESA SHAFFER

POSTLUDE

Recessional | by Warren Graber

SCOTT TURNER, ORGAN

You are invited to be seated and enjoy the Postlude or leave quietly in peace. Thank you for worshipping with us, and for your continued generosity and support.

All children are invited to go down to the dining room for **Chris Gordon's, Children's Cooking Ministry.** There will be NO *Chat with Children* or *AWE* today.