

The church office & building will be **CLOSED**
 Thurs, Nov 27 and Fri, Nov 28
 No Food Pantry or Bread and Bowl on Fri, Nov 28

Community Thanksgiving Service
Sun, Nov 23 at 6:30 PM
 Church on the Horizon at Wesley Church,
 551 Center St, Van Wert
 Presented by the Van Wert Area Pastors

Community Thanksgiving Dinner
 for anyone alone or in need
 Thurs, Nov 27 Noon to 4 PM
 Trinity Friends Church Family Life Center
 605 N Franklin, Van Wert
 Call 419-238-2788 before Nov 27 for a ride or to have dinner delivered

We Are Blessed by the Hands That Served.
 Thank You, Volunteers!
WEDNESDAY FEAST MEALS

PRAY FOR THE CHILDREN OF OUR CHURCH
 "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." Ephesians 4:31-32

Lord, this month, please subdue any anger that is bubbling in _____. Take any issues of misunderstanding and pride and turn them into thankfulness and humility. May each day in this month allow _____ to see gratitude all around them. Gratitude for a good friend, a beautiful day, or an answered prayer. All thanks and honor to you Lord, Amen

november **PRAYER PARTNER**

- Tree is up and located in Krout
- Please take a name today and buy gifts
- Pray for the child and family
- Gifts due back to the Church on Sun, Dec 14

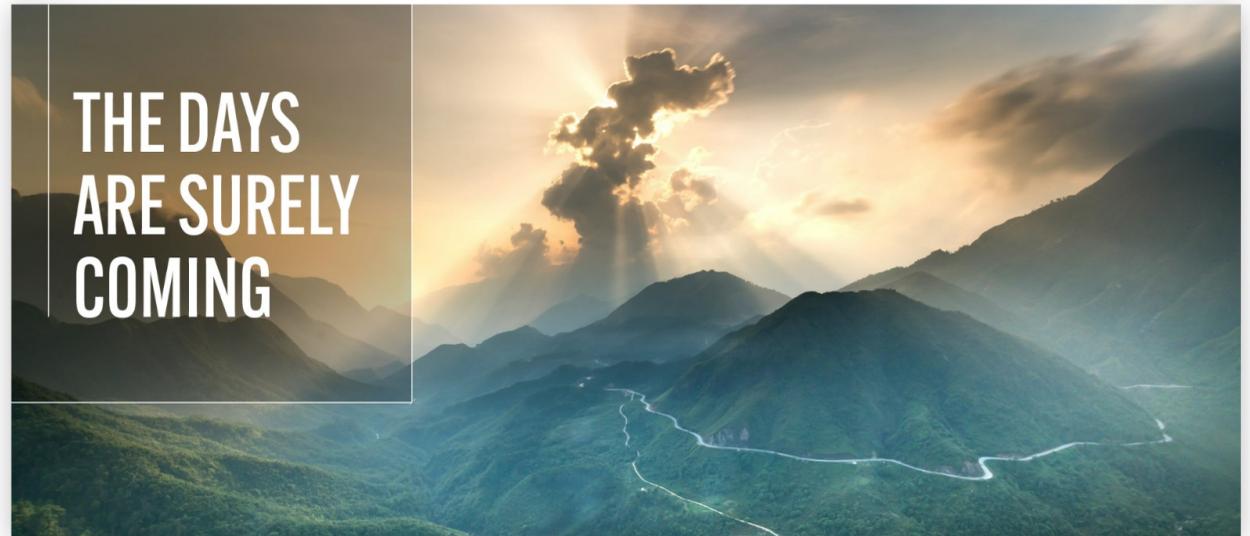
A mission project of Sarah Soul Friends

Happy Thanksgiving



FIRST united methodist **CHURCH**

113 West Central Ave | Van Wert, OH 45891 | 419-238-0631 | vanwertfirst.net



November 23rd 2025

THE **MISSION** OF **FIRST CHURCH** is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who **Love** Boldly, **Serve** Joyfully, and **Lead** Courageously in our local community and around the world.

Whatever your circumstances and no matter where you have been, you matter to God and to us. *You belong here!* We pray your experience in our Worship today will be one that blesses you and uplifts your relationship with Jesus Christ. Please scan the QR code to learn more about who we are and what we offer.



I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them.

Ezekiel 34: 23 - 24

ORDER of WORSHIP

PLEASE FILL OUT THE ATTENDANCE PAD AND PASS IT TO YOUR NEIGHBOR
+ THOSE WHO ARE ABLE, PLEASE RISE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Matt Krites

+ CALL TO WORSHIP Matt Krites

Leader: The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when justice will rise and righteousness will take the throne.

People: We come to worship Christ our King, who gathers the scattered and brings us safely home.

Leader: Though shepherds may fail and leaders may falter, God promises a shepherd who reigns with wisdom and truth.

People: We lift our eyes to the Righteous Branch, the One who judges with equity and leads with compassion.

Leader: On this Reign of Christ Sunday, we proclaim the One who restores, renews, and makes all things whole.

People: Christ is our Shepherd, our King, and our hope. Let us worship the Lord with grateful hearts.

+ PRELUDE HYMN #694 *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* | UMH

+ OPENING PRAYER Matt Krites

Come once again, and feed your flock like a shepherd. Come once again, and gather up the children, the oppressed, the sick, the lonely, the humble, and the rejected of the earth. Turn our hearts to the least of your children, for if we lose them, we become lost. Reconcile us to you and to those we have hurt. On this Christ the King Sunday, join us together with neighbors, with strangers, and especially with our own household. Bring us to your light in our time of darkness, through your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

+ HYMN #381 *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* | UMH

CHAT WITH THE CHILDREN Christie Wendel

Children are dismissed to AWE* - Preschool through 5th Grade

CHANCEL CHOIR ANTHEM *Prayer of Thanksgiving* | arr. Paul Creston

Gloria Wendel, Accompanist

LEADERS OF TODAY'S WORSHIP

PASTOR
CHRISTIAN TAYLOR
DIR. OF MUSIC
SCOTT TURNER
WORSHIP LEADER
JEREMY LAUKHUF

ANNOUNCER
MATT KRITES
ACOLYTES
LILLIAN AND VIVIAN LAUKHUF

ANNOUNCER
MATT KRITES
CHILDREN'S CHAT
CHRISTIE WENDEL
PROJECTIONIST
ELORA HOGAN

GREETERS
BRUCE AND RUTH ANN DOWLER
USHERS
NEIL SHAFFER AND
DAVE LICHTLE, ASST.

VIDEOGRAPHER
KURT MASSILLO
SOUND/AUDIO
KENT SEMLSER

SCREEN CREATORS
MARY ANN FALK
MELODY TAYLOR
JEREMY LAUKHUF

+ SCRIPTURE SERIES MESSAGE

Pastor Christian Taylor



PRAYER OF CONFESSION Matt Krites

Leader: Let us come before God with humility and hope, trusting in the One who shepherds us in mercy and truth.

People: Righteous God, you call us to follow the Shepherd who leads with justice, yet we confess that we have wandered from your ways. We have trusted leaders who do not lead toward life, and at times, we have been those leaders; neglecting our people, ignoring our call, and choosing comfort over courage. Forgive us for the harm we have done and the good we have left undone. Gather us in once more. Restore our hearts, renew our lives, and shape us into a people who reflect the reign of Christ; a reign of righteousness, compassion, and peace. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE Pastor Christian Taylor

Pastor: Hear the good news: The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when a righteous Shepherd will reign with wisdom and execute justice. In Jesus Christ, that promise has come near to us. In him we are gathered, healed, and made whole. People of God, your sins are forgiven, and you are restored to the peace of Christ's kingdom..

People: Thanks be to God! Amen.

+ SONG *You Are Holy*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Pastor Christian Taylor
THE LORD'S PRAYER

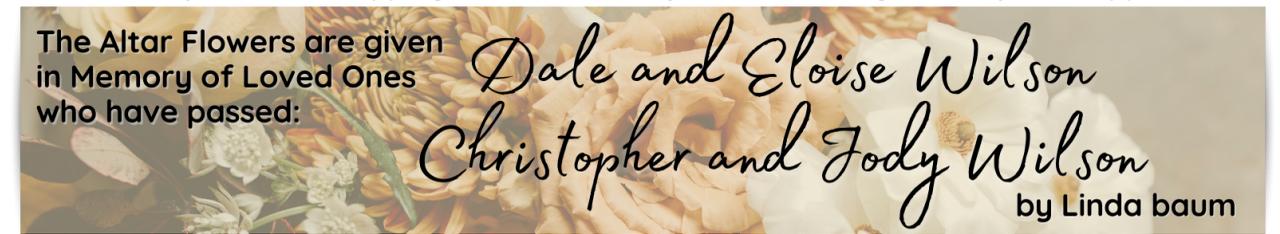
OFFERING SONG *We Will Feast in the House of Zion*
Children return from AWE

+ DOXOLOGY *Give Thanks*

+ SPOKEN BENEDICTION Pastor Christian Taylor

POSTLUDE *Etude Op. 10 no. 7* | by Frederic Chopin

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.



Place offerings in the tin offering plates coming through the Pews, during the Offering song.

