



PRAY FOR THE CHILDREN OF OUR CHURCH

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." Romans 15:13

Dear Heavenly Father, as the hustle and bustle of the season develops, I pray that the advent themes of love, joy, peace, and hope will give _____ eyes that can see those who are struggling and a desire to help. May _____ develop a heart like Mary's, a trust like Joseph, an awe like the shepherds, and discernment like the wise men. In your wonderful name I pray, Amen."



FIRST united methodist CHURCH



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



December 7th 2025

2nd Sunday of Advent

Signs and Stories
Holy Communion
Youth Sunday

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.

2025 CHRISTMAS EVENTS



SCAN FOR MORE EVENTS

Children's Musical
Sun, Dec 14 | 6:30 PM

Christmas Eve
Wed, Dec 24
Prelude Music at 6:30 PM
Service at 7:00 PM

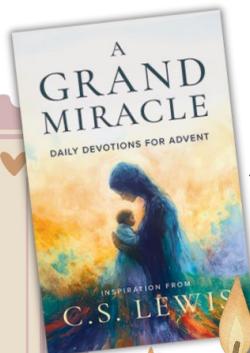
Family Communion
Wed, Dec 24 | 8:00PM

NO Sunday School
Sun, Dec 28 | 9:00AM



ANGEL TREE A MISSION PROJECT OF SARAH SOUL FRIENDS

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



LIBRARY NEWS

We have many delightful Christmas books for your December reading. Among them is one new book - *Manchester Christmas* - set in a small New England town. A few of the aging out books will be available between the book ends also. Hoping you have some time to read during this busy month!
~ Romaine

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Advent Devotionals

AVAILABLE IN THE KROUT
(ONE PER HOUSEHOLD PLEASE)



Food Pantry

December is BAKING MIXES month

Cake, brownie, cookie mixes



YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A REAL DIFFERENCE IN CARING FOR OTHERS! DONATE YOUR GOODS IN ONE OF THE BOXES LOCATED AT EACH CHURCH ENTRANCE!

It shall be said, 'Build up, build up, prepare the way, remove every obstruction from my people's way.' For thus says the high and lofty one who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: 'I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with those who are contrite and humble in spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite.

Isaiah 57: 14 – 15

ORDER of WORSHIP

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENT Leah Krites

PRELUDE *In the Bleak Midwinter* | arr. Scott Turner
Scott Turner, organ

+ CALL TO WORSHIP Ella Pruden

Leader: Beloved, we gather to remember who we are, not who the world tells us to be.

People: We tell the story together of the day that all the earth awaits.

Leader: We recall the story of God's people, how God has called us to live in peace and righteousness in a world full of conflict and twisted morality.

People: We tell the story together of the day that all the earth awaits.

Leader: We recount the story of our journey with God, the moments of God's provision, God's prodding, and God's prophetic guidance.

People: We tell the story together of the day that all the earth awaits.

Leader: We gather to repent and return anew to God's story that guides our lives to work for peace and flourishing for all of God's creation.

People: We gather to tell the story of the day that all the earth awaits. Thanks be to God! Amen.

+ ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING Ashlynn Shaffer
SING A VERSE OF *What Child Is This*

Leader: Jesus is our Immanuel. He is God with us.

People: In a grand miracle, we no longer need to wonder who God is. He is Jesus.

Leader: Like Jesus, our God is all-knowing, all-powerful, and all-present.

People: So we no longer need to suffer doubt, fear, or loneliness.

Leader: Our future is secure. Our place is permanent.

People: We will always be with God in Christ.

SING A VERSE OF *What Child Is This*

Leader: Through Jesus, our God comes to us with his free and unconditional love.

People: Christ has come to care for us eternally.

Leader: In Christ Jesus, our God shows us how to be a servant to others.

People: So we are called to help one another know Jesus more through acts of loving service.

SING A VERSE OF *What Child Is This*

Leader: We light these candles to remember Christ's coming into the world, bringing hope and peace to all creation.

+ OPENING PRAYER Elora Hogan

Loving God, be to us as a bulldozer of the spirit. Clear your road in us; clear a path through the detritus of possessions and obsessions. Thrust aside our divided aims and devious games. Topple the ramparts of pride and the doubts that deride. Make a highway on which Christ may come and take possession of the whole territory of our being. To glory of your name, we pray. Amen!

HYMN #196 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* | UMH

CHAT WITH THE CHILDREN Aiden Bockrath & Dillon Staas

HYMN #211 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* | UMH

YOUTH DRAMA Meah Johnson, Madalynn Laukhuf, Bentley Pavilades, Addi Karl

+ SCRIPTURE SERIES MESSAGE Chris Hogan



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

OFFERING SONG *How Great is Our God*

+ DOXOLOGY #99 *My Tribute* | UMH

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Elijah Pollock

People: When our faith is rooted deeply in you, O God, our lives reflect your kingdom values of justice and righteousness, but sometimes our lives become so entangled with the values of the world that your values take second place. Forgive us, O God, and reconnect us to the Holy Spirit, source of power and life. Merciful God, strip our hearts and minds of all the prevents or lives from being firmly rooted in you. May our lives bear fruit worthy of our faith in you, as we watch and wait for your breaking into our world once more, in the person of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE Pastor Christian Taylor

HOLY COMMUNION Jamie Ramos & Teresa Shaffer

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

CHANCEL CHOIR ANTHEM *O Come, Emmanuel* | arr. Mary MacDonnell

Gloria Wendel, accompanist

+ SPOKEN BEDICTION Pastor Christian Taylor

POSTLUDE *Advent Hymntune* | arr. Lani Smith

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.