ICE-BREAKERS

1. Who is someone, or what is something that looks very different from far away or up close?

2. What do you think makes leadership hard: the responsibility, the temptation of power, or the pressure to please people?

SERMON BASED

1. From **Micah 3**, we learned some lessons about leadership from a kingdom and culture very different from our own, facing traumatic circumstances we have never faced. Does the reality that different people, in different times and places, have read and understood these same texts differently than we do make you uncomfortable? If so, how and why?

2. *Leadership matters* - not only because of what leaders do, but because of what others must live with afterward. In what circles are you a leader? What might people have to live with based on your leadership?

BEYOND THE TEXT

1. Where might your daily habits—how you spend money, use influence, remain silent, or make decisions—unintentionally participate in injustice, and what would it look like this week to realign one concrete choice with **Micah 6:8**: *doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with God?*

2. Approximately one-third (33%) of our Bible is poetry, including the book of Micah. Imagine if the end of each English sentence in **Micah 3** rhymed with a nearby sentence. How might that change the way you read and understand the text?

FIRST united methodist CHURCH

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

January 18th, 2026

Leadership Matters

Mission Sunday

THE ***MISSION*** OF ***FIRST CHURCH*** is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who **Love** Boldy, **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.

order of worship

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?
Micah 6:8 NASB

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS ..... Dillon Staas IV

HANDBELLS PRELUDE ..... Paula LaRue, Piano & Gloria Wendel, Director

Cantique de Jean Racine | arr. Robert Hobby

+ CALL TO WORSHIP ..... Dillon Staas IV

Leader: Come, people of God, and listen for the voice of the Lord, who calls leaders and nations to account.

People: We come to worship the God who sees clearly and speaks truth with justice.

Leader: The Lord cries out against leaders who misuse power and forget the cries of the vulnerable.

People: We come seeking wisdom, humility, and courage to live as God's people.

Leader: What does the Lord require of us?

People: To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

Leader: Come, let us worship the One who is our true King and faithful Judge.

People: We come with open hearts, ready to be shaped by God's truth and grace. Amen.

+ OPENING PRAYER ..... Dillon Staas IV

Holy and righteous God, You call us to justice, kindness, and humility, yet we often fall short. Forgive us when we seek comfort instead of courage, when we benefit from systems that harm others, and when we remain silent in the face of injustice. Forgive us when we demand integrity from leaders but resist Your leadership over our own lives. You see what is hidden: the motives of our hearts, the ways we use or avoid responsibility, the ways we shape the world through our choices. Transform us, teach us to do justice with compassion, to love kindness without condition, and to walk humbly with You. Make us faithful leaders in our homes, our work, our church, and our community. May our lives reflect the reign of Jesus Christ, our coming King. Amen.

+ HYMN #413 ***A Charge to Keep I Have*** | UMH

GREETING

CHAT WITH THE CHILDREN ..... Jeremy Laukhuf

Children are dismissed to AWE - Preschool through 5th Grade

MISSION MOMENT ..... Teresa Shaffer

+ SCRIPTURE SERIES MESSAGE ..... Jeremy Laukhuf

MICAH 3: 1 – 12

RESPONSIVE LITANY ..... Dillon Staas IV

Leader: We have heard the word of the Lord spoken through the prophet Micah.

People: We have been reminded that leadership matters to God.

Leader: God condemns the misuse of power and calls for faithfulness, justice, and truth.

People: We repent of the ways we have ignored that call.

Leader: What does the Lord require of us?

People: To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

Leader: The coming King does not rule through fear or corruption, but through mercy, righteousness, and love.

People: We choose to follow Christ, the true Shepherd and righteous King.

Leader: Go now as people shaped by God's justice and sustained by God's hope.

People: We go to live what we believe, to lead with integrity, and to serve in the name of Christ. Amen.

+ HYMN #428 ***For the Healing of the Nations*** | UMH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERTORY ***Adagio Theme from Symphony No. 2*** | by Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943) & arr. Scott Turner

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

+ DOXOLOGY #94 ***Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*** | UMH

+ SPOKEN BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE ***Piece in Style Libre*** | by Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

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.**

Want to write down your thoughts, notes, or answers?
See the Bottom of your Bulletin Insert for notepad space!