ICE-BREAKERS

1. If you could turn one “weapon” in your everyday life (stress, anger, competition, fear, busyness, etc.) into a “tool” that helps others grow, what would you choose – and what would it become?

2. When life feels chaotic or loud, where do you naturally look for peace – and how well does it actually work?

SERMON BASED

1. When fear, conflict, or uncertainty rises in your daily life, what “language” do you instinctively speak – and what would it look like to intentionally practice the Shepherd’s language of peace instead?

2. Where might God be asking you to wait, listen, and trust – rather than grasp for control or take a shortcut – and how could that waiting itself become a witness to the peace of Christ?

BEYOND THE TEXT

1. Where in your daily life are you most tempted to rely on the world’s “grammar of survival” (fear, control, retaliation, certainty), and what would it look like to intentionally practice the Shepherd’s way of peace in that specific space this week – at work, at home, online, or in your community?

2. If living as God’s remnant means being gathered by mercy rather than strength, how might that reshape the way you engage people who are wounded, different, or difficult – and how you understand your own weaknesses as part of God’s faithful work in you?

FIRST united methodist CHURCH

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

February 1st, 2026

Messiah Arrives

HOLY COMMUNION
YOUTH-LED 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 ..... Meah Johnson

PRELUDE ..... Paula LaRue and Linda Mechling, Piano

Praise Him, Praise Him | arr. Larry Shackley

+ CALL TO WORSHIP ..... Dillon Staas V

Leader: People of God, we gather in hope, trusting the promises of the Holy One.

People: We come seeking the One who brings justice, peace, and salvation.

Leader: From Bethlehem, small and overlooked, God raises a Shepherd for the people.

People: One who stands in the strength of the Lord and feeds the flock with care.

Leader: The prophet asks, "What does the Lord require of you?"

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

Leader: The coming King rules not by force, but by faithfulness and mercy.

People: His reign brings peace to the ends of the earth.

Leader: Come, let us worship the Messiah who has come and is coming again.

People: We worship with hope, humility, and trust in God's saving work. Amen.

+ OPENING PRAYER ..... Ashlynn Shaffer

Just and merciful God, You have shown us what is good. You call us to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you. We give thanks for the coming of the Messiah, born in humility, our Shepherd and our peace. Forgive us when we seek power instead of service, Comfort instead of faithfulness, and resist your reign in our lives. By your Spirit, shape us as people of your kingdom. Teach us to live justly, love mercy, and walk humbly as we follow Jesus Christ, until your justice, hope, and peace are made complete. Amen.

+ HYMN #140 ***Great Is Thy Faithfulness*** | UMH

TIME OF GREETING

CHILDREN'S SONGS

CHAT WITH THE CHILDREN ..... Vivian Laukhuf, Addison Karl, & Ella Pruden

PASTA BAR
$9
$6 for kids
TODAY | 11:30AM

SPECIAL MUSIC ***Lead On, O King Eternal*** | arr. Gene Robertson

+ SCRIPTURE SERIES MESSAGE MICAH 5: 1 – 15

..... Noah Krites

RESPONSIVE LITANY ..... Bentley Pavlides

Leader: God has raised up a ruler from among the people.

People: We receive the Messiah who comes in humility and faithfulness.

Leader: He shepherds the flock and gathers the scattered.

People: We commit ourselves to his care and his way.

Leader: He is our peace in a world marked by fear and violence.

People: We choose the path of justice, mercy, and reconciliation.

Leader: The Lord removes false powers and empty promises.

People: We turn away from idols and place our trust in God alone.

Leader: The Lord has told us what is good and what is required.

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

Leader: Go now as people shaped by the reign of Christ.

People: We go in hope, serving the coming King. Amen.

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

OFFERTORY ***Hymn Of Heaven*** | Chorus

+ DOXOLOGY #95 ***Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*** | UMH

HOLY COMMUNION ..... Leah Krites & Maddy Laukhuf

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ SPOKEN BENEDICTION

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

POSTLUDE ***Invention*** | by J.S. Bach

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.

NEW HERE ?
SCAN THE QR CODE!

LEADERS OF TODAY'S WORSHIP

USHERS
NEIL SHAFFER
DAVE LICTHLE, ASST.

SCREEN CREATORS
MARY ANN FALK
JEREMY LAUKHUF
MELODY TAYLOR

VIDEOGRAPHER
DAVE THOMPSON

CHILDREN'S CHAT
YOUTH

ACOLYTES
HENRY & ETTA SCHAFFNER

PROJECTIONIST
ELORA HOGAN

SOUND ENGINEER
JUSTIN SIEFKER

PASTOR
CHRISTIAN TAYLOR

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
SCOTT TURNER

WORSHIP LEADER
JEREMY LAUKHUF

ANNOUNCER
YOUTH

CHILDREN'S CHAT
YOUTH