

Easter

Palm Sunday

March 29 | 10:30pm

Journey's End / A New Start

Marching Orders

Matthew 21: 1 - 11

First UMC

Maundy Thursday

April 2 | 6:15pm

Journey's End / A New Start

Eat and Run

John 13: 1 - 17, 31b - 35

Ohio City UMC

Procession of the Cross

April 3 | 6:00pm

Starts at YWCA

Ends at FUMC

Good Friday

April 3 | 6:15pm

Journey's End / A New Start

Reaching Destination

John 18: 1 - 19: 42

First UMC

Easter Breakfast

April 5 | 8:30am

First UMC dining hall

Easter Egg Hunt

April 5 | 9:45am

Fountain Park (across from Church)

Easter Sunday

April 5 | 10:30am

Journey's End / A New Start

A New Start

John 20: 1 - 18

Confirmation

First UMC

Lenten Devotionals available for pickup in the Krout "Welcome Center"

EASTER FLOWER ORDERS DUE MARCH 8

Please consider purchasing beautiful potted Easter Lilies, Daffodils, or Tulips which will beautify our church and then be available for you to take home.

Order forms are on the church office door, or at the Krout "Welcome Center".

LENTEN CHALLENGE 2026



THE MARSH FOUNDATION
Foster Care Closet

FOSTERING LOVE: Who will love most boldly?

BOYS vs GIRLS

NEEDED ITEMS:

- Diapers - all sizes in small count packages
- Wipes
- Infant & toddler soaps & lotions
- First aid supplies
- Shampoo & Detangler
- Hair care supplies like combs, brushes, hair accessories
- Underwear & socks - all sizes

Place your items in the baskets in the Welcome Center through Easter.

Library Update

Drenched in Light, the fourth book in Lisa Wingate's series holds some real surprises. Two Historical Fiction books, **When the Avalanche Roared** and **Hope's Enduring Echo** give us great information on life in the early 1900's. Fiction this month, **The Butterfly Collector**, will take us to Australia and a suspense novel, **The Sound of Light** takes us to Denmark.

Enjoy!
~ Romaine

FEBRUARY ATTENDANCE

Sanctuary

651

Online

61

Total

712

Ash Wednesday

84



News

Birthdays

MARCH 1
LUKE COMPTON
LISA JOHNSON
MARY SUE KARL
VICTORIA SNYDER
MARCH 2
AJ GANGER
EVELYN BROWN
ERICA MILLER
MARCH 4
NATHAN JACKSON
TYSON JACKSON
MARCH 5
ELIJAH POLLOCK
MARCH 7
JUDI LOUGHRIE
NEIL SHAFFER
MARCH 9
STACEY SNYDER
MARCH 10
MERLE
WHETSTONE
MARCH 11
JOVIE POLLOCK
MARCH 13
ELLEN JONES
LESLIE MOUNTS
MARCH 14
LILLIAN LAUKHUF
CECI STAAS
MARCH 15
AUDREY TAYLOR
MARCH 16
JAMIE WEHAGE
MARCH 17
BRIANNA
LAUTZENHEISER
CINDY HIRZEL
ETTA SCHAFNER

MARCH 18
JANET KREISCHER
MARCH 19
DILLON STAAS V
MARCH 20
MATT BOCKRATH
RUTH ANN BOLEY
LINDY SCHWAB
MARCH 22
LJ COMPTON, JR.
MARCH 23
CASEY MCCONAHAY
MANDY BURENGA
MARK GANGER
CLARA COMPTON
MARCH 25
KATI KARL
JAN HOBLET
NATALINA LIPPI
MARCH 27
DELLA HARTING
THOMAS MEYER
RENEE STAAS
MARCH 29
ERIC MCCRACKEN
MARCH 30
JEANNE ZEIGLER
MARCH 31
JUDY KRITES
DIANE BAIR

Anniversaries

MARCH 4
BRAD & JODY LICHTENBERGER
MARCH 5
APRIL & KYLE VANHOUSEN
MARCH 10
MARTHA & LOUIS BALLYEAT
MARCH 25
MERLE & ROMAINE WHETSTONE

Worship Series

March 1st

Renewed in Mercy

Guided by the Promise
Romans 4: 1 - 5, 13 - 17 &
John 3: 1 - 17

Second Sunday in Lent
Youth-Led & Communion

March 8th

Renewed in Mercy

Companion for the Journey
Psalm 95 & Romans 5: 1 - 11

Third Sunday in Lent

March 15th

Renewed in Mercy

Journeying in Grace
Psalm 23

Fourth Sunday in Lent
Mission Sunday

March 22nd

Renewed in Mercy

Redemption Road
Ezekiel 37: 1 - 14
Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 29th

Journey's End

A New Start

Marching Orders
Matthew 21: 1 - 11

Palm Sunday
Children-Led

*SEE
EASTER/LENT
SCHEDULE
NEXT PAGE



NEW HERE?

SCAN THE QR CODE!



Welcome

Daylight Saving Time | March 8th

CHILDREN Ministry

K – 5th grade have Sunday School at 9 AM
3rd – 5th Grade can enjoy AWE during Worship
Infants & Toddlers have the Nursery Available

Talk to Cristi Laukhuf today to get involved.

EMPTY TOMB ESCAPE ROOM

April 3 | 10am - 12pm

Register with Cristi

Cristi.Laukhuf@VanWertFirst.net

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED EVERY SUNDAY THROUGH MAY

Can you give up **one Sunday School or Worship every 2 or 3 months** to support families with infants and toddlers?

Sign up on Cristi's Office Door

YOUTH Ministry

6th – 12th grade have Sunday School at 9 AM
Youth Group takes place after Worship

Talk to Teresa Shaffer or Sierra Poulson today to get involved.

ORDERS DUE TODAY

SPRING FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SALE

FUMC CONCERNS

- Judy & Terry Fox: Judy – Cancer & Terry - Health
- Ruth Ann Covey – Surgery Recovery
- Ashlynn Shaffer – Health
- Deb Germann – Healing
- Mark Ganger – Health
- Lynn Bouillon – Cancer
- Emmett Leeth – Rehab
- Gil Gutierrez – Healing

Prayers



LONG-TERM CONCERNS

- Sandra & Andy Anderson: Sandra – Parkinson's
- Jim Davis – Cancer Treatments
- Paula Goins – Multiple-Sclerosis
- Bella Hurless – Cerebral Palsy
- Roy Jeknavorian – Health
- Trennon & Kaden (Marie Duff grandsons): Trennon – Swallowing & Kaden – Health
- Janet Kreischer – Blood Clots in Lungs & Health
- Jeannie Ziegler – Heart
- Al & Dorothy Arnold: Al – Cancer & Dorothy – Pain & Health
- Colleen & Linden Krouskop: Colleen – Fibromyalgia & Linden – Spinal Stenosis
- Jean Ann Auld – Health & Arthritis
- Chris Turner – Back & Neck Pain
- Kathy Welker – Health

MISSION

**LENTEN CHALLENGE
OPERATION BACK2SCHOOL**

for more prayer concerns see the bulletin board in the kitchenette of krout

GROUP MISSION TRIPS

JOIN US FOR AN INTERGENERATIONAL MISSION TRIP TO **WOODBIDGE VIRGINIA** **JUNE 14-19, 2026**

THERE ARE STILL SPOTS AVAILABLE. Contact Teresa Shaffer if you wish to SERVE JOYOUSLY

MARCH 4th MENU

WEDNESDAY FEAST MEALS

- Baked Spaghetti
- Garlic Toast
- Mixed Veggies
- Hot Dogs - Rolls
- Chips
- Tossed Salad
- Desserts

PRAY FOR THE CHILDREN OF OUR CHURCH

MARCH PRAYER "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Heavenly Father, I bring (name) before you and pray for joy and happiness in their lives. I pray (name) will bring joy to others, find happiness in difficult situations, and marvel at your goodness. As (name) embraces the lenten season, may the resounding song in their soul be "I've got the joy of the Lord". In your everlasting name I pray, Amen

Celebrating the vision and hard work of our Agape Outreach team!

Secured a \$12,000 West Ohio Conference GO Grant for the Haven of Hope Community Center.

Special thanks to Teresa Shaffer and Jamie Ramos for their leadership on the application.

Full story available at vanwertfirst.net under News and Updates.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2026
10:30 - 11:30 AM OR 2:00 - 3:30 PM

2026-2027 REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

VanWertFirst.net/preschool

Scan for more info

175 These stuffed animals go to our local emergency room to comfort scared children.

Teddy Bears Collected

Food Pantry

March is CANNED FRUIT month

Please place your donations in the baskets located at the entrances.