

ICE-BREAKERS

Stories That Matter | John 17: 1 – 11

- 1 Have you ever been part of a team, group, or family where everyone was really “on the same page”? What made that sense of unity work so well?
- 2 If someone were to understand who you are just by watching how you treat others, what do you think they would learn about you?

SERMON BASED

- 1 If Jesus’ final prayer before the cross was for our unity, what does that reveal about what matters most in our faith, and how might that challenge the way we currently prioritize belief over belonging?
- 2 If “*Christ’s life is on display in us*,” what story do our relationships within the church and beyond actually tell about Jesus to those who are watching?

BEYOND THE TEXT

- 1 In your everyday interactions at home, at work, or in church, where are you tempted to prioritize being right over preserving unity, and what would it look like to choose humility instead?
- 2 What is one intentional practice you can adopt this week (listening more deeply, encouraging someone, reconciling a strained relationship, serving alongside others) that would actively build unity in the body of Christ?

So That They May Be One



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

Stories That Matter



May 17th, 2026
10:30AM

Pastor Christian Taylor

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.

Our Mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who **Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously** in our local community and around the world.

ORDER of WORSHIP

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTSJana Thompson

HANDBELL PRELUDEGloria Wendel, Director

In Christ Alone | arr. Sandra Eithun

+ CALL TO WORSHIPJana Thompson

Leader: Easter people, Christ has completed the work of salvation,
reconciling us to God so that we may know eternal life.

People: Through Christ, we are made one with God.

Leader: In life, death, and Resurrection, Christ guides us into eternal life with
God here and now.

People: Through Christ, we are made one in God.

Leader: Through prayer and teaching, healing and serving, Christ draws us
together as the people of God, diverse members of the one body.

People: Through Christ, we are made one with God and one another.

Leader: So, come, let us worship God who saves us into eternal life with God
and one another!

People: Thanks be to God! Amen.

+ OPENING PRAYERJana Thompson

God of all creation, who called every being into life, who is mindful of
humankind in all its diversity, who embodies us with dignity, granting
different gifts and talents to shape life in this world, we ask for your Spirit
to unite us where we face a lack of understanding and disunity in our
churches, in our communities, in our countries. And in silence, we lay
before you the burdens of our hearts.

(silence)

We ask for your Spirit to unite us in the face of the conflicts, hatred, and
violation of life experienced in so many regions of the earth, and, in
silence, we bring to you the pain of the victims.

(silence)

We ask for your Spirit to unite us wherever fear prevents us from caring
for our neighbor, from meeting people of different ethnicities, cultures,
and faith communities with respect, and, in silence, we bring to you the
brokenness of human relationships.

(silence)

God of all creation, in Christ we are reconciled, and so we ask for your
uniting Spirit to help us to overcome all the divisions that we may live in
peace. Amen

*"Holy Father,
protect them
in your name
that you have
given me, so
that they may
be one, as we
are one."*

JOHN 17: 11

**LEADERS of TODAY'S
WORSHIP**

PASTOR

CHRISTIAN TAYLOR

ANNOUNCER

JANA THOMPSON

ACOLYTES

WILLOW SNYDER

ANNA STOLLER

CHILDREN'S CHAT

RUTH ANN DOWLER

USHERS

YOUTH

NEIL SHAFFER

DAVE LICHTLE, ASST.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

SCOTT TURNER

ACCOMPANIST

GLORIA WENDEL

DIREC. OF HANDBELLS

GLORIA WENDEL

WORSHIP LEADER

JEREMY LAUKHUF

VIDEOGRAPHER

KURT MASSILLO

PROJECTIONIST

ELORA HOGAN

SOUND ENGINEER

KYLE WENDEL

SCREEN CREATORS

MARY ANN FALK

JEREMY LAUKHUF



**COFFEE
& DONUTS
AVAILABLE
IN THE KROUT!**

+ HYMN #546 *The Church's One Foundation* | UMH

CHAT WITH THE CHILDREN Ruth Ann Dowler
Preschool – 5th grade are released to AWE (Alternate Worship Experience)

FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE *The Tending Season*

TIME OF GREETINGJana Thompson

**CHANCEL CHOIR
ANTHEM** *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*
by Wilhousky

**+ SCRIPTURE
SERIES
MESSAGE** John 17: 1 – 11
Stories That Matter
So That They May Be One Pastor
Christian Taylor

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

OFFERTORY #400 *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing* | UMH
Children Return from AWE

+ DOXOLOGY #354 *I Surrender All* | UMH

+ SPOKEN BENEDICTION Pastor Christian Taylor

+ CHORAL BENEDICTION *The Benediction* | by J.N. Beck

**Thank you for worshipping with us, and for
your continued generosity and support.**

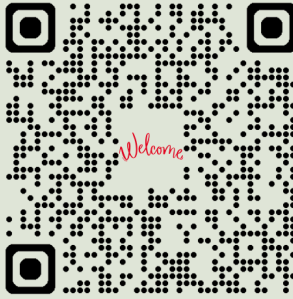
PRAY FOR THE CHILDREN OF OUR CHURCH

*Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another,
that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great
power as it is working.* **James 5:16**

*"Mighty God, thank you for providing me the opportunity to
pray for (name). While I may not ever know the impact these
prayers have had on (name), I am certain that you heard each*

**WHAT
TO DO !**

and every one. With thanks and praise, Amen."
**Use this month as an opportunity to pray
for anything that comes to mind, big or small.**



Infants & Toddlers

have the Nursery
Available during
9AM Sunday
School and
10:30AM Worship
{Nursery Volunteers Needed}

PreK – 5th grade

have Sunday School
at 9AM and AWE
during 10:30AM
Worship
*{No AWE Communion
Sunday}*

6th – 12th grade

have Sunday School
at 9AM and Youth
Group following
10:30AM Worship

*No Sunday School
June – August*

**PLACE YOUR OFFERINGS IN
THE PLATES COMING
THROUGH THE PEWS DURING
THE OFFERING SONG**

