

ICE-BREAKERS *Forming a Family* | Genesis 18: 1 – 15

- 1 Have you ever received news that seemed too good to be true? What was your first reaction—excitement, disbelief, laughter, or something else?
- 2 What's something you waited a long time for, and how did it feel when it finally happened?

SERMON BASED

- 1 The sermon suggests that Sarah's laughter may have come from years of disappointment and wounded hope rather than simple unbelief. How have past disappointments affected your ability to trust God's promises, and what does God's response to Sarah teach us about how He meets us in our doubts?
- 2 God often reveals His presence in ordinary moments. Looking back on your own life, can you identify a time when you realized God had been present and at work long before you recognized Him? What helped open your eyes to His presence?

BEYOND THE TEXT

- 1 The sermon suggests that *"sometimes faith is not learning how to make God show up, but discovering that God has already been present."* What circumstances in your life are you trying to control, fix, or understand on your own, and how might your perspective change if you intentionally looked for God's presence there before looking for His intervention?
- 2 Sarah's laughter revealed how years of disappointment had weakened her expectation that God would act. Where have disappointment, unanswered prayers, or delayed promises caused you to rely more on your own understanding than on God's presence, and what would it look like to trust that God is near even before you see evidence that He is working?

A Miracle Called
Laughter



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

*Forming a Family,
Preparing a People*



JUNE 14 2026

10:30AM

Pastor Christian Taylor

Our Mission, here at First United Methodist 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.

"When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight."

LUKE 24: 30-31

ORDER of WORSHIP

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS John White

PRELUDE Scott Turner

Chorale Prelude on a Mighty Fortress | arr. Victor C Johnson

+ CALL TO WORSHIP John White

Leader: God meets us in surprising yet ordinary places—under a tree, in the smile of a stranger, in a refreshing breeze that comes at just the right time.

People: God, open our hearts to notice your presence all around us.

Leader: God speaks to us in surprising yet ordinary ways—in a well-placed word from a friend, in a prayer that comes at just the right time, in a song that resonates through our entire being.

People: God, open our minds to recognize your voice all around us.

Leader: God fulfills God's promises in surprising yet ordinary ways—in an unexpected act of kindness, in providing just what we need at just the right time, in sending someone to listen when we feel alone.

People: God, open our hands to receive your blessings all around us.

Leader: Beloved, in the surprising and ordinary ways that God shows up among us, may we meet God and our neighbors with open hearts, minds, and hands, ready to encounter God's miraculous work.

People: God, open our lives to receive your blessings, that we may share together in the joy, wonder, and laughter of God's miraculous works all around us.

+ OPENING PRAYER John White

God, as you met Abraham in an ordinary moment of hospitality, meet us today in the ordinary moments of our lives. Open our minds to recognize your presence among us; open our hearts to receive your promises; open our arms to embrace your miraculous works with joy, wonder, and laughter. As we gather to worship, help us find the courage to hope, the wisdom to trust, and the perseverance to cooperate with you as you fulfill our promises as you work for abundant life for all creation. Amen.

+ HYMN #89 Scott Turner

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee | UMH

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

TIME OF GREETING John White

CHAT WITH THE CHILDREN Chris Gordon

*PreK - 5 Grade are dismissed to AWE**

+ SCRIPTURE

Genesis 18: 1-15 (21: 1-7)

Forming a Family

A Miracle Called Laughter

SERIES

MESSAGE Pastor Christian Taylor

HYMN #707 Scott Turner

Hymn of Promise | UMH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER Pastor Christian Taylor

OFFERTORY Scott Turner

Take My Life, and Let It Be Consecrated | arr. Jason Payne

Place your Offerings in the Plates coming through the Pews during the offering song

+ DOXOLOGY #95 Scott Turner

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow | UMH

+ SPOKEN BENEDICTION Pastor Christian Taylor

POSTLUDE Scott Turner

Postlude | arr. Joel Raney

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 2026
CELEBRATORY LUNCH RECEPTION

For Pastor Christian Taylor & his family



Following Worship
12PM | Dining Hall



 *coffee & donuts*
AVAILABLE IN THE KROUT!

Infants & Toddlers

have the Nursery available during 9:15AM Summer Sunday School & 10:30AM Worship

PreK – 5 grade

have AWE (alternate worship experience)* during 10:30AM Worship
No AWE Communion Sunday

6 – 12 grade

have Youth Group between September – May
No youth group during Summer

Teachers, Leaders, Spouses... We have an opportunity to connect on Sunday Mornings throughout the summer:

Summer-time

Sunday School

9:15AM - 10:15AM
Scheidt Classroom
June 14 - August 30

Come as you are available

Studying
1 Kings & 2 Kings

Childcare will be provided

LEADERS OF TODAY'S WORSHIP

PASTOR
CHRISTIAN TAYLOR

SPEAKER
JOHN WHITE

CHILDREN'S CHAT
CHRIS GORDON

USHERS
YOUTH

NEIL SHAFFER
DAVE LICHTLE, ASST.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
SCOTT TURNER

WORSHIP LEADER
JEREMY LAUKHUF

VIDEOGRAPHER
KURT MASSILLO

PROJECTIONIST
MARY ANN & EVAN FALK

SOUND ENGINEER
KENT SMELSER

SCREEN CREATORS
MARY ANN FALK
JEREMY LAUKHUF



SCAN ME