

SERMON QUESTIONS

- What does, “Letting your conscience be your guide,” mean to you?
- In what ways is a person’s conscience ‘deadened’ over time?
- What has kept you on “The straight and narrow”? Are you there now... ?
- What do you do when you have a guilty conscience? What helps?
- What can wash away our sin...? “Nothing but the _____ of _____.”
- What can we replace the conscience with as our guide in life?

EVENTS

Today | First UMC Children’s Ministry Meeting | Following Service in the Dining Hall

Wed. August 26 | H2O Volunteer Banquet and New Mentor Informational Meeting | 7pm | Krout “Welcome Center” | Anyone considering Mentoring is welcome

Fri. August 28 | Cougar Huddle Tailgate | Van Wert High School Home Football Game | 4:30 - 6:30pm | Fountain Park | Sign-up in Krout “Welcome Center”

Tues. September 1 – Mon. September 7 | First UMC Food Concessions at Van Wert County Fair | Sign up for 4-hour time slots on VanWertFirst.Net/Events | FREE Admission into Fair

Sun. September 13 | Fall Kick-Off and Service Sunday | “Belonging and Becoming” | First day of Sunday School | Introduction and Prayer over Preschool teachers and Sunday School teachers | Third Grade Bible Presentation | Recognize our Volunteers

Fri. September 18 | Van Wert High School Home Football Game | Cougar Huddle Tailgate | 4:30 - 6:30pm | Fountain Park

Festival of Sharing Kit Collection

- First UMC Goal: \$500
- Kits Due Back Sept. 13
- Stop in Krout “Welcome Center” to pick up Kit instructions or visit VanWertFirst.net/Events
- Make a Kit - School (Kids) Kits, Period Packs, or Hygiene Kits OR Provide Funds to make cleanup buckets or for shipping

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS Needed for FALL!!

Sign up on Cristi Laukhuf’s office door or VanWertFirst.net/Events

THE AUGUST SPECIAL OFFERING GOES TOWARD

FESTIVAL OF SHARING

FOOD PANTRY

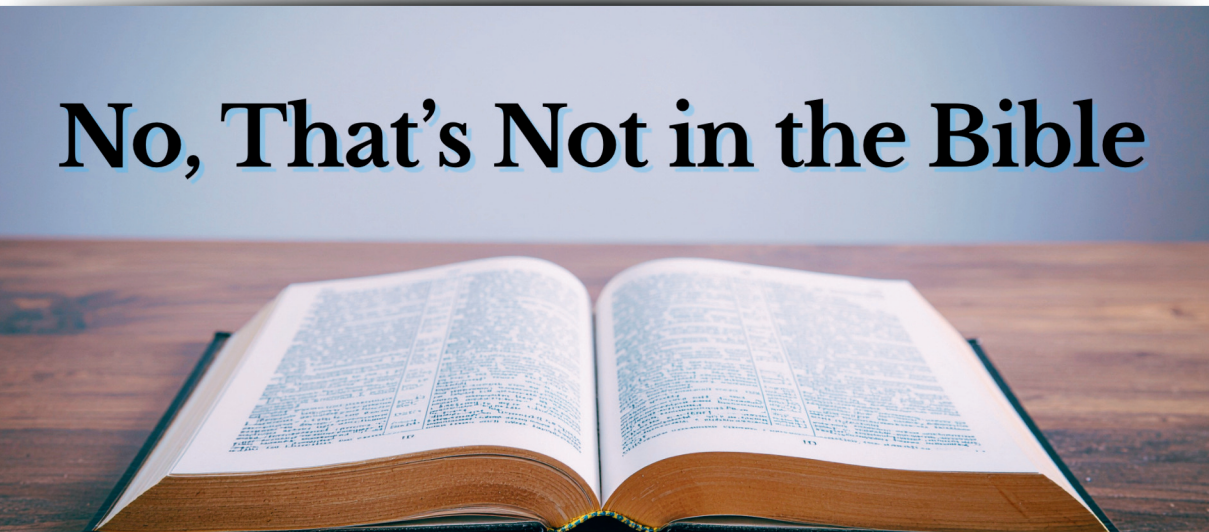
August is RAVIOLI and SPAGHETTIOS month

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



FIRST united methodist
CHURCH

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



AUGUST 23, 2026

10:30AM

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.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous. **Romans 2: 12 – 13**

+ Those Who Are Able, Please Rise
Please Fill out the Attendance Pad and Pass it to Your Neighbor

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Susan Burchfield

PRELUDE *O Jesus, I Have Promised* **arr. Albin Whitworth**

+ CALL TO WORSHIP Susan Burchfield

Leader: Come, people of God, and stand before the One who judges with perfect truth.
People: We come humbly, knowing that all who sin—whether under the law or apart from it – stand in need of God's mercy.
Leader: It is not those who merely hear God's Word who are righteous in His sight.
People: We long to be doers of the Word, obeying what God commands.
Leader: God sees every heart and weighs every life with justice and compassion.
People: We turn to Him, seeking to walk in obedience and faith.
Leader: Let us worship the Lord who calls us to live out His truth.
People: With willing hearts and trusting spirits, we worship the God who declares the obedient righteous. Amen.

+ HYMN *Trust and Obey* **UMH #467**

+ OPENING PRAYER Susan Burchfield

As we gather in Your presence, Lord, awaken our inner witness. Soften what has grown hard, illuminate what has grown dim, and strengthen what longs to follow Your will. Search our hearts and reveal the places where we have ignored Your prompting or silenced Your truth. By Your Spirit, cleanse our thoughts, shape our desires, and guide our choices. Teach us to listen – not only to Your Word proclaimed, but to Your truth stirring within us. May our worship today be sincere, and may our lives reflect the righteousness You desire for Your people. In Jesus' name, Amen.

TIME OF GREETING

LEADERS OF TODAY'S WORSHIP	Pastor	Director of Music	Projectionist	Videographer	Ushers
	Rev. Craig Arnold	Scott Turner	Evan Falk	Kurt Massillo	Youth
	Liturgist	Worship Leader	Sound Enginner	Screen Creators	Neil Shaffer
	Susan Burchfield	Jeremy Laukhuf	Erik Falk	Mary Ann Falk Jeremy Laukhuf	Dave Lichtle, Asst.

CHAT WITH THE CHILDREN Courtney Wendel
Children are dismissed to AWE - Preschool through Fifth Grade

+ SCRIPTURE **Romans 2: 12 – 16** **Pew Bible Page #1113**

+ HYMN *Gloria Patri* **UMH #70**

**SERIES
MESSAGE** No, That's Not in the Bible:
"Let Your Conscience be Your Guide" Rev. Craig Arnold

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
THE LORD'S PRAYER** Rev. Craig Arnold

OFFERTORY *Andante* **by W.A. Mozart**

Place your Offerings in the Plates coming through the Pews | Children return from AWE

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

+ HYMN *I Want a Principle Within* **UMH #410**
Vs. 1, 2

+ BENEDICTION Rev. Craig Arnold

POSTLUDE *Allegro (1966)* **by Gordon Young**

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

Sermon Questions on the Back

The Rose on the Altar is given in Honor of:

*Brianna and Jake Lautzenheiser,
as they welcome their baby girl, Harper Grace,
born August 14, 2026*