

1. When did prayer become something you do, rather than some-one you talk to?
2. When did prayer become a task rather than a conversation during the day?
3. When did prayer begin to feel more like duty than like your very breath?
4. When Jesus said, *“I am the true vine,”* what appealed to the first-century Jewish listener that we miss today?
5. From today’s scripture, define the word, *“Abide.”*
6. How often do you *“Do”* Christianity, rather than allow The Spirit to lead you?

Wed. September 16 – November 18 | Wednesday Night **Feast Meals** | 5pm | Find Menus online at VanWertFirst.net/Events | Weekly on Wednesdays

Fri. September 18 | **Cougar Huddle** | Van Wert High School Home Football Game | 4:30 – 6:30pm | Fountain Park | volunteer at vanwertfirst.net/events

Fri. October 2 | **Cougar Huddle** | Van Wert High School Home Football Game | 4:30pm – 6:30pm | Fountain Park | volunteer at vanwertfirst.net/events

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SEPTEMBER 16 FEAST Meal Menu: **Chicken & Noodles**, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans; Hot Dogs, Chips, Tossed Salad, and Desserts

SEPTEMBER Food Pantry is **Cereal Month** | Boxed Cereal Preferred | Please place your donations in the baskets at the entrances.

SEPTEMBER Special Offering goes towards **Blanket Sunday**.

Daily Devotionals now available at both entrances – \$5 donation for Discovery Books



FIRST

united methodist

CHURCH

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



SEPTEMBER 13, 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

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing **John 15:5**

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Taylor Boroff

PRELUDE *Be Thou My Vision* **arr. Glenda Austin**

+ CALL TO WORSHIP Taylor Boroff

Leader: Jesus says, “*I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.*”
People: We come to be tended, shaped, and made fruitful in His love.
Leader: Every branch that abides in Christ bears much fruit.
People: Apart from Him, we can do nothing; in Him, our lives overflow with grace.
Leader: As we remain in Christ, His words remain in us.
People: We open our hearts to His teaching, His pruning, His renewing Spirit.
Leader: Let us worship the God who calls us to abide.
People: We gather to remain in Christ, to bear His fruit, and to live in His love! Amen!

+ HYMN *‘Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus* **UMH #462**

+ OPENING PRAYER Taylor Boroff

Holy God, You are the Vine, and we are the branches, yet we confess that we have not always remained in You. You call us to abide, but we wander. You desire fruit in our lives, but we cling to what is comfortable and familiar. Forgive us for resisting Your pruning – for the habits we refuse to release, the attitudes we fail to surrender, and the love we withhold from others. Cleanse us, renew us, and draw us close again. Let Your Word dwell richly in us, so that Your joy may be in us and our lives may bear the witness of Your Spirit to those around us. In Christ we pray. Amen.

THIRD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION Rev. Craig Arnold

TIME OF GREETING

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

CHORAL ANTHEM *I Am the Vine* **by Allen Pote**

+ SCRIPTURE John 15:1 – 11 **Pew Bible Page #1068**

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

SERMON *Prayer as Relationship* Rev. Craig Arnold

+ SONG *Gratitude*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
THE LORD’S PRAYER Rev. Craig Arnold

OFFERING SONG *Lord, Listen to your Children Praying*

Place your Offerings in the Plates coming through the Pews

+ DOXOLOGY *My Tribute* **UMH #99**

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

+ BENEDICTION Rev. Craig Arnold

POSTLUDE *To God Be the Glory* **arr. Victor Johnson**

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

LEADERS OF TODAY'S WORSHIP	<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Director of</u>	<u>Projectionist</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Videographer</u>
	Reverend	<u>Music</u>	Evan Falk	Youth	Dave Thompson
	Craig Arnold	Scott Turner	<u>Sound</u>	Neil Shaffer	<u>Screen Creators</u>
	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Worship Leader</u>	<u>Engineer</u>	Dave Lichtle,	Mary Ann Falk
	Taylor Boroff	Jeremy Laukhuf	Erik Falk	Asst.	Jeremy Laukhuf