



church center

Scan the QR code to get started and connect with the life of your church.

For assistance on downloading the app, setting up an account, etc. – please see Storm in the Church Office, and she will gladly help you out!

Celebrate and Remember with Flowers

Want to honor a special person or commemorate a significant event? Consider providing an altar arrangement on an available Sunday.

The calendar is on the bulletin board in the kitchenette and ready for you to add your name to any open Sunday.



NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED SIGN-UPS until DECEMBER NOW AVAILABLE

We need two volunteers for the Sunday School time and the worship time.

Sign up on **Cristi's Office Door**

or

go to **vanwertfirst.net/events** and **look for the Nursery Sign up Link** utilizing our new Church App!



For September birthdays, anniversaries, past attendance, library updates, etc. – Please grab a September Newsletter from the Bulletin Board in the Kitchenette or the Church Office door.



FIRST united methodist CHURCH

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



Prayer as Formation

SEPTEMBER 20, 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

... The Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not even know what we ought to pray for,
but the Sprit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. **Romans 8:26b**

+ Those Who Are Able, Please Rise

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS John White

PRELUDE **All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name** arr. Diane Bish

+ CALL TO WORSHIP John White

Leader: Come, people of God, bringing your prayers—spoken and unspoken.
People: Our God hears every cry of the heart.
Leader: When our words falter and our thoughts scatter, God still listens.
People: The Lord bends close to us with compassion and understanding.
Leader: In joy and in sorrow, in confidence and in doubt, God receives our prayers.
People: Nothing we lift to God is ever ignored or forgotten.
Leader: Let us worship the One whose ear is always open to His children.
People: With trust and gratitude, we praise the God who listens. Amen.

HYMN **What a Friend We Have in Jesus** UMH #526

+ OPENING PRAYER John White

Gracious and ever-present God, we come before You trusting that You meet us even in our weakness. When our prayers feel fragile, when our words fail, when our hearts can barely form a sentence, Your Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. You search our hearts and know us fully and welcome us with compassion. Lord, we thank You that You are at work in all things for good for those who love You. You call us, shape us, justify us, and lead us toward your glory. Remind us today that we are held in Your purpose, formed in the image of Your Son, and sustained by Your Spirit. And as we worship, align our hearts with Your will, so that our lives may reflect Your grace.
In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, we pray. Amen.

TIME OF GREETING

CHAT WITH THE CHILDREN Hannah Kraner
Children are dismissed to AWE – Preschool through Fifth Grade

+ SCRIPTURE Romans 8: 26 – 30 **Pew Bible Page #1119**

HYMN **Gloria Patri** UMH #70

SERMON *Prayer as Formation* Rev. Craig Arnold

CHORAL ANTHEM **Breathe On Me, Breath of God** arr. Lloyd Larson
Gloria Wendel, accompanist

MISSION MOMENT Teresa Shaffer

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
THE LORD’S PRAYER
*Children Return from **AWE** during Offering Song*
*Place your **Offerings** in the **Plates** coming through the Pews*

OFFERING SONG **Build My Life**

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

+ CLOSING HYMN **All Creatures of Our God and King** UMH #62
vv. 1 & 7

+ BENEDICTION Rev. Craig Arnold

+ POSTLUDE **A Mighty Fortress Is Our God** arr. Diane Bush

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>	Elora Hogan	Youth	Storm Whitaker
	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
	John White	Jeremy Laukhuf	Kent Smelser	Asst.	Jeremy Laukhuf