

The Flowers on the Altar are given...

*in Memory of our Brother,  
John Welker*

by Kathy and Kristina Welker

Starting November 1, 2026

Sunday Worship will start at **10:15AM** (instead of 10:30AM)

Sunday School will still be at **9AM**

**OCTOBER 14 Feast Meal Menu** is Baked Spaghetti, Garlic Bread, Hot Dogs, Chips, Tossed Salad, Desserts

**Food Pantry** is **Pasta Month** | Pasta Sauces, Spaghetti Noodles, Macaroni | Please place your donations in the baskets at the entrances.

**Special Offering** goes towards *Thanksgiving Blessings*.

**OCTOBER Newsletters** (Birthdays, Anniversaries, Finances, Attendance) are NOW available on the Church Office Door or on the Bulletin Board in the Kitchenette

**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](https://vanwertfirst.net/events) and look for the **Nursery Sign up Link** utilizing our new Church App!



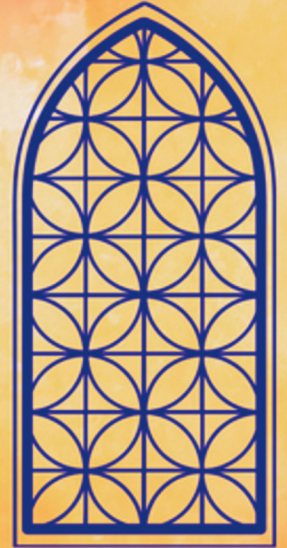
**church center**

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

 **FIRST** united methodist  
**CHURCH**

113 West Central Ave | Van Wert, OH 45891 | 419-238-0631 | [vanwertfirst.net](https://vanwertfirst.net)

**Power of  
a Praying  
Church**



**OCTOBER 11, 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

Maintain justice and do what is right, for my salvation is close at hand and my righteousness will soon be revealed. Blessed is the one who does this—the person who holds it fast, who keeps the Sabbath without desecrating it, and keeps their hands from doing any evil.  
**Isaiah 56:1-2**

+ Those Who Are Able, Please Rise  
**Welcome & Announcements** ..... Susan Burchfield

**Prelude** ..... **Jesus, Still Lead On** ..... arr. Robert Lau  
(with Elgar’s Nimrod from the Engima Variations)

**+ Call to Worship** ..... Susan Burchfield  
Leader: Thus says the Lord: ‘Maintain justice and do what is right,’ for God’s salvation is close at hand.  
**People: We come seeking to live faithfully, trusting the God who draws near.**  
Leader: Blessed are those who keep God’s covenant and honor His Sabbath.  
**People: We gather with reverence, ready to walk in God’s ways.**  
Leader: The Lord welcomes the foreigner, the outsider, and all who seek His name.  
**People: We rejoice that God’s house is a house of prayer for all peoples.**  
Leader: Come, let us worship the God who gathers, restores, and makes us one.  
**People: With open hearts and joyful praise, we worship the Lord. Amen .**

**+ Hymn** ..... **Help Us Accept Each Other** ..... **UMH #560**  
Vs. 1 (Choir only), 1 (All), 2, 3, 4

**+ Opening Prayer** ..... Susan Burchfield  
Gracious and Holy God, You call us to maintain justice, to do what is right, and to live as people shaped by Your covenant love. Yet we confess that we have not always walked in Your ways. We have allowed convenience to outweigh compassion, and fear to overshadow faith. Gather us again into Your grace, O Lord. Make us a people who reflect Your justice, who practice Your compassion, and who rejoice in the promise that Your house is a house of prayer for all peoples. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

**Time of Greeting**

**Chat with the Children** ..... Christie Wendel  
Preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Released to AWE (Alternate Worship Experience)

**Choral Anthem** ..... **Down to the River to Pray** ..... arr. Mary McDonald

**+ Scripture** ..... **ISAIAH 56: 1 – 7** ..... **Pew Bible Page #733**  
..... **Gloria Patri (UMH #70)**

**Sermon** ..... **WESLEYAN PRAYER SERIES**  
..... POWER OF A PRAYING CHURCH ..... Rev. Craig Arnold

**+ Hymn** ..... **For the Healing of the Nations** ..... **UMH #428**  
Vs 1, 2

**Pastoral Prayer**  
**The Lord’s Prayer** ..... Rev. Craig Arnold

**Offertory** ..... **Pièce Modale No. 1** ..... by Jean Langlais (1907–1991)  
Place your Offerings in the Plates coming through the Pews | Children Return from AWE

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

**+ Closing Hymn** ..... **We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations** ..... **UMH #569**  
Vs 1, 4

**+ Benediction** ..... Rev. Craig Arnold

**Postlude** ..... **Joie et Clarté** ..... by Olivier Messiaen (1908–1992)

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

|                                            |                                      |                                                 |                                             |                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <u><b>Acolyte</b></u><br>Etta Schaffner    | <u><b>Ushers</b></u><br>Neil Shaffer | <u><b>Director of Music</b></u><br>Scott Turner | <u><b>Sound Engineer</b></u><br>Erik Falk   | <u><b>Pastor (Reverend)</b></u><br>Craig Arnold |
| <u><b>Projectionist</b></u><br>Noah Krites | Dave Lichtle, Asst.<br>Youth         | <u><b>Liturgists</b></u><br>Susan Burchfield    | <u><b>Videographer</b></u><br>Dave Thompson | <b>LEADERS OF<br/>TODAYS WORSHIP</b>            |