

## Welcome to our new members!

Matt & Melissa Bockrath	Tom Burenga III
Jason & Amy Kreischer	April Kramer
Leslie Mounts	Ross & Anne Sharizer
Mark & Molly Spieles	

We all have questions about our faith and how to live it. In fact, asking questions about our faith can make our faith stronger than ever. Asking questions is not about questioning God. Asking questions is an expression of our curiosity about God, His relationship with humanity, and our relationship with Him. Those who are asking questions deserve honest responses. They don't want platitudes or trite answers. They deserve a response to their questions and guidance in how to find answers to their questions. In many ways, they raise questions so that they can grow in their faith and practice it with integrity. Beginning January 5, we will begin a series called: "What About?" During this series we will attempt to raise a few questions Christians and others are raising. We hope to provide a balanced, biblical response to these questions so we can have a deeper understanding and empathy for different points of view as well as becoming more confident in our faith. Come and grow with us at FUMC.

January 5	What About Creation & Evolution?
January 12	What About Christian Involvement in Politics?
January 19	What About Immigration?
January 26	What About the Role of the Bible in the Christian Faith?



## 10:30 AM ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 29, 2019

**Voluntary** *Bring Back the Glory* Gaither/Hayes  
Scott Turner, Piano

### Lighting of Altar Candles

**Welcome & Announcements** Griffen McCracken

**\*Call to Worship** Lillie Best

Leader: Lift praises to the name of our God;  
bless God's name forever.

### People: How great is our God!

Leader: From generation to generation we will sing your praises  
and speak of your goodness!

### People: Great is our God and worthy of praise!

Leader: God, you are just and kind in all your doings.

### People: Great is our God and worthy of praise!

### WORSHIP THROUGH PRAISE

**\*Carol:** *Sing We Now of Christmas* #237  
Vs. 1 - All, Vs. 2 - Women, Vs. 3 - All, Vs. 4 - Men, Vs. 5 - All

**\*Opening Prayer** Zakk Hogan

### WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Giving and Receiving of our Tithes and Offerings  
AWE children dismissed. Kindergarten and up

**Offertory** *What Child Is This?* Michaella Johnson, soloist

**\*Doxology** #95

**\*Prayer of Dedication** Dru Johnson

### WORSHIP WITH THE WORD

**Special Music** *We Three Kings* Jeremy Laukhuf & Students  
Brooklynn Laukhuf, Brianna Bebout, Nick Carter, Carly Bebout

**\*Scripture** Matthew 2:1-12  
Hunter Burton, Meah Johnson, Kaden Schaffer

**Message** **Series: Carols**  
*Kings Bearing Gifts*  
Jalen McCracken, Michaella Johnson, Noah Carter, Sierra Shaffer

### WORSHIP THROUGH OFFERING OUR WITNESS

**New Member Reception** Pastor Chris

Introduction of New Members  
Reaffirmation of Faith  
Reception into First United Methodist Church  
Commendation and Welcome

Pastor: Friends, I commend into your loving care these persons whom we receive into our church family. Do all that you can do to equip and empower their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

**Congregation:** We rejoice to recognize you as members of our Church and welcome you into our life together as United Methodists. With you we renew our vows to uphold it by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness. With God's help we will so order our lives after the example of Christ that, surrounded by steadfast love, you may be established in the faith and confirmed, and strengthened in enlarging the circle of disciples through Jesus.

### WORSHIP THROUGH RESPONSE

**\*Carol** *Go Tell It On the Mountain* #251

**Pastoral Prayer** Pastor Chris  
Lord's Prayer

**\*Sung Benediction** *Away in a Manger* #217, Vs. 3

**Postlude** *Joy To The World* arr. M. Rondeau

**\*Indicates an Invitation to Stand**

### Participants in 10:45 worship

Lead Pastor:	Chris Farmer
Dir of Student & Adult Ministry:	Demond Johnson
Liturgist:	Students
Organist :	Scott Turner
Acolytes:	Lauren Gearhart, Ansley Schwab
Sound Engineer:	Ron Allison
Welcome Table:	Students
Nursery:	Christie Wendel
2-3 year olds:	Bud & Ella Stoller

**FUMC PRAYER CONCERNS** Family of Kathy Sink, Family of Dolores Balyeat, Esther Ley - health, Darin Hofacker - cancer, Karen Smith - health, Millie Profit - RSV, Matt Krites - ongoing treatment, Joy McCleery - vertigo, Angie Myers - cancer, Harrison Oechsle - eye injury.

Please see the long term prayer list in the Friendly Visitor for other prayer needs or check the website under the drop down menu "newsletters" @www.vanwertfirst.net.

**Military:** Caleb Kreischer, Evan Wells, Bryan Zinsmaster, Conner Gordon, Noah Sease, Nick Gutierrez, Ben Scheidt, Gerald Christobaker, Ethan Glass, Michael Hellman, Greg Henry

**Missionaries & Ministries:** Stephen Ministry, Stand for Truth Ministry, Jeanne & Gaston Ntambo, Mission of Hope - Haiti.



Looking to grow in your faith in 2020?

Check out these resources and small groups.



Bible Studies - Life Groups  
Sunday School Classes

SUNDAY SCHOOL

CLASS	DAY	TIME	LEADER
PRESCHOOL SS	Sunday	9:30am	Renee Staas
K-3 SS	Sunday	9:30am	Kay Okuley
4th & 5th GRADE SS	Sunday	9:30am	Darla Dunlap
MIDDLE SCHOOL SS	Sunday	9:30am	Demond Johnson
HIGH SCHOOL SS	Sunday	9:30am	MaryAnn Falk / Julie Burenga / Annette Hoverman
ADULT BIBLE CLASS	Sunday	9:30am	Larry Wendel
DISCIPLE MAKERS	Sunday	9:30am	Matt Proctor
FAITHWEAVERS	Sunday	9:30am	Al Arnold
RUSSELL YOUNG class	Sunday	9:30am	Ned Compton
ROOTED	Sunday	9:30am	Pastor Chris

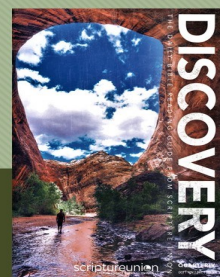
LIFEGROUPS

CHANCEL CHOIR	Wednesday	7:30pm	Paul Hoverman
CLAY POTS	Thursday	8:00am	Marilyn Alessandrini
GUYS MISSING WIVES	Tuesday - 1st & 3rd	6:00pm	Demond Johnson
HAND BELLS	Wednesday	6:30pm	Gloria Wendel
LYDIA	Tuesday - 2nd	12:00pm	Eleanor Souders
M&M	Monday - 1st & 3rd	7:00pm	Jill Smelser
MEN'S BIBLE STUDY	Wednesday	8:00am	Dave Watkins
ON OUR OWN	Wednesday - 4th	10:00am	Linda Mechling / Eleanor Souders
PRAISE BAND	Thursday	7:00pm	Wayne Wells
PRAYER GROUP	Tuesday	10:30am	Gloria Wendel
SARAH	Tuesday - 3rd	6:30pm	Lisa Dunn
SEEKERS	Wednesday	5:30pm	Jim Covey
SOUL FRIENDS	Monday	6:30pm	Teresa Shaffer
WOMEN IN THE WORD	Wednesday	4:00pm	Shirley Jarvis
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES	Thursday - 1st	4:30pm	Lisa Dunn
YOUTH GROUP - MS	Sunday	5:00pm	Teresa Shaffer
YOUTH GROUP - HS	Sunday	5:00pm	Demond Johnson

Discovery Study, the Upper Room and Our Daily Bread

Self-directed resources for focused discipleship.

Books are available at the Central Avenue or Jefferson Street entrances in the white carousels.

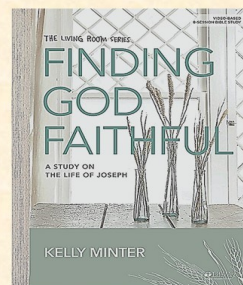


## What's Happening THIS WEEK

Come Join Us!



Sunday, 12/29	9:30am 9:15-10:30am 10:30am 11:45am	Sunday School for all ages Coffee & Donuts - Krout Worship Church Wide Meal
Monday, 12/30	1-3:00pm	Food Pantry
Tuesday, 12/31	8:30am 10:30am	Staff Meeting Prayer Group
Wednesday, 01/01	<b>Office Closed</b>	<b>Blessings to you and yours for 2020!</b>
Thursday, 01/02	6:30PM	Praise Band Practice
Friday, 01/03	10 - Noon 6:00pm	Food Pantry Bread N Bowl



New Bible Study

Led by Melinda Farmer

Held at First United Methodist Church  
beginning  
Thursday, January 9 7:00-8:30pm

Call, text or email:

1-937/308-1869 or mel2far79@msn.com



Save the Dates!

Portrait Sessions:

January 21<sup>st</sup> 1:00 pm – 8:00 pm

January 22<sup>nd</sup> 1:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Member sign ups  
begin soon!

Life Touch

# FIRST united methodist CHURCH

113 West Central Avenue | Van Wert, Ohio 45891 | 419-238-0631 | vanwertfirst.net

December 29, 2019  
Youth Sunday  
Kings Bearing Gifts



FUMC College Students and  
Youth Group

Our Vision Statement:

Enlarging the circle of disciples through Jesus.

Our Mission Statement:

Embracing, equipping and empowering  
persons to evangelize through Jesus.

**Thanks for joining us today!** If you have any questions while you are here this morning, you can find an answer at the welcome table, which is inside the doors off Jefferson Street. Whatever your circumstances and no matter where you've been, you matter to God and you matter to us. We are glad you are here! If you are a first time guest with us this morning, **we welcome you and look forward to seeing you again!**

Please stop by the welcome table and pick up a welcome packet.