



Your
FAITH IN ACTION
@ First Church

Where are you called to SERVE?

At First United Methodist Church service is a key part of how we live our mission statement:

Embracing, equipping and empowering persons to love and follow Jesus...

Jesus commissioned the disciples in Acts 1:8, "...and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

As this applies to First Church, we have missions locally, regionally and internationally. There are many opportunities to serve both inside the church building, within our community and throughout the world. The following pages highlight the various ways you can serve Jesus, show His love to others and use your talents and passions for His glory.

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How to get started:

When you find a ministry that interests you, or you feel a calling to serve, fill out the "**I Want to Serve**" Interest Form on the inside back cover of this brochure. Or, simply call or email the church office at (419) 238-0631 or firstchurch@vanwertfirst.net.

CARE

Stephen Ministers

Stephen Ministry is the one-to-one lay caring ministry that takes place in congregations that use the Stephen Series system. Stephen Ministry congregations equip and empower lay caregivers – called Stephen Ministers – to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting.

First Church is a Stephen Ministries congregation. Job descriptions and applications for becoming a Stephen Minister are located on the bulletin board in the back hallway. Check out the website to learn more.

www.stephenministries.org

Friendly Visitor

Spending time with shut-ins or nursing home residents is a special way to share the love of God with church members who may not be able to regularly attend worship.

Women's Ministry

The women's ministry leads the women of the church in fundraisers for missions. They also serve funeral dinners, wedding receptions, special meals, and desserts for receptions. The Apple Festival and Good Friday Bake Sales provide additional funds. This group maintains the church kitchen.

Cooking/Baking

If you enjoy cooking, First Church's **meals on wheels** may be a fit for you. Prepare meals as needed for families who are struggling through a hard time, had a new baby, after surgery, etc.

If baking is your thing, there are many opportunities to provide baked goods to First Church events. Our Wednesday night FEAST needs desserts every week. Our youth group needs baked goods for Fifth Quarter events in the fall. Our Women's Ministry team does a bake sale two times a year.

Wednesday night FEAST is a low-cost, home-cooked meal that is prepared Wednesday nights during the school year. Help is always needed cooking, serving and cleaning up.

Funeral meals are another way you can help if you enjoy cooking. The Women's Ministry team leads this important care ministry.

Meals are also appreciated by our youth groups on Sunday nights. Volunteer to feed the youth a meal and get to spend an evening in fellowship with our great teens.

Agape

Financial assistance is given to families in our community that are in need. Donations of furniture, household items and financial donations. This ministry also provides rides and gift cards.

Cards

Send an encouraging word or let someone know their church family is thinking of them.



Prayer Team

The prayer team meets Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m. and is open to anyone who would like to join in to pray for the church and the many needs of the church, the community and the world.



CHILDREN

Children's Ministry (Birth – 5th grade)

Contact Cristi Laukhuf for more information about any of these service opportunities to share the love of God with children. Because First Church is a Safe Sanctuary, a background check will be required for all volunteer activities working with children.

Nursery

During worship services and Sunday school, care for infants – two-year olds in our nursery.

Sunday School Teachers

Prepare and deliver a lesson to preschool through elementary aged children. Teach for one month – or more. Curriculum is provided.

Boy Scouts

First Church is home to a troop of Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts and volunteers are needed to act as Scoutmasters. Troops meet on Monday evenings.



Vacation Bible School

There are many ways to volunteer during VBS held each summer at First Church. Opportunities exist in: Cabbies, teachers, nursery help, kitchen, group leader, group helper, rotation teacher, set decorations or registration.



AWE

8:15 AWE is an exciting time of helping kids experience God through weekly Bible points, fun activities, and engaging worship. This class includes preparing a worship presentation during service.

10:45 AWE is an exciting interactive pursuit of personally knowing God through His Word and embedding all the found treasures in our hearts, minds, and daily lives. This class includes scripture memorization and presentation during service.

Christmas Musical

Assist with the Christmas musical. Opportunities exist to help with lines, learning music, building sets, costumes, etc.



Preschool

Our preschool is designed for children aged 3-5. We incorporate a weekly chapel and children's Christmas and Easter mission project. Field trips to the library, Pizza Hut and more are taken as time/weather permits. A monthly holiday or theme party is celebrated. Help is needed with our Cookies program, the book fair and the Art Show (food, set-up, tear-down, getting donations). Graduation help would also be appreciated. Student assessments and Parent/Teacher conferences are held. The Ohio Department of Education guidelines for curriculum are abided by and Christian values are followed.

YOUTH

Middle School/ High School

Youth Group Volunteers

Adults who enjoy interacting with middle and high school aged young adults would be welcome to help with youth activities on Sunday afternoons. Volunteers could help regularly or just for special events with things such as driving, making meals, donating supplies for special events and mission trips.

Sunday School Teachers

Teaching Sunday school for our youth is a great way to build a relationship with them and share your love of God's word. Curriculum is provided and flexible. Teach for a month at a time or the whole year.



Small Group Leaders

Young adults are starving for deeper connection and relationships. Start a small group or bible study that meets at a time convenient for you.

5th Quarter



The 5th Quarter gatherings (one for MS, one for HS) are held after home Van Wert football games. Many volunteers are needed to work these events. Set up, chaperones, clean up crews, baking cookies or brownies, etc are all needed.

H₂O - Success Coaches

Mentor at-risk youth and have an opportunity to change a life. Mentors will be trained and meet with students weekly at the Van Wert Middle School during the school day.

Graduates to GrownUps

A program developed in 2018, graduates of high school to 25 years of age are paired with an adult within the church. Care packages, cards and encouraging texts are just a few ways to show First Church cares and wants to keep them connected.



Mission Trip

Middle and High School students go on trips yearly following this schedule:

- ◇ In Ohio
- ◇ In the US but outside of Ohio
- ◇ International

You can volunteer to chaperone, provide food, supplies or scholarships for students.

MISSIONS

Operation Back to School

Started in summer 2015, Operation Back to School is an event where First Church joins with community partners to provide a carnival-like atmosphere with games, give-aways, food, fun and most importantly, school supplies for the upcoming school year.

Volunteers are needed to be on the planning committee, help with school supply purchasing, packing school supplies, helping the day of the event, helping organize registrations, doing publicity, running games for children in the park, preparing or serving food.



Festival of Sharing

Each year First Church participates in the United Methodist church's Festival of Sharing. Volunteers are needed to fill various kits and shop for items for the kits.

Food Pantry

First Church is the home to the Cooperative Ministries Food Pantry. Volunteers are needed to help on food pantry days with patron check-in and shopping, with inventory and re-stocking of shelves, with unloading trucks on delivery days. Be a regular volunteer weekly or be a substitute.

Project 216

Each October, First Church and community members join to pack over 28,000 meals in 2 hours for Project 216. Project 216 is a Fort Wayne, IN based food relief organization. The meals that are packed are nutritionally balanced, rice-based meals



that feed a family of 6. They are used here in the US and abroad. Meals we pack are generally sent to *Mission of Hope: Haiti*, which is a mission that we support. Sign up to pack meals or take a coin collection box.

Trunk or Treat

In coordination with the downtown Van Wert trick or treat the Saturday before Halloween, First Church hosts a Trunk or Treat. Volunteers are needed to host a decorated trunk and hand out

candy, and to serve food. The First Church Mission Committee put this event on and it is a great community outreach. If you prefer, you can donate candy, food or drinks in place of having a car in the event.

Isaiah 58

The Isaiah 58 project buys new clothes, shoes and hygiene items for students in need at Van Wert County schools. The purpose of the project is to show students that they are loved and that they are worthy of love.

Bread and Bowl

First Church hosts Bread and Bowl, a free meal, on Friday nights. Open to anyone, these meals offer a chance for fellowship and a warm meal to any who might need it. Volunteers are needed a couple times a year to cook and serve the meal. This is a ministry we share with other area churches.

Pregnancy Life Center Walk

The local Pregnancy Life Center holds a walk each year to raise money for their programming. Support this local ministry by walking and fundraising or by sponsoring one of our youth in the walk.

Angel Tree

A project of the Sarah Circle women's group, Angel Tree is an outreach ministry in December where children's names are chosen from a tree and Christmas gifts are purchased for those children. This outreach serves children of prisoners as well as area disadvantaged families.



5th Quarter

The 5th Quarter gatherings (one for MS, one for HS) are held after home Van Wert football games. Many volunteers are needed to work these events. Set up, chaperones, clean up crews, etc are all needed.



Thanksgiving Meals

First Church buys turkeys and all the groceries to make a full Thanksgiving Feast. Volunteers are needed to shop for the groceries and pack the meals for a family in need.

Shoe Drive

Donate your gently used or new shoes. These shoes are given to families in 3rd world countries so they can start a micro-enterprise business to support their families. First Church youth are paid by the pound and proceeds go to their mission trip.



Mission Trips

While a mission trip is not currently on the schedule, occasional trips are planned to *Mission of Hope: Haiti*. Watch the church newsletter for information on the next trip.

Small Group Mission Projects

Many of the small groups at First Church have regular projects that they have adopted and do as a group. To find the group that is right for you, call the Church office at 419/238-0631.

HOSPITALITY & WORSHIP

HOSPITALITY AND WORSHIP

8:15 Service Worship Team

Musicians and vocalists are needed for the casual service praise team.

Other ways to serve during 8:15 service: read scripture, read announcements, usher and deliver the *Chat with the Children* once a month and help with Alternate Worship Experience (AWE).

Greeters / Welcome Table

Greeters are needed before and after both services to welcome people to First Church. Greeters and welcome table people are asked to answer questions, give directions and guide newcomers through the facility.



Handbells

The handbell choir performs a few times a year at 10:45 (Traditional) service. Handbells rehearse Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm. New ringers are always welcome.

10:45 Service Worship Team

The Chancel Choir sings at 10:45 service 10 months of the year. Vocalists are welcome to join the choir which meets for rehearsals on Wednesday evenings.

Other ways to serve at 10:45 service: read scripture, read announcements, teach Sunday school during worship for preschoolers, help with Alternative Worship Experience and work in the nursery.

Communion

Communion stewards prepare communion on a monthly rotation. Servers are needed for both services. Communion is also served to shut-ins.



Liturgical Arts Committee

This committee keeps our sanctuary decorated according to the seasons of the church calendar.

Sound system/ Audio Visual Team

Volunteers are needed to assist with the sound board and audio visual equipment during the worship services.

OPERATIONS

Office Assistant

Assist the office with mailings, proofreading and any other office type work that needs completed. Vacation coverage is an important part of this ministry. Contact Sandy Knight to see where you can serve.

Building Maintenance

We have fantastic custodial staff, but they could use assistance with big projects at times. Help with things like painting, cleaning, snow removal, work at the parsonage, upkeep of the shrubs and plants outside.

Committees

The business of running a church could not happen without committees. Committee members are nominated by the Nominating Committee. If you have an interest in serving on a committee, speak with Pastor Chris or another member of the staff.

Administrative Board

The administrative board is made up of the Chairs of all Church committees as well as several members at large. The administrative board has the highest level of governing authority over the local church.

Finance Team

The finance team oversees the finances of the church including budgeting.

Trustees

The trustees handle all matters related to the property owned by First Church including the building, the parsonage and trust property and investments.

Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)

This committee acts as the human resources department of the church. They perform employee reviews, deal with hiring new staff and any other employee-related functions.

Mission Committee

The mission committee actively supports First Church mission projects, provides direction and structure to mission projects and allocates the mission budget.

Preschool Board

First Church has a fully licensed preschool in our building. The preschool board oversees the running of the preschool and provides support to the preschool administrator. The preschool is a major outreach of the church as the majority of students who attend the preschool are not members of our First Church.



I Want To Serve

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE (indicate if you receive texts at this number Y/N)

EMAIL

BEST TIME TO REACH YOU?

WHICH AREA(S) ARE YOU INTERESTED IN AT THIS TIME?



Prefer to fill form out electronically? Copy and paste into your browser:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1RIU_XMEAj80YLIQu2KM6CTWvFpbsDbNlbdsrPFLJN8

FIRST united
methodist CHURCH

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