

December PREACHING SCHEDULE

SERIES:

Christmas Letters

DECEMBER 4
Romans 15:4-13
Letters from the Past

DECEMBER 11
James 5:7-11
A Farmer's Letter

DECEMBER 18
Romans 1:1-7
A Letter from Prison

DECEMBER 18
HOPE REKINDLED
2 Corinthians 1:3-7
A Letter of Comfort

DECEMBER 24
Christmas Eve Services

- Family Christmas Eve Service 5:00pm
- Holy Communion 5:45-6:45pm & 8:15-9:00pm
- Christmas Music begins 9:30pm
- Classic Candlelight Service 10:00pm

Titus 2:11-14
A Letter of New Beginnings

DECEMBER 25
One Service at 10:00am
John 1:1-4; 2 Corinthians 3:1-3
The Letter Becomes Flesh

POINSETTIAS
can be removed after
the late Christmas Eve
service or after
Sunday morning worship.



Thank you for your support.

Special Offering
...for December
Christmas Offering

IN THE CHURCH FAMILY

DEATH:

Betty (Thatcher) Foust
November 1, 2022



December 2022

Middle School / High School SCHEDULE

December 4 - Random Acts of Kindness
December 11 - Christmas Party
December 18 - Angel Tree Deliveries
December 25 - Christmas Break

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Sarah Circle/Soul
Friends will meet
Monday, December
12th at 5:30.

Angel Tree gifts need to be brought to either service on Sunday, December 18th. Each Angel is to receive 2 gifts (a clothing gift and a fun gift). Each gift should be between \$20-\$25 for a total of \$40-\$50. The gifts are to be tied together using ribbon or tape. At the top, affix the top portion of your Angel for delivery. Any questions can be directed to Lisa Dunn or Teresa Shaffer. Sarah Circle thanks you for supporting this important mission.

UPCOMING -

Teddy Bear Sunday. Watch for details.



**Family Advent
Devotional books**
are available
at the entrances.
Pick one up today!



December Library News:

If you are to give devotions this month, the library was gifted with four Advent Devotionals which you will find on the far right end of the Christmas Books on the book cart in the library.

Romaine



Financial Report - 10/31/2022

October Contributions	\$45,038.00
October Expenses	- \$45,527.00
Expense over Contributions	- \$ 489.00
Year to Date Contributions as of 10/31/2022	\$513,861.00
Year to Date Expenses as of 10/31/2022	-\$487,668.00
Contributions over Expense as of 10/31/2022	\$ 26,193.00

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Did you know we have a prayer shawl ministry?

You can find out more by contacting
Judy Bradford 419/238-6932,
Nancy Rhoades 419/238-4851
or
Jeanne Zeigler 419/238-4047.

Created items are knitted or crocheted - mainly prayer shawls and prayer squares. These items are given to others in times of need and to provide comfort.



FIRST United methodist CHURCH

Phone: 419/238-0631 FAX: 419/238-3608
email: firstchurch@vanwertfirst.net website: vanwertfirst.net

As a community of faith, we stand firm on this mission: embracing, equipping, and empowering persons to know and follow Christ. With each step, we see God "doing immeasurably more than all that we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us" -Ephesians 3:20

We invite God to do His life-changing work through us over the next five years!

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

8:15am - Blended Service
9:30am - Sunday School 10:45am - Traditional Service

DECEMBER 2022

*Advent
Festival 2022*
Sunday, December 4
4:00 - 6:00pm

*The 2022
Christmas offering
will be used toward:*



**Agape Fund Haven of Hope
H₂O Mentoring Program**



NURSERY COORDINATOR
(this is a PAID position)

Here are a few key responsibilities:

- Recruit and equip servant nursery volunteers.
- Prepare schedule for volunteers.
- Serve in the nursery on Sunday mornings along with another servant. This will also include special services as assigned.
- Ensure First UMC policies are implemented.
- Ensures supplies and equipment for the nursery are maintained.

Apply by sending a resume to
Cristi Laukhuf, Director of Children and
Family Ministries, First United
Methodist Church 113 W. Central St.
Van Wert, OH 45891 or email Cristi at
cristi.laukhuf@vanwertfirst.net.

Hope Rekindled Christmas Service

Sunday,
December 18 - 7pm

Service will be offered in our sanctuary



Preschool Christmas program

December 8
@6:00pm in Fountain Park

(or in the Sanctuary
if weather is inclement).

We hope you can join us!



COME SEE CRISTI'S DOOR!

K-5 students are being challenged to be the light this advent season. They were given ten acts of kindness to perform. Once completed the kids can add a lightbulb to the tree.

**FAMILY
ministry**

We had a fantastic Fry Pie Sale and were able to add over \$1000.00 to our Scholarship fund. Thank you so much for your support of our fundraiser. We're beginning to practice for our Christmas in the Park on December 8 at 6:00pm. We would love to have friends of the pre-school attend and enjoy the short program amid all the Fountain Park decorations. If the weather does not cooperate, we will be in the Sanctuary, same date and time.

The teachers are also in the process of doing our Fall assessments. It is evident the students have made fantastic progress since the first assessments. Our teachers are fantastic! **Cuteness note:** When you combine Bible and Agler you get Bibler. One of the 3's called me that when we were going into the Chapel for our story. Love these kids.

Preschool News



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 12/1 Brenda Allison
- 12/2 Kent Bradford
- 12/4 Michael Joseph Verona Eikenbary Nicholas Carter
- 12/5 Aubree Bear Austin Bockrath Debby Compton
- 12/7 Nancy Rhoades Karen Workman Larry Wendel
- 12/8 Vicki Stevens
- 12/9 Charley Davis Erik Falk
- 12/11 Bonnie Thatcher Karen Miller
- 12/13 Belinda Miller
- 12/14 Michaella Johnson

- 12/15 Pat Sowers Nikki Bebout
- 12/16 Karen DuCheney
- 12/17 Scott Turner Sherry Kreischer
- 12/21 Joshua Haas
- 12/22 Emma Farmer
- 12/24 Scott Bates Eric Hurless
- 12/25 Griffin McCracken Carol Sanders Caroline Kelly
- 12/27 Teresa Gardner April VanHousen
- 12/28 Luke Stevens David Knight
- 12/29 Mary Mitchener Grace Dowler

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 12/1 Melissa & Tim Snyder Lloyd & Ilo Marvin Christy & Mike Wortman
- 12/4 Lisa & Demond Johnson
- 12/10 Michael & Deb Germann
- 12/14 Amanda & Tony Wright
- 12/15 Charley & Deb Davis
- 12/16 Denise & Gil Gutierrez
- 12/18 Allan & Barbara Mills
- 12/19 Tillman & Mary Sue Karl Becca Adams & Jacob Jones
- 12/30 Wayne & Karen Kemler
- 12/31 Ryan & Renee Kelly



Mission Moment: The Mission Committee has selected 3 worthy funds for the 2022 Christmas offering. Any donations can be designated to a specific fund, or if just given as part of the Christmas offering in general, will be split equally. The first fund is the FUMC **Agape Fund**. This fund is used (primarily at Teresa Shaffer's discretion) to help individuals in need when they come to the church asking for help. The money could be used for hotel vouchers, help with utilities, rent, etc. The second fund is the **H₂O Mentoring Program** (Hope to Others). This program is administered alongside Van Wert Middle School. Currently, 12 volunteer mentors work with 12 8th grade students at VWMS for 45 minutes each week. The goal of the program is to build relationships with at-risk youth. Funds will be used for additional training and program costs for programming with the students. The third fund this year is **Haven of Hope**, the local men's homeless shelter. Donations to this fund will be used at the discretion of the Haven of Hope board.

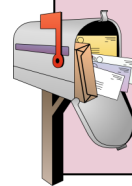
In addition to the monetary Christmas offering, First Church mission committee is working with the YWCA to provide playground equipment for the Summer Food Program. Mission Committee member Grace Dowler worked as a Summer Food Program mentor last summer and was frustrated by the lack of playground equipment for the children to use. At her suggestion we contacted Betsy Hamman, Youth Services Coordinator at the YWCA to help meet this need for children in our community. A list of needed equipment will be provided to Sunday School classes and be available at Teresa's Mission Cart at Sunday services.



Mission trips create space for all of us to rally around people faithfully loving and serving like Jesus as they determine how to help and bring hope to their communities. When you take a week to live intentionally, love your neighbors, and see everyone the way that God sees them, you walk away changed, and you can and should apply that change to every area of your life. We call this "Living Your Mission."

Mission trips are a powerful experience, and they should be treated as such.

Serving with a humble posture and seeking to build relationships and create lasting change on your mission trip can be the difference between a meaningful, dignifying, transformational experience or one that wastes time, effort, and resources—or worse, degrades the community you hoped to serve. Please pray for our students, leaders and the communities of the **Dominican Republic** to prepare us all for our trip June 21-28. We have 13 students and 8 adults registered to go on the trip. If you are interested you may be able to get a spot. Call Teresa to check 419/238-0631 ext. 307.



NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

VAN CREST, Van Wert
10357 Van Wert Decatur Road, Van Wert, OH 45891
Sue Corle, Karen Elston

VAN WERT MANOR
160 Fox Road, Van Wert, OH 45891
Betty Vogt

DEFIANCE MEMORY CARE - Francis Sroufe

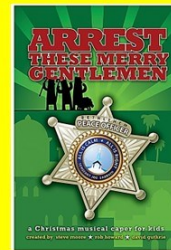
SHUT-INS
Helen Crone, Rhonda Crosley,
Laverna Faszler, Jay Simson,
Bill Wermer

HEARTH AND HOME
1118 Westwood Drive, Van Wert, OH 45891
Wendy Howell, June Taylor

HOMESTEAD AT TOWNE CENTER
240 Towne Center Boulevard, Van Wert, OH 45891
Ed Bates, Brent Crone, Sandy Gordon,
Delores Keysor, Jan Osburn,
Juanita & Tom Wise

DIVINE NURSING & REHAB
@the LAURELS OF SHANE HILL
Dorothy Sunderland - Room 113
10731 Ohio-118, Rockford, OH 45882

Children's Christmas Musical



PERFORMANCE DATE:
- sunday - December 11 @ 6:30 pm

Sergeant Joe Sabbath is charged with keeping the peace in the sleepy little town of Bethlehem, and he likes things QUIET! When word reaches him that a band of rowdy shepherds is inbound from the fields outside of town, boisterously celebrating with wild tales of angels and such, he is determined to get to the bottom of this case! Of course, what he discovers is no simple "disturbing the peace" beef. It seems he's stumbled upon the caper that changed the world!

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
113 w central ave. van wert, oh

Numbers include BOTH Inhouse Worship & online website viewers.

October Attendance Report
8:15 - 259 10:45 - 853

Year To Date All Sanctuary Services including online viewing
9388

Year To Date Average - All Services
133

Food Pantry items needed for December

PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEMS

Soap, powder, toothpaste, mouthwash, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant

Please bring these items for the food pantry. Baskets will be at each entrance.

Monetary donations are also welcome & appreciated.

Thank you for your support.



WOMEN in the WORD

Ladies, we'd like to invite you to join the Women in the Word Life Group. Come join us for some quality God time with some of your sisters in Christ. We share a desire to grow in relationship with God through His Word as well as in relationship with each other by sharing our thoughts, joys, and time.



The group meets Wednesday afternoons at 4:00pm in the conference room.

If this sounds like the group for you, contact the office at 419/238-0631 for more information.

First Church Prayer Requests

HEALTH CONCERNS:

- Sandra Anderson, *Parkinsons*
- Barry Crone, *Health*
- Jim Davis, *Health*
- Tonia Dunifon, *Surgery/recovery*
- Terry Eikenbary, *Health*
- Aiden Ellerbrock, *Rehab*
- Steve Gehres, *Health*
- Paula Goins, *Multiple-sclerosis*
- Fred Hartwig, *Health*
- Bella Hurless, *CP/Rehab*
- Linda Jeknavorian, *Health*
- Eileen Manken, *Health*
- Allan Mills, *Health*
- Daniel Proctor, *Health*
- Bob Say, *Stiff person disease*
- Donn Shriver, *Health*
- Rebecca Strickler, *Health*
- Dorothy Sunderland, *Dementia*
- Maury Wistner, *Health*
(Marie Duff's grandson)
- All those with chronic pain, illness

IF YOU HAVE MILITARY INFORMATION YOU WOULD LIKE LISTED or CHANGES, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR.

MILITARY:

- Gerald Christo-Baker
- Dillon Ellerbrock
- Airman **Ethan Glass** HSC-2, 524 A Street Norfolk, VA 23511-4010
- Michael Hellman**
- Gregory Henry** 94508 Woodcrest Lane Fort Drum, NY 13603
- Caleb Kreischer**
- Noah Sease** 3400 Shivas Road Clarksville, TN 37042
- Pfc Kyle Spray** 216 H&S Co./S-6 PSC Box 20099 Camp Lejeune, NC 28542-0099
- Austin Sudduth** 386 ELRS/LGRA/PAX Unit 61409, APO, AE 09855-1409
- Braden VanCleve**
- Evan Wells**
- S Sgt **Bryan Zinsmaster**

MISSIONARIES - December Focus: Persecuted Christians.

GLOBAL CONCERNS - December Focus: World Peace.

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - December Focus: First Church Mission in Van Wert & Church Staff / Volunteers; Christmas Offering.