

January PREACHING SCHEDULE

SERIES:

Christmas Letters

JANUARY 1

One Service at 10:00am
Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6
In His Midst

SERIES:

Questions People Ask

JANUARY 8

Genesis 1:31; Romans 3:23;
Romans 8:18, 22;
John 16:33; 2 Corinthians 7:10;
Romans 5:3; Hebrews 12:10-11;
Romans 8:28; 2 Peter 3:9
Why Does God Allow Suffering?

JANUARY 15

John 14:6; Acts 4:1-12;
Romans 5:1-11
*How Can Jesus Be
The Only Way to God?*

JANUARY 22

I John 4:7-21; Psalm 9:17;
Matthew 7:13, 14; 2 Peter 2:1-10;
*How Can A Loving God
Send People to Hell?*

JANUARY 29

Combined Student-Led Worship
MORE INFORMATION TO COME

Youth Fundraiser

Baked Potato Bar

Immediately
following worship.

January 29, 2023

Carryout Available

PRICES:

Adults - \$8.00

Children under 11 - \$5.00

Baked Potato, Salad, Toppings Bar,
Desserts, Punch, Coffee

January Library News:

New Fiction and Romance books will be on the Carousel Jan. 3rd or 4th, plus the donated book, Timepiece, which is the middle book of The Christmas Box. Wrap up in a warm blanket and enjoy your January reading. *Romaine*



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Sarah/Soul Friends will meet Monday, January 9 and Monday, Jan 23 at 5:30. We will finish our study of Esther.

Sarah Circle would like to thank all who generously supported the 2022 Angel Tree project. We serviced 41 children and 18 families this Christmas season.

Teddy Bear Sunday is back! Please bring your new Teddy Bears to either service February 19th. Teddy Bears should be no larger than 12" with no child endangerment attachments. The Teddy Bears will be given to local hospitals and first responders to give to injured, ill and frightened children. The Women's Ministry thanks you for your support of this important mission project.

The Women's Ministry team is pleased to announce that we were able to distribute funds totaling \$2,650 among the following: UMCOR; Van Wert YWCA; Haven of Hope; First UM Preschool; First UM Agape Fund and Food Pantry.

Financial Report - 11/30/2022

November Contributions	\$42,251.00
November Expenses	- \$51,390.00
Expense over Contributions	- \$ 9,139.00
Year to Date Contributions	\$556,112.00
Year to Date Expenses	-\$539,058.00
Contributions over Expense	\$ 17,054.00

2023 Flower Calendar
is available on the
church office door.



Now accepting registrations for the
2023-2024 school year.



Also, scheduling
private tours!

Register online at www.fumpreschool.com or contact
Administrator Marilyn Agler at marilyn.agler@vanwertfirst.net
419-238-0631 ext. 308.

FAMILY ministry

PAJAMA PARTY!

January 22nd

Children's Sunday School Pajama Party!

Come dressed in your PJs



Preschool News



The Preschool Christmas Program was held in the Sanctuary on December 8. We had over 150 guests attend the program. Thank you, Preschool Board members, for providing the cookies to serve in the dining hall with hot chocolate. We all enjoyed the fellowship.

Thank you, First Church, for your faithful prayer and financial support of this program. I love hearing the teachers talk about Jesus and God's love on a daily basis in their classrooms. I thank God for the opportunity we have here to influence these young hearts for Jesus!

We have already had several calls for information for next year. **Keep spreading the word that we are open for 2023-2024 registrations.**

Blessings in the New Year!



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 - Casual Service

9:30am - Sunday School 10:45am - Traditional Service

JANUARY 2023

January 2023 Middle School / High School SCHEDULE

January 8 - Plan Cardboard box fundraiser

January 15 - Lock in at the church

January 22 - Regular meeting

January 28 - Winter Jam at Ft. Wayne - HS only

January 29 - Youth Sunday and Potato Bar

2022 & 2023 Graduate Names Needed
(HIGH SCHOOL or COLLEGE)

Please drop off or
submit a photo via email to
firstchurch@vanwertfirst.net



Children's Christmas Musical - 2022

Arrest These Merry Gentlemen, the Children's Christmas Musical, was a smash hit on Sunday, December 11th. After months of practice, the kids were excited to share the story of God's gift to all of us, His Son Jesus, and His love! Through song and dance we were transported to Bethlehem and watched as the resident Peace Officer came to realize that his sleepy little town was the site of something spectacular. A big thank you to *Chris Gordon*, our director, for her patience, her passion, and her joy in working with our kids! Thank you to *Cristi Laukhuf* for the choreography, our Technical Team of *Ron Allison* and *Dave Thompson*, our Stage Hand *Jana Thompson*, and *Jim* and *Mary Miller* for their help with set design. To the parents and grandparents who transported kids to rehearsals, provided meals and all-around support to the cast and crew, Thank You!



Last but not least, thank you to the cast. *You were amazing!* A big shout out to ALL who came to support our kids and celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1/1 Scott Wagner
- 1/3 Zoey Tracy
- 1/4 Mark Scheidt
Cara Apperson
- 1/6 Dolores Keysor
Shanann Jackson
- 1/7 Ethan Best
- 1/8 Jon Leiendecker
Warren Foy
Evan Falk
- 1/10 Louisa Wagner
- 1/12 Kim Hughes
Lydia Runyon
Jack Boley
Leah Schaffner
Jana Thompson
- 1/13 Bobby Spath, Jr.
Peggy Penton
- 1/14 Vance Wright
- 1/15 Denise Gutierrez
- 1/16 Helen Crone
- 1/17 Ross Shartzter
- 1/18 Martha Balyeat
Cindy Dickson
- 1/19 William Kelly
- 1/20 Zakk Hogan
Beau Bear
Josephine Proctor
- 1/21 Nate Gearhart
- 1/22 Kathy Muse
- 1/23 Joan Stripe
- 1/24 John White
- 1/26 Abby Jackson
- 1/27 Tillman Karl
- 1/29 Jared Shaffer
Al Sink
Bob Gamble
- 1/30 Nick Miller
- 1/31 Elizabeth Mitchener

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1/2 Sara & Bob Spath
- 1/4 John & Jan Slagle
- 1/5 Dale & Lisa Butler
- 1/21 Marilyn & David Agler
- 1/27 Steven &
Michele Mendenhall
- 12/30 Wayne & Karen Kemler
- 12/31 Ryan & Renee Kelly



NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

<p>VAN CREST, Van Wert 10357 Van Wert Decatur Road, Van Wert, OH 45891 Sue Corle, Karen Elston</p> <p>VAN WERT MANOR 160 Fox Road, Van Wert, OH 45891 Betty Vogt</p> <p>DEFIANCE MEMORY CARE - Francis Sroufe</p> <p>SHUT-INS Helen Crone, Rhonda Crosley, Laverna Faszler, Jay Simson, Bill Wermer</p>	<p>HEARTH AND HOME 1118 Westwood Drive, Van Wert, OH 45891 Wendy Howell, June Taylor</p> <p>HOMESTEAD AT TOWNE CENTER 240 Towne Center Boulevard, Van Wert, OH 45891 Brent Crone, Sandy Gordon, Delores Keysor, Jan Osburn, Juanita & Tom Wise</p> <p>DIVINE NURSING & REHAB @the LAURELS OF SHANE HILL Dorothy Sunderland - Room 113 10731 Ohio-118, Rockford, OH 45882</p>
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Teresa's
Christmas spirit is alive and well here at First Church.
We have provided the following for our community:

The local Elks Angel Tree - we served 27 families and 33 kids. The Elks members shop and wrap presents and they are delivered to us and the families pick the packages up from the church.

We donated scarves, hats and gloves to all of the Goedde students that were handed out to them on their Christmas party.

Haven of Hope was served a catered meal from Streetlight catering for their Christmas dinner.

I want to remind you to get your **Christmas offering** in. This will help the *Agape fund*, the *Haven of Hope* and the *food pantry*. These are all three wonderful ministries and help a lot of people. Keep the Christmas Spirit going and donate today!

Merry Christmas Teresa



Shoe Us the Love!
First United Methodist Youth Group

First Church Youth are collecting shoes until January 7th to help fund their trip to Dominican Republic this year.

DROP OFF ON CENTRAL AVENUE

DISCOVERY

Discovery Study, the Upper Room & Our Daily Bread

Self-directed resources for focused discipleship. Books are available at the Central Avenue or Jefferson Street entrances in the white carousels.

Give us a call, we will mail these to you!

NURSERY COORDINATOR (this is a PAID position)
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.

Numbers include BOTH Inhouse Worship & online website viewers.

November Attendance Report
8:15 - 169 10:45 - 792

Year To Date All Sanctuary Services including online viewing
10283

Year To Date Average - All Services
131

Your **FAITH IN ACTION**
@First Church
Service Opportunities at First United Methodist Church

Mission Moment: The Mission Committee is sponsoring a baby supply drive for **Pregnancy Life Center** in January. You will see a display at the Central street entrance to drop off items.

Pregnancy Life Center has plenty of diapers and wipes right now, but would love donations of the following items:

New or VERY GENTLY used clothes sizes newborn to 4T

Tummy Time water mat	Bumbo	Bouncy chair
Wrist and sock rattles	Newborn socks	First year baby book
Orajel for teething	Hooded bath towels	Boppy
Diaper caddy	A&D Ointment	Baby toothbrushes

Breastfeeding starter kit or other supplies

There are Prayer Shawls & Prayer Pockets in the office for gifting to others that would appreciate them. Please see Sandy.

Food Pantry items needed for January

PASTA ITEMS
Pasta sauce, macaroni & cheese, rice, spaghetti, noodles

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.

SMALL GROUP

SEEKERS

Are you an adult who loves studying God's Word? Who loves lively and vibrant conversation? Well, the Seekers is the small group for you!

Meetings are held Wednesday evenings at 5:30pm

Along with great analysis and exchanges of ideas, the Seekers also dedicate time in rotation to Bread & Bowl preparations. If this sounds like the group for you, contact the office at 419/238-0631.

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 - January Focus:
Gaston and Jeanne Ntambo - *Wings of the Morning.*

GLOBAL CONCERNS - January Focus: US Government; President Biden.

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - January Focus: First Church Mission in Van Wert & Church Staff / Volunteers: Youth Ministry & Leaders.