

# February PREACHING SCHEDULE

## SERIES:

*The Shepherd King*

February 5, 2023  
*The Shepherd  
Knows His Sheep*  
John 10:1-6

February 12, 2023  
*The Shepherd Dies*  
John 10:7-18

February 19, 2023  
*The Shepherd Aches*  
Matthew 9:35-38; Acts 20:28

## SERIES:

*Empty & Filled*

February 22, 2023  
*Ash Wednesday – Lent Begins*  
*First, Drain It Out*  
Joel 2:1-2; 12-17

February 26, 2023  
*First Sunday of Lent*  
*The Emptiness of this World*  
Psalm 32, Romans 5:12-19

*Special Offering*  
...for February

*Festival  
of Sharing*

Vacation Bible School  
PLANNING COMMITTEE  
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Contact Cristi if you can help -  
[cristi.laukhuf@vanwertfirst.net](mailto:cristi.laukhuf@vanwertfirst.net)

## Financial Report - 12/31/2022

December Contributions	\$ 68,839.00
December Expenses	\$ 35,875.00
Contribution over Expense	\$ 32,964.00
2022 Contributions	\$624,951.00
2022 Expenses	\$574,933.00
Contribution over Expense	\$ 50,017.00

*Thank you to our faithful givers who have provided these contributions. Thank you to our staff who consistently watch their expenses so we are able to offer quality ministry to our congregation and community.*

## PARENT'S NIGHT OUT!

February 18th 6:00pm-8:30pm

Preschool - 5th Grade

**\*must be potty trained \*must pre-register**

Registration forms can be found  
on bulletin board by Cristi's Office

**Deadline to be turned in is February 12th.**

**FAMILY** We will provide snacks,  
ministry games, crafts, and a movie.

**\*PLEASE EAT DINNER BEFORE ARRIVAL\***

Sarah Circle will meet  
Monday, February 13 at  
5:30 in the conference  
room.

**WOMEN'S  
MINISTRY**

Teddy Bear Sunday will be Sunday, Feb, 19th.  
Teddy bears can be brought to either service.



1st UM Preschool students were excited to return after Christmas break. We have increased our enrollment to 30 students. We are also beginning Fall enrollment soon for our current students.

Open enrollment will be announced at the end of February in our various media outlets. An open house will be held in March for those wishing to tour the facility and have any questions addressed. Again, I want to thank the members of First Church for their support of this valuable program. We love telling students and families about God's love!

## February Library News:

Due to a Snafu and an ordering Glitch, there will be only 2 new books on the Carousel, both by Lynn Austin and great Historical Novels. Other books will be former books, not read by many. Would hope you will take the opportunity to read all 5 of the Walk Across America books.

Romaine



## DISCERNMENT TEAM

Planning, coordinating, and deploying a discernment process for FUMC to prayerfully consider her denominational affiliation.



### Chairperson:

Julie Burenga  
*Outreach Representative*

Martin Burchfield  
*Chair of Administrative Board*

Dillon Staas  
*Lay Leader/Lay Delegate to AC*

Judy Loughrie  
*Recording Sec. of Administrative Board*

Martha Balyeat  
*Finance Team Representative*

Roger Okuley  
*Board of Trustee Representative*

Deb Nedderman  
*SPRC Representative*

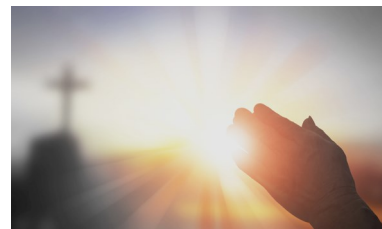
### At-Large Representative:

Noah Carter Ruth Ann Dowler  
Mary Ann Falk Demond Johnson  
Judy Krites

### Staff Representative:

Jana Thompson Delda McHugh

Appointed Pastor / Staff:  
Chris Farmer



# FIRST United methodist CHURCH

Phone: 419/238-0631 FAX: 419/238-3608  
email: [firstchurch@vanwertfirst.net](mailto:firstchurch@vanwertfirst.net) website: [vanwertfirst.net](http://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

## FEBRUARY 2023

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Class	Location
Little Sprouts (PreK)	Rooms 201 & 203
Construction Zone (K-2)	Rooms 202 & 204
Urban Vibe (3rd, 4th, 5th)	Room 212
Middle School	MS Youth Room
High School	HS Youth Room
Adult Bible Class	Conference Room
Disciple Makers	Dr Robert B Scheidt
Faithweavers	Room 205
Russell Youth 2012	Dining Hall Jeremy Laukhuf

2023 Altar Flower sign up is available on the office door.

See the office for more information.



### SMALL GROUPS

Class	Day	Time	Leader
Chancel Choir	Wed	7:30pm	Paul Hoverman
Clay Pots	Thurs	8:30pm	Marilyn Alessandrini
Guys Missing Wives	Tues 1st & 3rd	6:00pm	Jerry Hoffman
Handbells	Wed	6:30pm	Kristina Welker
Lydia	Tues 2nd	12:00pm	Leslie Mounts
M&M	Mon 1st & 3rd	7:00pm	Jill Smelser
On Our Own	Wed 4th	10:00am	Linda Mechling / Eleanor Souders
Praise Band	Thur	7:00pm	Jeremy Laukhuf
Prayer Group	Tues	10:30am	Gloria Wendel
Sarah / Soul Friends	Mon 4th	5:30pm	Teresa Shaffer
Seekers	Wed	5:30pm	Jim Covey
Women in the Word	Wed	4:00pm	Shirley Jarvis
Women's Ministries	Thurs 1st	4:30pm	Lisa Dunn
Youth Group - MS	Sun	12:00pm	Teresa Shaffer
Youth Group - HS	Sun	12:00pm	Sierra Shaffer
Men's Bible Study	Wed	6:30am 7:30 am in the summer	Bob Spath
Men's Bible Study	Wed	8:30am	Dave Watkins
Young Adults	Wed 1st	7:00pm	Demond Johnson

## February 2023

### Middle School / High School SCHEDULE

Feb. 5 - Regular Meeting  
Feb. 12 Super Bowl Party  
*Souper bowl soup sales after each service*  
Feb. 19 Regular Meeting  
Feb. 26 Regular Meeting



VOLUNTEERS  
ARE NEEDED

FAMILIES  
or  
INDIVIDUALS

Desserts & Clean up Crew  
for Wednesday night meals

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

- 2/1 Linda Thomas
- 2/3 Barbara Showalter
- 2/4 Linden Krouskop
- 2/5 Beth Haggerty  
Jim Oechsle
- 2/6 Lyvia Breese
- 2/8 Marilyn Bebout  
Julie Burenga
- 2/10 Devann Springer  
Eliza Spath
- 2/12 Ed Wells
- 2/13 Ethan Mooney
- 2/16 Jerry Worthington  
Helen Huston  
Judy Bradford

- 2/17 Scott Gordon  
Jim Loughrie
- 2/18 Annie Shartzler
- 2/20 Christie Wendel  
Katlyn Wendel
- 2/21 Paula LaRue  
Carol Leathers
- 2/24 Deb Nedderman
- 2/25 Carly Wendel  
Brenda Smith  
Loxlyn Clark
- 2/26 Allison Smith
- 2/27 Elizabeth Jones  
Diane Perry
- 2/28 Ed Stevens  
Sandy Lane  
Susan Slagle

**FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

- 2/3 Linda & Toby Thomas
- 2/11 Marylou & Tony Smith
- 2/12 Mitch & Brooke Gearhart
- 2/13 Paula & Kurt Walters
- 2/15 April & Brian Ellerbrock



Lent begins February 22, and the Mission Committee is once again recommending preparing a **Festival of Sharing Kit** for a Lenten project. Festival of Sharing is a project of Church

World Service that we have participated in for years. There are 3 types of kits that we will be collecting. You can assemble a hygiene kit or a school kit at home. The lists of what goes into each kit are available at [fosohio.org](http://fosohio.org) and will also be available at each church entrance. Homemade bags for the school kits will also be available at the church entrances. The third type of kit is an emergency cleanup bucket. If you are interested in just a financial donation, this is the kit for you! Because of storage logistics, we will collect monetary donations toward clean up buckets and the mission committee will put them together when it is time to drop them off. The cost of clean up buckets is estimated to be around \$75 each.

Thank you for your generous donations to our **Christmas offering**. \$11,000 was raised to be split between the three projects we had selected: *Haven of Hope*, *H<sub>2</sub>O Mentoring* program and the *Agape Fund*. Thank you for helping make a difference to help people in our community.

**NURSING HOME RESIDENTS**

<p><b>VAN CREST, Van Wert</b> 10357 Van Wert Decatur Road, Van Wert, OH 45891 Sue Corle, Karen Elston</p> <p><b>VAN WERT MANOR</b> 160 Fox Road, Van Wert, OH 45891 Helen Huston, Betty Vogt</p> <p><b>DEFIANCE MEMORY CARE</b> - Francis Sroufe</p> <p><b>SHUT-INS</b> Rhonda Crosley, Laverna Faszler, Jay Simson, Bill Wermer</p>	<p><b>HEARTH AND HOME</b> 1118 Westwood Drive, Van Wert, OH 45891 Wendy Howell, June Taylor</p> <p><b>HOMESTEAD AT TOWNE CENTER</b> 240 Towne Center Boulevard, Van Wert, OH 45891 Brent Crone, Sandy Gordon, Delores Keysor, Jan Osburn, Juanita &amp; Tom Wise</p> <p><b>DIVINE NURSING &amp; REHAB</b> <b>@the LAURELS OF SHANE HILL</b> Dorothy Sunderland - Room 113 10731 Ohio-118, Rockford, OH 45882</p>
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**IN THE CHURCH FAMILY**

**DEATH:**  
Richard 'Dick' Waters  
December 26, 2022

Tracy Bolton  
January 1, 2023

Helen Crone  
January 16, 2023

**BIRTH:**  
Andrew Jackson Whittaker  
January 11, 2023

*parents:*  
Clay & Ashleigh Whittaker

*grandparents:*  
Tony & Marylou Smith

**Interested in First Church's position on difficult subjects?**

Access [www.vanwertfirst.net](http://www.vanwertfirst.net) and follow the **UMC Decisions** link, shown below. This link will take you to a group of resources curated by our committee that is advising the Ad Board on current disaffiliation issues.

**This is a resource for our members to get information.**

**YOUTH GROUP**

**Sundays from 12-1:30pm**  
MIDDLE SCHOOL \ HIGH SCHOOL

*Numbers include BOTH Inhouse Worship & online website viewers.*

**December Attendance Report**  
8:15 - 216    10:45 - 800

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Year To Date All Sanctuary Services including online viewing  
11215

Year To Date Average - All Services  
131

**YOUTH Souper Bowl Soup Fundraiser**

**BEFORE & AFTER THE SERVICES**  
February 12th

**Chicken Noodle    Broccoli Cheddar**  
**Potato**

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH    113 W. Central Avenue    Van Wert, OH  
[www.vanwertfirst.net](http://www.vanwertfirst.net)



Offering for the month will be **Festival of Sharing**. Kit collection will take place at Lent. The money that you give in February will be used to make buckets and for shipping. Please give generously to help those affected by disaster throughout the year.

**DATES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR:**  
*Youth Mission Trip* June 20-28  
*Ignite* - July 26-29    *Operation Back to School* - July 30th

**YOUR YEAR END GIVING**  
MAKES A DIFFERENCE

**Food Pantry items needed for February**

**BAKING ITEMS**  
Flour, sugar, oil, mixes, frosting

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.**



**SARAH CIRCLE / SOUL FRIENDS**

*Sarah - mother of many nations and wife of Abraham*

Are you a single or married woman looking for a small group? A group with other women whom you can fellowship and explore God's word and love? If this sounds like you, come join us as we empower each other through life's little bumps in the road. The Sarah / Soul Friends group mission is the *Angel Tree* project.

**Meetings are held every 4th Monday evening at 5:30pm**  
If this sounds like the group for you, contact the office at 419/238-0631



**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*
- Matt Proctor, *Health*
- Bob Say, *Stiff person disease*
- Donn Shriver, *Health*
- Stacy Strick, *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
- Sgt Bryan Zinsmaster

**MISSIONARIES - February Focus:**  
*LifeWise Academy - Joel Penton & Team, Jeremy Laukhuf. Mission: Haven of Hope.*

**GLOBAL CONCERNS - February Focus:** Van Wert Pregnancy Life Center.

**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - February Focus:** First Church Mission in Van Wert & Church Staff / Volunteers: Bishop Palmer; the cabinet, DS Amy Haines.