

March PREACHING SCHEDULE

SERIES:

Empty & Filled

March 5, 2023
Second Sunday of Lent
Saving Faith
Psalm 121, Romans 4:1-5; 13-17

March 12, 2023
Third Sunday of Lent
God's Filling Love
Gideon speaker: Ray Etzler
Psalm 95, Romans 5:1-11

March 19, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Lent
The Lifestyle of a Christian
Psalm 23, Ephesians 5:8-14

March 26, 2023
Fifth Sunday of Lent
*Empty of Condemnation,
Filled with Freedom*
Psalm 130, Romans 8:5-11



ONLINE GIVING

Visit our website to learn more!

https://
www.vanwertfirst.net/
egiving-at-first-church/



Box City Fundraiser for Haven of Hope Meeting

March 2nd @6pm - Dr. Scheidt Room

Everyone who wants to help is welcome to attend!

Special Offering
...for March
Vacation Bible School

FUMC Preschool presents a FREE family concert featuring...

SLUGS & BUGS

SUNDAY, 3:00pm
APRIL 16



with RANDALL GOODGAME

March Library News:

Two books of the Cheney DuVall M. D. series will have you traveling in ways we've never experienced. **More Than We Remember** is a real page turner. The other four books I've not read so do let me know if you liked them or not.

Romaine



IN THE CHURCH FAMILY

DEATH:

Barbara Bates
January 27, 2023

Rhonda Crosley
January 28, 2023



Scouting for Food bags will be dropped on your door starting March 4th and will be picked up March 11.

Please fill the bag with non-perishable food and put back on your front porch by 8am March 11. This food helps our food pantry.



Financial Report - 1/31/2023

January Donations	\$56,202.00
January Expense	\$62,110.00
Expense over Donation	-\$ 5,908.00

Flower Sale
benefitting the Youth Mission Trip
Order forms are available at vanwertfirst.net!

Last date to turn in: March 12.

Pickup will be May 2nd at the VW County Fairgrounds.
CASH & CARRY WILL BE AVAILABLE



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

The Women's Ministry team will meet Thursday, March 2 at 4:45.

Sarah Circle will meet Monday, March 13 & 27 at 5:30. They are starting **Under Control** Bible study on **Right Now Media**.

The Women's Ministry team will have their annual **Good Friday bake sale** on Friday, April 7 at the Van Wert County Courthouse from 8:00-11:30. Baked goods can be brought to the church by 3:00 on Thursday, April 6 or dropped off at the courthouse on Friday morning. Please wrap your items in clear plastic and mark what the item is and if it contains nuts. Baked goods from ANY First Church member will be greatly appreciated. All proceeds benefit local mission projects.



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

MARCH 2023

ORDER YOUR
EASTER LILIES \$10.00
DAFFODILS \$9.00
TULIPS \$9.00

Tulip Colors:
Pink, Red, Purple, Orange & Yellow

PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION

Return forms by March 15th

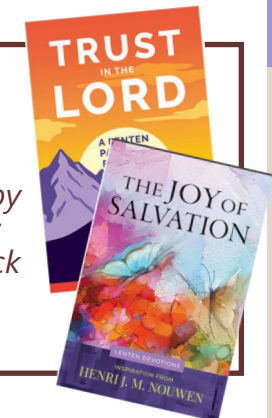
FIRST united methodist CHURCH
113 West Central Avenue | Van Wert, Ohio 43081 | 419-238-5611 | vanwertfirst.net

REMEMBER OUR:

DISCERNMENT
Team in prayer

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS AVAILABLE

Pick up your copy today at either entrance or check with the Church Office.



welcome

KASHIONNA SANDERS is our new Nursery Coordinator!

When you see Kashionna around the building, please stop her and introduce yourself!

FUN FACTS from Kashionna: My boys (ages 3,7) and I have enjoyed church all of our lives as we put God first. We find fun activities to do and share what we learn. Now here in our new home in this community, I wish to share the kindness that was given to us by helping to care for our youngest members.

March 2023

Middle School / High School SCHEDULE

March 5 - Movie Day
March 12 - Regular meeting
March 19 - Surprise Fun Event
March 26 - Regular meeting



Elks president, Mike Stanley presents check to Teresa Shaffer, First Church Outreach Coordinator for the Food Pantry.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3/1 Luke Compton
Lisa Johnson
Mary Sue Karl
Aaron Gardner

3/2 Erica Miller
Evelyn Brown

3/3 Allan Mills

3/4 Nathan Jackson
Tyson Jackson
Stacy Rife

3/5 Elijah Pollock

3/6 Betty Vogt

3/7 Judi Loughrie
Neil Shaffer
Eden Farmer

3/8 Madelyn Farmer

3/10 Merle Whetstone

3/11 Tami Taylor
Jovie Pollock

3/13 Leslie Mounts
Ellen Jones

3/14 Ceci Staas
Johnse Breese
Lillian Laukhuf

3/16 Gina Say
Jamie Wehage
Melissa Snyder

3/17 Ella Butler
Brianna Bebout
Etta Schaffner

3/18 Janet Kreisler

3/19 Dillon Staas V

3/20 Hannah Bouillon
Matt Bockrath
Hatti Bouillon
Lindy Schwab
Dan Bulau
Ruth Ann Boley

3/21 Marlee Pierce
Chris Farmer
Matt Proctor

3/22 LJ Compton, Jr.
Tristan Taylor
Dave Mathew

3/23 Casey McConahay
Mandy Burenga
Clara Compton

3/27 Renee Staas

3/29 Eric McCracken
Natasha Breese

3/30 Jeanne Zeigler
Damon McCracken

3/31 Judy Krites

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

3/2 Aryn & Matt Proctor

3/5 April & Kyle VanHousen

3/6 Sandy & David Knight

3/9 Verona & Terry Eikenbary

3/10 Martha & Louis Balyeat

3/25 Merle
& Romaine Whetstone



Help God's Love Take Flight! Bishop Palmer, the West Ohio Conference Office of Connectional Ministries, and the UMFOW invite you to show your love for Wings of the Morning through a special urgent appeal.

Due to supply chain issues and government paperwork delays, the much-loved Cessna aircraft provided by West Ohio to the North Katanga Conference Wings of the Morning ministry has been unexpectedly grounded for nearly 6 months awaiting necessary repairs. This means there have been no flights to the remote locations that the ministry serves in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) – no emergency medications or supplies getting in, no emergency medical evacuations getting out, and no corporate sponsors helping to offset operating costs. Although the costs for the major maintenance are covered thanks in part to the Wings of the Morning Endowment Fund, operating reserves are now depleted, and staff may need to be laid off. We can make a difference and help lighten the load for missionaries Jeanne and Gaston Ntambo!



Just \$20,000 would help cover immediate needs for operational support including staff salaries, airplane documentation fees, hanger fees, and fuel costs – all necessary costs for getting the ministry back up and flying this spring, just in time for the rainy season in the DRC. You can help!

As an individual donor: Send your tax-deductible gift via check to the UMFOW, 32 Wesley Blvd, Worthington, OH 43085 with the following information in the memo line: **NKWOTM Advance # 08597A.**

Locally, remember that our Lenten mission outreach will be to make kits for Festival of Sharing. See information at either church entrance starting in Lent.



Preschool enrollment is beginning. We are having an Open House on March 9 from 6:00-7:30. Parent Teacher-Conferences are March 15th and 6th. We are looking forward to sharing the student's progress with the parents.

Food Pantry items needed for March CEREALS
Boxed or Bagged

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.

NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

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

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

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

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

SHUT-INS
Laverna Faszler,
Jay Simson, Bill Wermer

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

DEFIANCE MEMORY CARE - Francis Sroufe

PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE
Thursday, March 9th
6:00 to 7:30pm

- Meet the teachers
- Tour the classrooms
- Learn about our curriculum
- Register for the 2023-2024 school year

Can't make it? Call Administrator Marilyn Agler at 419-238-0631 ext. 308 to schedule a tour or register online at www.fumpreschool.com

YOUTH GROUP

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

Numbers include BOTH Inhouse Worship & online website viewers.

January Attendance Report
8:15 - 161 10:45 - 845

Year To Date All Sanctuary Services including online viewing
1121

Year To Date Average - All Services including online viewing
112

Palm Sunday
April 2
2023

Join us at
8:15 or 10:45am
IN HOUSE or ONLINE

First UM Church
113 W Central Avenue
Van Wert, OH

www.vanwertfirst.net

Lent Mission Offering is festival of sharing kits.

- KITS & GOALS -

School kits - 30 Hygiene kits - 50 Period Packs - 20 Cleanup buckets - 40

We are collecting made up kits for all kits except the clean up buckets, we are accepting financial donations for them. Small groups, families and individuals are encouraged to make some kits for this Lenten mission of First Church and help us reach our goals.



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.
Contact Jim Covey for more information: 419/203-3482

Along with great analysis and exchanges of ideas, the Seekers also dedicate time in rotation to Bread and Bowl preparations.



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

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 - March Focus:
The Boaz Project: Maggie Cripe

GLOBAL CONCERNS - March Focus:
Local drug problem / Westwood Behavioral / Angel Intervention / Ridgeview Behavioral / ORC (Ohio Recovery Center).

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - March Focus: First Church Mission in Van Wert & Church Staff / Volunteers: Food Pantry / Bread & Bowl