

April PREACHING SCHEDULE

SERIES: Empty & Filled

April 2, 2023
Sixth Sunday of Lent/Palm Sunday
When Christ Comes to Town
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21:1-11

April 6, 2023
Maundy Thursday
What I Don't Know
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; John 13:18-32

April 7, 2023
Good Friday
Crucified
Psalm 22
John 18:1-19:42 (select verses)
Galatians 2:20-24

April 9, 2023
Resurrection (Easter) Sunday
Filled with New Life
Psalm 98; Matthew 28:1-10

SERIES: Who We Are

April 16, 2023
speaker: Rev. Dillon Staas III
We are God's Chosen
1 Peter 1:1-12

April 23, 2023
We are to become Holy
1 Peter 1:13-2:3

April 30, 2023
ONE SERVICE AT 10:30AM
speaker: Rev. Matt Overman
pastor of Children & Family Ministries
Grand Lakes United Methodist Church
We are God's Precious Possession
1 Peter 2:4-10

FIRST CHURCH
OFFICE hours
MONDAY – THURSDAY 8:30-1:30
FRIDAY 8:30-12:00

IN THE CHURCH FAMILY

DEATHS:

Nancy Farmer March 1, 2023
Rick Schilb March 22, 2023

BIRTH:

Theodore Chauncey
Hight Burchfield
February 22, 2023

parents: Will & Allison Hight Burchfield

grandparents:

Marty & Susan Burchfield



Festival of Sharing UPDATE:



KIT & GOAL AMOUNTS

Goal	Received
50 School	9
50 Health	13
25 Period Packs	7
30 Buckets	9

Continue to help us reach our goals!

April Library News:

Once again, you'll be reading the books first. Hoping you'll enjoy a Firefighter's Romance, Mother Daughter relationships, another trip to Sea Haven, NC, a meddling granddaughter and two Historical Fiction books. Let me know what you think of them. Happy Reading!

Romaine



Take Stock in Our Youth

The youth group is going on their summer mission trip to the Dominican Republic June 21-28.

This trip costs \$1,800 per person. We are offering stock for our youth group!

1 share of stock equals \$50
2 shares of stock equals \$100 etc.

You will be able to buy stock on the following Sunday's - April 23 & 30th.

What you will get for your stock:

to support our youth - a stock certificate
an invitation to stockholders meeting - July 23rd
Desserts / Drinks
(The students will present their trip stories)

Please support our students and their mission work.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Sarah Circle/Soul Friends will meet Monday, April 10 & April 24 at 5:30.

The Women's Ministry Good Friday bake sale will be Friday, April 7th at the Van Wert County Courthouse from 8:00-11:30. Baked goods can be dropped off at the church by Thursday, April 6th at 3:00 or to the courthouse by 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. Proceeds will benefit local mission projects.

The Women's Ministry team thanks you for your support.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR...



Flower Sale

benefitting the Youth Mission Trip

Pickup will be **May 2nd** at the VW County Fairgrounds.

CASH & CARRY WILL BE AVAILABLE

Financial Report - 2/28/2023

February Income	\$63,419.24
February Expense	\$57,659.42
Income over Expense	\$ 5,759.82

Year to Date:

Income	\$119,621.08
Expense	\$118,799.11
Income over Expense	\$ 821.97



BREAKFAST

@First Church

Sunday, April 9
9:20-10:30 am

Services @8:15 & 10:45 am

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Easter Egg Hunt @10:00 am

Join Us!

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

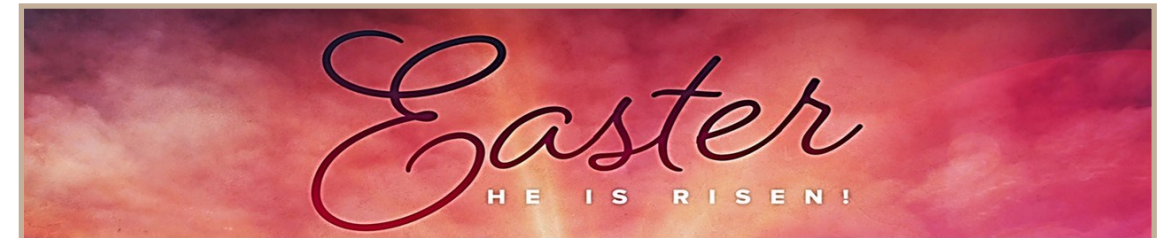
We invite God to do His life-changing work through us over the next five years!

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

8:15am - Casual Service

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

APRIL 2023



Palm Sunday April 2nd

Services at 8:15 and 10:45am

Children will process with palm leaves at both services

Potato bar fundraiser at 11:30am

Maundy Thursday April 6th

Partnership with Friends Church to celebrate Christ in the Passover 6:30pm

SOLD OUT!

Good Friday April 7th

Bake sale beginning at 8:00am at Courthouse

PROCESSION OF THE CROSS FROM THE YWCA @11:45am

Community worship service at 12:05pm

Easter Sunday April 9th

Services at 8:15 and 10:45am

No Sunday School

Breakfast served at 9:20am

Easter egg hunt in the park for children at 10:00am

FIRST united
methodist CHURCH
113 West Central Avenue | Van Wert, Ohio 43891 | 419-238-0631 | vanwertfirst.net

welcome



JODY LICHTENBERGER is our new Administrative Assistant

Jody grew up on a dairy farm in Van Wert, married and moved away for 30+ years. After returning here three years ago, she has gotten involved in First UMC choir and handbells, the Inspiritu singing group, 4-H Council and Crestview Bible House. She's married to Brad, has two daughters and four grandchildren. Outside of the office, you'll find her doing puzzles, baking goodies and spending time with her family. "God puts you where you need to be when you need to be there. I'm thrilled to be working in the office as your administrative assistant and looking forward to meeting each of you. Please stop by and say hello."



Special Offering...for April
Easter

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 4/1 Kent Hughes
Sherri Poling | 4/13 Jacob Brake
Sue Young | 4/22 Deborah Kelly
Michele Mendenhall |
| 4/2 Addison Breese
Cassandra Clark | 4/14 Betty Bumbalough
Marty Burchfield
Joy McCleery | 4/24 Mona Scheidt
Sarah Wells
Dyann Ricca
Langston Wright |
| 4/4 Meah Johnson
Carol Cavanaugh
Melissa Bockrath | 4/15 Dave Thompson | 4/25 Debbie Jones
Cindy DuVall |
| 4/5 Gloria Wendel | 4/17 Scott Farmer
Ali Jackson
Owen Treece | 4/27 Toby Thomas |
| 4/6 Michael Wise | 4/18 Josie Ann Dettrow
Larry Taylor | 4/28 Dale Butler |
| 4/7 Marylou Smith
Traci Carter | 4/19 Ruth Ann Dowler
Ryan Chen | 4/29 Harvey McMillen |
| 4/8 Ansley Schwab
Brooke Gearhart
Jamie Burenga
Steven Mendenhall | 4/20 Becky Wells | 4/30 Ryan McCracken
Trina Steen
Tony Wright |
| 4/9 Carly Bebout | 4/21 Elijah Wortman
Rachael Dettrow | |
| 4/10 Lillie Best | | |
| 4/11 Dick Atwood | | |



April 2023

Middle School / High School SCHEDULE

- April 2 - Potato Bar
- April 9 - NO YOUTH Easter Break
- April 16 - Regular Meeting
- April 23 - Regular Meeting
- April 30 - Youth Sunday

First United Methodist Church Preschool presents a FREE family concert featuring...

SLUGS & BUGS
SUNDAY, 3:00pm
APRIL 16



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 4/3 Ned & Cindy Compton
- 4/15 Cristi & Jeremy Laukhuf
- 4/21 Debby & Luke Compton
- 4/27 Judi & Jim Loughrie
- 4/30 Ella & Jeremy Stoller
Dave & Kimberly Clouse

Easter Egg Hunt in the Park



after the congregation breakfast.

Come dressed for being outdoors!

SUNDAY, APRIL 9



Volunteers are needed. At least eight! Contact Cristi to help.

The Mission Committee invites you to help us meet our goals for the Festival of Sharing Lenten project. By Easter Sunday, we'd like to collect 50 each hygiene and school kits, money for 30 buckets and 25 period packs. See display table outside the church office.

This month I invite you to pray for one of our ministry partners, Maggie Cripe. Maggie grew up in Van Wert and attended our Mustard Seeds program. Maggie is the Digital Media Specialist for the Boaz Project. The Boaz Project works with existing orphanages in Russia, India and Kenya to finance care, medical services and bring the word of Jesus to orphans. As Digital Media Specialist, Maggie covers every aspect pertaining to creative digital media including website design, operating our social media platforms, and her largest passion – creating impactful films. Learn more at boazproject.org.

As an update, the H₂O Mentoring project (Hope 2 Others), which is a partnership between First Church and Van Wert Middle School, now has 22 mentors working with 22 at-risk middle school students. We are always looking for more mentors for next fall. The commitment is 45 minutes per week of time spent with your student during the school day (various times available). Call Teresa Shaffer to volunteer - 419/238-0631 ext. 307 or email teresa.shaffer@vanwertfirst.net.



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

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
10731 Ohio-118, Rockford, OH 45882
Dorothy Sunderland - Room 113

DEFIANCE MEMORY CARE - Francis Sroufe

Numbers include BOTH Inhouse Worship & online website viewers.

February Attendance Report

8:15 - 249 10:45 - 709

Year To Date All Sanctuary Services including online viewing
1964

Year To Date Average - All Services including online viewing
120



We had a successful Preschool Open House with several families attending. We appreciated their positive comments. Our Parent-Teacher conferences are next on our calendar. We are excited to share with the parents the amazing progress their children are making. We are accepting students for the 2023-2024 school year. If you know anyone looking for a quality preschool, enrollment forms are available in the church office, online on the church website or by emailing marilyn.agler@vanwertfirst.net.

Graduation Sunday

May 21, 2023 **2023**

Information is needed to complete graduation arrangements.

Please contact Sierra Shaffer at sierra.shaffer@vanwertfirst.net ASAP!

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



Food Pantry items needed for April
CLEANING ITEMS
Detergent, Dish Soap

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 / SOUL FRIENDS

Do you love to study God's Word? Energetic, fun and vibrant conversation? Well - Sarah / Soul Friends women's group may be the small group for you!



Meetings are hosted by Teresa Shaffer - 2nd & 4th Mondays
5:30pm meal / 6:00pm study

If this sounds like the group for you, contact the office at (419) 238-0631.

First Church Prayer Requests

HEALTH CONCERNS:

- Tony Alessandrini, *Health*
- Sandra Anderson, *Parkinsons*
- Barry Crone, *Health*
- Jim Davis, *Health*
- Aiden Ellerbrock, *Rehab*
- Steve Gehres, *Health*
- Paula Goins, *Multiple-sclerosis*
- Fred Hartwig, *Health*
- Bella Hurless, *CP/Rehab*
- Linda Jeknavorian, *Health*
- Daniel Proctor, *Health*
- Kenzie Ray, *Rehab*
- 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 1824 Rocky Glen Drive Frederick, MD 21702
- 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 - April Focus:

Mission of Hope

GLOBAL CONCERNS - April Focus:

Agape Ministry / Homeless & Poor and those working with them.

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH -

April Focus: First Church Mission in Van Wert & Church Staff / Children's Ministry