

# September PREACHING SCHEDULE

## SERIES:

*A Messenger  
with the Message*

September 3, 2023

*Gaining Strength and Acceptance*  
Acts 9:19-31

September 10, 2023

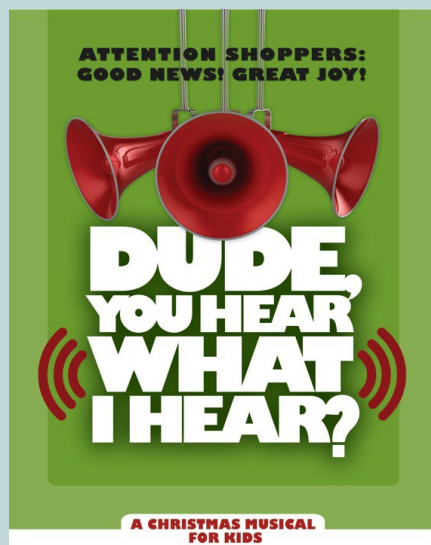
*Set Apart and Sent Out*  
Acts 11:19-30, Acts 13:1-3

September 17, 2023

*Dealing with Distractions*  
Acts 13: 4-12

September 24, 2023

*An Encouraging Message*  
Acts 13:13-52



Christmas Musical  
Music and Audition Information  
available Sunday, Sept. 24th  
Rehearsal to start Oct, 4th  
Contact Chris Gordon for more info

September Library News:  
*Children of the Stars, The Gold Digger* and *Protecting Tanner Hollow* were all so hard to put down. Looking forward to reading *The Keys to Grammercy, Passages of Hope and Beneath a Golden Veil*. If they are as good as the first three I'll get even "behinder" with my housework. Enjoy reading this month!

**LIBRARY News**  
Romaine

PROJECT  
**216**  
FIGHT HUNGER. GIVE HOPE.



They need teachers, assistants, and a tech crew.

Please see Cristi Laukhuf if you are interested.

This years event will be held on October 7th at the Geodde Building on Crawford St.

rightnow MEDIA

Contact the office to sign up TODAY!  
firstchurch@vanwertfirst.net  
or 419/238-0631

Special Offering  
for September  
*Blanket Sunday*

### Financial Report – 07-31-2023

July Contributions	\$ 40,105.00
July Expense	- \$ 45,052.00
Income over Expense	\$ 4,902.00
YTD Contributions	\$370,796.00
YTD Expenses	-\$356,439.00
Income over Expense	\$ 14,357.00

### IN THE CHURCH FAMILY

#### DEATH:

Jack L. Frysinger Jr.  
August 29, 2023  
Charles "Fred" Hartwig  
September 3, 2023

### Looking for Teachers

First church, we are in need of Sunday School teachers for the Middle School group. If anyone is interested or have any questions please see Teresa at the Take 5 Cart.



*Third Grade Bible Presentation*

SEPTEMBER 10  
10:15 service

FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH  
113 w central ave van wert ohio

Thank you for caring for others!

FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
**Food Pantry**

September is SOUP Month

Chicken noodle, tomato, cream of chicken, vegetable beef, cream of mushroom

Please place your donations in baskets located at either entrance.

You may sponsor one of our youth or join the walk with us!

**WALK FOR LIFE 2023  
PLC HEALTH CLINIC**

Sunday, September 17

FRANKLIN PARK  
Walnut Street, Van Wert, OH  
1:30 registration  
2:00 walk

### Festival of Sharing Kits

Drop off  
**BEFORE**  
September 22th!



# FIRST united methodist CHURCH

113 W Central Avenue, Van Wert, OH 45891

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

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship Service

## SEPTEMBER 2023



**BOX CITY  
Haven of Hope  
Fundraiser**  
September 9<sup>th</sup> 2023

### Operation Back to School 2023!

Preschool - 8th grade event was held July 30th from 3-5pm in Fountain park. We served over 800 Students which was approximately 500 families. As always the students got to choose their book bag, received school supply packs and a hygiene bag. There were 22 business/agency partners that gave out resource information and other supplies such as earbuds, pencils, dental hygiene packs, backpack tags and more.

The day was a success and we had over 150 volunteers that came out before, to pack supplies, and during the event to help set up, work the event and tear down. We are so thankful to "YOU," our congregation, and to our community for the financial donations and the hard work to again pull off an amazing God filled event that helps our families in Van Wert but more importantly shows the Love of Jesus to all who attended! This year was the first year we had a prayer tent! We had 4 churches help in the booth. We offered prayer to anyone needing it. We gave away prayer crosses and a flyer with the partner churches information to help families find a church to attend. This tent was a hit and those that worked it said we need to do it again, it will be a new tradition!

The High School event was held August 23 from 2:30-6pm at the Goedde Gym. We served over 85 students. They came into the gym to choose a backpack and the school supplies they wanted. They also received a hygiene bag and hotdog meal. This was a time for our volunteers to chat with the students and build some relationships.



If you have never been a part of this event, I encourage you to join the fun next year.



**8th Annual  
2023**

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/1 Phyllis Thatcher  
 9/3 MaryAnn Falk  
 9/5 Easton Dunlap  
 9/6 Sandy Kalb  
 Lonnie Nedderman  
 9/7 Melody McCracken  
 McKaylyn Fox  
 9/8 Alexa Dunlap  
 Courtney Wendel  
 9/9 Ryleigh Hanicq  
 Jan Slagle  
 Anna Stoller  
 9/11 Anjie Hanicq  
 9/14 Ashlynn Shaffer  
 9/16 Jim Snyder  
 Clara Kelly  
 Cayden Laukhuf

9/17 Noah Spath  
 Scott Steen  
 9/18 Cindy Compton  
 9/19 Nancy Kelly  
 9/20 Jody Lichtenberger  
 9/21 Richard Perry  
 9/22 Michael Germann  
 Cody Hughes  
 John Slagle  
 9/23 April Ellerbrock  
 Logan Taylor  
 Ronan Shartzter  
 9/24 Adam Wehage  
 9/25 Joe Falk  
 9/26 Sandra Anderson  
 Pastor Christian Taylor  
 9/27 Bruce Dowler  
 Henry Schaffner  
 9/28 Rebecca Strickler

9/29 Melody Taylor

## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

9/10 Ron & Brenda Allison  
 9/12 Gloria & Larry Wendel  
 David & Carol Sanders  
 9/16 Melissa & Matt Bockrath  
 9/18 Jean & Dan Bulau  
 9/20 Jamie & Adam Wehage  
 9/21 Trina & Scott Steen  
 Cheryl & Jeff Kopp  
 9/22 Janet & Jerry Bolton  
 9/23 Marsha & Brad Owens  
 9/26 Ed & Vicki Stevens  
 9/27 Karlin & Alexis Dunlap  
 9/29 Stacy & Brett Strick  
 9/30 Lynn & Jay Simson

*Thank You*  
 Thank you to each one of you who helped me celebrate my birthday. I am so wonderfully blessed to be a member of this body of believers in Jesus Christ.  
 Eleanor Souders



## Your FAITH IN ACTION @ First Church

Service Opportunities at First United Methodist Church

First Church has been busy! I'm still praising God about Operation Back to School and the over 800 students we served with 150 volunteers and great involvement from the community and other churches. Ignite Van Wert had 6 FUMC members work and many projects done for local homeowners. We also provided 20 dozen cookies for hungry Ignite Volunteers! Now to highlight what is coming up: September 9 is Night in the Park: Box City. There are lots of ways to help - contact Sierra or Teresa Shaffer to find out more. If you just want to attend that night to learn more about homelessness in Van Wert, it is a public event from 6-9 p.m. and there will be lots of fun and ways to support Haven of Hope. The Pregnancy Life Center Walk for Life is September 17, 1:30 registration, 2:00 walk. Everyone is encouraged to walk, or support a youth who is walking. We are moving 5th Quarter to a pre-game Cougar Huddle. If the late hour was keeping you from helping with that event, we've fixed that problem. The Cougar Huddle will be from 4:30-6:30 and have games and food for middle and high schoolers. Save the date for Project 216, October 7 at the Goedde building. Finally, we need more MENTORS for our H2O (Hope 2 Others) mentoring program with VWMS. The program was wildly successful last year and most mentors are following their students to the high school to continue the relationship. Therefore, we need a new crop of mentors willing to donate about 30-45 minutes per week to a middle school student. This happens during the school day. Contact Teresa Shaffer for more information.

## PRESCHOOL

The Preschool Open House was August 10. We had several families tour our facilities. The teachers are getting their classrooms ready for the new school year. Currently we have 32 students registered to begin on September 6. Please feel free to make a trip upstairs to see the new carpet, paint and renovated teacher's workroom. We were fortunate to have a grant awarded to us to pay for these things. Thank you for your continued support of Preschool

### 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          Betty Vogt</p> <p><b>SHUT-INS</b>          Laverna Faszler, Roy &amp; Linda Jeknovorian          Donn &amp; June Shriver, Jay Simson, Bill Wermer</p> <p><b>DIVINE NURSING &amp; REHAB @the LAURELS OF SHANE HILL</b> 10731 Ohio-118, Rockford, OH 45882          Dorothy Sunderland - Room 113</p>	<p><b>HEARTH AND HOME</b>          1118 Westwood Drive, Van Wert, OH 45891          Wendy Howell</p> <p><b>HOMESTEAD AT TOWNE CENTER</b>          240 Towne Center Boulevard, Van Wert, OH 45891          Sandy Gordon, Delores Keysor,          Dave Leiendecker, Marilyn Miller,          Jan Osburn, Juanita &amp; Tom Wise</p> <p><b>DEFIANCE MEMORY CARE - Francis Sroufe</b></p>
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Numbers include BOTH Inhouse Worship & online website viewers.

**July Attendance Report**  
 9:30am - 1186

**Year To Date All Sanctuary Services**  
 7025

**Year To Date Average - All Services**  
 (including online viewing) - 124

**Every Wednesday at 5pm**  
**beginning September 13**

Join us in the basement dining hall. A complete meal is served for \$5.00 per person and \$10.00 per family. Relax and recharge mid-week and touch base with family and friends.

**Sign Up Today!**

## Greetings, brothers and sisters in Christ,

It is a tough season for Christians everywhere. The enemy is rampant in our communities, and discord is all around. Our schools are not the safe havens they used to be, and we see our young people dealing with more stress and mental health concerns than ever before. Parents aren't talking to their children much, and many feel they cannot communicate with their increasingly technologically dependent kids. The family unit is suffering, and to add insult to injury, prices are increasing while wages stagnate. We must do something to save our communities, families, and children. As Christians, we are not exempt from the challenges. Remember Paul's words this season: "What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us (Romans 8:31)?"

We are not alone in the struggle for sanctification. Again, Paul says, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them (Ephesians 2:10)." Yes, Paul says we. That includes all of the saints, soon-to-be, and backslidden. As we press forward, let us resist the devil, praise God in all circumstances and watch the enemy flee from us. The church is so much stronger than we realize. Let's talk with one another and gain strength for our journey together. I love you, and I'll see you at the narrow gate.

Pastor Christian

## PRAYER TEAM

The prayer team gathers to pray for the needs and concerns of the FUMC family, local community and the world.



The contact is  
 Gloria Wendel  
 @ 419/513-1097.

This group meets weekly on Tuesdays at 10:30am in the Conference Room.



# First Church Prayer Requests

## HEALTH CONCERNS:

Tony Alessandrini, *Health*  
 Sandra Anderson, *Parkinsons*  
 Jim Davis, *Health*  
 Aiden Ellerbrock, *Rehab*  
 Steve Gehres, *Health*  
 Paula Goins, *Multiple-sclerosis*  
 Bella Hurlless, *CP/Rehab*  
 Linda Jeknovorian, *Health*  
 Daniel Proctor, *Health*  
 Kenzie Ray, *Rehab*  
 Bob Say, *Stiff person disease*  
 Donn Shriver, *Health*  
 Rebecca Strickler, *Health*  
 Dorothy Sunderland, *Dementia*  
 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 - September Focus:**  
 The Boaz Project / Maggie Cripe

**GLOBAL CONCERNS -**  
**September Focus:** International unrest and refugees

**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH -**  
**September Focus:** First Church Mission in Van Wert & Church Staff / Small group leaders / National awareness month