

This
righteousness
is given through
faith *in*
Jesus Christ
to all who **BELIEVE.**

ROMANS 3:22, NIV



August Pews News

First United Methodist Church of Vandalia:
“Planting and nurturing seeds of faith, cultivating devoted disciples of Christ, and feeding souls for the glory of God”



Preschool resumes Monday, August 18th. We pray that Miss Morgan, Miss Sue, Miss Sarah, Miss Madeline and all of our students have a wonderful school year!

We Need The Following:

Everything!

6:35
PANTRY

You may drop your donations off in the Fireplace Room.

Church Staff

Pastor: Curtis Flake: rev.cflake@gmail.com, 217-273-4432
Administrative Assistants: Sue Miller & Megan Kern
Church email: vandaliafumc@outlook.com
Director of Choirs: Taryn Flake: taryn.a.flake@gmail.com
Director of Young Children's Ministries:
Preschool Director: Morgan Tessman
Custodian: Andy Sidwell
Family Center Custodian: Rich Well
Praise Team Director: Sarah Vu

august

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Contact us:

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Nursing Home Residents & Shut-ins: <u>Brookstone</u> (1607 W. Fillmore) Pete & Retha Burnam (Apt 41); Frank Roeder (Apt. 25); Jean Stombaugh (Apt. 32); Herb & Mary Woolsey (Apt. 32) <u>FCH/Long Term Care</u> (650 West Taylor) Arlene Hoffman (Rm. 510); Sharon Lee; Deb Endres (Rm.708); Margaret Carroll; Larry Peyton (Rm.405) <u>Meridian Village Assisted Living</u> (27 Auerbach Place, Glen Carbon, IL 62034) Diane Adams	<u>Stillwater Senior Living</u> (1111 University Dr. Edwardsville, IL 62025) Patty Bohner (temp. address is: 3402 Anderson Healthcare Dr, Edwardsville) <u>Willowbrook</u> (1124 Sunset Dr, Vandalia, IL 62471) Edith Knebel <u>Shut-Ins:</u> (2625 W. Jefferson St., Vandalia) Mike Beckett
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Diane Adams (struggling with health concerns) Barb Ambuehl (Patty Donaldson's mother, recovering from surgery & doing well) Marti Bingham (Patti Craycroft's step-mother, recovering from surgery for a brain tumor) Bill Blythe (Wendy Blythe's husband, suffered a heart attack) Patti Bohner (recuperating from surgery) Bob Buzzard (friend of Charlene Jett, had a very bad side by side accident) Christopher Clark (friend of Kathy Taylor's family, uncle is a match, preparing for kidney transplant) Sara Clark (health concerns) Ava Cooper (10 year old neighbor of Candy Zeman, Yea....she's home!) Shirley Crowe (friend of Michelle Metzger, diagnosed with stage 4 carcinoma) Scott Dolejs (Carole White's grandson, going to the Congo for 2 weeks to perform surgeries) Shirley Frick (needs prayers) Willard Fulk (health concerns) Ginger Hamilton (cancer treatments) Gene Hicks (friend of Mark Miller, health concerns) Jack Huth (Donna Taylor's son-in-law (Beth's husband), throat cancer) Bob & Joy Kloster (both recovering from falls) Ray Kramer (recovering from compressed spinal fracture due to a fall) Carson LaDage (Graduated/still needs prayers)	Kirk Langham friend of Kathy Taylor's, radiation has been paused for heart surgery) Austin Long , (major complications following surgery) Jason Mouser (recovering from stroke at home) David Rademacher (diagnosed with chronic lymphocytic leukemia) Kevin Roberts (Steve & Sandy Stombaugh's nephew & Sue Schwarm's son-in-law, tests & pain management) Sydney Rosborough (diagnosed with TOS) Kathy Schaal (friend of Carolyn Daniels, major health issues) Jenna Schneider (Drew & Sherry's daughter in law, recovering from hip replacement) Lana Sefton (stage 4 breast cancer) Arlen Sidwell (Andy's mom, health issues) Anna Syniuk (Zoryana's mother, suffered a stroke) Donna Taylor (recovering from a brain bleed) Heather (Jones) Thompson (breast cancer) Les Vaughan (Lakeland Rehab) Mike Wehrle (recovering from a heart attack & stroke, at home) Jeff Williams (BJ & Sharon Mueller's son in law, lung cancer) Ken Williams (health concerns & strength for Peg as his caregiver) Hudson Winters (diagnosed with LCH) Kennidee Yarbrough (Charlene Jett's Niece, unexplained illness)
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August



4—Hannah Konrad
Darrin Lurkins
5—Carter Burnam
Bob Kloster
John Zimmer
7—Peg Clark
Megan Kern
Larry Peyton
9—Carrie Casey
10—Drew Schneider
11—Parker Clark
Nash Grapperhaus
13—Beth Kern
16—Bud Zimmer
17—Carla Knebel
Anna Miller
Sue Roberts
18—Bradyn Kaiser
19—Kent Kistler
Amanda Milam
20—Ted Koonce
22—Clayton Gathe
23—Joe Cearlock
Miranda Meyer
24—Joy Kloster
Amy Vieregge
26—Darrel Casey
29—John Blythe
Kelly Jones
30—Payton Gathe

Acolytes

3— Hannah Stombaugh
10— Harper Burnam
17— Ameila Moulton
24— Trevor Clark
31— Brayden Stombaugh

2—David & Angie Dugan
4—Carl & Lisa Shreve
5—John & Ellie Doyle
10—John & Jody Burnam
11—Glen & Carolyn Daniels
12—Mike & Mary Fulton
14—Joe & Dawn Rosborough
15—Gene & Ann Schwarm
17—Jeff & Deb Endres
19—Jack & Jan Johnston
21—Rich & Kim Well
23—Travis & Kelly Clark
28—Dave & Amanda Milam
31—Bruce & Lea Ann Rubin

Video Tech

Josh Moulton

Sound Tech

Patrick Myers

Offering Collectors

3— John Burnam
10— Gene Schwarm
17— Barb Paine
24— Jeff Endres
31— Barb Paine

Bus Ministry

3 **Driver:** Ed Taylor
Rider: Kim Taylor
Greeter:

10 **Driver:** Bill Warner
Rider: Kim Warner
Greeter: Sandy Stombaugh

17 **Driver:** Max Durbin
Rider: Deb Durbin
Greeter:

24 **Driver:** Ed Taylor
Rider: Kim Taylor
Greeter: Sandy Stombaugh

31 **Driver:** Bill Warner
Rider: Kim Warner
Greeter:

Ushers

3— JD Vieregge & Josh Figgins
10- JD Vieregge & Rand Craycroft
17- JD Vieregge & Jacy Fulk
24- JD Vieregge & Greg Fulk
31- JD Vieregge & Max Durbin

Liturgist

Barb McCart

Greeters

3— Kelly Clark & Barb McCart
10— Dave & Judy Roberts
17— Carolyn Daniels
24— Max & Deb Durbin
31— Kelly Clark & Barb McCart

A Vision Bigger than Reality

It's an exciting time at Vandalia First United Methodist Church! Over the past month, many in our congregation have gathered to dream about what we're doing — and what we can do — to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ right here where we are planted. This season of dreaming has grown out of many things: leaders who have helped set the stage, church members who care deeply, and a shared sense that God is moving among us — giving hope, building momentum, and pointing us forward.

Right now, we're prayerfully working through all the wonderful ideas that have been shared, discerning which ones are the best fit for this moment with the resources we have. Which brings me to our next step: sometime in the next month, we'll share a Time and Talents Survey. We're asking everyone in our church household to complete it. This survey will help us — over the next year — to discover, nurture, and disciple one another as we move forward in sharing the Gospel both in our church and in our community.

The survey will cover everything from participation in Sunday worship to prayer ministries, from committee work to a wide variety of other volunteer opportunities. In my mind, it may be one of the most important things we'll ever ask you to fill out — because we simply won't know what gifts and resources God has placed in this church until you tell us.

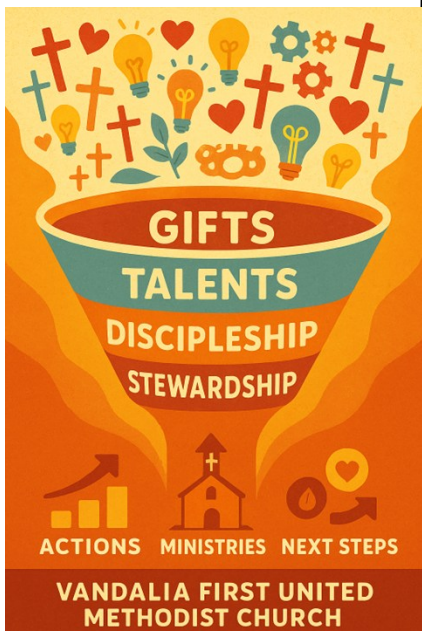
Of course, visioning can feel a little scary. A real vision is always bigger than our current reality. If it isn't, it's just a report — not a picture of what could be. And once a vision is achieved, it becomes the launching pad for the next one.

Sure, some of our ideas might fall flat. We won't know unless we try. And even if something doesn't work, we will have learned something about ourselves — and about how God is calling us to share Jesus.

During our visioning gatherings, we likened our work to a funnel. Right now, we're still at the wide end. We've gathered nearly 40 ideas — many overlapping — and nearly 50 people participated in the conversation. The hope is that whenever an idea is shared, the person sharing it is also willing to take part in making it happen. That's part of what makes this such an exciting time for Vandalia First UMC — and why learning more about how people want to be part of our ministry really matters.

So, be excited — God is doing big things here. Be active — when you see the Time and Talents Survey, take the time to fill it out as God leads you. And stay tuned — we'll continue to share both new and familiar opportunities to take part in God's mission and vision, right here where we're planted. Our timeline is still to launch something on September 1st.

Pastor Curtis



Backpack 2 School

First United Methodist Church
Family Center
4th & Main St.
Vandalia, IL

Wednesday, August 6, 2025
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.



- One backpack per student
- The student must be present to receive a backpack.
- All students through eighth grade must be accompanied by an adult. *(Senior High students may come alone.)*



Take your backpack to St. James Lutheran Church during Tools for School to receive free school supplies.

Aug. 6—4pm-7pm
Aug. 7—10am-5pm
Aug. 8—10am-5pm
Aug. 9—9am-11am



On Wednesday, August 6th, we will be hosting our annual Backpack 2 School event from 4pm to 6pm at the Family Center.

Tools for School will be held at St. James Lutheran Church on August 6th (4pm-7pm), August 7th (10am-5pm), August 8th (10am-5pm), and August 9th (9am-11am).

Workday & setup will be pm August 4th at 3:00pm. Volunteers welcome!

A huge thank you to everyone that has donated financially or by donation of school supplies, undies and/or socks. This church is blessed to have such a caring and generous congregation!

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

AUGUST 10, 2025

Back to school can be a fun, scary, wonderful, and tough time for students as well as educators. Join us for a special time of prayer during our morning worship service on Sunday, August 10th.

This isn't limited to students and school employees! Everyone is encouraged to bring in their backpacks/work bags to the service to be blessed.



Laity-

We would like to thank EVERYONE that attended our Wednesday roundtable discussions. We feel like sharing together is the only way for us to move forward with an effective plan for this coming year. We were able to put together a list of 35+ ideas that can be used this year and in the future. We are working on a tight schedule for starting implementation, and we will continue to need your help throughout August.

The first piece that we will be starting September 1st is a church bible reading plan. We are introducing the "30-Day Gospel Challenge" for the month of September. This is an optional opportunity for the congregation to read Matthew, Mark, Luke and John in a 30 day period. This could be a refresher for those that have done a bible reading plan in the past, or could be a new beginning of bible focus for those that are looking to add scripture reading to their daily routine in their spiritual growth journey.

As we move into the new school year, we are excited for the possibilities of enhanced opportunities for our church. It will take ALL OF US to help in some way during this process and we have had a GREAT start with the turnout for the roundtables.

Thank you all for your support.

IGRC Laity Representatives – Gene Schwarm & Rich Well

Coming in September—The 30-Day Gospel Challenge— Why Join?

On the heels of our successful Laity Roundtable discussions, we have decided to do a kickoff in September with a 30 day Gospel Challenge. We have more plans in store but it is a goal to have a church family immersed in prayer and scripture. More information is in the following paragraphs. However, we wanted to give you a month to prepare or get excited about the new opportunities to grow together at First United Methodist Church of Vandalia.

Have you ever faced a dilemma, decision or simply an issue about which you were confused? You prayed. Then you questioned whether the voice you heard in your own mind was the voice of God pointing you in a direction or whether it was your voice giving back to you your own wishful thinking. This is precisely why this church is taking on the 30-day Gospel Challenge – to make disciples of all of us who can discern the will of God for our own lives. It's been said "We speak to God when we pray. God speaks to us when we read scripture."

How does one start? Well, just start. Bruce Wilkenson, a famous theologian and author of The Prayer of Jabaz and Secrets of the Vine, confessed that even he has difficulty sometimes deciding to read the Bible. He compared the Bible to chocolate. Take the first bite and you will want to eat the entire bag. True for chocolate and true for the Bible. Just read day 1 and see what happens next.

Who should take the challenge? All of us who can read! Young, old and everyone in between.

Which version of the Bible should I choose to use? There are so many! The answer...any version that works for you. NIV, NLT, The Message, King James, Revised Standard or any variation of these or others could be your choice. Maybe you'd prefer to listen rather than read. There's an app for that, or a set of CDs with famous voices (Michael W. Smith, James Early Jones, others) reading the passages. Regarding apps, the Hallow app often offers a free subscription for 30 days or more and includes a 30-day Gospel Challenge on the app. Just Google Hallow or look on Instagram for the free offer. Young readers can join in by reading or having read to them the great Bible stories found in the Gospels.

When should I read? Whenever works best for you. Early morning, not so early morning, before bedtime, over the lunch hour, listening while driving to work or while doing errands. Daily is best because you get just the right amount of scripture to ponder for that day. Don't despair if you fall behind. You can catch up. Perhaps you have a busy next day and want to read ahead. Feel free to do so.

My schedule is full and running over. How much time will this take? 15-27 minutes. You may need to ask yourself what it is you can give up to accomplish this. If it is necessary to give up something you value to make this a part of your life during September it will be all the more precious to you because of your sacrifice. Wait and see!

See the bookmark insert or pick yours up at the church!

