



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”*

Backpack 2 School

On Wednesday, August 10th, 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 the 6:35 Food Pantry on August 10th (4pm-7pm), August 11th (9am-7pm), August 12th (9am-7pm), and August 13th (9am-12pm).

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!

—Kim Warner

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**WELCOME
 BACK,
 KIDS!**

**Preschool resumes Monday,
 August 22nd. We pray that Miss
 Cindy, Miss Sue, Miss Sarah, and
 all of our students have a
 wonderful school year!**

Church Staff

Pastor: Tom Goodell: vandaliampastor@gmail.com
 Administrative Assistant: Casey Kistler: vandaliafumc@outlook.com
 Secretary: Sue Miller (Tues. & Fri.)
 Director of Choirs: Melody Freeman
 Praise Team Director: Sarah Vu
 Director of Young Children's Ministries: Amanda Milam
 Preschool Director: Cindy Laramee
 Custodians: Mike & Sharon Hagy
 Assistant Custodian: Andy Sidwell

Contact us

M-W-TH: 8a—4p
 T-F: 8a-12p
 Phone: 618-283-3684
 Email:
vandaliafumc@outlook.com
 Website:
www.vandaliafirstumc.org

Nursing Home Residents & Shut-ins:

Brookstone (1607 W. Fillmore)
Diane Adams (Apt. 15); Carlos Biellier (Apt. 2);
Margaret Carroll (Apt. 10);
Arlene Hoffman (Apt. 4); Larry Peyton (Apt. 15),
Mary Ann Rhoades (Apt. 41), Frank Roeder
(Apt. 25)

FCH/Long Term Care (650 West Taylor)
Audrey Fink (Rm. 408)
Sandy Peyton

Lakewood Nursing Home
(800 W Temple Ave., Effingham, IL 62401)
Mary Crawford

Dolan Memory Care Homes
(Dublin—11330 Dolan Way, St. Louis, MO
63146)
Phyllis Rames

Willowbrook
(1124 Sunset Dr., Vandalia)
Deb Endres
Norman Rhoades

Shut-Ins:
Mike Beckett, 2625 W. Jefferson St., Vandalia



Linda Ashdown (Sandra Cearlock's mother;
health concerns)

Patti Bohner (Diane Adams' daughter,
mobility issues)

Mary Crawford (health concerns)

Gary Doolen (cancer)

Mason Feltner (Kelly Clark's nephew;
chemotherapy for A.L.L. leukemia)

Amy Holaday (friend of Gathe's; breast
cancer; recuperating from surgery)

Heather Jones (friend of Donna Johnson;
diagnosed with hemochromatosis)

Cindy Koonce (brain aneurism)

Heather Overlin (Larry Osborne's
daughter; health concerns)

Nancy Springsteen (recovering from hip surgery)

Herb Thoman (health concerns)

Peg Williams (cancer treatment)



August



AUGUST Birthdays

- 1—Ryan Kaiser
- 4—Hannah Konrad
Darrin Lurkins
- 5—Eryn Barker
Carter Burnam
Bob Kloster
Mark Miller, II
John Zimmer
- 7—Peg Clark
Megan Kern
Larry Peyton
- 9—Carrie Casey
- 10—Drew Schneider
- 11—Parker Clark
- 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

Sound Tech

Rick Eyman

Video Tech

Evan & Jaime Warren

AUGUST Anniversaries

- 2—David & Angie Dugan
(36 years)
- 10—John & Jody Burnam
(48 years)
- 11—Glen & Carolyn Daniels
(66 years)
- 12—Mike & Mary Fulton
(50 years)
- 15—Gene & Ann Schwarm
(41 years)
- 17—Jeff & Deb Endres
(48 years)
- 19—Jack & Jan Johnston
(61 years)
- 21—Rich & Kim Well
(29 years)
- 23—Travis & Kelly Clark
(19 years)
- 28—Dave & Amanda Milam
(12 years)

Acolytes

- 7—Rebekah Miller, Evan Warren
- 14—Trevor, Parker, & Kelly Clark
- 21—Austin Warren
- 28—Hannah Stombaugh

Song Leaders

Traditional: BJ Mueller
Contemporary: Susan Colburn

Offering Collectors

- 7—?
- 14, 21, 28—Gene Schwarm

Liturgist

Dean Black

Bus Ministry

7 **Driver:** Darrel Casey
Rider: Alan Lurkins
Greeter: Gail DePaolo

14 **Driver:** Max Durbin
Rider: Deb Durbin
Greeter: Jack Johnston

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

28 **Driver:** Bill Warner
Rider: Kim Warner
Greeter: Linda Dugan

Head Ushers

- 7—JD Vieregge
- 14—John Burnam
- 21—Dean Black
- 28—Bryce Kistler

Our Caring Continues

Operation Christmas Child exists because of the many people who are dedicated to spreading His word to the hurting children around the world through the means of a simple shoebox. It takes everyone working together for this ministry to be a SUCCESS!

YOU ARE APPRECIATED!

Dean and Elloise Black donated items for our extra shoeboxes. We appreciate their donation to help to fill more boxes for more children!

Peg Clark made bright, colorful pencil pouches and purses. These are sure to grab the girls attention when they open their boxes, as they add such a bright spot to the boxes! Thanks, Peg!

Sherry Schneider has been busy filling pencil pouches with school supplies for our boxes! It makes it so much easier when it comes time to fill the boxes to have the supplies ready to put into the boxes. Thanks, Sherry for your hours of work!

Andy Sidwell keeps supplying the shoeboxes with Beanie Babies! Thank you, Andy for your labor of love and time to look for these for the shoeboxes! We are blessed to have you help us!

Kim Warner made adorable seasonal items for our shoeboxes! I can only imagine the smiles and squeals when the girls find snowmen, gingerbread men, and Santa's belt purses in their boxes! Thanks Kim, you have blessed many girls through the years!

SPONSORED BOXES

At the time of this writing, **66 boxes have been sponsored** by members of our church. This allows **66 more children to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ!** Each child who is reached will be given the opportunity to attend *The Greatest Journey Discipleship Classes*. Know that you play an integral part in reaching these children with his Word. We pray that each box transforms the life of the child receiving the box, as well as those around them.



Pastor's Perspective

I just read a remarkable article about post pandemic church recovery. The article focused on the many people who stopped attending church during the pandemic. The article is from the Lewis Center for Church Leadership (you can read it on our church Facebook page). What the author found in her surveying work was that many people who drifted away from church, or intentionally stayed away, would come back if invited. In fact almost half of those surveyed noted they would return with a caveat. They needed someone to personally invite them!

This speaks to the importance of feeling "needed". We want to know, when we are away, that we have been missed, that we are important, that we matter. I remember the old sitcom, "Cheers", that featured the memorable chorus in its opening, "you want to go where everybody knows your name, and they're always glad you came." We need to be needed, and the invitation secures that for us.

I don't think this is just true for the pandemic though. My experience is that people who have drifted away from church for any number of reasons (they did not like the previous pastor, they went through a divorce, someone made light of the chicken salad they brought to a potluck) will return if personally invited.

In many cases they are waiting for that invitation. I once had a church member who had missed two years of worship for a variety of reasons tell me, "I would come back, but I need to know the people there have missed me!"

The invitation should be personal and heartfelt, and come from someone they know, not named "Pastor _____"!

I suspect that we all know someone in this category. So how might you extend the invite? First, pray. Ask God to help you make the invitation. Pray for the right words and the right moment.

Second, make it a personal invitation. Call them or stop by. Simply say, "I am finding such peace/or being fed/or just love our church/...I would love to sit with you in church this Sunday!" Make sure you meet them in the parking lot or before they have to come in the door. There is great anxiety in returning to church!

For the rest of us, make sure our welcome is genuine and not marked by sarcasm. Many years ago, in another congregation a wife worked on her husband for months to come to church. Finally, he relented and walked in with her on a Sunday morning. The first two guys he met playfully said, "well, now the church ceiling is going to fall in because you came back to church." It was the last Sunday he came back to church. Our words may seem playful to us, but they can deeply wound or inform assumptions in others.

Let our welcome and our love be genuine. It is who we are called to be as a church.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Tom



This has been a summer of change for our church. We say “thank you” to Louise Weiss who has led our traditional music for the past 2 and ½ years. We were blessed by daily music during the pandemic, and by her cheerful leadership of many ministry teams at the church.

Melody Freeman has been hired to direct our choirs. Our Sanctuary and Bell choirs will begin rehearsing August 31.

Both choirs are open to all, and you do not have to have choir experience or be a musician to join. Our choirs will bless us in worship on 2nd and 3rd Sundays.

Blanche Dugan and Melody Freeman will serve as church organists.

Sarah Vu will be working full time as our Director of Praise Music and with our children’s ministry, restarting the Spirit Singers. We welcome Sarah back to our church.

Join the Handbell choir! Hand Bell rehearsals will be held in the Music Room located upstairs from 5:15pm to 6:15pm on Wednesdays on a part time basis. If interested, please contact Melody Freeman by August 15th, as they would like to have your bell music marked and ready for you!

Join the Sanctuary Choir! Choir rehearsals will be held in the Music Room located upstairs from 6:45pm to 7:45pm two Wednesdays per month (beginning August 31). There will also be practice on the Sunday mornings that the choir will be singing at 9am before morning worship.

For more information on Bell Choir or Sanctuary Choir, please contact Melody Freeman at 618-292-9100, or email melodyfreeman@sbcglobal.net.



“Thank you for the concerns, prayers, and cards while I am recovering.” —Diana & John

“The family of Edward D. Taylor wishes to thank everyone for their love, support, and acts of kindness during his illness and death. A special thanks to Pastor Tom and all who helped with he meal and to those who provided the special music. Our family is so very grateful to all who helped in any way. Thank you and God bless you each and every one.”

“We would like to give a HUGE thank you to our church family for providing needed items, and for the wonderful giving tree basket! We cannot put in to words how much we appreciate the generosity of all who gave gift cards and money to help us during this challenging time. We are so blessed to have people like you in our lives! Thank you again for all of your support and prayers.” —Rich & Kim Well & Family



August Worship Plans

August 7 -Communion Sunday

August 14 – Special music with Joe Arview. Joe is a local musician who has performed at the Illinois State Fair, Troubadour Theater in Nashville, NASCAR race at Talladega and at many special events around Illinois and this country. He is married to Dee, and dad to three sons and one grandson. He believes his song are intended to strengthen our faith and inspire nonbelievers to have faith. We are pleased to welcome him to our church.

August 21- Special music with Harvest Ministry Team. Harvest recruits students each fall to learn how to be musicians and leaders in local churches. This is their 27th summer of ministry. Based in Troy, Illinois; the ministry also hosts ministry conferences and rallies for children and youth. We welcome Tim Price and Harvest to worship on August 21.

August 28 – Scripture text: Mark 3:20-29. We will begin a two-part sermon on forgiveness and God. Can everything be forgiven by God? What happens if there is not forgiveness? How can we know we are forgiven?



Wesley Hall recently had a facelift! The renovations are complete and if you haven’t checked out the new floor and paint, you must do so soon! Thank you to everyone that had a hand in this project and making the final outcome spectacular!

