



First United Methodist Church
127 N 4th St
Vandalia, IL 62471



January 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”*

Contact Us:

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Inside this issue:

Music News	2
Prayer Shawl up-	
Coats & Shoes	3
N.O.W. Committee	
Shut-ins & Prayer	4
Concerns	
Worship Notes	5
Pastor Notes	
Birthdays,	6
Anniversaries	
Serving this Month	
Pantry Volunteers	7
Reminders	



**Special thanks to Sarah Vu and Kelly Clark for organizing &
thank you to the parents and youth for participating in this
year's Christmas Eve Program!**

Church Staff

Pastor: Curtis Flake: rev.cflake@gmail.com, 217-273-4432
Administrative Assistants: Sue Miller & Jaicob Arndt
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
Custodians: Andy Sidwell
Family Center Custodian: Rich Well





Music Minute

Happy New Year! If your New Year's resolution is to sing or play more music, I invite you to join the choir or handbells for the spring! Choir practices continue to be on Wednesdays at 4:30p and handbells meets at 6:00p. Most of us join in the Wednesday night meal at 5:30p, which makes one less thing to worry about on Wednesday night.

Offertory schedule:

January 4th - Communion Sunday
 January 11th - Sanctuary Choir (Gather by the River to Pray)
 January 18th - Sanctuary Choir (We are Singing for the Lord is our Light)
 January 25th - Handbells (Rejoice Greatly)

Hope you can join us!

Thank you for those who helped with the Advent Worship Series. Thank you to Dennette Guyer for leading the traditional songs for December. Thank you for the Sanctuary Choir for providing music in December. Our worship services are more diverse with your participation!

*Musically,
Taryn Flake*

THANK YOU MEMBERS OF FUMC

As 2025 closes and 2026 awaits us, I would like to thank you for your faithfulness to our mission to send the Good News to the children of the world. It takes all of us working together whether you packed a box, sponsored a platter, made or bought things, or served during Collection Week. Thank you for being faithful to what God called you to do and for allowing Him to work through you! I am truly humbled and blessed to work with such wonderful, faithful people. I pray that you have grown in your faith, as you served the Lord through generous donations, time and hard work. Wishing you a joyous New Year!

The **Prayer Shawl Ministry** would like to thank you for your support and prayers this past year. In 2025, 45 prayer shawls were gifted. Each one was stitched in prayer and given in love. Besides prayer shawls, 3 baby prayer blankets for Baptism and many boxes of donations were also given away this year. As our partners in prayer, you have made such a difference in the lives of those blessed by the Prayer Shawl Ministry.



—The Prayer Shawl Ministry



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We will need volunteers from the First United Methodist Men on January 22nd to work at the 6:35 food pantry at 4:15pm.

Today I asked God for healing and He did not answer my prayer. I asked Him to take away the mountain in front of me and He did not answer my prayer. I asked Him to calm the storm and He did not answer my prayer.

And when I questioned Him, "Lord, why is it that when I asked You for all of these things, You never answered me?"

He said, "my child, you asked me for healing and I gave you enough strength for the day.

You asked me to take away the mountain and I gave you the courage to face it instead.

You asked me to calm the storm and I carried you through every wave and wind and crack of thunder.

I gave you nothing that you wanted – but everything that you needed."

ullie-kaye

Quote contributed by Andy Sidwell



**6:35
PANTRY**
"I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty." John 6:35



Reminder: We will be closed Monday, January 19th in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day



January

JANUARY Birthdays

- 1— Camden Myers
- 2— Lisa Burnam
- 6— Curtis Flake
Kristoffer Taylor
- 9— Gail Lockart
- 10— Gary Jenkins
Bruce Rubin
- 11— Patty Donaldson
Louis Frick
Susann Schumacher
- 12— Roger Clark
Jeff Endres
Kyle Guffey
Billye Staff
- 15— Brooklyn Burnam
- 16— BJ Mueller
Cameron White
- 17— Hannah Stombaugh
- 18— Harper Burnam
Brandy Protz
- 23— Debbie Brantley
- 24— Donna Crotser
- 25— Rick Eyman
Keaton White
- 26— Gwen Johnston
Alan Lurkins
- 27— Cindy Haas
Noah Sasse
- 31— Margaret Carroll
Kayla Taylor

JANUARY Anniversaries

- 22— Lance & Betty Guffey
(26 years)
- 26— Gary & Dorothy Ann
Jenkins (41 years)
- 29— Walt & Mandy Pearson
(32 years)



- 4 Trevor Clark
- 11 Addie Flake
- 18 Brayden Stombaugh
- 25 Brooklyn Burnam

Offering Collector

- 4 John Burnam
- 11 Barb Paine
- 18 John Burnam
- 25 Barb Paine

Video/Sound Tech

- Sam Flake
- Rick Eyman

Bus Ministry

- 4 **Driver:** Bill Warner
Rider: Kim Warner
Greeter: Sandy S
- 11 **Driver:** Max Durbin
Rider: Deb Durbin
Greeter: Sandy S
- 18 **Driver:** Ed Taylor
Rider: Kim Taylor
Greeter: Sandy S
- 25 **Driver:** Max Durbin
Rider: Deb Durbin
Greeter: Sandy S

Liturgist

- Sherry Schneider

Head Ushers

- 4 JD Vieregge/Josh Figgins
- 11 JD Vieregge/Rand
Craycroft
- 18 JD Vieregge/Jacy Fulk
- 25 JD Vieregge/Greg Fulk

Coats & Shoes Success!

The United Methodist Men would like to thank all of you who helped to make our annual Coats & Shoes mission a HUGE SUCCESS! On Monday, December 15th, 2025, approximately 361 coats and shoes were delivered to Vandalia, Brownstown, St. Elmo, Ramsey, and Mulberry Grove schools. This was the most coats and shoes that we have ever delivered. Thanks to the men and ladies who helped prepare and wrap the coats and shoes! Your efforts are much appreciated by me. Also, thanks to our church family who generously continue to support this mission with your financial donations along with your prayers.
- Jeff Endres, United Methodist Men



Nurture.Outreach.Witness

The N.O.W Committee would like to extend a thank you to everyone that donated cookies this year. They were able to deliver 12 appreciation platters for community organizations!



Nursing Home Residents & Shut-ins: Brookstone (1607 W. Fillmore Pete Burnam (Apt 41); Frank Roeder (Apt. 25); Jean Stombaugh (Apt. 35) FCH/Long Term Care (650 West Taylor) Arlene Hoffman (Rm. 510); Sharon Lee: Deb Endres (Rm.708); Margaret Carroll; Larry Peyton (Rm.405) Sara Clark; Phyllis Thoman (Rm.403 Meridian Village Assisted Living Diane Adams 27 Auerbach Place Glen Carbon. IL 62034	Willowbrook Edith Knebel 1124 Sunset dr Vandalia IL 62471 Mary Woolsey—2627 Columbia Dr, apt 1 Columbia, IL 62236 Retha Burnam c/o Lori McGuire 4635 Timber-view Dr、 Auburn. IL 62615
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Prayer Concerns

First United Methodist Church
New Joys and Concerns

Joy in hearing Children in Church (and seeing their parents standing and rocking them!)
Our Church, our community and our country.
Robert Ellis (Brother of Barbara White) - diagnosed with brain cancer
Shirley Frick - on hospice
The family of Steve and Dawn Hoover - in memory of Dawn Hoover’s Mother
Victoria & Family

Ongoing Concerns

Barb Ambuehl	Rob Dillingham	Krey Leesman	Anna Syniuk
Brianna Barnett	Scott Dolejs	Kevin Leifer	Donna Taylor
Marti Bingham	Patti Emerick	Austin Long	Phyllis Thoman
Bill Blythe	Connor Eyman	Michelle McNary	Les Vaughan
Debbie Brantley	Maurice Eyman	Buddy Miller	Mike Wehrle
John Campbell	Steve Hoover	Jason Mouser	Suzanne Wilkerson
Candy Carroll	Jennifer Kenney	Jeff Mueller	Jeff Williams
Sara Clark	Bob & Joy Kloster	David Rademacher	Ken Williams
Ava Cooper	Ray Kramer	Sydney Rosborough	Hudson Winters
Julia Crowe	Carson LaDage	Arlen Sidwell	Lonna Woodruff



“Thank you to the committee for bringing cookies to some of us nursing home residents and shut-ins who were unable to make it this holiday season. We truly appreciate them along with the thoughts and prayers we received from our church family. You are all missed dearly.”

- Phyllis Thoman



Worship Notes

- January 5

Epiphany Sunday
Scripture: Isaiah 60: 1-6, Matthew 2: 1-12
Sermon: They All Gather Together
Theme: Continuing Christmas spreading the light and hope of Jesus Christ through the new year.
- January 12

Baptism of Jesus Sunday & Children’s Christmas Pageant
Scripture: Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22
Sermon: I Will Be With You
Theme: Continuing Christmas, yes we are technically after the Christmas Season and it is the Baptism of Jesus, but the Children shared with us and Christmas is all year round.
- January 19

Scripture: John 2: 1-11
Sermon: What Concern Is That?
Theme: Jesus’ first sign isn’t really about wine and Mary or as John puts it, “the Mother of Jesus,” it is the one who really shares the Gospel.
- January 26

Scripture: Luke 4: 14-21
Sermon: As Was His Custom
Theme: As was Jesus’ custom. Customs, resolutions, and goals: often we focus on the negative and insert a positive. How can we find strength when we reinforce the positive customs?

Pastor’s Note

We would like to thank everyone for the lovely Christmas gifts. We really appreciate it!
-Pastor Curtis, Taryn, Sam & Addi

