



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



*Awesome is God*

FROM HIS SANCTUARY;  
THE GOD OF ISRAEL –  
HE IS THE ONE WHO GIVES  
POWER AND STRENGTH  
TO HIS PEOPLE.

*Blessed be God!*

PSALM 68:35, ESV



# 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.*

**Office Hours:**

M-W-TR: 8a — 4p  
T-F: 8a — 12p  
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**Inside this issue:**

O.C.C.	2
Pastor’s Perspective	3
Worship Notes	4
6.35 Food Pantry	
Children’s Ministry	
Prayer Concerns	5
Preschool News	6
New Members	
Serving this month	7

## Spaghetti Luncheon

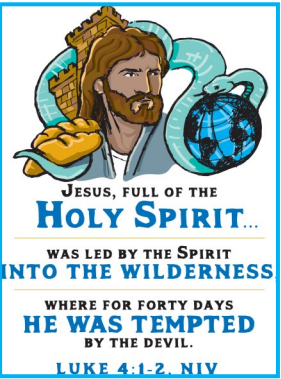
**Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 11am–2pm**

First United Methodist Church  
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*Meal includes spaghetti, salad, bread,  
and dessert*  
**Dine-in or Carry-out**



*\*\*Donations will be accepted for the mission  
projects of the United Methodist Men\*\**



## Church Staff

Pastor: Tom Goodell: [vandaliamcpastor@gmail.com](mailto:vandaliamcpastor@gmail.com)  
Administrative Assistant: Casey Kistler: [vandaliafumc@outlook.com](mailto:vandaliafumc@outlook.com)  
Secretary: Sue Miller (Tues. & Fri.)  
Director of Choirs: Melody Freeman: [vandaliamusic22@outlook.com](mailto:vandaliamusic22@outlook.com)  
Director of Praise Team: Sarah Vu: [vandaliapraise22@outlook.com](mailto:vandaliapraise22@outlook.com)  
Director of Young Children’s Ministries: Amanda Milam  
Preschool Director: Cindy Laramée  
Custodians: Mike & Sharon Hagy  
Assistant Custodian: Andy Sidwell

## 200TH MILLIONTH SHOEBOX DELIVERED TO GIRL IN UKRAINE



A year ago, the war in Ukraine was just beginning. 3200 churches in the Ukraine were already connected to Samaritan's Purse through OCC. Shoeboxes have been delivered there for years and connections with the churches were already established. This network enabled Samaritan's Purse to be on the ground quickly to offer the love of Jesus to Ukraine's people.

God has blessed the ministry of OCC for 30 years and they have been able to share the Gospel with the children of the world. Over 200 million shoeboxes have been delivered since 1993. The milestone celebration of the 200th millionth shoebox packed was delivered to the Ukraine.

Prior to the children receiving their boxes a local pastor shared with the children about God's greatest gift - His son Jesus Christ! Each child was given a Samaritan's Purse food bag when they were given their shoeboxes.



Elizabeth Groff will never forget receiving a shoebox gift from Samaritan's Purse/OCC when she was living in an orphanage in the Ukraine. She was later adopted by a U.S. couple, married, and lives in Texas. She was given the honor to present this special shoebox to an 8 year old girl named Natalya from an orphanage in the Ukraine! How exciting for both of them!

Please continue to pray for the people of Ukraine! While Samaritan's Purse has given more than 120 million pounds of food, blankets, medical care, field hospital, etc., the need is far greater than they can supply. People are hurting as the conflict continues. Pray for the children and ask God to take away their fear! Pray that the children remember that God loves them and we are praying for them. Pray for all of the Ukrainian people!

Pictures from Samaritan's Purse  
Submitted by Jill Zimmer

# March

## MARCH Birthdays

- 4— Deb Durbin  
Amelia Moulton
- 5— Wendell Dugan
- 6— Kara Dugan  
Sherry Schneider
- 8— Megan Grapperhaus  
Eric Miller
- 9— Aubrey Brouk
- 10— Jeff Burnam  
Mark Miller  
Bill Warner
- 11— Gail DePaolo  
Dennette Guyer  
Bryce Kistler
- 12— Tim Edwards
- 14— Richard Knebel  
Mary Woolsey
- 15— Susan Casey
- 17— Zac Stombaugh  
Wade Thompson
- 19— Adeline Bowen  
Duane Dugan
- 20— Cindy Laramee
- 22— Trevor Clark  
Betty Schaub
- 23— Danielle Miller  
Frank Roeder  
Ann Schwarm
- 24— Betty Guffey
- 25— Matthew Hagy  
Bev Hood
- 26— Dean Black  
Greg Fulk  
Andy Schwarm
- 28— Darin Dugan  
David Dugan  
Madalynn Metzger  
Suzie Thompson
- 31— Jody Burnam

## MARCH Anniversaries

- 8— Bill & Kim Warner  
(10 years)
- 26— Bill & Cindy Bennett  
(33 years)
- 31— Jeff & Jan Casey  
(38 years)

## Acolytes

- 5— Haven Burnam
- 12— Rebekah Miller  
Evan Warren
- 19— Austin Warren
- 26— Hannah Stombaugh

## Liturgist

- 5— Gene Schwarm
- 12, 19, & 26  
Amy Vieregge

## Sound Tech

Patrick Myers

## Video Tech

Rand Craycroft

## Offering Collectors

- 5— Jeff Endres
- 12— Bryce Kistler
- 19— Barb Paine
- 26— Gene Schwarm

## Bus Ministry

5 **Driver:** Bill Warner  
**Rider:** Kim Warner  
**Greeter:** Mary Fulton

12 **Driver:** Ed Taylor  
**Rider:** Kim Taylor  
**Greeter:** Robin Kistler

19 **Driver:** Darrel Casey  
**Rider:** Alan Lurkins  
**Greeter:** John Blythe  
Diana Tippit

26 **Driver:** Max Durbin  
**Rider:** Deb Durbin  
**Greeter:** Jan Casey

## Ushers

5 — Bryce Kistler Mike Black  
12— Dean Black/Bryce Kistler  
19— Greg & Jacy Fulk  
26— JD Vieregge/Dean Black







## 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!** If you would like to help in some way, contact Jill Zimmer or Deb Durbin.

**Pastor Tom Goodell** once again helped with deliveries! Thanks, Tom for taking 10 cases of the pre-made shoeboxes to the OCC room!

**Deb Durbin** continues to work on doll blankets, so we can pack more boxes for little girls! Deb, you are appreciated!

**Andy Sidwell** continues to find Beanie Babies for our extra boxes! Thanks Andy for your dedication!

**Pam Yates** made more dishrags and "Worry Worms" for our boxes and has already asked what we need for our boxes for next year! Thanks Pam! Your dedication is AMAZING!

**ANONYMOUS:** 5 bags of Beanie Babies were left outside the office. Thank you to those who donated these. Beanies may be left throughout the year on the bookshelves outside the office. We will need approx. 600 Beanie Babies this year!

### Preschool News

Happy March! During this month we will be learning about the letters X, Y and Z and studying the themes of Letters with an X, YMCA (sports), Zebras and Easter/Spring!

We will have a fun St. Patrick's Day party on Friday, March 17, and we will celebrate all things "Dad" on Friday, March 24! We are looking forward to having our dads here to play games with!

At the end of March, we will turn our focus on Easter and teaching the kids about the reason for this spring celebration!!! So much fun to be had and so many things to learn this month!!!



Miss Cindy



**Deborah Cook** joins us upon transfer from another denomination. Deb lives in Vandalia and is a retired teacher.

**Gail DePaolo** joins us upon profession of faith. She and her husband Bob live in Vandalia. Gail is retired from Vandalia schools.

**Gail Lockart** joins us upon transfer from another denomination. Gail lives in Vandalia and is a retired teacher.

**Randy Sasse** joins us upon transfer from another denomination. Randy and his wife Melissa live in Vandalia. Randy is a teacher in Brownstown.

**Mary Woolsey** joins us upon transfer from another United Methodist Church. Mary and her husband Herb live in Vandalia.

## Pastor's Perspective

The month of "March" is named in honor of the Roman God Mars. Mars was the God of war and also the father (through unfortunate circumstances) of Remus and Romulus who founded the city of Rome. He fell in love with the goddess Venus. He was a fan of chariot racing and military parades which we often held in his honor. It is appropriate that our month of March often brings a return to outdoor sports and parades as well.

One of the rituals associated with Mars and his month of festivals was a day in which the memories and failures of the previous year we chased away. In the festival, people would gather with brushes and sticks and literally chase the spirit of the previous year out of town! There are many aspects of 2022 that I would like to chase out of town!

With the longer days and warmer temperatures of Spring, we too are given new beginnings. Green things begin to grow from the earth. Songbirds return. Skies are sunnier. Trees begin to bud. We turn our attention to lawns and begin to plant gardens. Even baseball is back.

God is giving us in March the promise of new starts and new life. So what might we chase away in order to experience this most fully?

Are there feelings of unforgiveness or regret that we are still holding onto? If so, might we chase them away?

What about the opportunities we still lament, chances we missed, things we wish we would have done differently?

Perhaps it is just the memories that still haunt us. We are still trying to figure out how to repair a relationship, or fix something long past us.

The spirit of March is calling to us, chase these things away!

Jesus famously said, "let the dead bury the dead". What he is teaching is similar to the theme of March. We should not live in or with our past, especially the more negative aspects of yesterday. We are a people of the present.

So let us do some spiritual and emotional Spring cleaning in order to welcome the possibilities that God has for us today. Let us sweep up the dust of where we have been and what we have done, and welcome Christ's calling to what we can do now and where we can go. March is upon us. Amen!

Pastor Tom

March Worship Notes

- Mar. 5      Lent Two; Scripture: Matthew 28-34      Sermon: Gadarene: Of Demons and Men; *There is a real presence of evil in this world and only when we stand with/behind Jesus can we stare it down!*
- Mar. 12      Lent Three; Scripture: Matthew 8:23-27      Sermon: Galilee: When the Storms of Life are Raging; *The important thing to remember when storms come, and they will come, is that Jesus is in the storm with us!*
- Mar. 19      Lent Four; Scripture: Matthew 13: 53-58      Sermon: Nazareth: Isn't this the Carpenter's Son; *Who we are at "home" is more important than what we say. Why honor is in our lifestyle away from Church.*
- Mar. 26      Lent Five; Scripture: Matthew 14:13-21      Sermon: Bethsaida: You give them something to eat. Why we must care about the poor in our community.

We Need The Following:

Salad Dressing

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

You may bring your donations in and drop off in the tote located in the Fireplace Room!



Children's Ministry Update

Thank you church, for your work with younger children's ministry. We see the "fruit" of this on Sunday mornings as our Spirit Singers sing, as we see the platform filled with kids for Children's Time, in our Sunday school and on Wednesday evenings when 70-80 children (Kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grade meet). We have made ministry to children a priority and we see how this is growing our church spiritually and in numbers.

We will be working on our Spring musical, "Noah", which will be presented in worship May 7<sup>th</sup>. Plans are also underway for Vacation Bible School this June 13-16 during the morning hours.

<b>Nursing Home Residents &amp; Shut-ins:</b> <u>Brookstone</u> (1607 W. Fillmore) Diane Adams (Apt.15); Carlos Biellier (Apt. 4); Margaret Carroll (Apt. 10); Larry Peyton (Apt. 16), Frank Roeder (Apt. 25) Herb & Mary Woolsey (Apt. 17)  <u>FCH/Long Term Care</u> (650 West Taylor) Sandy Peyton Arlene Hoffman (Rm. 510)	<u>Dolan Memory Care Homes</u> (Dublin—11330 Dolan Way, St. Louis, MO 63146) Phyllis Rames  <u>Willowbrook</u> (1124 Sunset Dr., Vandalia) Deb Endres Norman & Mary Ann Rhoades  <u>Shut-Ins:</u> Mike Beckett, 2625 W. Jefferson St., Vandalia
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IN OUR  
Thoughts and Prayers

- Patti Bohner** (Diane Adams' daughter, mobility issues)  
**Jane Cox** (upcoming surgery)  
**Gary Doolen** (cancer)  
**Willard Fulk** (health concerns)  
**Lola Gehle** (Deb Durbin's mother; liver cancer treatment)  
**Leonard Gehle** (Deb Durbin's father; prostate cancer treatment)  
**Amy Holaday** (friend of Gathe's; breast cancer)  
**Heather Jones** (friend of Donna Johnson; diagnosed with hemochromatosis)
- Heather Overlin** (Larry Osborne's daughter; health concerns)  
**Meilynn Schneider** (Drew & Sherry Schneider's granddaughter; upcoming surgery on March 7<sup>th</sup>)  
**Debbie Taylor** (friend of Patti Craycroft; diagnosed with esophageal cancer)  
**Herb Thoman** (health concerns)  
**Dorothy Walker** (Eric Miller's cousin; recuperating from quadruple bypass surgery)  
**Peg Williams** (cancer treatment)  
**Mary Woolsey** (health concerns)

The family of Jim Staff would like to thank you for the outpouring of love that we received at the time of Jim's passing. The prayers, cards, food and many acts of kindness were very comforting. A special thanks to Pastor Tom Goodell and the Church for the very special way in which Jesus' love was so beautifully demonstrated during Jim's Celebration of Life Service and the delicious meal to follow. Our hearts are full because of the love and care shown by so many. Thank you.

THANKS  
FROM THE  
HEART



Time to spring forward! Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour on Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup> !