



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



A winter welcome

Office Hours:

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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"*



Special thanks to Sandy Leidner (costumes), Blanche Dugan, Judy Roberts, Dawn Rosborough (accompanists), Rick Eyman (sound), and all of our Sunday School teachers! The Children's program would not be possible without all of you!
 — Pastor Tom & Sarah Vu

Church Staff

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



THE LORD HIMSELF GOES BEFORE YOU

AND WILL BE WITH YOU;

HE WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU.

DO NOT BE AFRAID; DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED.

DEUTERONOMY 31:8, NIV



WHAT AN EXCITING 2022!

The 200 millionth shoebox packed is going to a child in the Ukraine!

Record number of shoeboxes were collected and this means 4,012 more children will hear His word from Vandalia Drop Off. How awesome is this! Vandalia Drop Off shoeboxes traveled to Effingham, then on to Charlotte where they were processed and shipped. They are on their way to a **hard to reach country, Mali, Burgundy, and Madagascar!!!**

Please continue to pray for the boy or girl who will receive your shoebox. Pray for them to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior and to follow and honor Him their entire lives. Continue to pray that these children will help transform their local communities and share His love with others.

Thank you for being such a blessing by coming together with other churches and individuals to bring Him the glory! As I often say, OCC would not exist without all of us working together to further His kingdom!

In 2023, OCC will be celebrating their 30th Anniversary and Vandalia Drop Off will be celebrating 15 years as a drop off. So far, **Vandalia Drop Off has processed 34,006 boxes.** God has done unimaginably more than we ever anticipated! Vandalia Drop Off collected 844 boxes our first year as a drop off! We've come a long way and that's because of YOU!

Perhaps He is asking each of us to step up and try new things, to pack more boxes, and to encourage more people to pack a box. If you know people not participating encourage them to do so. Not only are we blessing the children, but we too are blessed by being involved in this ministry. There is a NEED for the children to hear His word and OCC is determined to continue to reach out to the children to the ends of the earth! **Let's make our 15th anniversary one to celebrate by reaching more children than we ever thought possible!**

THANK YOU MEMBERS OF FUMC

As 2022 closes and 2023 awaits us, I would like to thank you for your faithfulness to the mission of OCC to send the Good News to the children of the world. It takes all of working together whether you packed a box, sponsored a box, made or bought things for boxes, 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 OCC. Wishing you a joyous New Year!

The Prayer Shawl Ministry gave 54 prayer shawls and 5 baby prayer blankets for baptism during 2022. Many knitted and crocheted items were also given for the Operation Christmas Child Christmas boxes. Thank you for your prayers and support this past year. Our work continues to be an expression of God's love and a blessing to others.

—The Prayer Shawl Ministry



Prayer Shawl Ministry

January

JANUARY Birthdays

- 1— Noelle Milam
Camden Myers
- 2— Lisa Burnam
- 4— Carlos Biellier
Herb Woolsey
Joleigh Zimmer
- 7— Bill LaDage
- 10— Gary Jenkins
- 11— Patty Donaldson
Louis Frick
Susann Schumacher
- 12— Roger Clark
Jeff Endres
Kyle Guffey
Billye Staff
- 15— Brooklyn Burnam
Sandy Peyton
- 16— BJ Mueller
Cameron White
- 17— Mary Kay Bennett
Hannah Stombaugh
- 18— Harper Burnam
Brandy Protz
- 19— Karen Bennett
- 20— Brittany White
- 23— Debbie Brantley
- 24— Donna Crotser
- 25— Rick Eyman
Keaton White
- 26— Erin Endres
Gwen Johnston
Alan Lurkins
- 27— Cindy Haas
- 30— Roger Corrington
- 31— Margaret Carroll

JANUARY Anniversaries

- 12— Steve & Patti Bohner
(33 years)
- 22— Lance & Betty Guffey
(23 years)
- 26— Gary & Dorothy Ann
Jenkins (38 years)
- 28— Bill & Sharon LaDage
(55 years)
- 29— Walt & Mandy Pearson
(29 years)
Ed & Lora Foutch
(23 years)



ACOLYTES

- 1
- 8 Haven Burnam
- 15 Rebekah Miller, Evan Warren
- 22 Austin Warren
- 29 Hannah Stombaugh

Offering Collector

- 1 John Burnam
- 8 Bryce Kistler
- 15 Barb Paine
- 22
- 29

Video/Sound Tech

Rand Craycroft
Rick Eyman

Bus Ministry

1 **Driver:** Max Durbin
Rider: Deb Durbin
Greeter: Sherry Goodell

8 **Driver:** Ed Taylor
Rider: Kim Taylor
Greeter: Jan Casey

15 **Driver:** Bill Warner
Rider: Kim Warner
Greeter: James Hejl

22 **Driver:** Bill Warner
Rider: Kim Warner
Greeter: Donna Johnson

29 **Driver:** Darrel Casey
Rider: Alan Lurkins
Greeter: Robin Kistler

Liturgist

Head Ushers

1 JD Vieregge/Chad Bowers
8 Bryce Kistler/Dean Black
15 Greg & Jacy Fulk
22 JD Vieregge/John Burnam
29 John Kaiser/Greg Fulk





On behalf of all of the staff at FUMC, we want to thank all of you that thought of us during the Christmas season. We appreciate the thoughtful gifts, goodies, and cards, and we look forward to a great 2023!

Worship Notes

January 8 Epiphany Sunday
Scripture: Matthew 2:12, Sermon: We Three Kings
Theme: Who were the magi (not kings) and why did they decide to go home via another way? How does their journey speak to us?

Sermon Series "Wise Men Say"

January 15 Scripture: Proverbs 1: 8-19, Sermon: Don't Go There?
Theme: There are some voices we need to ignore, some places we ought not to go, some things we just learn to set aside. This is wisdom!

January 22 Scripture: Proverbs 3:9-10, 27-29, Sermon: The Wisdom of Wealth
Theme: The use of money can bring us closer to God or turn us away from God.

January 29 Scripture: Proverbs 15:1-4, 17-18, Sermon: A hot-tempered fool!
Theme: Wisdom means controlling our anger and its devastating impact on those around us.

Leadership Teams for 2023

Administrative Council

Chair: Joe Cearlock, Vice-Chair: JD Vieregge,
Secretary: Casey Kistler, Lay Leader: Alan Lurkins

Finance Team

Chair: John Burnam, Members: Bill LaDage, Jeff Endres,
James Hejl, Barb Paine, Gene Schwarm, Byron Sikma,
Bryce Kistler (Trustees rep.)

Staff Parish Relations Team

Chair: Amy Vieregge, Members: Mark Burnam, Patti Craycroft, Mary Fulton, Jack Johnston,
Tina Kaiser, Patrick Myers, Mark Paine, Kristin Stombaugh

Trustees

Darrel Casey, Jeff Casey, Calista Eyman, Greg Fulk, Brandi Gathe, Donna Johnson,
Bryce Kistler, Ann Schwarm, Steve Stombaugh



Coats & Shoes Success!

Another successful year for the United Methodist Men Coats and Shoes program. Approximately 275 coats and shoes were delivered on December 12th & 13th to the schools in Vandalia, FOCUS and New Approach, Ramsey, Brownstown, St. Elmo, and Mulberry Grove. Thank you to all the members and volunteers that donate throughout the year and help with wrapping and distribution. Without you, this program wouldn't be possible.

A special thank you to Jeff Endres for leading this program for many years!! A lot of time and effort is given throughout the year to plan and prepare.



Nurture.Outreach.Witness

First, I want to thank everyone who donated items for the College Care packages. 19 college students were blessed with snacks and items to help them prepare for semester finals. Calista Eyman and Sandy Stombaugh purchased items, packed, and mailed them. Thank you ladies! Also, a big thank you goes out to all of the congregation that baked over 100 dozen for our cookie platters. We were able to send out 19 large cookie platters and 13 small packages of cookies to first responders, schools/teachers, hospitals and retirement homes; along with banks, shut-ins and anyone who could use a little Christmas love!



The NOW committee is starting to prepare for Backpacks and Tools for School. We are suggesting an item each month to donate. For the month of January please bring in loose leaf paper; regular and college rule. Donations may be put in the tote in the Fireplace Room.

Thank you all for your generosity!

—Kim Warner

Pastor's Perspective

Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things in Christ who strengthens me."

According to most "experts" 80 percent of all New Year's Resolutions will be lost by May 1. Half of these will be a failure by the end of February. Mark Twain once jibed, "giving up a bad habit is the easiest thing in the world, I know because I've done it thousands of times."

Still, many of us will give it a try, in good conscience, on New Year's Eve. What are you planning to resolve?

Most of our resolutions are well intended. We will give up some self-destructive habit. We will spend more time with those we love. We will again pledge to spend time reading the Bible. We will be more forgiving. We will.

But good intentions do not good habits make. I am reminded of Paul's confession to his Roman friends. "Why is it I do not do the things I want to do, and do instead the things I hate to do" (Romans 5). We can relate. I have made the same resolution about losing that 25 pounds for at least the past ten years. "Remember, Tom, broccoli and not chocolate, is your friend!"

To make a new habit stick, or eliminate an old habit; takes time, diligence, and perseverance. Most experts argue at least 30, to as much as 60 days, of effort. No wonder most of us fail.

This should not, however, discourage us from trying. And the beauty of each attempt is that God is cheering for us, especially if that which we commit to, or resolve towards, fits into God's desire for our lives.

I can still remember the struggles of learning how to drive a stick shift car and my father's patient counsel as we would stop and start, stop and start, stop and start. "Tom, you will only learn if you keep at it." I did.

God speaks to us, "you can change if you keep at it." Pray for this strength. Seek this perseverance. Request this help. And know that we can change, even if we have failed a thousand times.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Tom

Happy 2023 to everyone!

In January we will pick up learning the letters P,Q,R and S and the numbers 16,17,18 and 19. Themes for this month are Pirates, Quiet things, Robots and Snow! We will also have Show n Tell so that we can talk about all of the wonderful things we got for Christmas~

Due to illness, our Preschool Program has been rescheduled for Monday, January 23, at 6:00pm. We are hoping that we get rid of all of these germs over the holiday break! Happy Holidays to everyone!!!

The Preschool Staff



Nursing Home Residents & Shut-ins:
Brookstone (1607 W. Fillmore)
Diane Adams (Apt. 15); Carlos Biellier (Apt. 4);
Margaret Carroll (Apt. 10);
Larry Peyton (Apt. 16), Frank Roeder (Apt. 25)

FCH/Long Term Care (650 West Taylor)
Sandy Peyton
Arlene Hoffman (Rm. 510)

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

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

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

Prayer Concerns

Patti Bohner (Diane Adams' daughter, mobility issues)

Roger Clark (recuperating from knee surgery)

Jane Cox (upcoming surgery)

Clay Donaldson (broken leg from accident)

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)

Roger Grimmert (treatment for Hodgkin's Lymphoma)

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)

Jim Staff (recuperating after a fall; LTC)

Herb Thoman (health concerns)

Bill Warner (recuperating from surgery)

Peg Williams (cancer treatment)

Mary Woolsey (health concerns)

"I am so thankful for the cards, visits, food, and prayers while in the hospital and since coming home. I appreciate your kindness and feel blessed to be a part of this wonderful Church family." — Retha Burnam



Judges Bible Study

Join us as we explore the great stories of Samson and Delilah, Gideon and the trumpets, Deborah and the counsel for strength. We will be reading Judges together on Wednesdays at 2pm. This is a drop-in Bible study. Come when you can! And BYOB, "Bring Your Own Bible".



The Church office will be closed Monday, January 17, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

