



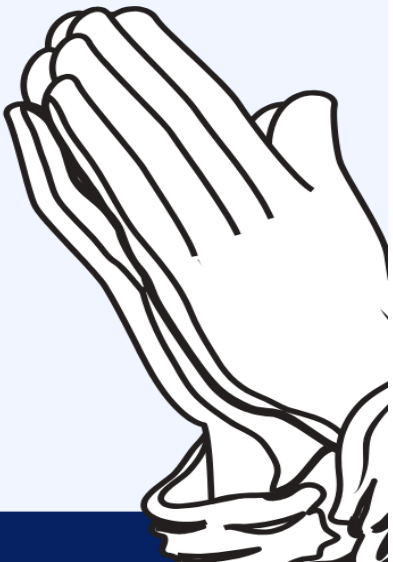
**First United Methodist Church**  
127 N 4th St  
Vandalia, IL 62471

VANDALIA ASSOCIATION OF  
CHURCHES

# National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 1, 2025  
6:00pm  
Vandalia Statehouse Lawn

Rain Location: FUMC Sanctuary



## May 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.*



Vacation Bible School 2025 is  
set for Monday, June 23rd –  
Friday, June 27th,  
6p-8p, at the  
Family Center. All children  
(pre-k-6th grade) are  
welcome to attend.  
If you're interested in  
volunteering, please contact  
the Church office.

• **Bucket Buddies will meet May 19th, 2025!**



The Church office is closed Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, in  
observance of Memorial Day.

### 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



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### Contact us

M-TH: 8:00a—4:00p  
F: 8:00a-12:00p

Phone: 618-283-3684

Email:  
[vandaliafumc@outlook.com](mailto:vandaliafumc@outlook.com)

Website:  
[www.vandaliafirstumc.org](http://www.vandaliafirstumc.org)

New Ministry- "Coffee, Christ, & Cards"

The church is launching a new ministry, "Coffee, Christ, & Cards", that will reach out to those who are confined, those we have not seen for awhile, those who need encouragement, and those in our community who need to be recognized for their service. Suggested names are welcome.

The group will meet for an hour or so on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at various coffee shops/restaurants or Charter's Patio, where we will write one or two simple notes to those mentioned above. A record will be kept of whom and when a note is mailed. Note cards will be provided or you may bring your own.

The ministry is open to anyone who wants to participate; whenever they are available. It will coincide with the Shepherding Ministry. The name of the restaurant will be announced on the Sunday prior to the Thursday meeting. The beginning date is May 8, 2025 at the Chuckwagon Café at 10:00am. We will enjoy coffee, fellowship, and an opportunity to reach out to others.



- Submitted by Joyce Staff



I would like to thank everyone at the First United Methodist Church, especially Sue Miller, for the donation given for my National Honor Society project. With this, I was able to buy clothes and bags and was able to reach my goal. I greatly appreciate it! I filled over 80 bags!

Thank you,  
Livi Wehrle

To my church family,  
Thank you for your thoughts and prayers during my back surgery and recovery. Your thoughtfulness and many acts of kindness were very much appreciated. God bless you!

Sincerely,  
Judy Roberts



MAY Birthdays

- 1— Candy Carroll  
Dennis Weiss
- 2— Michelle McNary
- 3— Andy Craig  
Josh Miller  
Josh Moulton
- 5— Calista Eyman  
Elizabeth Miller  
Taylor Well
- 6— Brenda Grimmett
- 16—Paige Buente
- 18—Randy Protz  
Silas Vieregge  
Bill Wells, Jr.
- 19—Linda Dugan  
Phyllis Thoman
- 20—Clayton Black  
Drew McDowell
- 21—Carla Diveley  
Alex Schwarm
- 22—Sophie Bowers  
Haven Burnam  
Tessa Opfer
- 24—Rosie Beckett  
Jamie Michel
- 26—Eli Bowen  
Brad Dunn
- 28—Grady Laack

MAY Anniversaries

- 3—Ty & Michelle McNary
- 12—Steve & Sandy Stombaugh
- 14—John & Caylee Zimmer
- 17—Roger & Peg Clark
- 27—Randy & Barb White
- 30—Drew & Sherry Schneider
- 31—Scott & Mia Vieregge

Liturgist  
Ann Schwarm

Sound Tech  
Josh Moulton

Video Tech  
Patrick Myers

- Acolytes
- 4- Brooklyn Burnam
  - 11- Parker Clark
  - 18- Trevor Clark
  - 25- Hannah Stombaugh

Offering Collectors

- 4- John Burnam
- 11- Gene Schwarm
- 18- Barb Paine
- 25- Jeff Endres

Bus Ministry

- 4 Driver: Bill Warner  
Rider: Kim Warner  
Greeter:
- 11 Driver: Max Durbin  
Rider: Deb Durbin  
Greeter: Jack Johnston

- 18 Driver: Ed Taylor  
Rider: Kim Taylor  
Greeter: Sandy Stombaugh

- 25 Driver: Bill Warner  
Rider: Kim Warner  
Greeter:

Head Ushers

- 4- JD Vieregge & Max Durbin
- 11- JD Vieregge & Josh Figgins
- 18- JD Vieregge & Rand Craycroft
- 25- JD Vieregge & Jacy Fulk





Music Minute

Handbells and Sanctuary Choir are wrapping up. Summer will be here before we know it! I just wanted to say thank you to everyone who supported me through their extra help, their grace, and their prayers as I went through my first semester at Saint Paul School of Theology. I will turn in my last paper on May 16th and then I will have a few months off, resuming my fall semester on August 11th.

We are so grateful that Sarah Vu is back! She and I have been transitioning the Praise Team job, so she will now be fully taking over again, although I will still lead the Blessing Response so she can be down in Kingdom Kids. I will continue to serve as a singer on the Praise Team. We plan to work together to plan future church services.

As we approach summer, please let Sarah or I know if you would like to sing an anthem (or two). We may be adding in a third hymn at some services since we have a small pool of people to provide anthems.

Here is the anthem schedule for May:

May 4th – Handbells (Jesu, Joy of a Man’s Desire)

May 11th - Ladies Choir (Sister Act Medley)

May 18th - Sanctuary Choir (Days of Elijah)

May 25th - TBD

Thank you to Dennette Guyer for singing hymns in April, including Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Thanks to the Spirit Singers, Praise Team, and Sanctuary Choir for serving in the month of April.

Here is our May rehearsal schedule:

April 30th

4:30-5:30 Sanctuary Choir (ladies only)

5:30-6:30 Handbells

May 7th

4:30-5:30 Sanctuary Choir (ladies only)

May 14th

4:30-5:30 Sanctuary Choir (all singers)

Here is my final plug for the “Sister Act Medley” on May 11th! We would love to have more ladies join us as we sing this fun song on Mother’s Day. The first practice is April 30th at 4:30; the second is May 7th at 4:30. I have recordings of the three parts ready to send out and we would love to have past, present, and future ladies choir members join us for these two rehearsals and one anthem. It’s sure to be a lot of fun! Almost good enough to “Shout!”



Musically, Taryn Flake



Pastor’s Perspective

Embodying Our Faith

Dear Beloved in Christ,

This month, we will be journeying together through a powerful theme: **embodying our faith**. Faith is not just something we think about or believe in our minds — it is something we live out with our whole selves. Faith shows up in what we do, how we speak, where we show up, and who we stand with. Our faith calls us to embody love, mercy, justice, and hope, just as Christ embodied these for us. It is always a good time to think about embodying our faith but after Easter seems like a strong time to dive deeper.

We begin on **April 27** with the story of Thomas (John 20:19-31) and the wounds of Christ, reflecting on how our belief is not abstract but tangible. It shapes who we are and how we live. We will explore what it means to have an *Embodied Belief in Christ* through Thomas paving the way.

On **May 4**, we continue with Jesus' call to Peter to feed his sheep (John 21:1-19). In a world where "justice" can sometimes seem like a controversial word, we will reflect on how *Justice Embodies Faith* — how caring for others, forgiving generously, and working for a just world are all acts of faithful living.

**May 11** invites us into a vision of a great multitude gathered around God’s throne (Revelation 7:9-17). We’ll talk about the *Springs of Living Water* — how God's abundance flows into us and, importantly, through us to others. Our faith connects us to one another; it compels us to serve and uplift those around us.

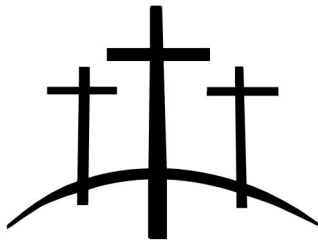
On **May 18**, we will hear the breathtaking vision of a new heaven and a new earth (Revelation 21:1-6) and Christ’s new commandment to love (John 13:31-35). Our sermon, *A New World*, will ask: what are we hoping for as Christians? Forgiveness and eternal life, yes — but also hope: hope for a world where we are stewards of God's gifts, not consumers, where we live lives of meaning for future generations.

Finally, on **May 25**, we will close the month by learning from *The Tree of Life* (Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5). Trees feed, heal, grow, and shelter — all quietly and faithfully. What can these simple, steadfast creations teach us about how to live as God's people?

Each Sunday, I pray that we will not only hear the Word but *live it* more deeply — that we will be people whose beliefs are visible in our actions, our priorities, and our hopes.

I am grateful to walk this journey with you. May we embody Christ's love boldly and joyfully together.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Curtis



<b>Nursing Home Residents &amp; Shut-ins:</b>	
<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



<b>Diane Adams</b> (health concerns) <b>Barb Ambuehl</b> (Patty Donaldson's mother, shoulder surgery on May 1) <b>Marti Bingham</b> (recuperating from surgery for brain tumor) <b>Patti Bohner</b> (At Anderson in Edwardsville for rehab for a broken hip) <b>Peter Cadigan</b> (son-in-law of Peg Dees, aortic valve replacement & is still weak) <b>Sara Clark</b> (health concerns) <b>Ava Cooper</b> (10 year-old neighbor of Candy Zeman, has received a heart & is recovering!) <b>Willard Fulk</b> (health concerns) <b>Ginger Hamilton</b> (cancer treatments) <b>Gene Hicks</b> (friend of Mark Miller, health concerns) <b>Amy Holaday</b> (breast cancer has returned) <b>Jack Johnston</b> (going through some tests) <b>Bob &amp; Joy Kloster</b> (both recovering from falls) <b>Carson LeDage</b> (please continue to pray, as the treatment plan is currently working) <b>Brian Mason</b> (Mark Miller's nephew, injured in a construction accident)	<b>Jason Mouser</b> (complications from stroke) <b>Dana Myers</b> (Patrick Myer's mother, major health concerns) <b>Justin Peebles</b> (Calista Eyman's brother, has a mass on his left kidney, still awaiting biopsy) <b>David Rademacher</b> (diagnosed with chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia) <b>Judy Roberts</b> (recovering from back surgery) <b>Sydney Rosborough</b> (diagnosed with TOS, recovering from surgery) <b>Gaynelle Scott</b> (breast cancer) <b>Gene Schwarm</b> (recovering from surgery) <b>Lana Sefton</b> (stage 4 breast cancer) <b>Donna Taylor</b> (recovering from brain bleed) <b>Heather (Jones) Thompson</b> (breast cancer) <b>Les Vaughan</b> (Lakeland Rehab) <b>Jeff Williams</b> (BJ & Sharon Mueller's son-in-law, has a nodule on his lung) <b>Ken Williams</b> (health concerns) <b>Hudson Winters</b> (diagnosed with LCH and starting oral chemo)
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Hello Everyone,

This summer, I will be heading to Orlando, Florida to participate in a mission project organized by the campus ministry I'm part of at UIS, Campus Movement (CAMO). It's a 9-week discipleship program where I'll deepen my relationship with God through Bible study, prayer, training, and living in community with fellow college-aged believers. The purpose of the CAMO Project is to equip students with the tools and foundation to live for God's glory and share their faith with others. I see this as an incredible opportunity to grow closer to God and build meaningful connections with other students involved in CAMO.

To make this possible, I need to raise \$2,500 to cover my living expenses during the program. I will also be working full-time in Orlando to cover additional costs. I'm reaching out for both financial support and prayer. Any contribution is greatly appreciated! Please feel free to share this message to help raise support. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions! #618-335-6291

Below is the link if you would like to support online, or you could also send directly to me at the following address 8 Mark Drive, Vandalia, IL 62471

<https://app.managedmissions.com/MyTrip/chasemcnary1>



"And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God." Colossians 1: 9-10

Thank you so much for your prayers and support,

Chase McNary