



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



March Pews News

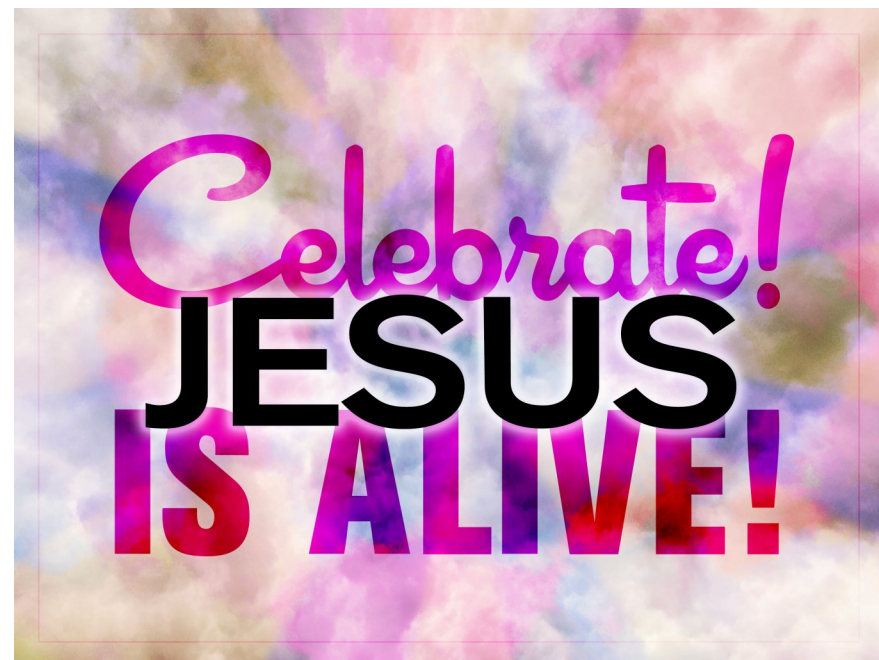
First United Methodist Church of Vandalia
*Planting and nurturing seeds of faith, cultivating devoted disciples of Christ,
 and feeding souls for the glory of God.*

Office Hours:

M-TH: 8a — 4p
 F: 8a — 12p
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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



“FAT SUNDAY” FUNDRAISER BREAKFAST for the SHELLENBARGERS!

Pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, bacon, biscuits & gravy, drinks...
Complete with a Mardi Gras King’s Cake for dessert!



Meet the Shellenbargers, Evelyn (6), Abram (4), Megan, Travis, baby Noah (4 months), and Eli (8).
The Shellenbargers reside on their farm east of Ramsey.

In January, Travis Shellenbarger had two surgeries on his back to repair injuries sustained while he was serving in the US Marine Corps. Travis is off work for the next 4 months, currently unable to lift, twist, or bend. Tough restrictions for an active father of four!

Along with prayers and healing, **you are invited** to join the members of
Holy Cross Lutheran Church (726 W Fillmore St., Vandalia, IL)
for a breakfast meal on

Sunday, March 2, 2025
Serving will be from 10:30a—?

Carryout will be available. Free will offering.
Please come and enjoy some good food and fellowship!
Hope to see you there!

If you are unable to attend this Fundraising Meal for the Travis and Megan Shellenbarger family and would like to provide financial support, donations can be made in their name or at any branch of the FNB Community Bank (Vandalia, Ramsey, Patoka, Mulberry Grove, Greenville).

“And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices, God is pleased.”
Hebrews 13:16

March

MARCH Birthdays

- 1—Bob DePaolo
- 2—Ellie Doyle
- 4— Deb Durbin
Amelia Moulton
Sherry Schneider
- 8—Megan Grapperhaus
Eric Miller
- 9—Aubrey Brouk
- 10— Jeff Burnam
Mark Miller
Bill Warner
- 11—Gail DePaolo
Dennette Guyer
- 12—Tim Edwards
- 14—Richard Knebel
Mary Woolsey
- 15—Susan Casey
- 17—Zac Stombaugh
Wade Thompson
- 19—Adeline Bowen
Duane Dugan
- 22—Trevor Clark
- 23—Danielle Miller
Frank Roeder
Ann Schwarm
- 24—Betty Guffey
- 25—Matthew Hagy
Bev Hood
- 26—Greg Fulk
Andy Schwarm
- 28—David Dugan
Madalynn Metzger
Suzie Thompson
- 29—Sarah Vu
- 31—Jody Burnam

MARCH Anniversaries

- 8—Bill & Kim Warner
(12 years)
- 26—Bill & Cindy Bennett
(35 years)
- 31—Jeff & Jan Casey
(40 years)

Acolytes

- 2- Hannah Stombaugh
- 9- Amelia Moulton
- 16- Parker Clark
- 23- Harper Burnam
- 30- Addison Flake

Liturgist

Kim Well

Sound Tech

Patrick Myers

Video Tech

Rand Craycroft

Offering Collectors

- 2- John Burnam
- 9- Gene Schwarm
- 16- Barb Paine
- 23- Barb Paine
- 30- John Burnam

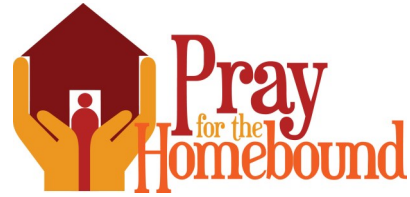
Bus Ministry

- 2 **Driver:** Bill Warner
Rider: Kim Warner
Greeter: Mary Fulton
- 9 **Driver:** Max Durbin
Rider: Deb Durbin
Greeter: Jack Johnston
- 16 **Driver:** Ed Taylor
Rider: Kim Taylor
Greeter: Sandy Stombaugh
- 23 **Driver:** Bill Warner
Rider: Kim Warner
Greeter: Mary Fulton
- 30 **Driver:** Max Durbin
Rider: Deb Durbin
Greeter: Jack Johnston

Head Ushers

- 2- JD Vieregge & Josh Figgins
- 9- JD Vieregge & Rand Craycroft
- 16- JD Vieregge & Jacy Fulk
- 23- JD Vieregge & Greg Fulk
- 30- JD Vieregge & Max Durbin





Nursing Home Residents & Shut-ins:

Brookstone (1607 W. Fillmore)
 Pete & Retha Burnam (Apt 41);
 Frank Roeder (Apt. 25); Jean Stombaugh (Apt. 32); Herb & Mary Woolsey (Apt. 32)
FCH/Long Term Care (650 West Taylor)
 Arlene Hoffman (Rm. 510); Sharon Lee; Deb Endres (Rm.708); Margaret Carroll
Meridian Village Assisted Living
 (27 Auerbach Place, Glen Carbon, IL 62034)
 Diane Adams

Stillwater Senior Living
 (1111 University Dr. Edwardsville, IL 62025)
 Patty Bohner (temp. address is:
 3402 Anderson Healthcare Dr, Edwardsville)
Willowbrook
 (1124 Sunset Dr, Vandalia, IL 62471)
 Edith Knebel
Shut-Ins:
 (2625 W. Jefferson St., Vandalia)
 Mike Beckett



Diane Adams (admitted to Mercy Hospital for neurological testing)	Jason Mouser (complications from stroke)
Marti Bingham (recuperating from surgery for brain tumor)	David Rademacher (diagnosed with chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia)
Patti Bohner (At Anderson in Edwardsville for rehab for a broken hip)	Judy Roberts (back surgery has been cancelled, new date to be determined)
John Blythe (recuperating from hernia surgery)	Sydney Rosborough (diagnosed with TOS, recovering from surgery)
Sara Clark (health concerns)	Drew Schneider (recovering from surgery)
Ava Cooper (10 year-old neighbor of Candy Zeman, now #2 on the list for a heart transplant)	Gaynelle Scott (breast cancer)
Steve Cox (Jane Cox's son, recovering at home)	Lana Sefton (stage 4 breast cancer)
Elaine Culbertson (health concerns)	Donna Taylor (recovering from brain bleed)
Taryn Flake (entering St. Paul Seminary)	Heather (Jones) Thompson (breast cancer)
Willard Fulk (health concerns)	Darin Wells (in partial remission from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma)
Leonard Gehle (Deb Durbin's father; prostate cancer treatment)	Ken Williams (health concerns)
Ginger Hamilton (cancer treatments)	Hudson Winters (diagnosed with LCH and starting oral chemo)
Family of Donna Hair (Deb Cook's daughter's mother-in-law)	Jason Wright (Amy Vieregge's nephew, recovering from open heart surgery)
Amy Holaday (breast cancer has returned)	Ken Williams (health concerns)
Heather Jones (hemochromatosis)	
Carson LeDage (please continue to pray, as the treatment plan is currently working)	

Music Minute

How is it March already? We are approaching the Lenten season, so look for hymns and anthems that reflect the season. Here is the anthem schedule for March:

- March 2nd - Spirit Singers (The Perfect Ten)
- March 9th - Sanctuary Choir (When I Survey the Wondrous Cross)
- March 16th - Sanctuary Choir (How Great the Love)
- March 23rd - Handbell Choir (What Wondrous Love Is This)
- March 30th - hymn sing

Thank you to Lisette Ehrat for playing on February 23rd so I could go to another church for a school project. Thank you to Kathy Taylor for singing hymns in February and to Dennette Guyer for covering one Sunday. Thanks to the Spirit Singers, Praise Team, and Sanctuary Choir for serving. Thanks to Olivia and Jacob Jenkins for their anthem on February 23rd.

Here is our March rehearsal schedule:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <u>March 4th</u>
5:15-6:15 Praise Team | <u>March 5th</u>
4:00-4:45 Sanctuary Choir
4:45-5:30 Handbells
(no Spirit Singers due to Ash Wednesday) |
| <u>March 11th</u>
4:00-5:00 Praise Team | <u>March 12th</u>
4:30-5:30 Sanctuary Choir
5:30-6:00 Spirit Singers
6:00-7:00 Handbells |
| <u>March 18th</u>
5:15-6:15 Praise Team | <u>March 19th</u>
5:30-6:00 Spirit Singers
6:00-7:00 Handbells |
| <u>March 25th</u>
5:15-6:15 Praise Team | <u>March 26th</u>
5:30-6:00 Spirit Singers |



As always, I am happy to serve the Vandalia First UMC in the area of music. I pray that you have found meaning and worship to God in the song selections.

Musically,
Taryn Flake



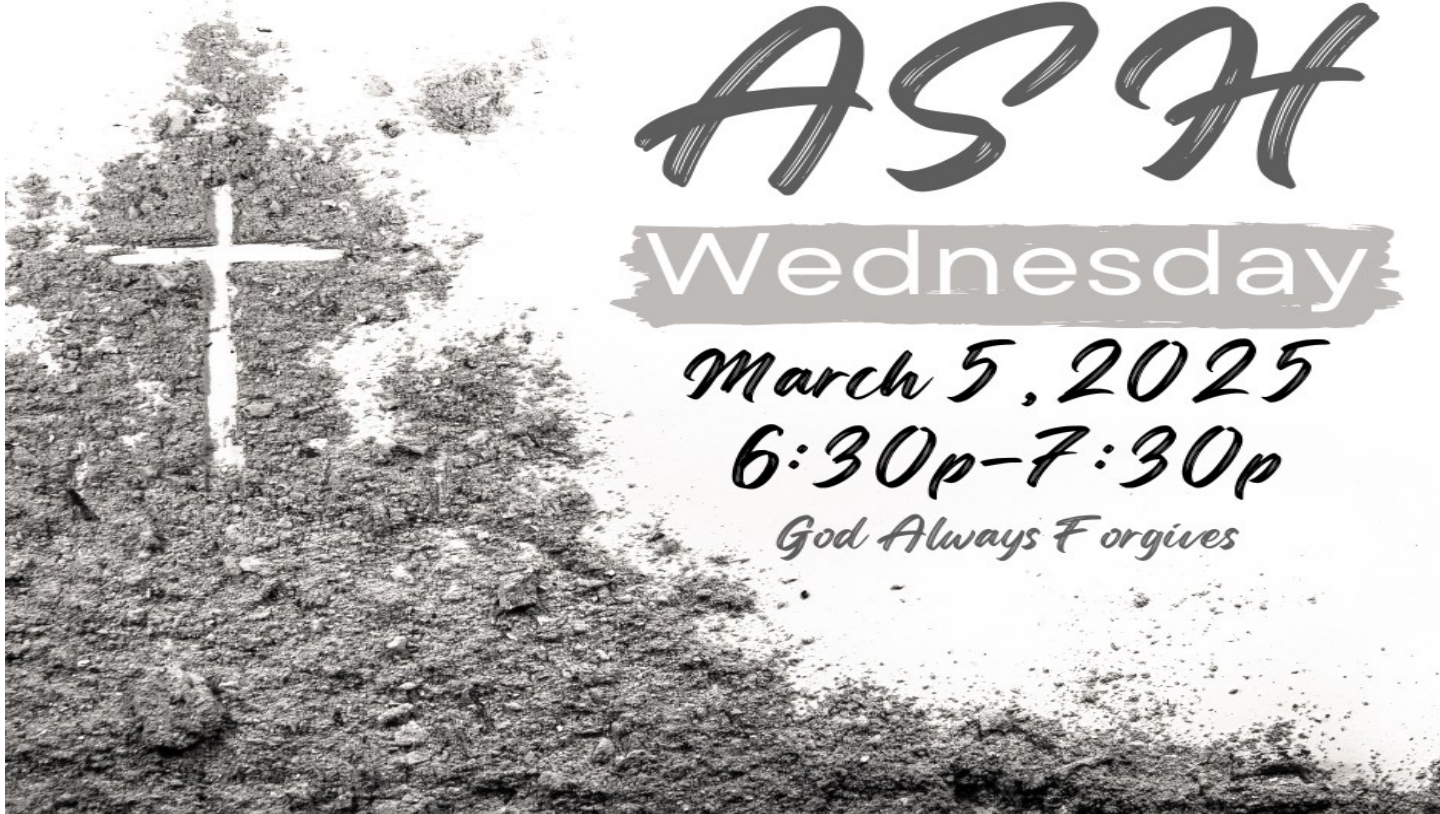
I AM WITH YOU

In the springtime
of your life, when joy is new,
And when summer brings the fullness
of your faith, I'm there with you...
I am with you in the autumn
of your years, to turn to gold
Every memory of your yesterdays,
to banish winter's cold...
I am with you in the sunshine,
when your world glows
warm and bright...
I am with you when life's shadows
bring long hours of endless night...
I am with you every moment,
every hour of every day-
Go in peace upon life's journey,-
for I'm with you all the way.



- Submitted by Andy Sidwell

ASH
Wednesday
March 5, 2025
6:30p-7:30p
God Always Forgives



Finding the Sacred in the Secular: A Unique Lenten Journey

As March begins, we are almost in Lent. Ash Wednesday is March 5th. Lent is a season of reflection, repentance, and renewal—a time to draw closer to God in unexpected ways. This year, our Lenten services will take a unique approach, using *secular music* to help us explore the sacred. We are taking up this task with some fellow United Methodist Churches.

Music has the power to move us, challenge us, and reveal truths we may not have considered before. While church tradition has long relied on hymns and spiritual songs to guide our faith, we believe that God's voice is not limited to the sanctuary. Sometimes, the lyrics of a popular song can stir our hearts in ways that point us back to Christ. We know this but maybe we need to take permission for this.

Throughout Lent, I will incorporate songs from outside the church, probably by lyrics only (the playlist is following if you want to make requests), weaving them into our journey toward the cross. Each week, we'll explore how these songs—whether about love, struggle, hope, or redemption—can illuminate our walk of faith.

We invite you to join us for this meaningful exploration. Come with open hearts, ready to listen in a new way, and discover how God speaks through both the expected and the unexpected.

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it." – Psalm 24:1.

Following is a blurb from the UMC Board of Discipleship on the series...

A playlist? For the season of Lent? A Lenten playlist? What an odd idea. Lent is often seen as a somber and even silent season. Certainly, there is space for contemplation, for embracing the quiet, for being still to seek out God. Many of us, however, find music a helpful tool for contemplation. So, we offer this playlist as another tool for your worship experience this season. We chose a song for each worship moment in the series from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday. We aren't suggesting that these are to be used in worship, unless that fits your context. Rather, this is preparation work, thinking about making connections, about plumbing the depths of heart and soul, of the community of faith and the wider culture. However you use them, let music be a guide into worship this Lent.

Each song has been chosen to help us imagine the emotion of the Scripture and the meaning of the day. Some songs are dark—because some days of Lent are dark—but through it all, the light of Christ shines in the darkness.

Ash Wednesday	Fix You	by Coldplay
First Sunday of Lent	Rise Up	by Andra Day
Second Sunday of Lent	Head Above Water	by Avril Lavigne
Third Sunday of Lent	Light of Home	by U2
Fourth Sunday of Lent	Rainbow	by Kacey Musgraves
Fifth Sunday of Lent	Cover Me in Sunshine	by Pink
Palm Sunday	You Will Be Found	from Dear Evan Hansen
Maundy Thursday	Stand Up	by Cynthia Erivo
Good Friday	Strange Fruit	by Billie Holliday
	The Hanging Tree	from Hunger Games
Holy Saturday	A Safe Place to Land	by Sara Bareilles
Easter Sunday	Light of a Clear Blue Morning	by Dolly Parton

My hope is that we aren't simply following what many other churches are doing but that we are thinking more deeply during our Lenten journey. Why does music speak to us? Why do certain songs resonate with us so profoundly? Can music from different genres illuminate something about God?

Each week, I will release a devotional reflecting on the selected song, and perhaps add a song or two to the list. I look forward to journeying through Lent with you in this new and thought-provoking way.

- Pastor Curtis