



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



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.*



We excited to announce the introduction of an electronic option for making regular offerings. Contributions can now be debited automatically from your checking or savings account or processed using your credit or debit card. Our new electronic giving program offers convenience for you and provides donation consistency for our congregation.

To get started, visit our “new” website at [www.vandaliafirstumc.org](http://www.vandaliafirstumc.org), locate the online giving page, and set up your recurring giving schedule. The first time you give you will select a password that will enable you to log in at any time and make changes to your giving or view your complete giving history.

You may also scan the QR code and download the app to your mobile device:

If you wish to give electronically, your contribution will still be tracked and recorded on your statement as before.

Please contact Casey in the Church office if you have any questions.



Contact us

M-W-TR: 8:00a—4:00p  
 T-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)

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 Music: Louise Weiss: [gctheorygal@hotmail.com](mailto:gctheorygal@hotmail.com)  
 Director of Young Children’s Ministries: Amanda Milam  
 Preschool Director: Cindy Laramée  
 Custodians: Mike & Sharon Hagy  
 Assistant Custodian: Andy Sidwell

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**Nursing Home Residents & Shut-ins:**

Brookstone (1607 W. Fillmore)  
Diane Adams (Apt. 15); Carlos Biellier (Apt. 2);  
Margaret Carroll (Apt. 10);  
Arlene Hoffman (Apt. 4); Larry Peyton  
Iris Rademacher (Apt. 36), Mary Ann Rhoades  
(Apt. 41), Frank Roeder (Apt. 25)

FCH/Long Term Care (650 West Taylor)  
Audrey Fink (Rm. 408)  
Marian Miller (Rm. 404)  
Sandy Peyton

Lakewood Nursing Home  
(800 W Temple Ave., Effingham, IL 62401)  
Mary Crawford

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

Willowbrook  
(1124 Sunset Dr., Vandalia)  
Deb Endres  
Norman Rhoades  
Ed Taylor

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



**Patti Bohner** (Diane Adams' daughter,  
mobility issues)

**Mary Crawford** (congestive heart failure;  
Lakeland Nursing Home; Effingham)

**Gary Doolen** (cancer)

**Shona Edwards** (Bill Warner's niece; cancer)

**Mason Feltner** (Kelly Clark's nephew;  
chemotherapy for A.L.L. leukemia)

**Amy Holaday** (friend of Gathe's; breast  
cancer; recuperating from surgery)

**Eric Holman** (melanoma)

**Heather Jones** (friend of Donna Johnson;  
diagnosed with hemochromatosis)

**Marian Miller** (comfort care)

**Heather Overlin** (Larry Osborne's  
daughter; health concerns)

**Preston Spicer** (pancreatic cancer)

**Ed Taylor** (recovering from broken hip;  
Willowbrook)

**Herb Thoman** (health concerns)

**Marie Towler** (Dean Black's sister; cancer)

Prayers for Ed Taylor, Sr. and Mary Crawford who were recently hospitalized.



Congratulations to Jasper Wesley Dothager, son of Jordan and  
Calista BreAnn, who was baptized in worship April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Congratulations to Nash Henry Grapperhaus, son of Isaac and  
Megan, who will be baptized in worship May 1<sup>st</sup>.

And welcome to our newest church members;  
Isaac and Megan Grapperhaus, Carl and Lisa Shreve and  
Louise Weiss, received on Easter Sunday!



**MAY Birthdays**

- 1—Candy Carroll  
Dennis Weiss
- 2—Carlee Kistler  
Michelle McNary
- 3—Andy Craig  
Josh Miller  
Josh Moulton
- 5—Calista Eyman  
Elizabeth Miller  
Taylor Well
- 6—Brenda Grimmatt
- 14—Nelda Cearlock
- 18—Randy Protz  
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
- 31—Lauren Hagy

**MAY Anniversaries**

- 1—Kent & Robin Kistler  
(45 years)
- 3—Ty & Michelle McNary  
(25 years)
- 11—Harold & Donna Johnson  
(48 years)
- 12—Steve & Sandy Stombaugh  
(43 years)
- 14—John & Caylee Zimmer  
(11 years)
- 17—Roger & Peg Clark  
(14 years)
- 27—Dean & Elloise Black  
(60 years)  
Mike & Sharon Hagy  
(50 years)  
Jason & Kari Hagy  
(22 years)  
Randy & Barb White  
(5 years)
- 30—Drew & Sherry Schneider  
(51 years)
- 31—Scott & Mia Vieregge  
(14 years)

**Acolytes**

- 1—Austin & Jaime Warren
- 8—Hannah Stombaugh
- 15—Michael & Samantha Crothers
- 22—Brylee & Bryce Kistler
- 29—Payton Gathe

**Sound Tech**

Rick Eyman

**Video Tech**

Rand Craycroft

**Liturgist**

Jaime Warren & Family

**Offering Collectors**

- 1—Casey Kistler
- 8—John Burnam
- 15—Gene Schwarm
- 22—Gene Schwarm
- 29—

**Bus Ministry**

- 1 **Driver:** Ed Taylor  
**Rider:** Kim Taylor  
**Greeter:** Gail DePaolo
- 8 **Driver:** Bill Warner  
**Rider:** Kim Warner  
**Greeter:** Jack Johnston
- 15 **Driver:** Darrel Casey  
**Rider:** Alan Lurkins  
**Greeter:** Sandy Stombaugh
- 22 **Driver:** Max Durbin  
**Rider:** Deb Durbin  
**Greeter:** Linda Dugan
- 29 **Driver:** Ed Taylor  
**Rider:** Kim Taylor  
**Greeter:** Sherry Goodell

**Song Leaders**

Contemporary: Kathy Taylor  
Traditional: Dennette Guyer

**Ushers**

- 1—JD Vieregge
- 8—John Burnam
- 15—Dean Black
- 22—Bryce Kistler
- 29—John Kaiser



## Pastor's Perspective

Our attendance at worship is growing, and what a blessing that is. Pre-pandemic Sunday morning attendance was in the 90s, since the fall of 2021 we have averaged 150-160. As the Spirit beckons people to us it is important to remember three rules for those of us who are already part of this church family.

First, we should go out of our way to greet others. Many years ago, I was "working the crowd" before a worship service and came to a couple I did not know. I introduced myself and asked their names. The wife smiled and shared their names. I asked if there was their first Sunday in our church and she smiled and answered. "Pastor Tom, we have been members here for 20 years!" I was briefly taken aback but then she added, "but we have not met, and I am glad you went out of your way to find us!"

There is always the risk in introducing yourself to someone at church that you (A) should have known them already, (B) really are getting forgetful or (C) really are meeting someone new! It is better to take that risk and be friendly. Most people will forgive us for forgetting their names. Everything I have ever read about church growth begins with the same mantra. People will come back for a second visit to church even if the sermon is dull, the music uninspiring and the church building not exactly clean as long as they are MADE TO FEEL WELCOME! Let us go out of our way to do this.

Second, we do not own this church, it belongs to Jesus (even has His name written on the building). This includes our pew, our place in line for coffee, or our parking spot. We have all heard stories of visitors asked to relocate because they sat in someone's pew at church. And among the greatest fear visitors have, is that this will happen to them. Has it ever happened to you?

If someone sits in your pew, or parks in your spot; greet them kindly and find another spot to sit or park!

Third, just like children do, visitors learn by watching what we do and not just what we say. We may proclaim to be a Spirit filled church, but visitors will watch what we do. When we worship half-heartedly, or are constantly distracted in worship, this signals visitors that this may be the church of Laodicea (look it up, Revelation 3:16). I am thankful that this does not describe us!

Let us be a friendly church. And as we grow in numbers, let our growth be marked in Spirit too!

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Tom



Dear Church Family,  
Thank you for the blessing in received; so many goodies to discover. I love you all and I know God loves you more.  
—Susann Schumacher



I want to thank you for the Easter basket I found on my door steps. Such a kind blessing of many useful items. The love of God can be shown in many ways and this mission is one of them. God is so good!  
In Christian love, Wilma Kruger

Thank you so much for the nice basket that was delivered to me. It was filled with so many nice things. It was so nice to be thought of.  
Thanks again, Janet Elam

Ladies,  
Thank you for the gift basket. It was filled with so many useful gifts. The beautiful red tulip reminds me of spring. The handcrafted cross made from olive wood reminds me of Jesus who gave his life on the cross. Again thanks for everything.  
—Ruth Ann Stewart

Thank you to the NOW Committee for remembering us with an Easter basket. Your thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated! We are truly blessed to be a part of such a caring church!  
—Bud & Jill Zimmer

## May Worship Notes

- May 1** Scripture lesson: Luke 15:1-7 (Communion Sunday)  
Sermon: "The Lost and the Found", Jesus calls we who are found to care about those who are lost."
- May 8** Scripture lesson: Proverbs 31: 1-12, 25-31 Sermon: "Are you my Mother?", what does it mean for us to be "motherly"? How can we be motherly to the children in our orbit?
- May 15** Scripture lesson: Matthew 7: 1-6 Sermon: "Here comes the Judge", Jesus calls judgmentalism among the greatest of sins. Can we judge behaviors without being judgmental towards people?
- May 22** Scripture lesson: Matthew 8: 23-27 Sermon: "Weather Alert", how can we find calm and peace in the midst of life's storms? Jesus challenges the faith of his disciples when they panic in a storm.
- May 29** Cowboy Sunday! Join Melody Freeman and friends as we celebrate with music and message!



Vacation Bible School is set for Saturday, June 11, from 9:00am-12:00pm, at the Family Center. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Casey Kistler. We are in need of group leaders! This would entail walking the groups of youth to and from each station. Pre-registration is required this year. Forms are available in the Church office or on the Church's Facebook page. **Registration deadline is Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup>**. All children ages pre-k thru 6<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to attend!

### Summer Children's Sunday School Volunteers

We appreciate all of our Sunday School teachers! Our regular teachers will be taking some time off from teaching for the summer. Please consider signing up for one or more Sundays beginning June 5-September 4. A clipboard will be passed around during morning worship, or you may contact the Church office. All materials and snacks are provided. The Children's Sunday School time is 9:00am-9:30am downstairs in the youth area.



### Preschool News

It is May which means we are entering the last month of the school year! We have had a wonderful year full of laughs and love....and learning! During the month of May we will study the themes of Library-Books, Mother's Day and a fun week to finish out the school year! We will celebrate Mother's Day on May 6 and graduation will be in the church sanctuary on Thursday, May 19, at 6:00 pm. Our very last day of this school year will be Friday, May 20! We are still registering for the next school year 2022-2023 and would love to help any

family looking for a faith based preschool program. Call 283-9845 for more information! As we close the books on our year, we are grateful for the support of our FUMP families, Pastor Tom and the church staff, and our preschool board in navigating through another fun and successful year! Blessings to you all!

Miss Cindy, Miss Sue, Miss Sarah



As I reflect upon this years' music season, I'm struck by wonderful contrasts. From our somber traditional music such as What Wondrous Love is This to the triumphant Christ Is Risen He Is Risen Indeed, to our contemporary praise music, our wonderful organ music, all varieties of singers, flutists, trumpet, handbell choir and Chancel choir, and the contrast of Cowboy Sunday and Gospel Sunday, praising God through music has no limits! I'm so thankful for the plethora of wonderful musicians that bless us every Sunday. This month I want to particularly thank Dawn Rosborough and Mark Miller who faithfully and musically serve our church family. Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!

In Christ's service,  
Louise



### N.O.W. Committee

The N.O.W. Committee delivered 35 Spring baskets on April 9th.

Thank you to everyone that brought in items for college care packages!

Backpack 2 School will be held Wednesday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at the Family Center.

Tools For School will be held August 10th-August 13th at the 6:35 Food Pantry.



The Church office is closed  
Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, in  
observance of Memorial Day.



We Need The Following:

- Ramen Noodles
- Mac & Cheese



Graduation Sunday is Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. On this day we will recognize our eighth grade, high school, and college Graduates during our worship service. Please submit names of graduates to the church office by Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup>.

Youth groups will have their end of the year party at the park on Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. There will be food and a bounce house!