



October Pews News

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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.*



The FUMC Youth Group Kickoff Party was a huge success! A big thank you to the volunteers and helpers that made it possible.

What a great way to start the year!



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

Preschool Director: Morgan Tessman

Custodian: Andy Sidwell

Family Center Custodian: Rich Well

Praise Team Director: Sarah Vu



Music Minute

I'm so thankful for the Sanctuary and Handbell Choirs. There is something about restarting these groups in the fall that brings me so much joy. Just a reminder that if you would like to join us, please come to a rehearsal. You don't even have to commit – you can come try one out. We would love to have you, and we will find a spot for you! (You don't have to read music in either group to participate.)

Here is the October rehearsal schedule:

Sanctuary Choir:

Rehearsals (Wed's @ 4:30)

October 1st

October 15th

Anthems (Sundays @ 9:00)

October 5th (Communion Canon – w/Handbells)

October 19th (Amazing Grace – w/Praise Team)

Handbells:

Rehearsals (Wed's @ 6:00)

October 1st

October 15th

October 22nd

Anthem (Sundays @ 8:50)

October 26th (My Jesus, I Love Thee)

Finally, thank you so much to those who led the traditional songs in the month of September: Patty Donaldson and Dennette Guyer. Thank you to those who provided a prelude in September: Charlene Jett, Judy Roberts, and Sarah Vu. Thanks to the Praise Team for help with the Sanctuary Choir anthem on the 21st. Our services are more diverse with your participation! Thank you for sharing your musical gifts with the congregation!



Musically,
Taryn Flake

"A Bible that's falling apart usually belongs to a person who isn't"
-Submitted by Andy Sidwell

Stewardship Sunday is October 26th. A letter and pledge card will be mailed soon. This is not a time to think of giving towards the Church budget, but rather a time to think of your spiritual relationship with God through your giving.

Clergy & Laity are invited to attend the 2025 conference on revitalizing and growing churches.

The New Wineskins– Leaning Into A Faith-Filled Future

November 7 & 8, Mt. Vernon First UMC

*Please let the office know if you are interested in going so we can put a group together!



Mark your calendars!

Charge Conference is set for Thursday, October 2nd at 6:30pm, at Mt. Vernon First United Methodist Church. All members of Church Council are voting members and able to vote at Conference. All are welcome to attend.

United Methodist Men's Fish Fry

Thursday, November 13th, 2025

4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

(or while supplies last)

Drive-Thru Only

**First United Methodist Church
Vandalia, IL**

FREE WILL DONATIONS

All proceeds from this event are applied to the coats and shoes program which has provided for Fayette County children and youth in need for over 25 years!

Thank you for your support!



October Newsletter Article From the Pastor's Desk

The fall is always an exciting and busy time in the church. This year is no different—except, maybe, it feels even more exciting and busy because of the love, energy, and momentum this church continues to display both within our congregation and in the community. What a blessing it is to witness!

In just the recent past we've enjoyed Laity Round Table discussions, gathered for a Church Revitalization Prayer Vigil, hosted Back Pack 2 School, celebrated the youth group kick-off with regular meetings and meals, finished our 30-Day Gospel Challenge (almost), strengthened our communication through social media, made thoughtful tweaks in worship, and had our Ladies' Day Celebration (almost). I may be biased, but the health, hope, and momentum of our church following Jesus is such a gift.

And we're not slowing down! Even as our Gospel Reading Challenge ends, a new one begins. October has 31 days, and Proverbs has 31 chapters—so we'll be walking together through the wisdom of Proverbs this month.

There are also many special moments on the horizon:

- October 2 – Charge Conference at Mount Vernon First UMC, 6:30 p.m.
- October 5 – World Communion Sunday, a service that unites us with Christians around the globe. With some special addition for our church this year.
- October 26 – Stewardship Sunday, a time to pray, dream, and plan together for the year ahead.
- November 2 – All Saints Sunday, when we remember and give thanks for those who have gone before us.
- November 7–8 – Church Revitalization & Growth Conference in Mt. Vernon with two leading experts.

Meanwhile, ministries continue to thrive: Wednesday Mid-Day Bible Study, Prayer Shawls, Coffee, Christ & Cards, United Methodist Men, Bucket Buddies, and more. Youth ministry and meals are growing. Plans are underway for the UMM Fish Fry leading into Coats and Shoes, conversations are happening around hosting a concert, and we continue to prayerfully discern the right time to launch an alternate worship service.

But what is especially on my heart this month is a reminder of the connectional system that we are part of as United Methodists. That's a fancy way of saying: we are not in this alone. Our life together as United Methodists is expressed in many ways—like gathering with other churches for Charge Conference, sharing in a Revitalization & Growth Conference, or having colleagues to lean on when ministry takes me out of the office or when a hospital visit is needed in another city. I'm grateful that when I am away, I can call on another pastor to care for our people. I'm also thankful that wherever I travel, I can find a United Methodist church to worship with.

Just as our own congregation is stronger when we learn to serve and work together, churches, too, are stronger when we live into our connection with one another. That's the beauty of being

United Methodist—we share ministry, we share resources, and we share the call to follow Jesus together.

Friends, momentum is growing here. Let's continue to nurture it with prayer, service, generosity, and hope—because the best is yet to come. (And there may be another impromptu prayer vigil on the horizon.

Grace and peace, Pastor Curtis

October Scripture Challenge 2025

If you journeyed through the 30-Day Gospel Challenge, congrats! It was a commitment for those who typically read the Bible daily and for those just now renewing their commitment to do so. I heard these comments from two members of our church family. “The Message is the version I chose to read from to accomplish the Challenge and it was enlightening to read it from that version since I typically read the Bible from NIV or other more traditional version.” Another said, “I usually read from my Life Application Bible, pausing along the way to read the footnotes. This time I just read the words of the Bible and discovered lessons from the Gospels I maybe missed before when I was seeking input from biblical scholars. This time, with so much to read, I just thought my own thoughts and saw favorite passages in a new light.” (paraphrased!)

Ready for more? Hope so! During the “Come to the Table Sessions” lead by Rich Well and Gene Schwarm, a goal was set to “grow in faith, grow in knowledge and grow in understanding.” What better way to do that than to read scripture daily, as a church family.

The Gospel Challenge was a lot of reading, many days 3-4 chapters, 20-25 minutes. Thus, we were emersed in God’s Word. Great way to start. October? How about something different? Old Testament? Words of Wisdom! You guessed it! Proverbs! 31 Chapters for 31 Days!

Most of the book of Proverbs was written by King Solomon when he was living his best life early in his reign over the kingdom of Israel. The later chapters (25-31) were collected by Agur and Lemuel, men of Hezekiah (one of the few “good” kings) and were written by Solomon and others and were directed back to the king. Read these chapters as instructions for leaders. If you want to know why Solomon might have needed to reflect on his own words of wisdom, inspired by God, read 1 Kings, Chapter 11. Proverbs ends with reflections about character, wisdom, skill and compassion—a lovely way to conclude another scripture Challenge, checking it off as completed. Watch for bookmarks, in fall colors, so you can keep track of your progress in this latest Challenge.

In Christ’s Love,
Ann Schwarm



The church office will be closed on Monday, October 13, 2025 in observance of Columbus Day.

November 2nd is **All Saints Sunday**. We will remember our saints and those of your immediate family during worship that morning. If you have someone you wish to remember, who has passed away since October 30, 2023, please submit their name, relationship to you, birthdate, date they passed, and a picture of them for inclusion in the service.

You may email the picture (jpeg file please) to vandaliafumc@outlook.com, or drop off a picture to the church office to be scanned. **Please submit this information by Wednesday, October 23rd**, to be included in the service.



Nursing Home Residents & Shut-ins:

Brookstone (1607 W. Fillmore)
Pete & Retha Burnam (Apt 41);
Frank Roeder (Apt. 25); Jean Stombaugh (Apt. 32);

FCH/Long Term Care (650 West Taylor)
Arlene Hoffman (Rm. 510); Sharon Lee; Deb Endres
(Rm.708); Margaret Carroll; Larry
Peyton (Rm.405) Herb & Mary Woolsey

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 (struggling with health concerns)

Barb Ambuehl (Patty Donaldson's mother, recovering from surgery & doing well)

Marti Bingham (Patti Craycroft's step-mother, recovering from surgery for a brain tumor)

Bill Blythe (Wendy Blythe's husband, suffered a heart attack)

Patti Bohner (on hospice)

Debbie Brantley (recovering from surgery)

Candy Carroll (ongoing health concerns)

Sara Clark (health concerns)

Ava Cooper (10 year old neighbor of Candy Zeman, back at school!)

Jane Cox (in ICU at Good Samaritan Hospital in Mt. Vernon, IL)

Julia Crowe

Scott Dolejs (Carole White's grandson, going to the Congo for 2 weeks to perform surgeries)

Patti Emerick, (friend of Kim Warner, recovering from a lung transplant)

Shirley Frick (needs prayers)

Willard Fulk (health concerns)

Mary Fulton

Gene Hicks (friend of Mark Miller, now in remission!)

Jack Huth (Donna Taylor's son-in-law (Beth's husband), throat cancer)

Butch Johnston

Jennifer Kenney (Barb McCart & Sue & Eric's niece, diagnosed with breast cancer)

Bob & Joy Kloster (both recovering from falls)

Ray Kramer (recovering from compressed spinal fracture due to a fall)

Dorothy Kriesel, (wife of pastor in Farina/Patoka, recovering from complications due to bypass surgery)

Carson LaDage (Graduated/still needs prayers)

Kirk Langham friend of Kathy Taylor's, radiation has been paused for heart surgery)

Austin Long

Buddy Miller (Eric & Sue Miller's son, treatment for AFib and a blood clot)

Jason Mouser (recovering from stroke at home)

Family of Ron Nash

David Rademacher (diagnosed with chronic lymphocytic leukemia)

Leona Retezer (Kelly Clark's grandma)

Kevin Roberts (Steve & Sandy Stombaugh's nephew & Sue Schwarm's son-in-law, diagnosed with lung cancer with metastasis)

Sydney Rosborough (diagnosed with TOS)

Kathy Schaal (friend of Carolyn Daniels, major health issues)

Jenna Schneider (Drew & Sherry's daughter in law, recovering from hip replacement)

Family of Seth Smith

Arlen Sidwell (Andy's mom, health issues)

Anna Syniuk (Zoryana's mother, suffered a stroke)

Donna Taylor (recovering from a brain bleed)

Heather (Jones) Thompson (breast cancer)

Les Vaughan (Lakeland Rehab)

Mike Wehrle (recovering, but still needing prayers)

Jeff Williams (BJ & Sharon Mueller's son in law, lung cancer)

Ken Williams (health concerns & strength for Peg as his caregiver)

Hudson Winters (diagnosed with LCH)



October




1—Jane Cox
 2—Kelly Clark
 Sarah Craig
 Ken Williams
 Henley Zimmer
 3—Luke Burnam
 Jan Casey
 Linda Kistler
 Shelley Metzger
 5—Adley Brouk
 Abby Fabela
 Matthew Wells
 7—Larry Bennett
 Gene Schwarm
 8—Brooke Roberts
 Lisa Shreve
 10—Lora Foutch
 12—Les Vaughan
 14—Sandy Stombaugh
 Scott Vieregge
 15—Pete Burnam
 Sue Burnam
 16—Shannon Lurkins
 17—Nolan Arndt
 19—Blair Doyle
 Addison Flake
 Evan Warren
 21—Meilynn Schneider
 22—George Holiday
 24—Jordyn Rademacher
 26—Dorothy Schultz
 27—Nicole Craycroft
 Sue Miller
 28—Patrick Myers
 29—Tim Springsteen
 30—Connor Eyman
 Kohen White
 31—Becky Bost
 Mark Koelker
 Joyce Mueller

1—Richard & Carla Knebel
 (26 years)
 6—Alan & Shannon Lurkins
 (46 years)
 12—Alex & Samantha Schwarm
 (12 years)
 13—Frank Hook & Shelly Haislar
 (18 years)
 14—Pete & Retha Burnam
 (18 years)
 16—Josh & Trisha Miller
 (26 years)
 18—Todd & Shelley Metzger
 (22 years)
 22—Shannon & Jill Tarkington
 (31 years)
 26—Andy & Kendra Craig
 (29 years)
 29—Ken & Peg Williams
 (48 years)

Acolytes

5- Harper Burnam
 12- Amelia Moulton
 19- Addison Flake
 26- Brayden Stombaugh

Offering Collector

5- John Burnam
 12- Gene Schwarm
 19-
 26- Jeff Endres

Liturgist

John Burnam

Video Tech

Josh Moulton

Sound Tech

Rick Eyman

Bus Ministry

5 **Driver:** Ed Taylor
 Rider: Kim Taylor
 Greeter:

 12 **Driver:** Bill Warner
 Rider: Kim Warner
 Greeter: Sandy Stombaugh

 19 **Driver:** Max Durbin
 Rider: Deb Durbin
 Greeter:

 26 **Driver:** Ed Taylor
 Rider: Kim Taylor
 Greeter: Sandy Stombaugh

Head Ushers

5- JD Vieregge & Josh Figgins
 12- JD Vieregge & Rand Craycroft
 19- JD Vieregge & Jacy Fulk
 26- JD Vieregge & Greg Fulk

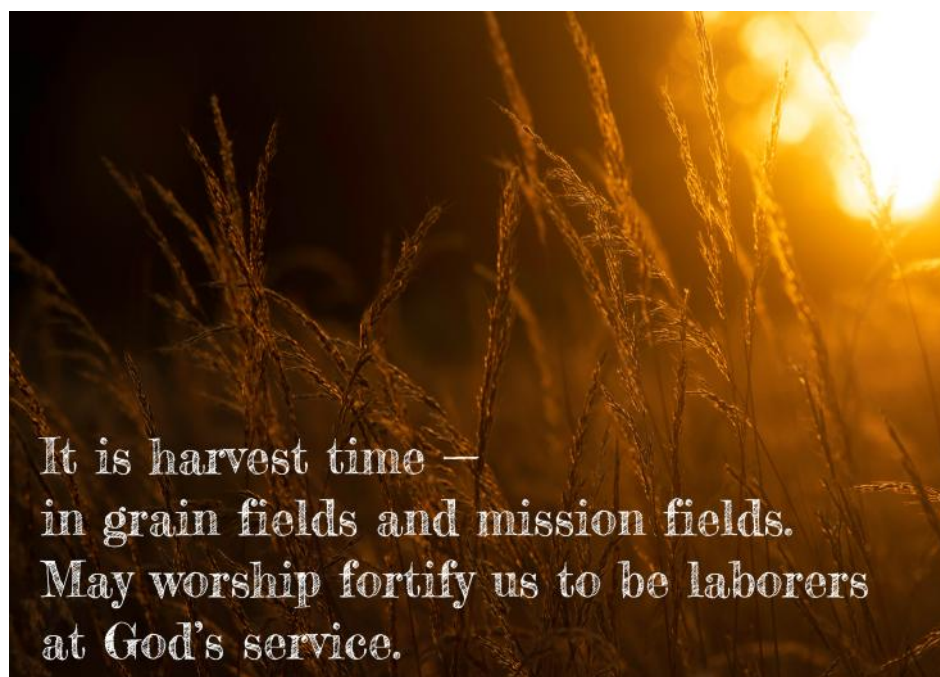




First United Methodist Church

127 N 4th St

Vandalia, IL 62471



It is harvest time —
in grain fields and mission fields.
May worship fortify us to be laborers
at God's service.