



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



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-W-TR: 8a — 4p
T-F: 8a — 12p

Phone: 618-283-3684

Email: vandaliafumc@outlook.com

Website: www.vandaliafirstumc.org



If you have a student in college that you would like to receive a care package, please contact the Church office with their name and address by April 19th. We do not keep names and addresses from previous semesters as students graduate and transfer.

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Greeters and Ushers needed! The sign up sheet is available on the Welcome Center. April thru June dates available.

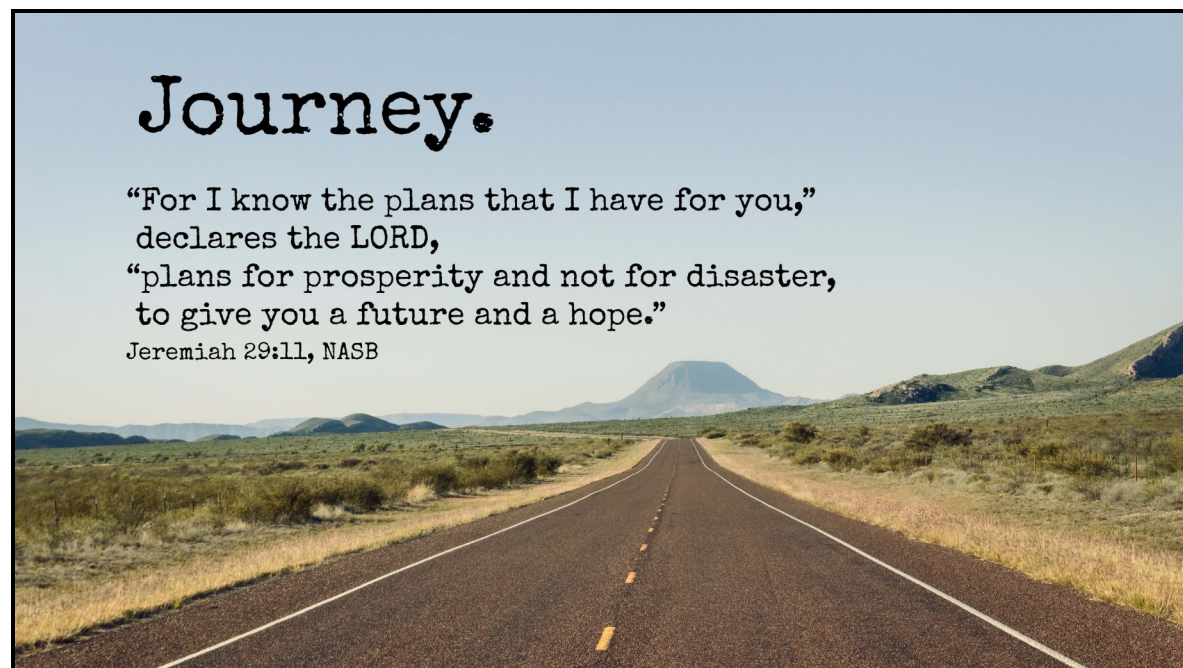
Church Staff

Pastor: Curtis Flake: rev.cflake@gmail.com, 217-273-4432
Administrative Assistant: Casey Kistler: vandaliafumc@outlook.com
Secretary: Sue Miller (Tues. & Fri.)
Minister of Praise Music: Sarah Vu: vandaliapraise@outlook.com
Director of Choirs: Taryn Flake: taryn.a.flake@gmail.com
Director of Young Children's Ministries: Amanda Milam
Preschool Director: Cindy Laramée
Custodians: Mike & Sharon Hagy
Assistant Custodian: Andy Sidwell



Journey.

“For I know the plans that I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans for prosperity and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.”
Jeremiah 29:11, NASB





OUR CARING CONTINUES

Operation Christmas Child exists because of the many people who are dedicated to spreading His word to the children around the world through the means of a simple shoebox. It takes everyone working together for this ministry to be a **SUCCESS!**

This year continues to be busy behind the scenes and with donations for our extra boxes. Packing of our extra boxes above and beyond the sponsored boxes and boxes packed by our members would not be possible without the ongoing support of members of this congregation. Donations and supplies are received on a monthly basis and this is what allows us to pack more boxes. **Thank you to members of First United Methodist Church for your generosity and passion for this ministry. May you be blessed as you have blessed others!**

Anonymous Donations:

Monetary Donation: A generous monetary donation was given and it will be used for purchasing supplies. Thank you to the person giving this donation, so we can bless the children and introduce them to Jesus!

Many items were donated for older girls boxes again! Thank you to this person for their ongoing support of OCC, so older girls can receive shoeboxes with both practical items, as well as special gifts. Older girls and the younger age kids are the groups that receive the lowest numbers of shoeboxes each year, so this donation will allow us to pack more boxes for the older girls! **THANK YOU!**

Another person donated small frisbees and disk toys, which were added to the 120 sports themed boxes for older boys. Thank you for this generous donation!


Dennette Guyer and Kim Warner are faithful prayer shawl members, who continue to make items for our extra boxes. Hair accessories, pencil pouches, purses, and coin purses were given this past month. Beautiful bright yarn and yarn with a sparkle were used to make these items. These items make our boxes extra special! **Thanks Dennette and Kim** for your dedication to this ministry!

Mike Hagy took two large boxes to the OCC room, which contained 120 soccer balls! Thanks Mike for doing this for us! I truly appreciate it!

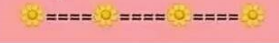
Barb McCart and Andy Sidwell donated more Beanie Babies. It's amazing how we are still able to include a Beanie Baby in our boxes! Thanks Barb and Andy for your generous donation!

Sherry Schneider and Jill Zimmer have been busy weekly packing the extra boxes. Boxes for 4 different age groups have been packed this year for a total of **389 boxes!**

Thanks Andy Sidwell for submitting pictures and articles for the newsletter every month!

I'm smiling not because I'm stronger than my problems, but because I have God who is stronger than all of my problems.




April



APRIL Birthdays

- 2— Dylan Warren
- 3—Calista BreAnn Dothager
- 4—Mary Fulton
Ella Meyer
- 9—Rodes Hood
- 10— Laura Miller
- 11—Joe Rosborough
- 12—Jan Johnston
- 14—Darryl Tjaden
- 16—Bill Bennett
Monica Schwarm
- 19—Jake Tjaden
- 21—Hudson Schneider
Kristin Stombaugh
- 23—Harper Goldsboro
Tim Michel
- 24—Charles Johnston
- 25—Austin Warren
- 26—Elaina Hagy
- 27—Jeremie Rademacher
- 28—Chase McNary
- 30—Alex Burnam
Randy Sasse
Sue Schwarm
Andy Sidwell

Head Ushers

- 7 —JD Vieregge/Mike Black
- 14 —Dean Black/Bryce Kistler
- 21—Greg & Jacy Fulk
- 28—Josh Figgins/JD Vieregge

Liturgist

Amy Vieregge

APRIL Anniversaries

- 3—Larry & Mary Kay Bennett
(60 years)
- 10—Bob & Gail DePaolo
- 15—Tom & Carla Diveley
(36 years)
TJ & Jaime Warren
(18 years)
- 22—Ed & Kim Taylor
(18 years)
- 24—Robert & Ruth Ann
Garrison
- 25—Herb & Mary Woolsey
(20 years)
- 30—Darin & Kara Dugan
(13 years)

Acolytes

- 7—Hannah Stombaugh
- 14—Brylee Kistler
- 21—Payton Gathe
- 28—Noelle Milam

Sound Tech

Rand Craycroft

Video Tech

Patrick Myers

Greeters

- 7—Max Durbin
- 28—Shelly Haislar

Bus Ministry

- 7 **Driver:** Ed Taylor
Rider: Kim Taylor
Greeter: Robin Kistler
- 14 **Driver:** Bill Warner
Rider: Kim Warner
Greeter: John Blythe,
Diana Tippit
- 21 **Driver:** Darrel Casey
Rider: Alan Lurkins
Greeter: Mary Fulton
- 28 **Driver:** Max Durbin
Rider: Deb Durbin
Greeter: James Hejl

Offering Collectors

- 7—Bill LaDage
- 14—Bryce Kistler
- 21—Barb Paine
- 28—John Burnam

Ushers

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The joy that Jesus offers his disciples is his own joy, which flows from his intimate communion with the One who sent him. It is a joy that does not separate happy days from sad days, successful moments from moments of failure, experiences of honor from experiences of dishonor, passion from resurrection.

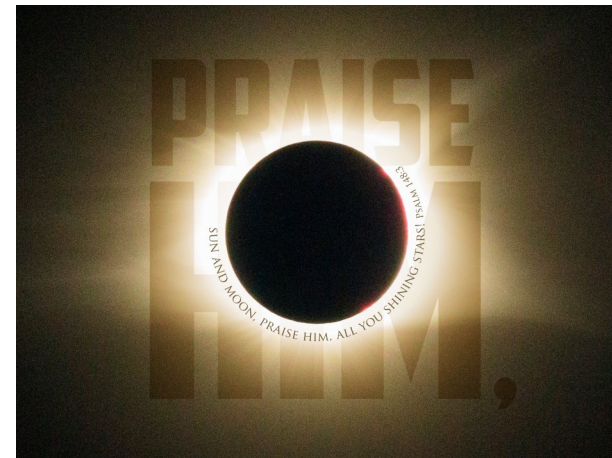
This joy is a divine gift that does not leave us during times of illness, poverty, oppression or persecution. It is present even when the world laughs or tortures, robs or maims, fights or kills. It is truly ecstatic, always moving us away from the house of fear into the house of love, and always proclaiming that death no longer has the final say, though its noise remains loud and its devastation visible. The joy of Jesus lifts up life to be celebrated.

—Henri J.M. Nouwen, *Lifesigns*

Superimposed love

Maybe you've heard how salvation is like a total solar eclipse: God doesn't see our sins because Jesus' holiness covers them completely. Or maybe you've heard how trials can cause an "eclipse of faith."

At WorldChallenge.org, Pastor Gary Wilkerson explains that in Greek, *eclipse* means "I am absent" or "I cease to exist," because people once thought the gods temporarily extinguished the sun. "For Christians, a 'spiritual eclipse' is a dark hour when God seems to be absent from our lives," Wilkerson writes.



Wilkerson points to Peter being sifted like wheat, Elijah and Jeremiah facing extreme discouragement, and David collapsing morally. Amid Satan's attacks, "God seems completely absent," writes the pastor. "In that dark moment of eclipse, the devil has created such chaos we can't possibly see a way out." During times of testing, Christians must cry out to God and trust his faithfulness.

Completing the eclipse analogy, Wilkerson shares Titus 3:4, the "love of God our Savior appeared" (NIV). The Greek meaning of *appeared* here is *superimposed*, he writes. God looks on our fraught-filled times of eclipse and "superimposes his divine love over us."

- Apr. 10** Men's Bible Study (6:15am, Library)
- Apr. 11** Finance Committee (6pm, Wesley Hall)
Church Council (6:30pm, Wesley Hall)
- Apr. 18** FUMC on duty at 6.35 Food Pantry (4:30pm-6pm)
Trustees Meeting (6:30pm, Library)

- Apr. 24** Men's Bible Study (6:15am, Library)
- Apr. 29** Bucket Buddies (5:30pm, Library)



THANK YOU to our congregation for the generous donations of candy for our annual Easter Egg hunt. Thank you to Sue Burnam, owner at Hohlt & File Funeral Home, for allowing us to use the lawn for the egg hunt. The kids had a great time!



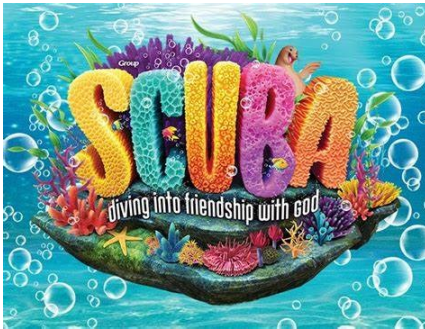
6:35 PANTRY

"I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty." John 6:35

We Need The Following:
Pasta Sauce

Vandalia FUMC is on duty at the Food Pantry on Thursday, April 18th from 4:30pm to 6pm. Please arrive by 4pm.

You may drop off your items in the tote located in the Fireplace Room. Thank you!



Have you heard?! Vacation Bible School is set for June 3-5, 9:00am—11:30am. All children and youth ages 3 years to 5th grade are invited to attend! We will meet at the Family Center each day for crafts, Bible lesson, music, and games! Contact Amanda Milam if you would like to volunteer this year.



Thank you to everyone who helped with the setup and clean up of the handbells after church! It is greatly appreciated!

Choir will be meeting from 6:30-7:30 on April 3rd, 10th, and 17th to prepare for our anthems on April 14th and 21st. Please note that this will include an additional practice than originally scheduled. Handbells will be meeting from 5:30-6:30 on April 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th to prepare for our final anthem of the year on April 28th.

In April, I will be starting to contact people to provide special music for the months of May-August. With choir and bells taking a summer break, we will need an anthem every week. Please contact me if you are interested in filling any of these dates or if you know of someone who would interested in coming just one of these weeks: 5/5, 5/26, 6/2, 6/9, 6/16, 6/23, 6/30, 7/7, 7/14, 7/21, 7/28, 8/4, 8/11, 8/18, 8/25

Musically,
Taryn Flake

<p>Nursing Home Residents & Shut-ins: Brookstone (1607 W. Fillmore) Diane Adams (Apt. 15) Margaret Carroll (Apt. 10) Edith Knebel (Apt. 43) Larry Peyton (Apt. 16) Frank Roeder (Apt. 25) Jean Stombaugh (Apt. 35) Herb & Mary Woolsey (Apt. 32)</p> <p>FCH/Long Term Care (650 West Taylor) Arlene Hoffman (Rm. 510) Deb Endres (Rm. 708)</p>	<p>Dolan Memory Care Homes (Dublin—11330 Dolan Way, St. Louis, MO 63146) Phyllis Rames</p> <p>Stillwater Senior Living (1111 University Dr., Edwardsville, IL 62025) Patti Bohner</p> <p>Shut-Ins: Mike Beckett, 2625 W. Jefferson St., Vandalia</p>
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<p>Dennis Ambuehl (Patty Donaldson's brother, radiation treatment for prostate cancer) Roger Corrington (Health issues) Matt Cors (Taryn Flake's cousin; oral cancer; Siteman Cancer Ctr. radiation and chemo begins Apr.1) Whitey Daniels (health concerns) Ryan D'Arcy (friend of Pastor Curtis & Taryn: (health concerns) Dannie Donaldson (continued prayers for recovery) Willard Fulk (health concerns) Leonard Gehle (Deb Durbin's father; prostate Cancer treatment) Amy Holaday (friend of Gathe's; breast cancer has returned) Gary Jenkins (recoverating from surgery for salivary gland cancer; home)</p>	<p>Heather Jones (friend of Donna Johnson; (diagnosed with hemochromatosis) Carson LaDage (praying for new treatment plan to continue to work) LuAnn Newman (friend of Taryn Flake; breast cancer; radiation begins soon) Heather Overlin (Larry Osborne's daughter; health concerns) Rights for Children (foster care, sex trafficking, etc.) Stacey Weaver (daughter of Dwayne and Laura (Zimmerman) Weaver; pretzel syndrome; rare neurodevelopmental disorder) Darin Wells (stage 2 non-Hodgkin's lymphoma; chemo treatments) Jeff Williams (BJ & Sharon Mueller's son in law; lung cancer)</p>
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