



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



CONTACT US:

Office Hours:
M-TR: 8a-4p
F: closed

Phone:
618-283-3684

Email:
vandaliafumc@outlook.com

Website:
vandaliafirstumc.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Office Closure	2
International Banquet	
Food Pantry	
Prayer Concerns	3
Shut-Ins	
Ladies' Day	4
Celebration	
New Wineskins	
Conference	
Pastor's Message	5
Pastor's Message Cont.	6
Music Minute	
Birthdays,	7
Anniversaries, &	
Serving this month	



September 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"

YOUTH GROUP
KICK OFF PARTY
SEPT 3 • 6-7:30

JOIN US FOR
BOUNCE HOUSES,
SNOW CONES,
DUNK TANK,
FOOD AND DRINKS

AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
PARKING LOT

THEN EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT
YOUTH GROUP
STARTING SEPT 10 FROM 6-7:30

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

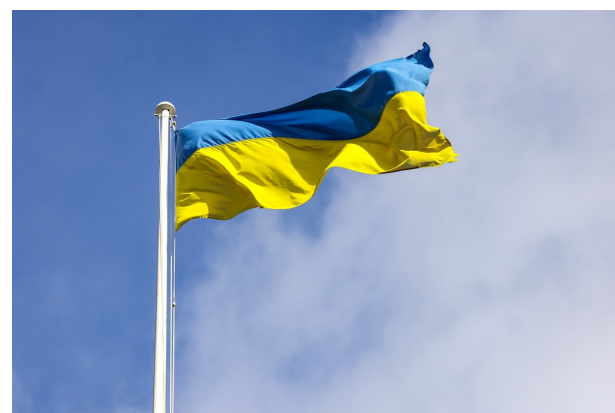


The church office will be closed
Monday, September 1st in
observance of Labor Day.

International Banquet September 18, 2025

Place: Unity Baptist Church in Vandalia
Registration: 5:00pm-8:00pm
Potluck Dinner: 5:30pm
Program Starts: 6:30pm

Guest Speaker Zoryana Mills speaking on
Ukraine.



RSVP by August 20, 2025!

Megan Runkel PH: (618) 699-9794
Edith Runkel PH: (618) 267-6296

We Need The
Following:

Everything!

FUMC is scheduled to help at the food pantry
on Thursday, September 11th, 4:30pm.
Please arrive by 4pm.

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



- 1—Sharon Castle
Kiralyn Hayes
Mandy Pearson
2—Kari Hagy
Dorothy Ann Jenkins
Kim Warner
5—Arlene Hoffman
Heath McDowell
6—Brandi Gathe
8—Mike Beckett
Shannon Tarkington
11—Piper Doyle
TJ Warren
12—Taryn Flake
Gaynelle Scott
14—Carolyn Daniels
Jacy Fulk
15—John Campbell
16—Dave Milam
17—Chase Konrad
Katie Myers
18—Harold Johnson
19—Sharon Hagy
20—Barb McCart
21—Gretchen Bland
Brandon Craycroft
Rebekah Miller
Bonnie Tjaden
25—Jaime Warren
26—Ava Bowers
Max Durbin
Lance Guffey
28—Rand Craycroft
Phyllis Rames
30—Nick Lurkins
Lucas Miller



- 1—Tim & Jamie Michel
(18 years)
2—Carter & Gretchen Bland
(19 years)
3—Charles & Gwen Johnston
(64 years)
14—Andy & Monica Schwarm
(12 years)
15—Bob & Minnie Evans
(18 years)
17—Caleb & Michelle Miller
(14 years)
25—Nick & Eryn Meyer
(21 years)

Liturgist
Lea Ann Rubin

Offering Collectors
7- John Burnam
14- Gene Schwarm
21- Barb Paine
28- Jeff Endres

Video Tech
Rand Craycroft

Sound Tech
Patrick Myers

Bus Ministry

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

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

21 **Driver:** Bill Warner
Rider: Kim Warner
Greeter:

28 **Driver:** Max Durbin
Rider: Deb Durbin
Greeter: Sandy Stombaugh

Acolytes

7- Brooklyn Burnam
14- Addison Flake
21- Parker Clark
28- Hannah Stombaugh

Ushers

7- JD Vieregge & Josh Figgins
14- JD Vieregge & Rand
Craycroft
21- JD Vieregge & Jacy Fulk
28- JD Vieregge & Greg Fulk

Greeters

7- Joyce Staff
14- Joyce Staff & Peggy
Williams
21- Rich & Kim Well
28-



I want you to hear this clearly: I am grateful for you. Your prayers, your willingness to try new things, and your desire to see Christ lifted high in Vandalia—all of this is what makes our church family so special. Re-vitalization is not just a program; it is God’s Spirit working through us as we place our trust in Him.

Let us continue to walk this journey together with faith, hope, and courage, trusting that the Lord who has begun a good work among us will be faithful to bring it to completion.

“I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.” —1 Corinthians 3:6–7 (NIV)

With gratitude and expectation, Pastor Curtis

Music Minute

A musical welcome to you all! It is the handbell and sanctuary choir time of year once again. If you would like to test out participating in either one of these choirs, you would be welcome to join us any week. Sanctuary choir covers the anthem in the two practices prior to singing, so if you would like to join us in singing on September 21st, you could come to choir practice on September 10th and 17th. Handbell choir practices the anthem for the month at their practices, so if you would like to play in September, please come join us for our practices. We could really use YOUR help – yes, yours! You don’t have to read music to participate.

To receive the full fall schedule, please see Taryn, but here is the lineup for September practices:

Sanctuary Choir:	
Rehearsals (Wednesdays @ 4:30)	Anthems (Sundays @ 9:00)
September 10 th	September 14 th (The Gift of Love)
September 17 th	September 21 st (You Are Holy/Prince of Peace)

Handbells:	
Rehearsals (Wednesdays @ 6:00)	Anthems (Sundays @ 8:50)
September 10 th	
September 17 th	
September 24 th	September 28 th (TBD)

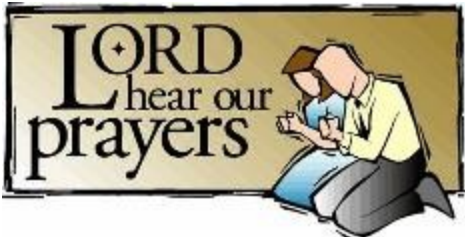
Finally, thank you so much to those who led the traditional songs in the months of June, July, and August: Kathy Taylor, Charlene Jett, BJ Mueller, Dennette Guyer, and Addison Flake. Thank you to those who provided special music for the Sunday services in June, July, and August: Sarah Vu, Ed Taylor + Bob Culbertson, VBS Kids, Kathy Taylor, Charlene Jett, Dennette Guyer, Sue Miller, Olivia + Jacob Jenkins, Sam Flake, and Addison Flake. Our services are more diverse with your participation.

We have a handful of time slots to fill this fall for anthems. If you would like to participate, please see Taryn. ANYONE is welcome to serve by providing a prelude throughout the year. Thank you for sharing your musical gifts with the congregation!



Musically,
Taryn Flake

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



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 (recuperating from surgery) Debbie Brantley (recovering from surgery) Christopher Clark (friend of Kathy Taylor’s family, preparing for kidney transplant) Sara Clark (health concerns) Ava Cooper (10 year old neighbor of Candy Zeman, back at school!) Shirley Crowe (friend of Michelle Metzger, diagnosed with stage 4 carcinoma) 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) Gene Hicks (friend of Mark Miller, health issues) Jack Huth (Donna Taylor’s son-in-law (Beth’s husband), throat 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 , (major complications following surgery) Jason Mouser (recovering from stroke at home) David Rademacher (diagnosed with chronic lymphocytic leukemia) 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) 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) Kennidee Yarbrough (Charlene Jett’s Niece)
--	--

Don't forget to RSVP!!!



Ladies' Day Celebration

FUMC- Wesley Hall
Saturday, September 27, 2025
12:30pm

RSVP AT (618)283-3684
BY SEPT. 15, 2025

Bring your favorite China cup, saucer,
and Bible passage.
Free will offering

Sponsored by FUMC Bucket Buddies

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!



Revive Us Again: A Season of Prayer and Renewal

Church family, I am proud of you. Over the past month, I have witnessed your faithfulness, your hunger for God, and your commitment to one another as we step forward in this season of revitalization. I keep using the word revitalization, but it may also be renewal—or simply being the church. Whatever we call it, together we are cultivating community and growing closer in our relationship with Christ. I truly believe God is doing a new thing among us! This has been evident in your presence at Laity Round Tables, in worship, at Backpack 2 School, and in the growing interest in what God is calling our church to do next.

That spirit of faithfulness continued on Monday, August 25, when we gathered in the Prayer Chapel and throughout the day for our Prayer Vigil for Church Revitalization. From noon until 8:00 PM, every time slot was filled—eight hours of continuous prayer lifting up our church, our community, and our future to God. Guided by Scripture and prayer prompts, we prayed for seeds of faith to be planted, disciples to be nurtured, souls to be fed, and renewal in the Spirit. (We still have extra prayer booklets available if anyone is interested.)

The vigil centered on Isaiah's promise: "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:19). Your prayers—whether in the chapel, at home, or carried with you throughout the week—have become part of the foundation God is laying for the revitalization of Vandalia First United Methodist Church. This vigil was not just an event; it was a beginning. Prayer will continue to sustain and guide us as we listen for God's voice and respond, "Here I am. Send me!" (Isaiah 6:8).

And friends, this is only the start. God is stirring us to action in powerful ways. Here are just a few of the next steps in our journey:

· Breakthrough Prayer – Printed on the back of our Prayer Vigil booklets, this prayer is based on Isaiah 6:8. We are asking our church family to pray it at least once a day at 6:00 and/or 8:00. Set an alarm, pause, and take the time to pray for yourself and for our church:

Lord, I seek Your heart for my life and for my church.
Here I am—send me.
Keep my spirit and our church attuned to Your voice,
My hands and our hands ready for Your work,
And my heart and our hearts open to Your new thing.
Break through my fears and revive us again, O Lord. Amen.

· 30-Day Gospel Challenge (Beginning September 1) – We invite everyone to read through all four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) in 30 days. Bookmarks are available to help track progress. If you finish in 30 days, wonderful. If it takes longer, that's wonderful too. The goal is to immerse ourselves in the story of Jesus together.

· Youth Ministry Relaunch (Beginning September 3) – Our youth will kick off with food, games, and community fun, followed by weekly Wednesday evening gatherings starting September 10, with meals for church members, youth, and families. The energy of this vital ministry makes Wednesday nights especially exciting!

· Ladies Day Celebration (September 27) – A special time of fellowship, inspiration, and joy for the women of our church and community.

· Ongoing Revitalization Projects – Plans are moving forward, and I hope you begin to notice new opportunities and changes as we grow together. A Time & Talents survey is on the way, we are expanding our social media ministry, and we are strengthening care through a shepherding team. God is opening doors for fresh ways of serving and connecting.

Continued on next page. →