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.

Pastor Curtis Flake has been hired by the Staff-Parish Relations Committee. He will begin his ministry here on July 1.

Pastor Curtis comes from Greenville United Methodist Church in Greenville. He and his wife Taryn and their two daughters will be moving into the parsonage in June. They are very excited to make the move to Vandalia.

Vacation Bible School is set for June 13-16, 9am-11:30am. All children are welcome to attend. If you're interested in volunteering please contact Amanda Milam.

Church Staff

Pastor: Andy Black: vandaliamcpastor@gmail.com
Administrative Assistant: Casey Kistler: vandaliafumc@outlook.com
Secretary: Sue Miller (Tues. & Fri.)
Minister of Praise Music: Sarah Vu: vandaliapraise@outlook.com
Director of Choirs: Melody Freeman: vandaliamusic22@outlook.com
Director of Young Children's Ministries: Amanda Milam
Preschool Director: Cindy Laramee

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Contact us

M-W-TR: 8:00a—4:00p
T-F: 8:00a-12:00p
Phone: 618-283-3684
Email:
vandaliafumc@outlook.com
Website:
www.vandaliafirstumc.org

Nursing Home Residents & Shut-ins:

Brookstone (1607 W. Fillmore)
Diane Adams (Apt.15); Carlos Biellier (Apt. 4);
Margaret Carroll (Apt. 10);
Larry Peyton (Apt. 16), Frank Roeder (Apt. 25)
Herb & Mary Woolsey (Apt. 17)

FCH/Long Term Care (650 West Taylor)
Sandy Peyton
Arlene Hoffman (Rm. 510)

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

Willowbrook
(1124 Sunset Dr., Vandalia)
Deb Endres
Norman & Mary Ann Rhoades

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

Patti Bohner (Diane Adams' daughter, mobility issues)
Joe Cearlock (home; recuperating)
Jane Cox (upcoming surgery)
Whitey Daniels (health concerns)
Gary Doolen (cancer)
Becky Eddy (Ramsey HS Principal; surgery for thymoma)
Willard Fulk (health concerns)
Leonard Gehle (Deb Durbin's father; prostate cancer treatment)
Amy Holaday (friend of Gathe's; breast cancer has returned)
Heather Jones (friend of Donna Johnson; diagnosed with hemochromatosis)
Heather Overlin (Larry Osborne's daughter; health concerns)
Debbie Taylor (friend of Patti Craycroft; diagnosed with esophageal cancer)
Herb Thoman (health concerns)
Dorothy Walker (Eric Miller's cousin; recuperating from quadruple bypass surgery)
Peg Williams (cancer treatment)
Mary Woolsey (health concerns)

Preschool News

Happy May from the kids and staff at FUMP! We are entering our last month of school and there is a lot of excitement in the air! During May we will study themes of the Rainforest, Mom's Day and The Last Week of School! We are celebrating our Mom's on Friday, May 12, with a Muffins with Mom party! We always have fun when moms and dads come to preschool! Thursday, May 18, at 6:00 pm, is our Graduation program in the church sanctuary where we say Goodbye to 10 of our friends. It is bittersweet to see them go but we are so proud of them and know they will flourish in Kindergarten!!!

In May we reflect on the wonderful year we have had and how incredibly blessed we are to serve these families!

Happy Summer!
Miss Cindy

May

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 Grimmett
14—Nelda Cearlock
18—Randy Protz
Silas Vieregge
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
(46 years)
3—Ty & Michelle McNary
(26 years)
11—Harold & Donna Johnson
(49 years)
12—Steve & Sandy Stombaugh
(44 years)
14—John & Caylee Zimmer
(12 years)
17—Roger & Peg Clark
(15 years)
27—Dean & Elloise Black
(61 years)
Mike & Sharon Hagy
(51 years)
Jason & Kari Hagy
(23 years)
Randy & Barb White
(6 years)
30—Drew & Sherry Schneider
(52 years)
31—Scott & Mia Vieregge
(15 years)

Bus Ministry

7 **Driver:** Bill Warner
Rider: Kim Warner
Greeter: Gail DePaolo

14 **Driver:** Darrel Casey
Rider: Alan Lurkins
Greeter: Jack Johnston

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

28 **Driver:** Ed Taylor
Rider: Kim Taylor
Greeter: Linda Dugan

Head Ushers

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

Liturgist

Jaime Warren

Acolytes

7—Trevor & Parker Clark
14—Austin Warren
21—Hannah Stombaugh
28—Michael Crothers

Sound Tech

Rick Eyman

Video Tech

Rand Craycroft

Offering Collectors

7—Jeff Endres
14—Bryce Kistler
21—Barb Paine
28—Bill LaDage

To everyone that helped support me in these last three semesters of school I want to say thank you. There is no right way of expressing my gratitude but I want to acknowledge that I could see people's support in very tangible ways. People around me asked how I was doing and I could see their efforts of finding ways to help me. I could see how my goal became the goal of the community around me and now that goal has been met. These last three semesters have been the conclusion to a journey that took me from a comfortable belief system and a reliance on certainty to fully appreciating the Bible, being comfortable with doubt and understanding that being a Christian is not about having the right beliefs or the right doctrine, but loving one another despite our differences. I have come to understand that Christianity is about sitting at the table with all kinds of people, welcoming all.

I want to express my gratitude not only through words but through my actions. I hope that throughout my life I am able to give to others in the way that I have received. I will always remember that my achievements are not only the fruit of my own effort but the result of the support and care that I have received from others and the providence of God. Wherever I go I want to apply the great life lessons that Greenville has taught me. There still is a lot of uncertainty about where I am going next but wherever I go I want to find a community that I can be a part of and that I pour into. I will miss Greenville and the people I have met here and I will forever be thankful for the love, care and support that I received.

Blessings,
Samuel Higueros

We want to thank our church family for all your prayers for our granddaughter, Meilyn Schneider, daughter of Drew and Jenna Schneider. The prayers were answered and so very much appreciated! She is doing very well!! We love our church family!!

Drew and Sherry Schneider
Drew and Jenna Schneider and family

Thank you for the prayers, cards, and food. We appreciate all the acts of kindness.
—Glen & Carolyn Daniels

We would like to thank Melody Freeman for her dedication, hard work, devotion and commitment to our music ministry. Melody will be leaving at the end of May. We send our prayers and best wishes as she enjoys time with her family in the future.

SPONSOR A SHOEBOX OR SHOEBOXES AND HELP US BLESS THE CHILDREN

This is an exciting year for Operation Christmas Child! Samaritan's Purse is celebrating their 30th year for this ministry and Vandalia First United Methodist Church will be celebrating their 15th year serving as the Vandalia Drop Off. We would like to make this year special by collecting more boxes than we ever have, so we can bless more children. Will you step up and help with this?

This is a wonderful opportunity to be a part of the Great Commission by packing/sponsoring boxes to reach the children around the world, so local missionaries can teach the children about Jesus. In 29 years, 209 million boxes have been delivered to children in 170 different countries and territories. We would like to encourage you to pray on whether you want to sponsor a box/boxes or prefer to pack your own boxes. **Sponsorships begin June 4th.**

Each box that you sponsor shows a child that they are loved and more importantly, it gives them the opportunity to learn about Jesus.

Sponsorships available June 4th - July 9th.

For those who want the joy of picking items out for their boxes, boxes will be available on **October 1st for you to pack.**

Please write the number of boxes you want to sponsor next to the box/boxes of your choice. Put this paper filled out into an envelope with your check and put it in the offering plate or send/take to the church office. **All box prices include the $10.00 shipping fee.** Make checks out to the church and put OCC on the memo line.

_____ **Girls (2-4 yrs. old) Doll Box** (Includes doll with blanket, coloring book/crayons, shirt, beach-ball, washcloth, toothbrush/case, comb, sunglasses, light ball, musical instrument, and tiara. **Price includes $10.00 shipping - $30.00 total for each box**

_____ **Boys (2-4 yrs. old) Vehicle Box** (Includes 2 larger vehicles, shirt, 1 small car, underwear, toothbrush/case, washcloth, comb, coloring book, crayons, sunglasses, and beach ball. **Price includes $10.00 for shipping . $30.00 total for each box**

_____ **Boys (10-14 yrs. old) Soccer Box** (Includes soccer ball and pump, shirt, washcloth, toothbrush/case, comb, 2 hot wheels cars, school supplies (zippered pencil pouch, 6 pencils, 2 pens, eraser, ruler, scissors, spiral notebook, crayons, pencil sharpener), and tape measure. **Price includes $10.00 shipping. $30.00 total for each box.**

SPONSOR: _____

TOTAL NUMBER OF BOXES:_____ **TOTAL AMOUNT GIVEN:** _____

"Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction." (2 Timothy 4:2, NIV)

Pastoring is hard work and certainly a labor of love in every respect. In the New Testament, Titus, 1 Timothy, and 2 Timothy are a group of letters collectively known as "The Pastoral Epistles" – so named because they represent instructions from the Apostle Paul that specifically apply to pastors.

Because of this, it would be easy for most Christians to file these letters into the category labeled "not applicable to me". After all, these are instructions for clergy – that strange breed who wear the dog collars and do who-really-knows-what in the church office!

But Paul's pastoral letters are not written with insider language. The instructions are not hidden from the eyes of lay people. They're plain and clear. Pastors: preach, be prepared, correct errors, address sin, encourage your people – and do it all with a patient heart and with great care! But why are Paul's instructions to pastors included in the Bible? Why not put these in a separate book titled, "Pastoring For Dummies" or "Do This If You Can't Do Anything Else"?

The reason, I think, is because the work of ministry doesn't belong solely in the hands of pastors.

In another New Testament letter (also from Paul), he talks about the importance of "equipping the saints for the work of ministry" (Eph. 4:12). Which I think fills out the church organizational chart fairly well: God directs. Pastors equip. People live it out. In other words, we all have a role to play in sharing the gospel! (Not just the pastors!)

As Jesus Himself said, *"the harvest is great but the laborers are few."* Which says something important about the work we do. We should shift our gaze heavenward, realizing that God has appointed us to work that has eternal, and not just temporary, value.

For pastors, the work demands attention to detail. Carefully teaching scripture, preaching good news, providing spiritual care and oversight. For lay people, it requires hearts willing to be shaped and molded into the shape of Christ and hands and feet ready to be mobilized.

No matter who you are, you are being called up for an important assignment. And personally, I want to be ready for it.

- Ready, because God is producing a bountiful harvest in every season.
- Ready, because Fayette County is the field to which we've been assigned.
- Ready, because Vandalia is fertile soil for the seed of the gospel.

This season, I hope you're ready to serve in the most important vineyard ever planted – the mission field. It's hard work, but it has eternal significance!

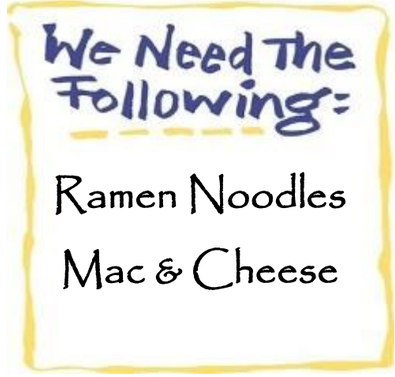
Pastor Andy

SHOEBOXES NEEDED FOR OCC:

Churches will be receiving fewer **free** red and green shoeboxes this year, so many churches are choosing to use regular shoeboxes instead of purchasing the red and green boxes to pack their boxes.

If you have empty, clean adult size shoeboxes that you do not need, we will be collecting these for other churches the month of May. Please leave them on the bookshelf across from the office. Thank you for your assistance with this.

The Church office is closed Monday, May 29th, in observance of Memorial Day.



Thanks to Andy Sidwell for submitting this article

YOU TOOK MY PARKING SPACE AT CHURCH

This should wake us up. One day, a man went to visit a church, He got there early, parked his car and got out. Another car pulled up near the driver got out and said, " I always park there! You took my place!" The visitor went inside for Sunday School, found an empty seat and sat down. A young lady from the church approached him and stated, "That's my seat! You took my place!" The visitor was somewhat distressed by this rude welcome, but said nothing. After Sunday School, the visitor went into the sanctuary and sat down. Another member walked up to him and said, " That's where I always sit! You took my place!" The visitor was even more troubled by this treatment, but still he said nothing. Later as the congregation was praying for Christ to dwell among them, the visitor stood up, and his appearance began to change. Horrible scars became visible on his hands and on his sandaled feet. Someone from the congregation noticed him and called out, "What happened to you?" The visitor replied, as his hat became a crown of thorns, and a tear fell from his eye, "I took your place." When you read this, say a prayer, maybe just maybe, we can get the world to start thinking of who took our place..

Backpack 2 School is set for August 2nd. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Kim Warner. If you're not able to be present the night of the event, there are other areas you may help out! Prayers are always appreciated! "Sock it to Me" Sunday is June 18th. We need children's and adult size socks. "Undee Sunday" is June 25th. Adult and children's sizes needed as well. A mission trip to Love Packages in Butler will take place towards the end of August.