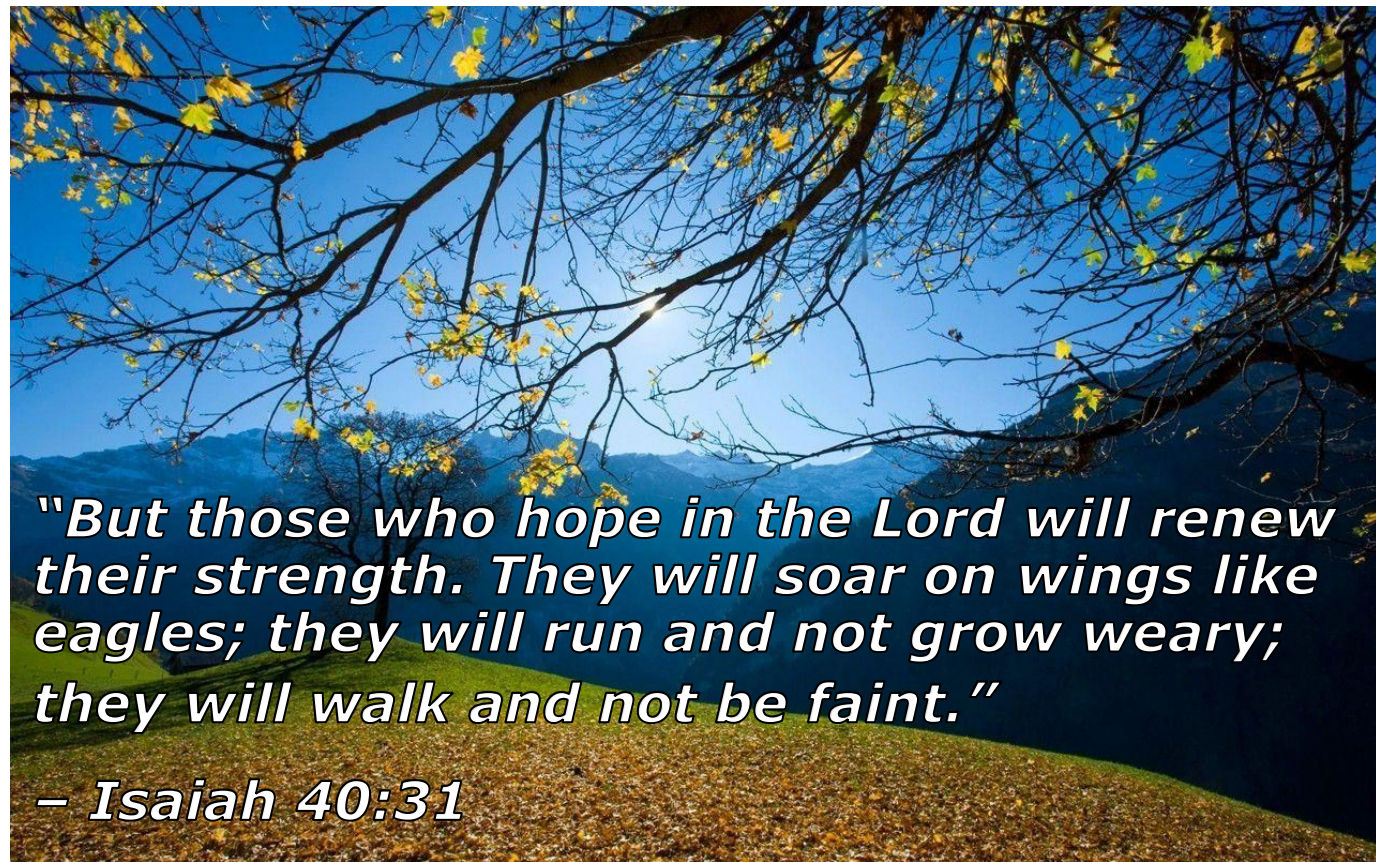




First United Methodist Church
 127 N 4th St
 Vandalia, IL 62471



"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint."

– Isaiah 40:31



March 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: **8a – 4p**
 T: **8a – 12p**
 F: **closed**

Phone:
618-283-3684

Email:
Vandalia-fumc@outlook.com

Website:
vandaliafirstumc.org

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Sunday, March 29th	9:30a , Palm Sunday—Kids will parade in at the beginning of the service
Thursday, April 2st	6:30p , Maundy Thursday Service with Communion
Friday, April 3nd	6:30p Good Friday Service (office closed)
Sunday, April 5th	7:00am Sunrise Service 8:30am , Donuts and Coffee, Wesley Hall 9:00am Easter Egg Hunt at Hohlt & File (204 N 4th St.) weather permitting 9:30a , Easter Sunday worship service



Church Staff

Pastor: Curtis Flake: rev.cflake@gmail.com, 217-273-4432
 Administrative Assistants: Sue Miller & Jaicob Arndt
 Church email: vandaliafumc@outlook.com
 Director of Choirs: Taryn Flake: taryn.a.flake@gmail.com
 Preschool Director: Morgan Tessman
 Custodians: Andy Sidwell
 Family Center Custodian: Rich Well

Happy March! Thank you to Charlene Jett for song leading in February!

The Hospitality Committee would like to thank everyone who helps out with funeral dinners. The ladies who are always so gracious and willing to prepare a dish for the meal, the men who help put up tables and chairs, and all those who help during the meal with serving and clean up. We couldn't do it without you!



Thank you to the sanctuary choir for singing two anthems in February!

Thank you to all that have brought donations for 6:35 Pantry!



For March, I'll be taking a couple of Sundays off. But thanks to Judy Roberts for covering for me while I'm gone! Enjoy our special music for March - Musically, Taryn

<u>Rehearsal</u>	<u>Anthem</u>
	March 1st – Communion (no anthem)
Sanctuary Choir: March 4th @ 4:30 PM Handbell Choir: March 4th @ 6:00 PM	March 8th @ 9:00 AM (Open Our Eyes, Lord)
	March 15th – Ed Taylor, Bob Culbertson & Sue Warden
Sanctuary Choir: March 18th @ 4:30 PM Handbell Choir: March 18th @ 6:00 PM	March 22nd @ 9:00 AM (Seek Ye, First)
Handbell Choir: March 25th @ 6:00 PM	March 29th @ 8:50 PM (Hosanna, Loud Hosanna)



Please join us **Wednesday nights 5:30-6:30** for our community meals in **Wesley Hall**. Menu:

March 4	Breakfast Meal...French Toast Sticks, Sausage Links, Hash Brown
March 11	Walking Tacos with Shredded Lettuce, Shredded Cheese, Sour Cream and Salsa
March 18	Corn Dogs, Tater tots, Fruit
March 25	Pizza– Joe's



An Evening with Unspoken

We are thrilled to announce that the soulful, chart-topping Christian band **Unspoken** will be joining us for a special night of worship and music! Known for hits like "Start a Fire" and "Reason," the band brings a powerful message of hope and redemption that you won't want to miss.

Event Details:

- **Date:** Sunday, April 26, 2026
- **Time:** 6:00 PM (Doors open at 5:30 PM)
- **Location:** Sanctuary (FUMC Vandalia)
- **Cost:** Donation Based

Note: Seating reservations will be on the FUMC website once available. We encourage you to invite friends, family, and neighbors for what promises to be an unforgettable evening of praise.



Brookstone: (1607 W. Fillmore) Jean Stombaugh (Apt. 35)	Phyllis Thoman (Rm.403) Pete Burnam (Rm.608) Retha Burnam (FCH 3rd floor)
FCH/Long Term Care (650 West Taylor) Arlene Hoffman (Rm. 510) Sharon Lee (Rm. 706) Margaret Carroll (Rm. 610) Larry Peyton (Rm.405) Sara Clark (Rm.707)	Meridian Village Assisted Living Diane Adams 27 Auerbach Place Glen Carbon. IL 62034

New Joys and Concerns

Joy in hearing Children in Church
Our Church, our community and our country.
World Conflicts

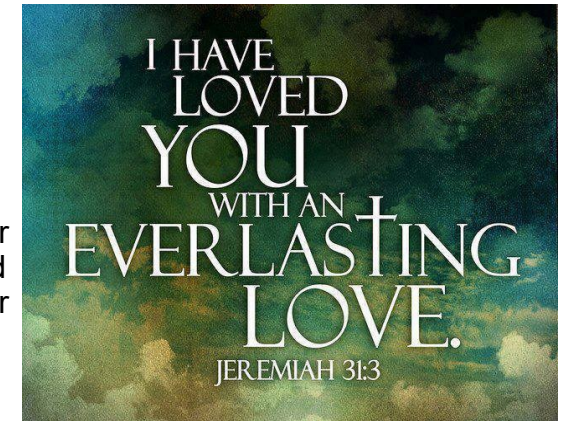
Jeff Endres—gave thanks for all the love and support for Deb and the family
The Family of Frank Roeder
Carolyn Daniel’s sister Sharon—on hospice
Dorothy Schultz—needs healing & strength
Carole White—surgery 3/18/26
The Family of Mary Woolsey



- | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Barb Ambuehl | Shirley Frick | Wes Miller | Phyllis Thoman |
| Brianna Barnett | Sue Harrison | Linda Monson | Heather (Jones) Thompson |
| Marti Bingham | Steve Hoover | Jason Mouser | Brenda Usher |
| John Campbell | Jennifer Kenney | Jeff Mueller | Les Vaughan |
| Sara Clark | Bob & Joy Kloster | Camille Proud | Victoria & Family |
| Ava Cooper | Ray Kramer | David Rademacher | Amy Vieregge |
| Julia Crowe | Carson LaDage | Sydney Rosborough | Sarah Vu |
| Cheri Darr | Krey Leesman | Andy Sidwell | Suzanne Wilkerson |
| Rob Dillingham | Kevin Leifer | Arlen Sidwell | Jeff Williams |
| Connor Eyman | Austin Long | Anna Syniuk | Ken & Peg Williams |
| Maurice Eyman | Sally Miller | Donna Taylor | Hudson Winters |
| David Floyd | | | Lonna Woodruff |

God is constantly drawing people to himself.
In **Jeremiah 31.3** he tells his people,
“I will always love you.” There is nothing we can do to stop
the love of God. He promises us that he will give us “a
desire to know [him] and to be [his] people.” When your
desire for him weakens, ask him to
restore it. He will gladly put that longing for him back in your
heart. He promises that we will want him to be our God and
that we will turn back to him with our whole heart. When our
heart begins to wander. Remember His promise.

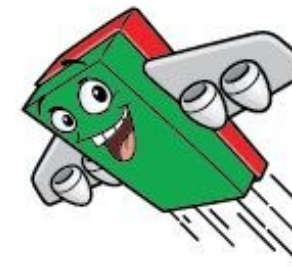
-contribution submitted by Andy Sidwell



Time to spring forward!
Remember to set your clocks ahead
one hour on **Sunday, March 8!**

A Bountiful Harvest: 12.2 Million Reasons to Rejoice

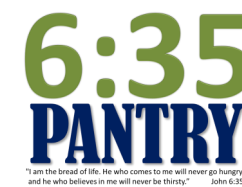
2025 Final Shoebox Numbers!



12.2 million shoebox gifts collected worldwide!
10.9 million shoebox gifts collected in the United States!

723,551 shoebox gifts collected in the Lower Midwest which Vandalia is part of!

It has been said that one shoebox reaches 10 people; for our church, the 555 boxes packed this season means that as many as 5,550 people may hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. We feel truly blessed to work with a congregation that is so giving of their shoebox gifts, monetary donations, and their gift of time. Together, we celebrate the 723,551 gifts from the Lower Midwest and the 12.2 million boxes collected worldwide. May you be blessed as you have blessed others, as we look forward to what God will do in 2026. TO GOD BE THE GLORY!



You may bring your donations in
and drop off in the tote
located in the Fireplace Room!

VBS will be June 15th - 19th!
Pre-registration will be required. If you're
interested in volunteering, please contact
Trisha Miller or Kelly Clark. We will need group
leaders, station leaders, and
check-in volunteers.





March 2026 Scripture Challenge

A look at the call, testimony and ministry of Peter.

1 – Matthew 4: 8-20 & Mark 1:16-20 – Peter is called.

2 – Matthew 10:1-16, Mark 6:7-13 & Luke 9:1-6 – Jesus sends out the 12 disciples.

3 – Matthew 14:22-32 – Jesus walks on water, Peter walks on water & doubts.

4 – Matthew 16:13-20, Mark 8:27-30 & Luke 9:18-20 – Peter says Jesus is the Messiah.

5 – Matthew 16:21-28 & Mark 8:31-9:1 – Jesus says to Peter “Get behind me Satan.”

6 – Matthew 17:1-13, Mark 9:2-10 & Luke 9:28-36 – Peter among the 3 at the Transfiguration.

7 – Matthew 26:31-35 & Mark 14:27-31 – Jesus predicts Peter’s denial.

8 – Matthew 26:69-75, Mark 14:66-72, Luke 22:54-62 & John 18:25-27 –

Peter denies knowing Christ.

9 – John 21:1-19 – Reinstatement of Peter.

10 – Matthew 28:16-20 & Mark 16:15-18 – The Great Commission

11 – Acts, Chapters 1 – Establishment of the church & Matthias chosen to replace Judas.

12 – Acts, Chapter 2 – The Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost & Peter addresses the crowd.

13 – Acts, Chapter 3 – Peter heals the crippled beggar & speaks to onlookers.

14 – Acts, Chapter 4 – Peter & John go before the Sanhedrin.

Chapters 1-12 of Acts are titled “Peter’s Ministry.” Acts includes actions of the disciples, the work of the Holy Spirit, the establishment & growth of the church. While other characters are introduced, the mission & ministry of Peter take center stage.



March 2026 Scripture Challenge

15- Acts, Chapter 5 – Ananias & Sapphira, Peter & the apostles heal many & are persecuted.

16 – Acts, Chapter 6 – Choosing of the Seven.

17 – Acts, Chapter 7 – Stephen.

18 – Acts, Chapter 8 – Expansion of the church.

19 – Acts, Chapter 9 – Saul’s conversion & Peter heals Aeneas & Dorcus.

20 – Acts, Chapter 10 – Cornelius calls for Peter.

21– Acts, Chapter 11 – Peter explains his actions.

22 – Acts, Chapter 12 – Peter’s miraculous escape from prison.

23 – 1st Peter, Chapter 1 – Praise to God & Be Holy.

24 – 1st Peter, Chapter 2 – Be Holy, Living Stones & Chosen People.

25 – 1st Peter, Chapter 3 – Wives & Husbands.

26 – 1st Peter, Chapter 4 – Living for God & Suffering.

27 – 1st Peter, Chapter 5 – Suffering & Shepherding.

28 – 2nd Peter, Chapter 1 – Guidance for Growing.

29 – 2nd Peter, Chapter 2 – Danger of False Teachers.

30 – 2nd Peter, Chapter 3 – Hope!

31 – John 21:18-22 – Jesus predicts that Peter will be crucified to glorify God.

The apostle Peter died by crucifixion in Rome around 64 AD during the reign of Emperor Nero. According to tradition, Peter requested to be crucified upside down because he felt unworthy to die in the same manner as Christ.

Thank you for completing the March 2026 Scripture Challenge.