



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



July 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"



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Mark your calendars for Backpack 2 School, August 5th, 4pm-6pm!

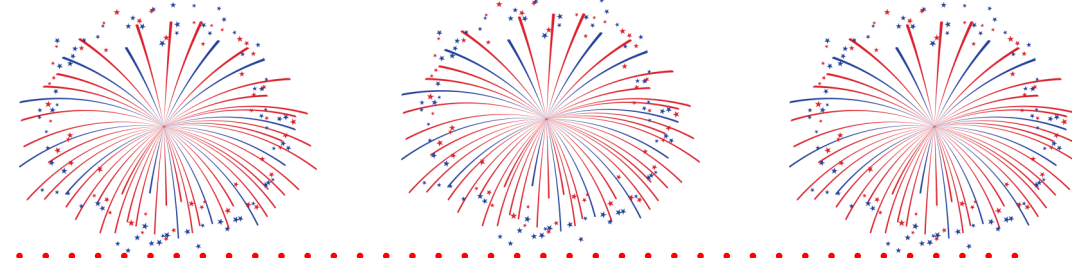
Sign up sheet for volunteers are available during church services all July!
Set up for Backpack 2 School will be **Monday August 3rd** in the Family Center at **3pm**.

United Methodist Men are on duty at the
6:35 Food Pantry
July 30th @ 4:15pm -5:15pm
Please be there by 4pm if you are volunteering



Laity Involvement Meeting

Want to get more involved in the church? With the one year anniversary coming up be on the lookout for our next Laity Involvement meeting! Meeting dates and times will be posted in announcements once scheduled.



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
Custodian: Andy Sidwell
Family Center Custodian: Rich Well
Children's Ministry Coordinator: Trisha Miller



AMERICA

ILLINOIS

Contact us

M-W: 8:00a- 4:00p
Th: 8:00a - 11a
F: closed
Phone: 618-283-3684
Email: vandaliafumc@outlook.com
Website: www.vandaliafirstumc.org

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)
Pete Burnam (Rm.608)
Retha Burnam (Rm. 708)

Willowbrook: (1124 Sunset dr)
Edith Knebel

Brookstone: (1607 W. Fillmore)
Jean Stombaugh (Apt. 35)

New Joys and Concerns

Joy in hearing Children in Church

Sandoval First United Methodist Church

Jeff Endres—broken wrist & shoulder due to a fall

Tammy Leidner Fallert (Sandy Leidner’s niece had aortic repair surgery)

Family of Robert and Paula Scott Farris (Courtney & Gaynell Scott’s sister & brother in law)

Family of Phyllis Thoman

Our Church, our Community, our Country &
World Conflicts



Family of Diane Adams
Barb Ambuehl
Mike Baker
Brianna Barnett
Marti Bingham
Gretchen Schneider Bland
John Campbell
Sara Clark
Ava Cooper
Julia Crowe
Carolyn Daniels
Linda Daniels—Recovering
Cheri Darr
Connor Eyman

Kevin Eyman
Maurice Eyman
David Floyd
Sue Harrison
Steve Hoover
Patty Jennings
Jennifer Kenney
Bob & Joy Kloster
Ray Kramer
Krey Leesman
Jen Liebold
Austin Long
Alan & Shannon’s
Granddaughter

Jason Mouser
Jeff Mueller
David Rademacher
Sydney Rosborough
Ryley Savage
Dorothy Schultz
Andy Sidwell
Family of Arlen Sidwell
Anna Syniuk
Donna Taylor
Kathy Taylor
Family of Phyllis Thoman
Heather (Jones)
Thompson

Tracey (Sandy Ehrat’s
Daughter’s Mother in law)
Brenda Usher
Les Vaughan
Victoria & Family
JD Vieregge
Wayne (Jan Johnston’s Brother-
in-law)
Carole White
Suzanne Wilkerson
Jeff Williams
Ken & Peg Williams
Hudson Winters
Lonna Woodruff
David York



JULY Birthdays

- 1—Chad Bowers
- 2—Jameson Vieregge
Mollie Vieregge
- 3—John Doyle
- 4—Sandy Leidner
- 5—Lucas Smith
- 7—Mark Kirk
- 8—Mike Fulton
Emery Nesbit
- 9—Olivia Jenkins
Sophie Eckhardt
Ashley Wilson
- 10—Calvin Dothager
- 11—Sara Clark
- 14—Larry LeFevre
- 15—Mary Ellen Banal
Cole Tarkington
- 16—Kendra Craig
Ty McNary
Cade Opfer
- 18—Julie Dunn
Nicholas Rosborough
- 19—Charles Mills
Justin Smith
- 20—Deb Cook
- 22—Jaime Harrison
Lori Johnson
- 23—Nolan Schneider
- 24—Adelaide Schwarm
- 25—Mark Burnam
- 26—Gary Brown
Sam Flake
Barb LeFevre
- 28—Kim Taylor
- 29—Steve Stombaugh
- 30—Jenna Schneider
- 31—Amanda Bowers
Mitch Casey
Gary Hale
Brett Taylor

JULY Anniversaries

- 3—Heath & Megan McDowell
- 4—Denny & Debby Hamel
- 16—Isaac & Megan Grapperhaus
Zac & Kristin Stombaugh
- 19—Curtis & Taryn Flake
- 23—Patrick & Katie Myers
- 24—Courtney & Gaynelle Scott
- 26—Mark & Deb Koelker
- 27—Mike & Pam Baker
- 29—Jason & Tessa Opfer

Acolytes

- 5— Hannah Stombaugh
- 12— George Burnam
- 19— Addi Flake
- 26— Harper Burnam

Liturgist

John Burnam

Sound Tech

Rick Eyman

Video Tech

Rand Craycroft

Offering Collectors

- 5— John Burnam
- 12— Gene Schwarm
- 19— Barb Paine
- 26— Jeff Endres

Bus Ministry

- 5 **Driver:** Bill Warner
Rider: Kim Warner
Greeter: ?
- 12 **Driver:** Max Durbin
Rider: Deb Durbin
Greeter: Sandy Stombaugh
- 19 **Driver:** Ed Taylor
Rider: Kim Taylor
Greeter: ?
- 26 **Driver:** Bill Warner
Rider: Kim Warner
Greeter: Sandy Stombaugh

Ushers

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





Pastor's Corner: Three Lessons from June

I recently had the joy of taking some vacation time. Every year it reminds me of two things: first, that I shouldn't wait until the last minute to take vacation, and second, that rest is good for the mind, body, and soul. Time away has a way of creating space to notice what God has been teaching us. As I look back on June, three lessons stand out.

Slow Down... or Maybe Just Change Pace

Perhaps the better lesson isn't simply to *slow down* but to *change pace*. Most of us settle into routines—even if those routines are hectic and chaotic. Before long, we become so accustomed to our pace that we stop noticing what is happening in our work, our families, and even our own hearts. We often hear the advice, "Slow down," "Take time to enjoy life," or "Stop and smell the roses." There is wisdom in those sayings, but I wonder if the deeper invitation is simply to change our pace. Jesus did ministry at a walking pace. Of course, walking was the primary form of transportation, but He also took the right amount of time with people. He stepped away to be alone with the Father. And yes, He even took naps. Perhaps our prayer should be:
"God, give me the strength and courage to change my pace so that I can truly appreciate the life You have given me."

For many of us, changing pace probably does mean slowing down.

Become More Childlike

June gave me two wonderful opportunities to spend time with children. Our church hosted an incredible Vacation Bible School with wonderful volunteers, great food, and lots of energetic kids. I also had the privilege of taking our youngest daughter to church camp. I've often said that children are smarter than we give them credit for and may understand the love of God better than many adults. But this month pushed that thought even further. It made me wonder if, in some ways, I was the best version of myself when I was a child.

Children possess a beautiful innocence. They aren't naturally cynical. They create community wherever they go. They may begin shy or uncertain, but before long they're making friends. If there's downtime or the planned activity isn't exciting, they don't complain for long—they invent a game, start a conversation, and create joy. I'm still reflecting on all of this, but perhaps that's one reason Scripture reminds us that we are children of God. There is something about childlike faith that we never outgrow.

So perhaps we can pray:
"God, help me become more childlike in my faith and in my life, especially when I begin to think that being childlike is beneath me."

Opportunity in Difficult Times

June also reminded me that even in difficult seasons, opportunity abounds. Illinois has already surpassed its yearly tornado record, and several storms came far too close to home. Our neighbors at Sandoval United Methodist Church suffered the heartbreaking loss of a devastating fire that destroyed not only their church but also the community center where food and clothing ministries served so many people. And within our own conference, June and July bring pastoral transitions. Patoka and Farina will not receive a full-time pastor this year but will instead be served by a preaching team, and I have been asked to assist in a supervisory role to help care for those congregations.

None of these situations is easy. Each represents real loss and real uncertainty. Yet each has also created opportunities for God's people to be the hands and feet of Christ. Natural disasters often reveal the very best in communities as neighbors help neighbors. The tragedy in Sandoval has already drawn churches and communities together in support while they dream about building a new ministry space designed to meet both present and future needs. And in Patoka and Farina, there is an opportunity to rethink what faithful ministry can look like while ensuring those congregations continue to be cared for.

June continues to remind me that we are in the hope business. For those living through these situations, hope may be difficult to see. But as children of God, we have the privilege of becoming hope for our neighbors. We can encourage, serve, pray, give, and walk alongside others until they are able to see God's hope for themselves once again.

So perhaps we can pray:
"God, help me become the hope I need. So that I can share the hope that others need."
May we be people who change our pace, recover a childlike faith, and never miss an opportunity to share the hope of Christ wherever He leads us.

-Pastor Curtis



Inspired & Unafraid

Inspiration for the scripture challenges, if you ever wondered, comes from three sources (actually one ultimately). The three—Our Father God, the Adult Sunday School Class and my bookshelf. God? Remember June? The Bible School song "Father Abraham has many sons...." God, through the Holy Spirit, planted that verse in my brain. May? Mothers & Others! Totally the Adult Sunday School Class who brainstormed so many interesting women's stories from the pages of the Bible. And...my bookshelf. Stay tuned! You will learn about my The One Year Chronological Bible starting in September.

While reaching for that Bible, I noticed something about my own bookshelf. I had lots of books by noted Christian authors—Beth Moore, Chris Tiegreen, Amanda Jenkins, Bob Briner, Bruce Wilkenson, Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth, Father Mike Schmidt, Jeff Cavins, Cathrine Marshall, C.S. Lewis...and the list goes on and on. I'm almost 70 years old, so I have had a few years to grow a collection. Oddly enough, those listed and those not listed, don't include any Methodist, let alone, United Methodist authors. The closest I could come was a book given to me by my pastor at my confirmation, entitled Seeking a Faith of Your Own. Upon further inspection, I believe it was written by a noteworthy youth pastor of the day and not necessarily a United Methodist. That left my sole "Methodist" volume on the shelf to be Wesley's Notes on the New Testament. Don't get me wrong. The authors I've named whose books I have read are fantastic.

No United Methodist authors? Then I remembered a prolific author from my home area, Northwest Missouri. I am guessing you may have heard of him. Adam Hamilton. As one of his book jacket profile states he is "a leading voice for reconciliation and church renewal in mainstream Christianity, is the senior pastor of the 20,000 member Church of the Resurrection, Kansas City, the largest and most influential United Methodist congregation in the United States." I decided it was time for me to read one of the more than 25 books he has authored.

Choosing wouldn't be easy. So, I turned to the list of topics given to me by the Adult Sunday School Class. They listed battling and overcoming fears as a topic to find scripture to support. That thought lead me to purchase Hamilton's daily devotional, Living Unafraid.

What you will find in the July Scripture Challenge are the titles and scriptures from this devotional. Since I am utilizing so much of Hamilton's work, I would be remiss if I did not encourage you to get the book and read his daily devotionals. They are inspiring. I've ordered several copies of the book myself and will be happy to share. But first, accept the July Scripture Challenge and then, if so inspired, eventually read Hamilton's stories you will find in the devotional. The book is copyright 2019. The bad news (or perhaps good) is that the book seems to be out of print. I purchased my first copy from Amazon (at a pricy price) and then looked on the web at resellers and found multiple copies and extreme discounts (\$5 and less) from World of Books (worldofbooks.com). Enough of the commercial. Know that now that I have discovered my new favorite "United Methodist" author, more of Adam Hamilton's books will be in my library.

Thank you, once again, to my unofficial editorial board, the Adult Sunday School Class. Your knowledge of and devotion to the sacred text inspire me. Let the dog days of summer find you reading scripture and living unafraid. In Christ's love, Ann

Battling & Overcoming Fear

Based on Living Unafraid by Adam Hamilton

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|--|---|
| 1. I Will Fear No Evil - Psalms 23:1-6 | 19. Wrestling with the Devil -Matthew 4:1-3, Luke 19:10, James 4:7 |
| 2. Exposed-Genesis 3:8-10, Psalms 103:10-12 | 20. A Dangerous, Revolutionary Prayer - Matthew 6:9-13, John 6:35, James 1:13 |
| 3. The Ark Genesis 6:5-6, 13-14a | 21. The Storms at Sea - Matthew 14:24-33, Psalms 65:7, 89:9, 107:25 |
| 4. Leaving Home - Genesis 12:1-4a | 22. Facing Opposition - Mark 2:6-7, Luke 4:28-29, John 10:31, 6:66-67, Matthew 5:44, Romans 12:21 |
| 5. Wrestling with God - Genesis 32:9-11, 22-24 | 23. When Jesus Was Afraid - Mark 14:32-36 |
| 6. From Prisoner to Prime Minister - Genesis 37:23-27, 50:15, 19-21a | 24. When Courage Fails Us - Matthew 26:31, 33-35 |
| 7. Please Send Someone Else - Exodus 3:1-2, 4, 10; 4:13 | 25. The Seven Last Words of Jesus - Luke 23-46, John 19:26-30, Matthew 27:46, Mark 15:34, Psalm 22:1 |
| 8. Be Strong and Courageous - Joshua 1:5-9 | 26. Easter—John 20:19-21 |
| 9. Two Are Better Than One - Ruth 1:16-17, Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 | 27. This Little Light of Mine - Matthew 28:18-20, John 20:21-23, Luke 24:44-49, Mark 16:15-16, Acts 1:8 |
| 10. The Giants in Your Life - 1 Samuel 17:4-7 | 28. Pentecost - Acts 2:1-4 |
| 11. Whom Shall I Fear? - Psalm 27:1, 56:3-4, 59:16 | 29. A Believer - Acts 9:1-31 |
| 12. Missing Out - 1 Kings 6:38-7:1, Ecclesiastes 2:7-9a, 10a, Luke 12:15 | 30. In Every Situation - 2 Corinthians 11:23c-27, Philippians 4:6-7 |
| 13. For I Am Your God - Isaiah 43:1-3a | |
| 14. I Know the Plans I Hae for You - Jeremiah 29:11-14 | |
| 15. The Steadfast Love of the Lord - Lamentations 3:17-18, 21-23a | |
| 16. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego - Daniel 3:14-15 | |
| 17. For Such a Time as This - Esther 4:12-14, Proverbs 31:8 | |
| 18. God is Honoring You - Luke 1:26b-32a, 38 | |



VBS Success

Another successful year of Vacation Bible School!
Thank you to all of our volunteers that helped this year.
The kids had a great time!



TOOLS FOR SCHOOL

Fayette County K-12 are invited to receive school supplies distributed from St. James Lutheran Church
727 W. Gallatin St. Vandalia, IL. *Must be accompanied by an adult*



The 2026 Tools For School event will be as follows:

August 5th 4pm-7pm
August 6th & 7th 10am-5pm
August 8th 9am-11am

Donations are welcome and are to be made to "Tools for School" @PO Box 35 Vandalia, IL

Thank You!!

FUMC would like to give a big thank you to Kelly Clark, Trisha Miller, Sue Burnam and any other volunteers that helped with this year's VBS and other events. Without members like you these things would not be possible, THANK YOU!



God's Garden



God looked around his garden
And found an empty place,
He then looked down upon the earth
And saw your tired face.
He put his arms around you
And lifted you to rest.
God's garden must be beautiful
He always takes the best.

He saw the road was getting rough
And the hills were hard to climb.
So he closed your weary eyelids
And whispered, "Peace be thine".

He knew that you were suffering
He knew you were in pain.
He knew that you would never
Get well on earth again.

It broke our hearts to lose you
But you didn't go alone,
For part of us went with you
The day God called you home.

Submitted by: Anonymous

