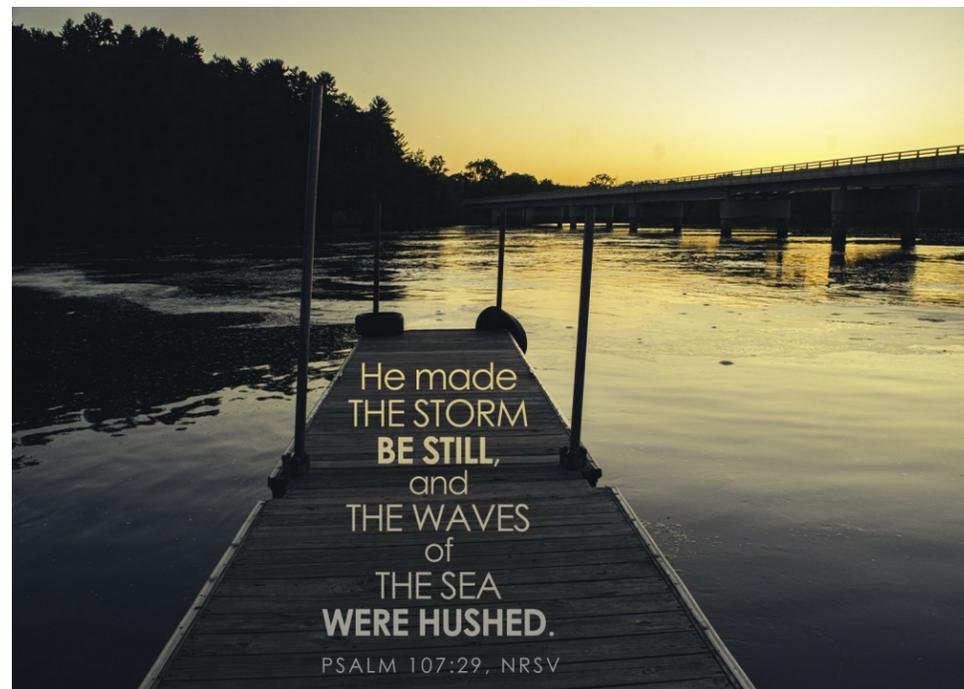




First United Methodist Church
127 N 4th St
Vandalia, IL 62471



He made
THE STORM
BE STILL,
and
THE WAVES
of
THE SEA
WERE HUSHED.

PSALM 107:29, NRSV



July Pews News



N.O.W. Committee

Backpack 2 School and Tools for School are busy at work this summer with some fun opportunities for the community as well as our congregation to help. "Stuff the Bus" will be at Wal-Mart on July 9th from 9am-3pm. We will have a list of items that are needed for Tools for School. You may purchase items at Walmart and "stuff" it in the school bus on site. We will also have two \$50 gas cards that were donated to raffle off. Tickets are on sale from any of the N.O.W. Committee members for just \$1.00. We will also have our annual "Undie Sunday" on July 24, and "Sock it to Me Sunday" on August 7th. Underwear and socks are often overlooked when making back to school purchases for the year. Both children and adult sizes are needed. You may drop off your items anytime in the basket in the Fireplace Room. Thank you to our congregation for the generous contributions and participation, pas and present, in our ministry work!

—Kim Warner, N.O.W. Committee Chairperson



SUPPLIES FOR OCC

For those who prefer to pack their own shoeboxes, **plan ahead and SAVE \$!** Buy your school supplies for your shoeboxes in July or August and you will have them at a cheaper price than if you wait till October or November!



SPONSOR A BOX TO BLESS A CHILD

Photo: Courtesy of Samaritans Purse
July and August are the months to Sponsor a Shoebox for a child through Operation Christmas Child. If you don't want to pack your own box, **Sponsor A Box!** Please turn in your sponsor sheets by the end of July! **Make check payable to FUMC and on the memo line put OCC.** Thank you for blessing the children. Each and every box is precious in His sight and we pray that the child receiving it will accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior! **Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Mark 10:14**

Church Staff

Pastor: Tom Goodell: vandaliampastor@gmail.com
Administrative Assistant: Casey Kistler: vandaliafumc@outlook.com
Secretary: Sue Miller (Tues. & Fri.)
Director of Young Children's Ministries: Amanda Milam
Preschool Director: Cindy Laramée
Custodians: Mike & Sharon Hagy
Assistant Custodian: Andy Sidwell

Inside this issue:

Prayer Concerns Shut-ins	2
Pastor's Perspective	3
Operation Christmas Child	4
Food Pantry needs Thank You	5
VBS update	6
Serving this month	7

Contact us

M-W-TR: 8a—4p
T-F: 8a-12p
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. 2);
Margaret Carroll (Apt. 10);
Arlene Hoffman (Apt. 4); Larry Peyton (Apt. 15),
Mary Ann Rhoades (Apt. 41), Frank Roeder
(Apt. 25)

FCH/Long Term Care (650 West Taylor)
Audrey Fink (Rm. 408)
Sandy Peyton

Lakewood Nursing Home
(800 W Temple Ave., Effingham, IL 62401)
Mary Crawford

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

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

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



Linda Ashdown (Sandra Cearlock's mother;
health concerns)

Patti Bohner (Diane Adams' daughter,
mobility issues)

Mary Crawford (health concerns)

Gary Doolen (cancer)

Mason Feltner (Kelly Clark's nephew;
chemotherapy for A.L.L. leukemia)

Amy Holaday (friend of Gathe's; breast
cancer; recuperating from surgery)

Heather Jones (friend of Donna Johnson;
diagnosed with hemochromatosis)

Cindy Koonce (brain aneurism)

Heather Overlin (Larry Osborne's
daughter; health concerns)

Herb Thoman (health concerns)

Peg Williams (cancer treatment)

Thanks to Andy Sidwell for sharing a devotion from one of his daily devotional books:

Giving Thanks for Today's Opportunities

When we were baptized, we were buried with Christ and shared his death. So, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the wonderful power of the Father, we also can live a new life.

Romans 6:4

Each morning offers a fresh opportunity to invite Christ, yet once again, to rule over our hearts and our days. Each morning provides another opportunity to sow seeds of hope among our family and friends. Each morning presents yet another chance to take up His cross and follow in His footsteps. God's Word is clear: When we genuinely invite Him to reign over our hearts, and when we accept His transforming love, we are forever changed. When we welcome Christ into our hearts, an old life ends and new way of living—along with a completely new way of viewing the world—begins. Today, let us rejoice in the new life that is ours through Christ, and let us follow Him, step by step, on the path that He first walked.



JULY Birthdays

- 1—Chad Bowers
- 2—Jameson Vieregge
Mollie Vieregge
- 4—Sandy Leidner
- 8—Mike Fulton
Alayna Meyer
- 9—Olivia Jenkins
Sophie Eckhardt
- 10—Calvin Dothager
- 11—Sara Clark
Molly Kern
- 14—Larry LeFevre
- 15—Cole Tarkington
- 16—Kendra Craig
Ty McNary
Cade Opfer
- 18—Julie Dunn
Nicholas Rosborough
- 19—Griffin Schneider
Justin Smith
- 21—Donna Johnson
- 22—Megan Moulton
- 24—Adelaide Schwarm
- 25—Mark Burnam
- 26—Barb LeFevre
- 27—Bob Cearlock
Wyatt Struble
- 28—Kim Taylor
- 29—Steve Stombaugh
- 31—Amanda Bowers
Mitch Casey

Head Ushers

- 3—JD Vieregge
- 10—John Burnam
- 17—Dean Black
- 24—Bryce Kistler
- 31—John Kaiser

JULY Anniversaries

- 3—Heath & Megan McDowell
(18 years)
- 9—John & Tina Kaiser
(28 years)
- 12—Phil & Melody Freeman
(36 years)
- 16—Zac & Kristin Stombaugh
(11 years)
- 23—Patrick & Katie Myers
(6 years)
- 24—Courtney & Gaynelle Scott
(12 years)
- 26—Mark & Deb Koelker
(42 years)
- 27—Mike & Pam Baker
(54 years)
- 29—Louis & Shirley Frick
(67 years)
Clayton & Brandi Gathe
(16 years)
Jason & Tessa Opfer
(15 years)
- 30—Bud & Jill Zimmer
(45 years)

Acolytes

- 3—Hannah Stombaugh
- 10—Michael & Samantha Crothers
- 17—Payton Gathe
- 24—Brylee & Bryce Kistler
- 31—Haven Burnam

Liturgist

Jamie Michel

Song Leaders

Traditional: Patty Donaldson
Contemporary: Sue Miller

Offering Collectors

- 3—Jeff Endres
- 10—John Burnam
- 17—Gene Schwarm
- 24—Casey Kistler
- 31—Gene Schwarm

Bus Ministry

- 3 **Driver:** Max Durbin
Rider: Deb Durbin
Greeter: Robin Kistler
- 10 **Driver:** Darrel Casey
Rider: Alan Lurkins
Greeter: Jan Casey
- 17 **Driver:** Bill Warner
Rider: Kim Warner
Greeter: James Hejl
- 24 **Driver:** Ed Taylor
Rider: Kim Taylor
Greeter: John Blythe/Diana Tippitt
- 31 **Driver:** Bill Warner
Rider: Kim Warner
Greeter: Sherry Goodell

Sound/Video Tech

Rick Eyman
Patrick Myers



2
0
2
2



V
B
S

This year's Vacation Bible School was held on Saturday, June 11th. The theme was Food Truck Party: On a roll with God. The scripture focus was Matthew 6:11 "Give us this day our daily bread".

A HUGE thank you to all of our volunteers! Without all of you, VBS would not be possible! Station leaders: Crafts, Brandi Gathe and Tessa Opfer, Games, Samantha Crothers and Kelly Clark, Bible Story, Jaime Warren and Pastor Tom, Music, Blanche Dugan and Sue Miller. Group leaders: Jody Burnam, Susan Casey, Barb McCart, Megan Moulton, Kim Warner, Amanda Milam, Rebekah Miller, Barb Paine, Shelly Haislar, Sophie Bowers, and Evan Warren. Amanda Milam and Kim Warner also took care of Check-in/registration.

A special thank you to Judy Roberts for making cookies for the kids to enjoy at lunch. In keeping with the food truck theme, we had a wonderful lunch provided by Wy's Place. Tacos and nachos were enjoyed by all!



Pastor's Perspective

The month of "July" was named for the Roman general and dictator Julius Caesar.

It was the month of his birth, the fifth month in the old Roman calendar. July is associated with summer vacations, the summer Olympic games and baseball (typically the all star game is played in this month).

We often refer to July as the dog days of summer. The origins of this come from Rome as well. Sirius is the brightest star in the night sky in July and was thought to be an omen of weather changes. The Nile flooded, thunderstorms increased in intensity and then there was the heat. Because Sirius is a part of the constellation "Canis Major" (the big dog!), it gives its name to the "dog days". These are the days of Sirius.

The Romans believed that Sirius changed not only the weather patterns but the human spirit. People were lazier during the dog days, more inclined to rest, and less interested in civic affairs. The dog days were, well like a big, sleepy dog, a time to simply chill out! We often associate the dog days with our church life. Churches traditionally suspend Sunday school and Bible study during the dog days. July worship attendance drops off. I served a small, rural church that often declared "dog day Sunday" in July and simply cancelled worship services. Pastors know not to worry about July attendance, people will return in mid-August!

The purpose of this article is not to guilt-trip anyone back to church, but rather to challenge all of us, me included, to address the dog days of our spiritual life. We can unplug from many things, and it is healthy sometimes to do this; but we must not allow our relationship with Christ to experience dog days! We must not become spiritually lazy.

Hebrews reminds us to not allow dog days in our relationship with Jesus Christ. Throughout this stirring letter (chapter 10) we are encouraged:

- Let us draw near (verse 22),
- Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess (verse 23),
- Let us not neglect meeting together (verse 25), and
- Let us encourage one another (verse 25).

How will you keep your spiritual life humming during the dog days of July? You can always watch our worship services on Facebook (youtube), or pick up a new devotional to read in the month, or simply plug into your phone calendar ("stop and pray now!"). What we do to keep our spiritual lives alive during the dog days, will keep us closer to Christ, and enable us to move back into a season of activity again!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Tom

The Church office will be closed Monday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day.



Our Caring Continues

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

FUMC members are an integral part of the OCC ministry! We are able to pack extra boxes above and beyond what the members sponsor or pack, because of monetary contributions as well as our members promoting OCC to their families, friends, and even strangers. I am truly humbled by this!

We have had Beanie Babies, material, doll blankets, shoeboxes, homemade dishcloths, and soap pouches donated because of the willingness of our members (Deb Durbin, Sharon Mueller, and Andy Sidwell) to share about this ministry! Some of these friends of our members continue to bless us yearly!

Peg Clark made more homemade items for our girls boxes. The colors are so bright and beautiful! Thank you so much Peg for all that you have done for OCC. You have blessed many children through the years!

Deb Durbin keeps busy making doll blankets! Wow, almost 100 boxes with dolls have been packed already and each box has a doll blanket made by Deb! Thanks, Deb for blessing the little girls!!!!

Dennette Guyer continues to make items for our extra boxes! This month she made totes for the boxes! Thank you Dennette for your labor of love and for the many hours you give to OCC!

Shelly Haislar volunteered to help Deb make doll blankets. Shelly's doll blankets will be used in our sponsored boxes. The girls will love the fun prints. Thanks, Shelly!

Sharon Mueller donated material to be used for items for our extra shoeboxes! Thanks Sharon for all that you do to help OCC! You are appreciated!

Sherry Schneider and grandson, Drake filled the pencil pouches with school supplies for our extra boxes. We love seeing kids helping kids! Thanks, Sherry and Drake!

This month, **Andy Sidwell** continued to search for items for our extra boxes. Andy spends a lot of time going to yard sales searching for **new, clean Beanie Babies** that people no longer want. He visited a yard sale at Michels Feed Store and shared with **Peggy Salmon (Tim Michel's sister)** about OCC. He told her how he looks for Beanie Babies to give to the children through our extra boxes. She told him to come back at the end of the day and whatever was left he could have. Thank you Andy for your boldness in sharing about the ministry of OCC! Through the years, Andy has donated hundreds of Beanie Babies and blessed many children!

Myron and Peggy Salmon - A special thank you for your generous donation of Beanie Babies to OCC by giving them to Andy at the end of the day! God provides when he knows our needs! We were almost out of Beanie Babies; however Andy did not know that. God knew and made it possible for him to receive a lot of Beanie Babies. **God's timing is PERFECT!** Thank you so much for blessing the children! We are truly humbled by this gift!



Thank you ❤️

"Many thanks to our wonderful congregation for your willingness to bring in dishes and assist with funeral dinners."
—Hospitality Committee

Renovations will begin in Wesley Hall the week of July 18th. Please be patient as we will be working as quickly as possible to have things up and running smoothly again soon!



God Works in Miraculous Ways (Taken from an OCC post)

Last year in Ecuador, a special opportunity opened up for a local ministry partner to reach out to several communities that had no church. These communities were only reachable by river, having no roads to their remote locations, making them difficult to reach. However, the ministry partner had a connection at the local Army base. The Army colonel was excited by the potential to assist in reaching the children in these remote villages. He rallied a group of soldiers to support the ministry partner in reaching these communities with shoebox gifts.



They loaded up cartons full of shoebox gifts into canoes and together made the hours long trek upriver to reach these children. Over the course of several days, they were able to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with 386 children. The colonel was so moved by the Gospel message at the outreach event, that he offered to host *The Greatest Journey Discipleship Course* at the Army base.



To enable *The Greatest Journey* to happen at the base, his soldiers invited the children and then brought them by canoe. They even provided meals for the children while they did their lessons. During one lesson, the soldiers thought they would run out of food as a large number of children had come. Just like the story of the loaves and the fishes in the Bible, they were amazed when God provided enough to feed all the children. There was even enough rice leftover for some of the children to take home to their families.

We praise God for this opportunity to not only show Jesus' love with these children living in remote villages, but also for the impact that this had on the Army base in Ecuador.