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November 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



Mark your calendars! The United Methodist Men's ***Drive-Thru Fish Fry*** will be Thursday, November 3, from 4:30pm to 7:00pm (or while supplies last).

Please pull in the back parking lot and a U.M.M. member will be there to take your order! All proceeds go directly to the Coats and Shoes program which helps Fayette County children in need. Thank you for your support!

Church Staff

Pastor: Tom Goodell: vandaliamcpastor@gmail.com
 Administrative Assistant: Casey Kistler: Vandaliafumc@outlook.com
 Secretary: Sue Miller (Tues. & Fri.)
 Director of Choirs: Melody Freeman: vandaliamusic22@outlook.com
 Director of Praise Team: Sarah Vu: vandaliapraise22@outlook.com
 Director of Young Children's Ministries: Amanda Milam
 Preschool Director: Cindy Laramée
 Custodians: Mike & Sharon Hagy
 Assistant Custodian: Andy Sidwell

Pastor's Perspective

Our eldest son Andrew married an amazing young woman, Kyra; this past weekend. Their wedding was at a beautiful venue in rural Heyworth. We arrived Sunday afternoon for pictures and the ceremony thanks to Google Maps. We enjoyed the ceremony, dinner and dancing, and left for our hotel around 11 pm that night. As we got in the car I confidently proclaimed to Sherry, "I know the way back".

But in the dark, and on unfamiliar country roads, I got turned around. I realized that the road signs were showing decreasing numbers (450 South, 400 South) and we wanted to go north. Then we dead ended and I negotiated a turnabout on a farm road, avoiding an angry raccoon who was looking for dinner in the middle of that lane. I said to my beloved, "we need help". But in the country, in the dark of night; the Google Maps did not want to load. It took some maneuvering of the phone, and Sherry's deft touch, to retrieve our satellite assistant. Then, we were redirected and found the highway that took us to the hotel.

Reflecting on this moment, and haven't we all had these moments, I was reminded of the importance of connecting to help before we embark down unfamiliar roads.

Jesus said, "I am the way" (John 14:6), pointing us not just to our way to heaven but also reminding us he is the way to staying on the right path in this life. The key is, of course, to be connected before we embark on the day. We do this by reading Scripture, praying for daily direction and simply staying in touch with the One who directs us.

How are you staying connected even before you begin the day, make decisions, interact with the world? I am reminded that the most difficult time to try to connect with Christ is after we find ourselves in trouble, in the midst of despair, lost.

There is a real risk in these moments not that Christ is not there for us, but that we simply cannot connect on our end. Our daily discipline practiced in the morning, connects us before the journey begins.

Grace and peace,
Tom

HEAD USHERS

Nine years ago I served as the pastor of a church in Washington, Illinois. As we started our 11am worship service on a Sunday morning weather alerts went off on phones notifying us of a tornado warning. Then, sirens began to wail; atmospheric pressure dropped dramatically. This was no warning. Almost instantly a group of trained ushers leapt into action. They directed folks to storm shelters, checked the parking lot for stragglers and secured our littlest ones in the nursery. Our training kept us safe even as a tornado destroyed much of our community. Safety requires training and planning.

A group of folks here, head ushers, oversee this at our church. They have planned for fires, storms and other security issues. On Sundays they check doors, note where people are meeting and are ready for alerts, sirens and all sorts of unexpected events. Thank them for their service. Our current head ushers are Dean Black, John Burnam, Greg and Jacy Fulk, John Kaiser, Bryce Kistler and JD Vieregge.



November



NOVEMBER Birthdays

- 1— Andy Vaughan
- 2— Dawn Rosborough
Katie Tarkington
- 3— Sandra Cearlock
Katie Eckhardt
- 4— Elloise Black
Isaac Grapperhaus
- 5— Justin Brantley
Tom Goodell
- 6— Mike Hagy
- 7— Diane Adams
Glen Daniels
- 8— Blanche Dugan
Roger Grimmett
Clark Pearson
- 9— Jill Zimmer
- 10— Aaron Konrad
- 11— Walt Pearson
- 13— Ray Kramer
- 14— Louise Weiss
- 16— Karel Black
- 17— Jean Stombaugh
- 21— James Hejl
- 22— Brayden Stombaugh
- 26— Alexa Campbell
JD Vieregge
- 27— Jack Johnston
- 28— Cindy Bennett
Susan Colburn
Jason Hagy
Casey Kistler
Nick Meyer
- 29— Megan McDowell

NOVEMBER Anniversaries

- 2— Byron & Terese Sikma
(20 years)
- 3— Randy & Janel Protz
(10 years)
- 7— Brad & Julie Dunn
(24 years)
- 12— Wendell & Blanche Dugan
(61 years)
- 18— Paul & Kathy Taylor
(38 years)
- 28— Tim & Nancy Springsteen
(19 years)



- 6— Payton Gathe
- 13— Rebekah Miller,
Evan Warren
- 20— Haven Burnam
- 27— Brylee & Bryce Kistler

Offering Collector

- 6— Alan Lurkins
- 13— John Burnam
- 20— Mary Fulton
- 27— Casey Kistler

Sound Tech

Rand Craycroft

Video Tech

Evan Warren

Bus Ministry

- 6 **Driver:** Max Durbin
Rider: Deb Durbin
Greeter: Gail DePaolo
- 13 **Driver:** Ed Taylor
Rider: Kim Taylor
Greeter: Jack Johnston
- 20 **Driver:** Bill Warner
Rider: Kim Warner
Greeter: Robin Kistler
- 27 **Driver:** Darrel Casey
Rider: Alan Lurkins
Greeter: Sandy Stombaugh

Head Ushers

- 6 JD Vieregge/Chad Bowers
- 13 Dean Black/Bryce Kistler
- 20 Greg Fulk/Jacy Fulk
- 27 JD Vieregge/John Burnam

Liturgist

- 6 Gracie Craig
- 13 Wade Thompson
- 20 Reid Well
- 27





After a fun jump into the Fall season, we are turning our attention to November and all that we are thankful for! During this month we will study letters L, M and N and numbers 12, 13 and 14! Themes this month are Leaves, Manners (Thanksgiving) and the Night Before Christmas. November is a shorter month for us so we have to accomplish a lot in a shorter period of time! This month we will be closed on Friday, Nov. 11, for Veteran's Day and Nov. 23-27 for a Thanksgiving break. Our Thanksgiving party will be Tuesday, Nov. 22, and we are looking forward to that very much! Thank you to everyone who continues to support our preschool!

Miss Cindy and FUMP staff!

To our Church Family:

We have thanked various people in the past, but you need to know how very important you all are to our ministry. You are all so willing to donate your time and resources when asked to bring a dish, to serve with a meal, or for another occasion—whether it be a salad, deviled eggs, desserts, or snacks for kids. “Together” this is OUR ministry!

We are so very thankful for each and every one of you. May you be blessed just as the families you are blessing with this ministry to our Church.

—Hospitality Committee



Mark your calendars now!
Our children's Christmas program will be held on Sunday, December 11th.

Parents and grandparents be sure to watch the mail for letters being sent out with important dates for rehearsal times and practices.



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. 16), Mary Ann Rhoades (Apt. 41), Frank Roeder (Apt. 25)
FCH/Long Term Care (650 West Taylor)
Audrey Fink (Rm. 408)
Sandy Peyton

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



Patti Bohner (Diane Adams' daughter, mobility issues)
Jane Cox (upcoming surgery)
Gary Doolen (cancer)
Willard Fulk (health concerns)
Lola Gehle (Deb Durbin's mother; liver cancer treatment)
Leonard Gehle (Deb Durbin's father; prostate cancer treatment)
Roger Grimmett (treatment for Hodgkin's Lymphoma)
Amy Holaday (friend of Gathe's; breast cancer; recuperating from surgery)
Heather Jones (friend of Donna Johnson; diagnosed with hemochromatosis)

Sharon Lee (recuperating from surgery after a fall; FCH)
Sharon Mueller (recuperating from surgery for broken leg)
Heather Overlin (Larry Osborne's daughter; health concerns)
Ann Schwarm (recuperating from c-spine surgery)
Jim Staff (recuperating after a fall; LTC)
Herb Thoman (health concerns)
Louise Weiss (recuperating from neck surgery)
Peg Williams (cancer treatment)
Mary Woolsey (health concerns)





Office Closed

The church office will be closed on Friday November 11, in observance of Veteran's Day.



The church office will be closed November 24 & 25 for Thanksgiving. ★ Veterans Day: Thank You for Your Service



We will celebrate Christmas Eve this year with a 7:00 PM candlelight service on December 24.

The Church building will be closed December 25-January 2. Church service on December 25 will be broadcasted via YouTube. Please have year end

contributions in to the church office by noon on December 23, or received by mail by December 30.

We Need The Following:

Potato Chips

6:35 PANTRY

"For the bread of life, he who comes to me will never go hungry, and the who believes in me will never be thirsty." John 6:35

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov. 7 6pm, United Methodist Men
- Nov. 8 Election Day—Go Vote!
- Nov. 10 3pm, Prayer Shawl Ministry
6:30pm, SPRC
- Nov. 15 6pm, N.O.W. Committee
- Nov. 28 5:30pm, Bucket Buddies

Ways you can SERVE

Get a jump start on your holiday baking! The N.O.W. committee will once again be doing appreciation platters this year. Donations of cookies and candies are needed. Please drop off your donations to Wesley Hall kitchen December 11th-12th.

College care packages will be delivered again this year. Donations of non-perishable food items, gifts cards, supplies, etc. will help relieve the stress of semester exams. Please drop your donated items by the Church office by November 13th.

← Please submit names and addresses for college care packages to the Church office by November 10th. As students move and graduate it is important to keep our records as accurate as possible. Thanks!

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!**

A special thank you to **Pastor Tom** for his ongoing support of the ministry of Operation Christmas Child. Thank you for including OCC in your children's time and for encouraging members to participate.

Max and Deb Durbin truly have servants hearts! They willingly went to Effingham and picked up the shipping crates for OCC. They loaded (in Effingham) and unloaded (in Vandalia) 290 shipping crates! This truly was a blessing for them to do this. Both Max and Deb are **VALUED** members who help throughout the year with OCC, as well as during National Collection Week.

Sarah Vu showed the children a packed OCC box during children's time and encouraged them to pack a box to bless other children. Thank you Sarah for your willingness to do this and for telling them about your shoebox experience as a child living in Vietnam. Sarah has also volunteered to help during National Collection Week!

***Special Note:** We are heading towards record numbers of OCC boxes. Watch for the insert in the bulletin after collection week with the latest stats.

A special thank you to members who have donated money to buy supplies for the extra boxes, for members who sponsored boxes, as well as members who are packing their own boxes. Thank you to the families of Ed Taylor and Iris Rademacher for designating their memorials to be used to pack more boxes! To God be the Glory!

Mark Burnam and Casey Kistler have kept track of all incoming and outgoing funds for OCC. Thank you so much for your work throughout the year!



If you have not sponsored a box and want to pack your own, please pick up a box in the Narthex. All boxes need to be returned by Sunday, Nov. 6th. Thank you!