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F: closed

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*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"*

**Hello Jesus, it's me.**

I don't have carefully chosen words today,  
just a heart that knows where to come.

You already see what I'm carrying,  
so I won't pretend I'm stronger than I am.

There are places in me that feel worn thin,

tired from holding concerns

I thought would pass quickly,  
but didn't.

Some days I feel grounded.

Some days I feel easily shaken.

And most days I'm learning  
that faith is not confidence in myself,  
but returning to You again and again.

**Hello Jesus, it's me.**

I asked You for answers  
and found You offering peace instead.

I prayed for things to change,  
and You chose to stay with me  
right where I was.

I don't always understand the waiting,  
or why some prayers unfold slowly,  
but I haven't stopped coming to You.

I still believe You are closer  
than my feelings allow me to see.

**Hello Jesus, it's me.**

Thank You for Your nearness  
when I questioned.

For holding me steady  
when I looked fine but felt fragile.

For hearing the prayers  
I couldn't put into words.

Thank You for mercy that meets me each  
day

and grace that remains  
even after long nights and weary mornings.

I'm learning that trusting You  
doesn't remove uncertainty,  
it just means I don't carry it alone.

So here I am again,  
open-handed, willing,  
asking You to lead me  
even when the path feels quiet.

**Hello Jesus, it's me.**

I don't know everything,  
but I know You are faithful.

And for today,  
that is enough  
to let my heart rest.

*-Contributed by Andy Sidwell*

**Church Staff**

Pastor: Curtis Flake: [rev.cflake@gmail.com](mailto:rev.cflake@gmail.com), 217-273-4432

Administrative Assistants: Sue Miller & Jacob Arndt

Church email: [vandaliafumc@outlook.com](mailto:vandaliafumc@outlook.com)

Director of Choirs: Taryn Flake: [taryn.a.flake@gmail.com](mailto:taryn.a.flake@gmail.com)

Preschool Director: Morgan Tessman

Custodians: Andy Sidwell

Family Center Custodian: Rich Well

Bus Coordinator: Frank Roeder



# Come to the table

REVELATION 19:9

## Please Join Us!

Everyone is welcome to "come to the table"

**Wednesday nights from 5:30- 6:30p** for our

community meals in **Wesley Hall**. Below is a copy of the menu.

We hope this helps make our youth group nights a little easier on families.

We would love to see you there!

Feb 4	Walking Taco			
Feb 11	Corn Dogs, Tator Tots, Bagged Cookies, Fruit			
Feb 18	Spaghetti, Garlic Sticks, Fruit			
Feb 25	Breakfast meal... French Toast Sticks, Sausage Links, Hash Brown Patty			

(menu subject to change)

Thank you 

FUMC would like to give a big thank you to everyone who donated canned goods and other much needed items to the 6:35 pantry. It is greatly appreciated!

**United Methodist Church** is on duty at the Food Pantry on **Thursday, February 5th from 4:30pm to 6:00pm**. Please arrive by 4:00pm.



We are always looking for volunteers for kingdom kids! If anyone is interested please reach out.

### Current February schedule:

2/1/2026

Sharon Mueller

2/8/2026

Trisha Miller

2/15/2026

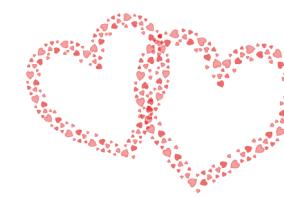
Sue Burnam

2/22/2026

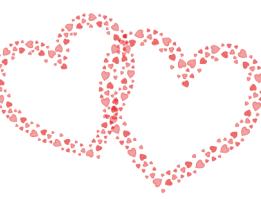
Kelly Clark



Thank you,  
FUMC Family  
[VandaliaFUMC@outlook.com](mailto:VandaliaFUMC@outlook.com)  
618-283-3684



# February



## FEBRUARY Birthdays

2—Sydney Rosborough  
Courtney Scott  
Carl Shreve  
Rich Well  
Randy White  
4—Tom Diveley  
5—Robin Kistler  
Ed Taylor, Jr.  
6—Jeff Casey  
Michael Crothers  
7—Mark Paine  
Milene Cothorn  
Dave Roberts  
8—Bryce Dunn  
9—Barb White  
12—Jasper Dothager  
Brian Kern  
Janel Protz  
13—Steve Cox  
14—Blake Grimmett  
15—Lauren Kaiser  
17—Reid Well  
18—Sheila Kinney  
David Rademacher  
19—Louise Davis  
Haelyn Feltner  
Todd Metzger  
20—Tanner Swain  
24—Melody Freeman  
25—Bev Lewey  
26—Diana Tippit  
28—Ruth Ann Garrison  
Aiden Politte  
Judy Roberts

## FEBRUARY Anniversaries

15—Mark & Barb Paine  
(40 years)  
19—Mark & Lisa Burnam  
(15 years)  
24—BJ & Sharon Mueller  
(64 years)  
25—Rodes & Bev Hood  
(65 years)

### Bus Ministry

1 **Driver:** Max Durbin  
**Rider:** Deb Durbin  
**Greeter:** Sandy Stombaugh  
8 **Driver:** Ed Taylor  
**Rider:** Kim Taylor  
**Greeter:** Sandy Stombaugh

15 **Driver:** Bill Warner  
**Rider:** Kim Warner  
**Greeter:** Sandy Stombaugh

22 **Driver:** Bill Warner  
**Rider:** Kim Warner  
**Greeter:** Sandy Stombaugh

### Acolytes

1—Addi Flake  
8—Harper Burnam  
15—Brayden Stombaugh  
22—Hannah Stombaugh

### Greeters

1—Lea Ann Rubin  
Jeremie Rademacher  
8—Jeff & Jan Casey  
15—Darin & Kara Dugan  
Cindy Haas  
22—Mary Fulton  
Susann Schumacher

### Sound Tech

Patrick Myers

### Head Ushers

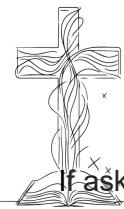
1 JD Vieregge/Josh Figgins  
8 JD Vieregge/Rand Craycroft  
15 JD Vieregge/Jacy Fulk  
22 JD Vieregge/Greg Fulk

### Offering Collector

1—John Burnam  
8—Gene Schwarm  
15—Barb Paine  
22—Gene Schwarm

### Video Tech

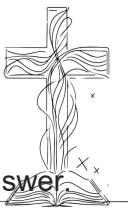
Wade Thompson



## February Themes and Scriptures

### HELP WANTED!

(AKA Ann's 2nd February 2026 Newsletter Article)



If asked which was my favorite month of the 2025 Scripture Challenges, I have an easy answer.

November 2025! Psalms of Praise and Thanksgiving!

Why? It wasn't because it was less "work" for me, which it was since Pastor Gary and Dorothy Ann Jenkins did all the heavy lifting by studying all 150 Psalms and choosing 30 for us all to read.

It was because I was enjoying their "work" and wisdom right along with everyone else who had accepted the scripture challenge.

Don't get me wrong, I LOVE (February's theme) putting together the scripture challenges.

I view this opportunity as a calling and a mission and most of all a blessing to me.

Now, however, I feel led to invite others into the process.

To that end, please share with me any or all of the following:

1. Your favorite verses you'd like to see included in future challenges;
2. Your favorite books of the Bible;
3. Favorite series of verses;
4. Potential themes (heroes of the faith, miracles, promises, etc.).

Also, let me know what level of involvement you'd like to undertake (just answering this email, selecting some verses for a month, selecting all verses for a month, etc.). Any and all input is welcomed.

In Christ's Love, Ann



Happy February! Thank you to BJ Mueller for song leading in January, as well as the hymn sing at the end of December. Thank you to Sarah Vu and the Praise Team for covering January 4th for my day off. Thank you to the choir for singing two anthems and the handbell choir for the anthem on **January 25th**. As always, you are welcome to join in either group, anytime. We'd love to have more singers and ringers!

*Handbells are taking a month off and will resume meeting in March.*

Here is our choir rehearsal and anthem schedule for February:

<u>Rehearsal, Wednesdays @ 4:30</u>	<u>Anthem, Sound check @ 9:00 AM</u>
February 4th	February 8th (Lord, I Want to Be a Christian)
February 11th	February 15th (TBD)

*Musically, Taryn*



### Brookstone: (1607 W. Fillmore)

Frank Roeder (Apt. 25);

Jean Stombaugh (Apt. 35)

### FCH/Long Term Care (650 West Taylor)

Arlene Hoffman (Rm. 510); Sharon Lee (Rm. 706)

Deb Endres (Rm.708); Margaret Carroll (Rm. 610)

Larry Peyton (Rm.405); Sara Clark (Rm.707);

Phyllis Thoman (Rm.403)

Pete Burnam (Rm.608)

### Meridian Village Assisted Living

Diane Adams 27 Auerbach Place Glen Carbon.

IL 62034

### Willowbrook: (1124 Sunset dr)

Edith Knebel

Mary Woolsey—2627 Columbia Dr, apt 1

Columbia, IL 62236

Retha Burnam c/o Lori McGuire 4635

Timberview Dr. Auburn. IL 62615

## First United Methodist Church

### New Joys and Concerns

Joy in hearing Children in Church (and seeing their parents standing and rocking them!)

Our Church, our community and our country.

Robert Ellis (Brother of Barbara White) - diagnosed with brain cancer

The Family of Michael Boley



### Ongoing Thoughts, Prayers & Concerns

Barb Ambuehl

Robert Ellis

Krey Leesman

Brianna Barnett

Connor Eyman

Kevin Leifer

Marti Bingham

Maurice Eyman

Austin Long

Bill Blythe

David Floyd

Jason Mouser

Debbie Brantley

Shirley Frick

Wes Miller

John Campbell

Chuck Harre

Jeff Mueller

Sara Clark

Steve Hoover

David Rademacher

Ava Cooper

Jennifer Kenney

Sydney Rosborough

Julia Crowe

Bob & Joy Kloster

Arlen Sidwell

Rob Dillingham

Ray Kramer

Anna Syniuk

Scott Dolejs

Carson LaDage



Donna Taylor

Phyllis Thoman

Heather (Jones) Thompson

Les Vaughan

Victoria & Family

Suzanne Wilkerson

Jeff Williams

Ken & Peg Williams

Hudson Winters

Lonna Woodruff



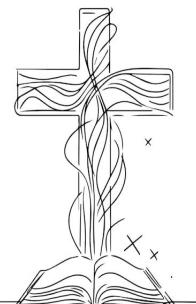


## February Scripture Challenge

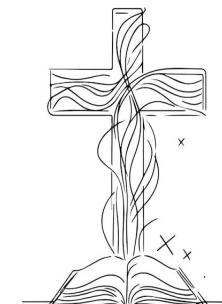
Dear Friends in Christ,

If you read my January newsletter article, you might have already guessed that the February 2026 Scripture Challenge will be all about **LOVE!**

The scriptures will be divided into 5 sections:



### **1. God's Love for Us**



### **2. General Thoughts on Love**

### **3. Loving Children**

### **4. Love in Friendship**

### **5. Loving Each Other**

As you contemplate these tried and true bits of wisdom, ask yourself how you can put into practice what you are reading, what you are reading.

See my second February 2026 Newsletter Article and consider lending your thoughts as a way of loving our congregation of Bible readers.



## February Scripture Challenge

### **God's Love for Us**

1. John 3:16 & Romans 5:8

2. 1st John 3:1 & 1st John 4:9-10

3. Psalm 86:15 & Jeremiah 31:3

13. Proverbs 17:17 & John 15:13

14. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

15. Proverbs 27:17 & 1st Samuel 18:1

16. Romans 12:10

### **General Thoughts on Love**

4. 1st Corinthians 16:14

5. Romans 8:38-39

6. Psalms 136:26 & Micah 6:8

7. Matthew 5:44 & Luke 6:31

8. 2nd Timothy 1:7

9. Jude 1:21

### **Loving Each Other**

17. John 13:34-35

18. Romans 13:10

19. Galatians 5:14

20. 1st John 4:7

21. 1st Peter 4:8

22. Colossians 3:14

23. Hebrews 10:24

24. 1st Corinthians 13:4-7

25. Matthew 22:37-39

26. Galatians 6:2 & Proverbs 10:12

27. Philippians 2:3-4

28. 1st Thessalonians 3:12

