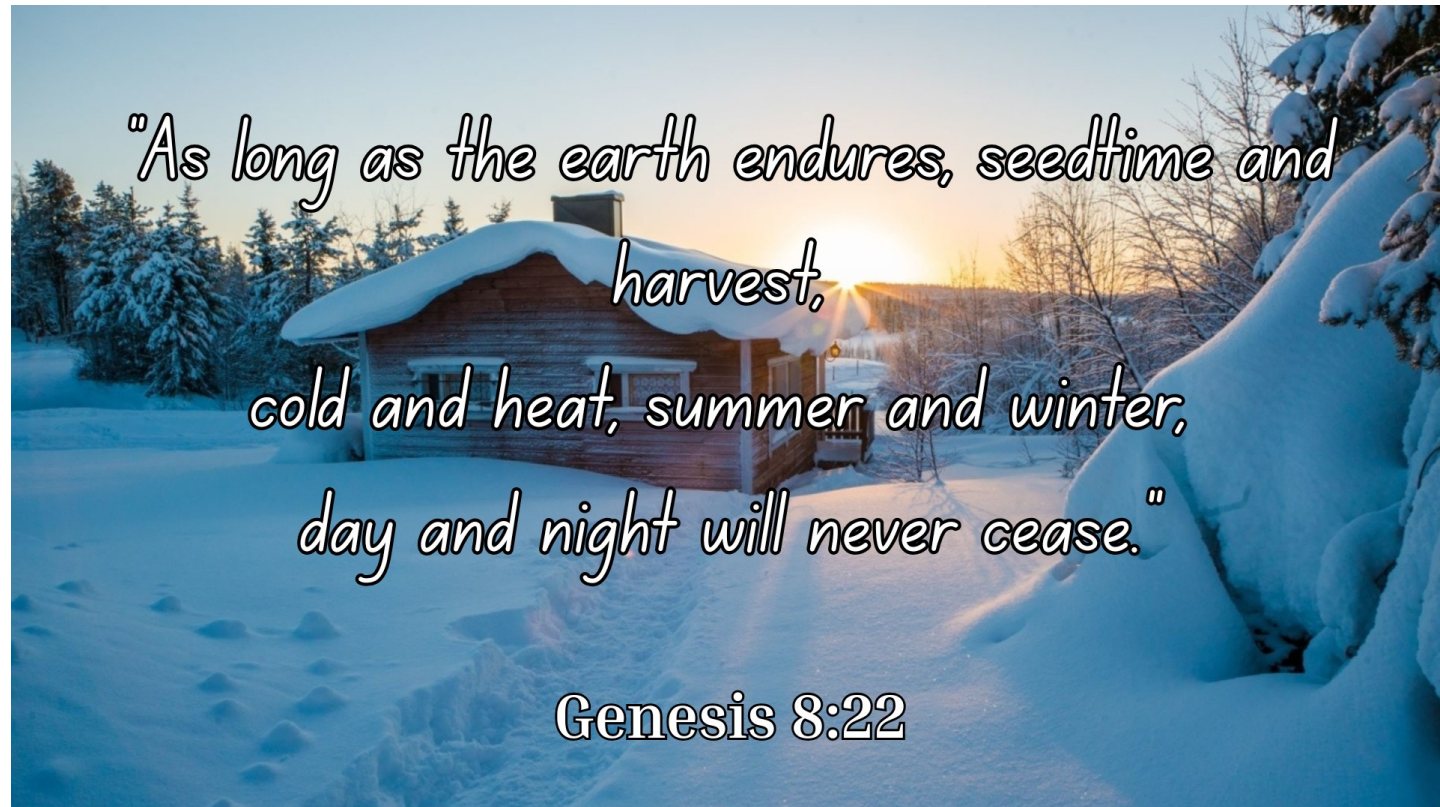




First United Methodist Church
127 N 4th St
Vandalia, IL 62471



February 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-TR: 8a — 4p
F: closed

Phone:

(618)-283-3684

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vandalia-
fumc@outlook.com

Website:

www.vandaliafirstumc.org

Inside this issue:

Come to the Table, Thank You's, 6:35 Pantry, Ash Wednesday & Kingdom Kids	2
Prayer Concerns/ Shut-Ins	3
Scripture challenge	4
Scripture Challenge	5
Help Wanted & Music Minute	6
Birthdays, Anniversaries & Schedule	7

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

HAVE A BLESSED

February



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

Bus Coordinator: Frank Roeder





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
618-283-3684



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)

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

Video Tech

Wade Thompson

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

Liturgist

Mark Paine

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



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



<u>Brookstone:</u> (1607 W. Fillmore) Frank Roeder (Apt. 25); Jean Stombaugh (Apt. 35) <u>FCH/Long Term Care</u> (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)	<u>Meridian Village Assisted Living</u> Diane Adams 27 Auerbach Place Glen Carbon. IL 62034 <u>Willowbrook:</u> (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
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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

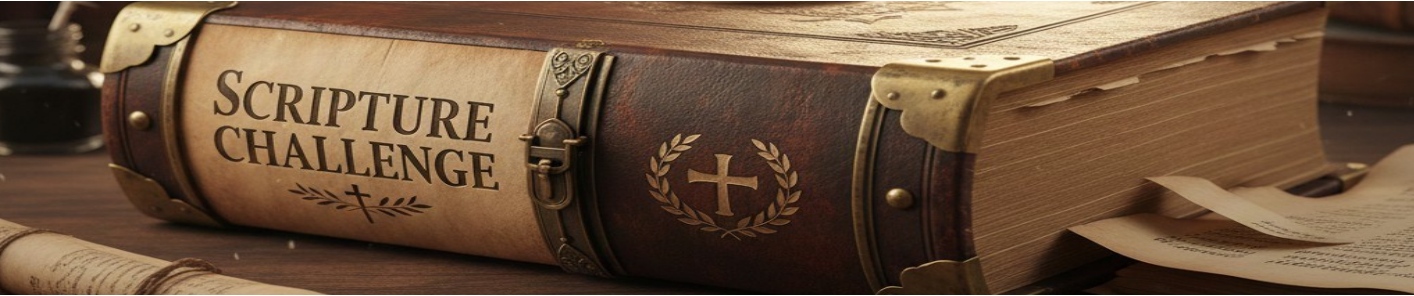
The Family of Michael Boley



Ongoing Thoughts, Prayers & Concerns



Barb Ambuehl	Robert Ellis	Krey Leesman	Donna Taylor
Brianna Barnett	Connor Eyman	Kevin Leifer	Phyllis Thoman
Marti Bingham	Maurice Eyman	Austin Long	Heather (Jones) Thompson
Bill Blythe	David Floyd	Jason Mouser	Les Vaughan
Debbie Brantley	Shirley Frick	Wes Miller	Victoria & Family
John Campbell	Chuck Harre	Jeff Mueller	Suzanne Wilkerson
Sara Clark	Steve Hoover	David Rademacher	Jeff Williams
Ava Cooper	Jennifer Kenney	Sydney Rosborough	Ken & Peg Williams
Julia Crowe	Bob & Joy Kloster	Arlen Sidwell	Hudson Winters
Rob Dillingham	Ray Kramer	Anna Syniuk	Lonna Woodruff
Scott Dolejs	Carson LaDage		

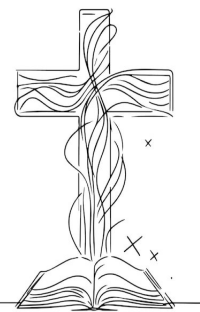


February Scripture Challenge

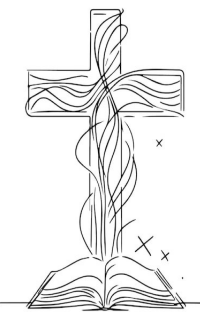
Dear Friends in Christ,

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:

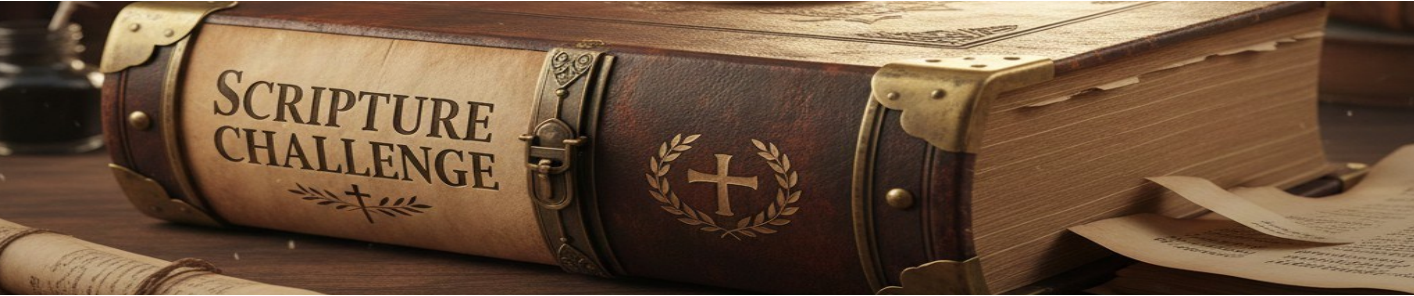


- 1. **God's Love for Us**
- 2. **General Thoughts on Love**
- 3. **Loving Children**
- 4. **Love in Friendship**
- 5. **Loving Each Other**



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

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 5:44
- 8. 2nd Timothy 1:7
- 9. Jude 1:21

Loving Children

- 10. Proverbs 22:6 & Psalm 127:3
- 11. Ephesians 6:4 & Colossians 3:21
- 12. Isaiah 54:13 & Matthew 19:14

Love in Friendship

- 13. Proverbs 17:17 & John 15:13
- 14. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10
- 15. Proverbs 27:17 & 1st Samuel 18:1
- 16. Romans 12:10

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

