

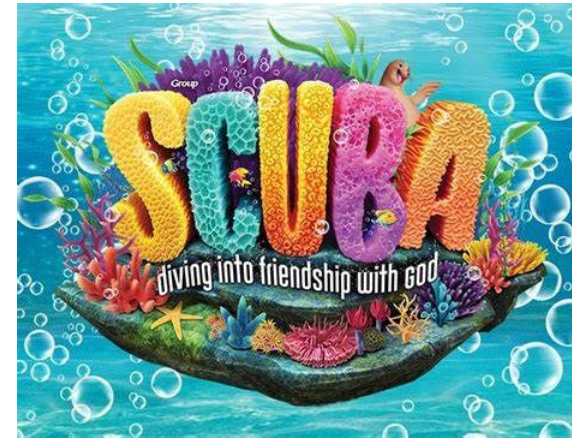


**First United Methodist Church**  
 127 N 4th St  
 Vandalia, IL 62471

**May 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.*



Vacation Bible School is set for June 3-5, 9am-11:30am, at the Family Center. All children (pre-k-6th grade) are welcome to attend. If you're interested in volunteering please contact the Church office.

**Inside this issue:**

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Prayer Concerns Shut-ins             | 2 |
| OCC                                  | 3 |
| OCC Thank you Sunday School teachers | 4 |
| Office Closed                        | 5 |
| Food Pantry Needs                    |   |
| Music News                           |   |
| Pastor's Article                     | 6 |
| Pentecost                            |   |
| Serving this month                   | 7 |

**Thank You Youth Leaders!**

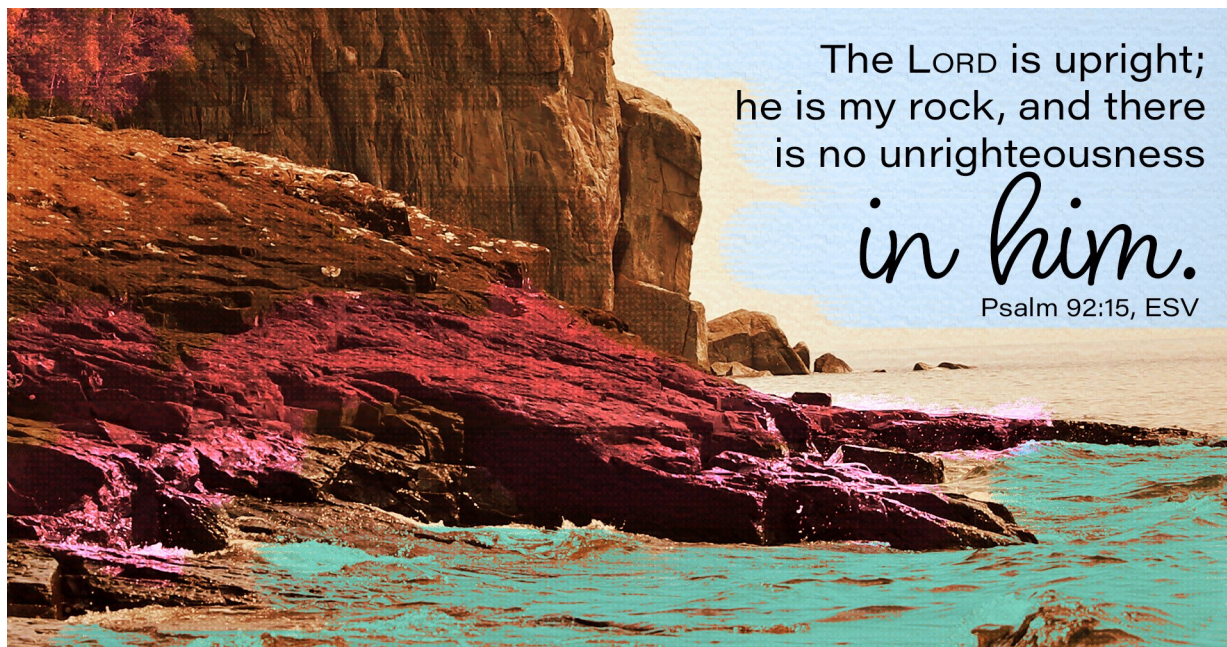
Our youth groups will have their end of year party on Wednesday, May 8th, at Rummelin Park. Without the leadership of our volunteers, Wednesday night activities would not be possible. Thank you to Clayton & Brandi Gathe, Sarah Vu, Jaclyn Clay, Samantha Crothers, Mark Burnam, Steph Kistler, Jacy Fulk, Pastor Ana Hurrell, and Pastor Curtis. Thank you to all of our volunteers and subs throughout the year also! If you would like to be a part of this great ministry, please contact Pastor Curtis or the Church office. Activities will resume after Labor Day.

**Church Staff**

Pastor: Curtis Flake: rev.cflake@gmail.com, 217-273-4432  
 Administrative Assistant: Casey Kistler: vandaliafumc@outlook.com  
 Secretary: Sue Miller (Tues. & Fri.)  
 Minister of Praise Music: Sarah Vu: vandaliapraise@outlook.com  
 Director of Choirs: Taryn Flake: taryn.a.flake@gmail.com  
 Director of Young Children's Ministries: Amanda Milam  
 Preschool Director: Cindy Laramee  
 Custodians: Mike & Sharon Hagy  
 Assistant Custodian: Andy Sidwell

**Contact us**

**M-W-TR: 8:00a—4:00p**  
**T-F: 8:00a-12:00p**  
**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)  
Margaret Carroll (Apt. 10)  
Edith Knebel (Apt. 43)  
Larry Peyton (Apt. 16)  
Frank Roeder (Apt. 25)  
Jean Stombaugh (Apt. 35)  
Herb & Mary Woolsey (Apt. 32)

FCH/Long Term Care (650 West Taylor)  
Arlene Hoffman (Rm. 510)  
Deb Endres (Rm. 708)

Dolan Memory Care Homes

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

Stillwater Senior Living

(1111 University Dr., Edwardsville, IL 62025)  
Patti Bohner

Shut-Ins:

Mike Beckett, 2625 W. Jefferson St., Vandalia



**Dennis Ambuehl** (Patty Donaldson's brother, radiation treatment for prostate cancer)

**Marti Bingham** (Patti Craycroft's stepmother; recuperating from surgery for brain tumor)

**John Blythe**

**Roger Corrington** (Health issues)

**Matt Cors** (Taryn Flake's cousin; oral cancer; Siteman Cancer Ctr. radiation and chemo)

**Whitey Daniels** (health concerns)

**Tennille Fondren** (Roger Corrington's niece; health concerns)

**Willard Fulk** (health concerns)

**Leonard Gehle** (Deb Durbin's father; prostate Cancer treatment)

**Marty Hartke** (friend of Pastor Curtis & Taryn: (cancer))

**Amy Holaday** (friend of Gathe's; breast cancer has returned)

**Gary Jenkins** (recuperating from surgery for salivary gland cancer; home)

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

**Carson LaDage** (praying for new treatment plan to continue to work)

**LuAnn Newman** (friend of Taryn Flake; breast cancer; radiation begins soon)

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

**Barb Paine** (recuperating from shoulder surgery)

**Rights for Children** (foster care, sex trafficking, etc.)

**Lana Sefton** (Kara Dugan's mother; stage 4 breast cancer)

**Stacey Weaver** (daughter of Dwayne and Laura (Zimmerman) Weaver; pretzel syndrome; rare neurodevelopmental disorder)

**Darin Wells** (stage 2 non-Hodgkin's lymphoma; chemo treatments)

**Jeff Williams** (BJ & Sharon Mueller's son in law; lung cancer)

# May

## MAY Birthdays

- 1— Candy Carroll  
Dennis Weiss
- 2— Carlee Kistler  
Michelle McNary
- 3— Andy Craig  
Josh Miller  
Josh Moulton
- 5— Calista Eyman  
Elizabeth Miller  
Taylor Well
- 6— Brenda Grimmett
- 14— Nelda Cearlock
- 16— Paige Buente
- 18— Randy Protz  
Silas Vieregge  
Bill Wells, Jr.
- 19— Linda Dugan  
Phyllis Thoman
- 20— Clayton Black  
Drew McDowell
- 21— Carla Diveley  
Alex Schwarm
- 22— Sophie Bowers  
Haven Burnam  
Tessa Opfer
- 24— Rosie Beckett  
Jamie Michel
- 26— Eli Bowen  
Brad Dunn
- 28— Grady Laack
- 31— Lauren Hagy

## Liturgist

Jaime Warren

## Sound Tech

Rick Eyman

## Video Tech

Rand Craycroft

## MAY Anniversaries

- 1— Kent & Robin Kistler  
(47 years)
- 3— Ty & Michelle McNary  
(27 years)
- 11— Harold & Donna Johnson  
(50 years)
- 12— Steve & Sandy Stombaugh  
(45 years)
- 14— John & Caylee Zimmer  
(13 years)
- 17— Roger & Peg Clark  
(16 years)
- 27— Dean & Elloise Black  
(62 years)  
Mike & Sharon Hagy  
(52 years)  
Jason & Kari Hagy  
(24 years)  
Randy & Barb White  
(7 years)
- 30— Drew & Sherry Schneider  
(53 years)
- 31— Scott & Mia Vieregge  
(16 years)

## Acolytes

- 5— Amelia Moulton
- 12— Trevor & Parker Clark
- 19— Michael Crothers
- 26— Addison Flake

## Offering Collectors

- 5— Bill LaDage
- 12— Bryce Kistler
- 19— Barb Paine
- 26— ?

## Bus Ministry

- 5 **Driver:** Ed Taylor  
**Rider:** Kim Taylor  
**Greeter:** Gail DePaolo
- 12 **Driver:** Bill Warner  
**Rider:** Kim Warner  
**Greeter:** Jack Johnston
- 19 **Driver:** Darrel Casey  
**Rider:** Alan Lurkins  
**Greeter:** Sandy Stombaugh
- 26 **Driver:** Max Durbin  
**Rider:** Deb Durbin  
**Greeter:** Linda Dugan

## Head Ushers

- 5— Mike Black/JD Vieregge
- 12— Dean Black/Bryce Kistler
- 19— Greg & Jacy Fulk
- 26— Josh Figgins/JD Vieregge

## Ushers

- 12—
- 19—
- 26— Bill & Kim Warner

## Greeters

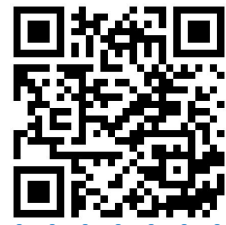
- 5—
- 12— Gene & Ann Schwarm
- 19— Shelly Haislar,  
Bill & Sharon LaDage
- 26— Darrel Casey



And just like that, May is upon us. Kids can already taste summer. Adults are mowing twice a week if it is dry enough. Mother's Day is this month, just in case you forgot. Here is your written reminder that Mother's Day is on the May 12th. A number of other days happen in May as well. May 2nd is the National Day of Prayer. May 19th is Pentecost Sunday. Pentecost is your yearly excuse to wear all of your Cardinals gear to church as we try to fill the congregation with red.

Any one of those things is worthy of a newsletter article. However, I wanted to share more about Right Now Media. In March, during the hubbub of Lent, we launched our church subscription to Right Now Media. What is it? Well, it is a streaming service with Christian content. Think Netflix for churches. Kind of. It is for your personal use, both adults and children. We will likely use it for small groups and Bible studies along the way. I have been told the kids' library might be one of the biggest places where it excels. We will probably find uses and hidden gems within Right Now Media we don't even know about yet.

The best part is that it is a gift to you. The church has a subscription that covers whoever, and it is there for your use. We have it for at least a year. I would love to get your feedback as the year goes on. I believe this could be one of the best new tools to connect us with Christian content for both personal use and curriculum for many of our classes. If you enjoy it, share it with a friend, whether they go to church here or not. If you are having a problem getting on, just let the church office know, and we will help. All it requires is an internet connection. It even works on many smart TVs.



Click the QR code for access to Right Now Media. You can also text VANDALIAFUMC to 49775.



### What is Pentecost?

On Pentecost Sunday, we remember the day the disciples received the Holy Spirit in a special way. The story in Acts 2 describes a powerful wind and tongues of fire as the Holy Spirit was poured out on people from all over the world who came to Jerusalem to celebrate a Jewish feast. At the first Pentecost over 3000 people were baptized, creating the first church. This is why Pentecost is known as the birthday of the Christian church.

The word Pentecost comes from a Greek word meaning fiftieth. The Jewish Festival of Pentecost (called *Shavuot*, meaning "weeks" in Hebrew) falls on the fiftieth day after the original Passover. On that day, God gave the Torah to Moses on Mount Sinai. The Christian festival of Pentecost falls on the 50th day after the resurrection of Jesus.

Two colors are historically associated with Pentecost. Red is a visual reminder of the "tongues of fire" that empowered the apostles and others to proclaim the good news of Christ's resurrection in many languages to the crowds of pilgrims from many lands (Acts 2:3). White was used in some places, including England, where Pentecost had also become a day for baptisms by the Middle Ages. Whether it happened at Easter or Pentecost or at some other time, those being baptized were given new white robes to wear as a sign they had taken off the world, died to sin, and were raised with the risen Christ to new life. This is why Pentecost may also be referred to in English as "Whitsunday" or "White Sunday."

The Season after Pentecost is the time of the church year to support new disciples and the whole congregation in living out the gifts we have been given in the name of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit. *This content was produced by Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications.*

## From a Sensitive Country Shoebox Recipient



**"Through the Greatest Journey, I have learned that the best thing in life is to have Christ, to know His great love for us, and to read my Bible more. I have received Jesus as my personal Savior and have seen many prayers answered. My life has changed since I found Jesus. My parents never guided me in the Lord's way, but they tell me that what I am doing is very good. To have God is the greatest thing in the world! Thanks for everything."**

### OUR CARING CONTINUES

We are called to "go and make disciples of all nations" and through OCC we are achieving this together! We continue to thank God for His direction in this ministry and for the many lives that have been changed through Him.

I have been truly touched and in awe at how God is working through members of our congregation. Blessings continue to come in, so we can pack more boxes. At this time, 450 Extra Boxes have been packed with more needing to be packed. This would not have been possible without the generosity of members of our congregations and some non-members who make items for our boxes.

**Anonymous Donation** - More donations for older girls have come in! What a blessing for these girls to receive sewing kits, hygiene items, clothing, hair accessories, necklaces, etc. Thank you to the person who felt called to make donations for this age group of girls this year. To God Be the Glory for the boxes that have been packed due to the generosity of this donor.

**Monetary donations:** Two members made generous monetary donations this past month. With these donations, 100 soccer balls were purchased for older boys and 20 larger stuffed animals were purchased for little girls boxes. Not only will the children receive joy in receiving a shoebox filled with great things, but they will be given the opportunity to attend *The Greatest Journey* discipleship program to learn more about Jesus. A special thank you to these two members who shared their blessings, so others could be blessed.

**Dean and Elloise Black** made a donation of stuffed animals! Thank you for providing these "new friends" for the little ones.

**Melody Freeman** made brightly colored hair accessories for the older girls boxes. These are a nice addition to the girls boxes and I'm sure that they will be excited to have new hair items. Thank you, Melody, for your ongoing support of OCC.

**Sherry Schneider** continues to help pack the "extra boxes." Thanks Sherry for all that you do for this ministry. Thank you for packing the boxes to bless the children!

**Andy Sidwell** donated more Beanie Babies. The children will be so happy when they open their boxes and see beautiful pastel bunnies and ducks. They are sure to bring a smile to the children. Thanks Andy for your support!





Jill Zimmer accepted an award on behalf of First United Methodist Church from Samaritan's Purse for partnering with OCC for 15 years. This award was given in recognition of Vandalia First United Methodist Church for providing the building, volunteers, and drivers to take the shoeboxes to Effingham, so they could be sent on the shoebox journey. Together with all volunteers, this drop off has collected and transported **38,004 shoeboxes**.

Jill would like to thank the following people or groups who have served during National Collection Week, as this would not have been possible without **EVERYONE** working together.

- Trustees for permission to use Wesley Hall during the third week of November
- Max and Deb Durbin for picking up the shipping crates in Effingham. Also, Max for overseeing packing of shipping crates and Deb for overseeing the processing of the boxes on the inside during collection week.
- Volunteers who unloaded, processed, and packed shoeboxes into shipping cartons
- Alan Lurkins for donating his time to haul the shoeboxes to Effingham with his truck and trailer
- Clayton Gathe for the use of his truck and trailer through the years
- Other drivers and unloaders at Effingham included: Max Durbin, Mike Hagy, JD Vieregge, Roger Grimmett, Darrel Casey, and the late Kent Merry and the late Gary Doolen.
- Sandra Cearlock for donations of cookies for volunteers
- United Methodist Men for helping to load the shipping cartons in the earlier days of the Drop Off
- Leadership of Rich Well, Randy Protz, Doug Forbes and Jason Clay along with the FCA members and Vandalia Football players for loading the shipping cartons onto the trailers.

Thank you to members of this church for their ongoing support of this ministry by packing and sponsoring boxes or by their monetary donations or donation of items for boxes.

Children's and Youth Sunday School will end their regular year on May 26th. We will have a combined one room Sunday School class for the summer (pre-k-6th grade). Thank you to our Sunday School teachers: Susan Casey, Samantha Crothers, Amanda Milam, Joyce Staff, Jaime Warren, Kristin Stombaugh, and Casey Kistler. Please contact the Church office if you are able to teach a Sunday (or more!) throughout the summer. Regular classes will resume after Labor Day.



**THANK YOU TO OUR  
SUNDAY SCHOOL  
TEACHERS**



**Memorial  
★ Day ★**

**The Church office is closed  
Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, in  
observance of Memorial Day.**

**6:35  
PANTRY**

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

*We Need The  
Following:*

Ramen Noodles  
Bar Soap

**Donations may be  
placed in the tote in  
the Fireplace Room.**

Thank you to all those who participated in handbells and choir this year! It made my first year directing a success!

Thank you to Judy Roberts and Lisette Ehret for covering Sundays to give me a few weeks off!

Thank you to all those who have served as a song leader or are planning to!

Thank you also to those who have provided an anthem or plan to! Currently, I have all weeks covered until July. If you are interested in providing an anthem for a Sunday in July or August, please contact me.

This is our final month of choir for this school year. We will rehearse from 6:30-7:30 on May 1st, 8th, and 15th in preparation for our final two anthems on May 12th and 19th.

I hope it's a wonderful summer! As always, if you are interested in coming to handbells or choir, we would love to have you, beginning in the fall!

Musically,  
Taryn Flake



*From the*  
**MUSIC DIRECTOR**