



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



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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"*



**The church office is closed
Monday, February 17,
in observance of
Presidents' Day.**

Children's Christmas Program 2024

Congratulations to the participants of the annual Christmas Program! Also, special thanks to Amanda Milam and Sue Burnam for organizing the amazing performance this year.



Church Staff



Pastor: Curtis Flake: rev.cflake@gmail.com, 217-273-4432
Administrative Assistants: Sue Miller & Megan Kern
Church email: vandaliafumc@outlook.com
Director of Choirs: Taryn Flake: taryn.a.flake@gmail.com
Director of Young Children's Ministries:
Preschool Director: Morgan Tessman
Custodian: Andy Sidwell
Family Center Custodian: Rich Well

“A lady went to the Pastor of her church and said, “I won’t be attending Church anymore.”

He said, “May I ask why?”

She said, “I see people on their cell phones texting and typing during the service, some are gossiping, some just aren’t living right, some are sleeping, some are staring at me, they are all just hypocrites.”

The Pastor was silent. Then he said, “Can I ask you to do something for me before you make your final decision?”

She said, “Sure, what’s that?”

He said, “Take a glass of water and walk around the church two times and don’t let any water fall out of the glass.”

She said, “Yes, I can do that!”

She went and got a glass of water and walked around the church two times.

She came back and said proudly, “It’s done.”

The pastor asked her these questions; “Did you see anybody on their phone?; Did you see anybody gossiping?; Was anybody living wrong?; Did you see anybody sleeping?”

She said, “I didn’t see anything because I was so focused on the glass so that the water wouldn’t spill out.”

He told her, “When you come to church, you should just be that focused on God, so that you don’t fall. That is why Jesus said, “Follow me.” He did not say “Follow Christians.” Don’t let your relationship with God be determined by how others relate with God. Let it be determined by how focused you are with God.”

- Submitted by Andy Sidwell



Pastor’s Perspective

We are now a month into the new year, and I remain invigorated by the new opportunities that a fresh start brings. Often, these opportunities involve revisiting something old, dusting it off, and finally giving it the attention we’ve long intended to. The church is no different. We are built upon a legacy of great leadership under Jesus Christ, yet at times, life can distract us from nurturing that legacy.

This year, it’s time to reignite our **Shepherding Ministry**. This ministry is a powerful way to build and strengthen our community, offering care and connection to those who are homebound, mostly homebound, hospitalized, new to the church, or simply in need of a continued relationship with their church family. Together, we can live out the call of Galatians 6:2 to “carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ,” and reflect the love of Jesus, who reminded us in Matthew 25:40, “whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

Admittedly, we’ve had some false starts in maintaining our Shepherding Ministry over the last few years. However, as we move forward, we’re looking for individuals who feel called to reach out to our friends and church family. Some of you may have served in this ministry in the past, and we’d love to hear from you again. We are also inviting new participants to join us in this important work.

As we restart, we are expanding our vision for what this ministry can do, guided by the gifts and graces of those willing to serve. Here’s what we hope to accomplish:

- Reaching out to those unable to attend church in person.
- Visiting those who are sick or in the hospital.
- Welcoming and connecting with guests and new members.

Reaching out to our entire congregation in meaningful ways.

If this ministry speaks to your heart, we invite you to learn more at an informational meeting after church on **February 9th**.

Let’s come together to embody Christ’s care for one another and ensure that no one in our church family feels forgotten or alone.

-Pastor Curtis

LORD, make me an instrument of Thy peace
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy;
O Divine Master,

Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console;
to be understood, as to understand
To be loved, as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned.
It is in dying that we are born.
To eternal life!

- Submitted by Andy Sidwell



**VALENTINES FOR SENIORS
CARD DRIVE**

HOSTED BY SENATOR JASON PLUMMER

JANUARY 12 – FEBRUARY 7, 2023

State Senator Jason Plummer will be hosting a Valentines for Seniors Card Drive from January 12 to February 7, 2023 and we would like to formally invite you to participate!

Seniors are incredibly important to our community and Senator Plummer needs your help by writing cards to those living in assisted living and long-term care facilities in the 55th Senate District. The hope is to bring joy to our community’s seniors this Valentine’s Day.

Please drop off or mail your cards to Senator Plummer’s office and Senator Plummer and his staff will personally deliver those cards to local seniors.

WHAT: Valentines for Seniors Card Drive

WHEN: January 12 - February 7, 2023

LOCATION: Drop off or mail cards to:

Senator Jason Plummer’s Office
310 West Gallatin Street
Vandalia, IL 62471

DROP OFF INSTRUCTIONS: If delivering cards in person, please place them in the marked mailbox located inside the Vandalia office between the hours of 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Mondays – Fridays. There will be a small mailbox outside the office for afterhours drop-offs.

For questions, contact: **Tara Hall** at tara@senatorjasonplummer.com. Thank you and we look forward to your participation in the Valentines for Seniors Card Drive.



**STATE SENATOR
JASON PLUMMER**
310 West Gallatin Street
Vandalia, IL 62471
618-283-3000
SenatorJasonPlummer.com



Music Minute

Thank you to all of you for your prayers as I begin my journey towards Ordained Deacon, beginning with seminary to St. Paul School of Theology. I appreciate those who have stepped up to help with the music and worship of the church.

Thanks to Charlene Jett for song leading this month. Thanks to the choir for singing twice. Thanks to the handbell choir for their anthem last Sunday. Thanks to the Praise Team for singing/playing every week and for working around my class schedule, as well as the junior high volleyball schedule.

As we look to February, handbells have the month of February off. Here is the rehearsal schedule for the other groups:

February 4th: 5:15 Praise Team

February 5th: 4:30 Sanctuary Choir, 5:30 Spirit Singers (Sanctuary)

February 12th: 4:30 Sanctuary Choir, 5:30 Spirit Singers (Sanctuary)

February 13th: 4:00 Praise Team

February 19th: 5:30 Spirit Singers

February 20th: 4:00 Praise Team

February 25th: 5:15 Praise Team

February 26th: 5:30 Spirit Singers



Anthems for February: (practice at 9:00 Sunday morning)

February 2nd: Spirit Singers (This Little Light of Mine/Just a Little Nightlight)

February 9th: Sanctuary Choir (Standing on the Promises)

February 16th: Sanctuary Choir (Lord, I Want to be a Christian)

February 23rd: Olivia & Jacob Jenkins

Another plug for our Mother's Day anthem - Here's a reminder that we are planning to put together a ladies ensemble to sing "Sister Act medley." We will sing on May 11th. We have rehearsals at 4:30 on April 30th and May 7th. Any ladies of the church, we would welcome you to join us for this special day! Please let me know if you plan on being part of this ensemble!

Musically,
Taryn Flake

We Need The Following:

PB & J
Ramen noodles
Mac & cheese
Pancake mix
Spaghetti

6:35
PANTRY

We will need volunteers on February 20th, 2025 to work at the 6:35 food pantry!



Bishop Kennetha scheduling District Town Hall meetings

Bishop Kennetha J. Bigham-Tsai is scheduling Town Hall Meetings in each of the five districts in the upcoming months.

This will be an opportunity to meet Bishop Kennetha and ask questions. The day's schedule will have the bishop preaching at a church in the morning followed by the District Town Hall Meeting in the afternoon.

The following dates have been confirmed:

Central District -- Sunday, Feb. 2. Preaching at Taylorville: First UMC, 8:45 a.m. Town Hall at Belleville: Union UMC, 1:30 p.m.

East District -- Sunday, Feb. 23. Preaching at Charleston: Wesley. Town Hall TBA

North District -- Sunday, March 23, Preaching at The Bridge, Pontiac: First UMC, 2:30 p.m.

West District -- Sunday, April 6, Preaching at Macomb: Wesley. Town Hall at Monmouth UMC, TBA

South District -- Sunday, May 4. Preaching at Mt. Vernon: First UMC, 10 a.m. Town Hall Meeting at Carbondale: First UMC, time TBA





Nursing Home Residents & Shut-ins:

Brookstone (1607 W. Fillmore)
Pete & Retha Burnam (Apt 41); Edith Knebel (Apt. 43);
Frank Roeder (Apt. 25); Jean Stombaugh (Apt. 32); Herb & Mary Woolsey (Apt. 32)

FCH/Long Term Care (650 West Taylor)
Arlene Hoffman (Rm. 510); Sharon Lee; Deb Endres (Rm.708); Margaret Carroll

Meridian Village Assisted Living
(27 Auerbach Place, Glen Carbon, IL 62034)
Diane Adams

Stillwater Senior Living
(1111 University Dr. Edwardsville, IL 62025)
Patty Bohner (temp. address is:
3402 Anderson Healthcare Dr, Edwardsville)

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

IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

Diane Adams (admitted to Mercy Hospital for neurological testing) Marti Bingham (recuperating from surgery for brain tumor) Patti Bohner (At Anderson in Edwardsville for rehab for a broken hip) John Blythe (recuperating from hernia surgery) Sara Clark (health concerns) Ava Cooper (10 year-old neighbor of Candy Zeman, now #2 on the list for a heart transplant) Steve Cox (Jane Cox's son, recovering at home) Elaine Culbertson (health concerns) Taryn Flake (entering St. Paul Seminary) Willard Fulk (health concerns) Leonard Gehle (Deb Durbin's father; prostate cancer treatment) Ginger Hamilton (cancer treatments) Family of Donna Hair (Deb Cook's daughter's mother-in-law) Amy Holaday (breast cancer has returned) Heather Jones (hemochromatosis) Carson LeDage (please continue to pray, as the	treatment plan is currently working) Family of Dan Michel David Rademacher (diagnosed with chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia) Family of Phyllis Rames Sydney Rosborough (diagnosed with TOS, recovering from surgery) Drew Schneider (recovering from surgery) Gaynelle Scott (breast cancer) Lana Sefton (stage 4 breast cancer) Deneda Smedeky (friend of Mark Miller; fighting cancer) Family of Dana Smith (Ed Taylor's sister) Donna Taylor (recovering from brain bleed) Heather (Jones) Thompson (breast cancer) Darin Wells (in partial remission from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma) Ken Williams (health concerns) Hudson Winters (diagnosed with LCH and starting oral chemo) Jason Wright (Amy Vieregge's nephew, recovering from open heart surgery)
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February

FEBRUARY
Birthdays

2—Sydney Rosborough
Courtney Scott
Rich Well
Randy White
4—Tom Diveley
5—Brittany Ray
Ed Taylor, Jr
6—Jeff Casey
Michel Crothers
7—Milene Cothem
Mark Paine
Dave Roberts
8—Bryce Dunn
9—Barb White
12—Jasper Dothager
Brian Kern
Janel Protz
13—Steve Cox
14—Blake Grimmett
15—Lauren Kaiser
16— Mason Grapperhaus
17—Reid Well
18—Sheila Kinney
David Rademacher
19—Louise Davis
Todd Metzger
20—Tanner Swain
26—Diana Tippet
28—Aiden Politte
Judy Roberts



FEBRUARY
Anniversaries

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

Serving this month:

Acolytes

2— Noelle Milam
9— Trevor Clark
16— Brayden Stombaugh
23— Brooklyn Burnam

Sound Tech

Josh Moulton

Video Tech

Patrick Myers

Bus Ministry

2 **Driver:** Ed Taylor
Rider: Kim Taylor
Greeter: Jack Johnston

9 **Driver:** Max Durbin
Rider: Deb Durbin
Greeter: Mary Fulton

16 **Driver:** Ed Taylor
Rider: Kim Warner
Greeter: Jack Johnston

23 **Driver:** Max Durbin
Rider: Deb Durbin
Greeter: Mary Fulton

Liturgist

Charlene Jett

Head Ushers

2— Max Durbin & JD Vieregge
9— Josh Figgins & JD Vieregge
16— Rand Craycroft & JD Vieregge
23— Jacy Fulk & JD Vieregge

Offering Collector

2— John Burnam
9— Gene Schwarm
16— Barb Paine
23— Gene Schwarm

