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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

First United Methodist Church of Vandalia:

"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



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

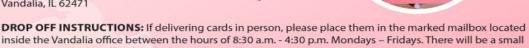
WHEN: January 12 - February 7, 2023

LOCATION: Drop off or mail cards to:

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







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

mailbox outside the office for afterhours drop-offs.













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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



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

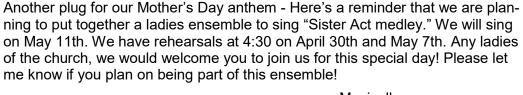
Nightlight)

February 9th: Sanctuary Choir (Standing on the Promises)
February 16th: Sanctuary Choir (Lord, I Want to be a Christian)

February 23rd: Olivia & Jacob Jenkins



PB & J
Ramen noodles
Mac & cheese
Pancake mix
Spaghetti



Musically.

Taryn Flake



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



First United Methodist Church of Vandalia:



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





First United Methodist Church of Vandalia:



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

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Stillwater Senior Living

(1111 University Dr. Edwardsville, IL 62025)

Patty Bohner (temp. address is:

3402 Anderson Healthcare Dr, Edwardsville)

Mike Beckett, 2625 W. Jefferson St., Vandalia



Diane Adams (admitted to Mercy Hospital for neuro- treatment plan is currently working) logical 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

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)





2—Sydney Rosborough Courtney Scott Rich Well Randy White

4—Tom Diveley

5—Brittany Ray Ed Taylor, İr

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 Tippit

28—Aiden Politte Judy Roberts 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



