



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-W-TR: 8a — 4p
T-F: 8a — 12p
Phone: 618-283-3684
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Website: www.vandaliafirstumc.org



**The church office is closed
Monday, February 21,
in observance of
Presidents' Day.**

Inside this issue:

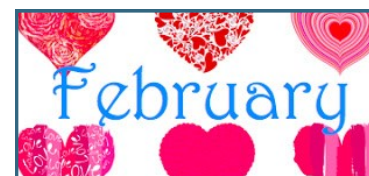
Preschool news	2
Rainbow Reflections	
Pastor's Perspective	3
Prayer Concerns	4
Shut-Ins	
Serving this month	5
Calendar of events	6
N.O.W. Committee	7

There will be a VBS planning meeting on Sunday, February 27th, following morning worship in the sanctuary. We will discuss possible dates for this year's VBS. If you are interested in planning/volunteering, please plan to stay for this brief meeting!



Church Staff

Pastor: Tom Goodell: vandaliaumcpastor@gmail.com
Administrative Assistant: Casey Kistler: vandaliafumc@outlook.com
Secretary: Sue Miller (Tues. & Fri.)
Director of Music: Louise Weiss: gctheorygal@hotmail.com
Director of Young Children's Ministries: Amanda Milam
Preschool Director: Cindy Laramee
Custodians: Mike & Sharon Hagy
Assistant Custodian: Andy Sidwell



Preschool News

During the month of February we will focus on Reading! We have a Reading Hearts program where the children read books with a family member and fill out a "Reading Heart" with the title of the book(s) and bring them back in for our bulletin board. At the end of the month we will celebrate our many hours of reading with an Ice Cream Party! Yum!

Letters that we will focus on are U,V,W,X and Y! Themes for the month of February will be Underwater, Volcanoes, Weather, X Marks the Spot and Yellow Things! Numbers 22,23,24 and 25 will round out the month as well!

Our Valentine's Party will be Monday, February 14 and our Dad's Day event will be at the Starmax Theater on Friday, February 18.... that's a lot of celebrating in 1 week!

The school will be closed Monday, February 21 for Presidents' Day.

We will focus on loving one another and God's Love for all of us.. what a wonderful reminder that we are loved! Happy February!

Miss Cindy

Rainbow Reflections

(Grief Support Group)

A grief support group will meet Sunday afternoon, March 6th, at 2 pm at the church. The group is for anyone grieving, especially the loss of a spouse, parent or child. We will meet for an hour and a half and use the excellent resources of "Grief Share". Plans are for the group to meet monthly. "Rainbow Reflections" honors the ministry begun by Mary Miller many years ago to support those grieving loss.



February Sermon Topics and Project Texts

- February 6** Communion, Love and Marriage: Wives love your husbands
Text: Ephesians 5: 21-33 What do husbands want from their wives? How can wives love their husbands as a ministry?

- February 13** Love and Marriage: Divorce
Text: Matthew 19: 1-12 What does the church teach about divorce and healing? Is divorce an unforgivable sin? Can divorced people remarry?

- February 20** Doubt and Faith
Text: Mark 4: 30-34 Does being a Christian mean having no doubt? Can we be faithful and still have issues with trust, belief, understanding all things? What does it mean to believe in the Bible, for example?

- February 27** A Lamp on a Stand
Text: Mark 3: 21-25 Jesus calls on us to let our lights shine. This means to be Christian in what we do, not just what we say.

N.O.W. Committee

Our congregation is extremely generous, with a great deal to be proud of in missional giving. Over \$75,000 was donated to missions in 2021. Listed below are some of the missions that we support.

Local missions: 6:35 Food Pantry, United Methodist Men Coats and Shoes, Salvation Army fund, Backpacks 2 School, Nourishing Greatness, Caring and Sharing, FAYCO, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Gideon's, SAFE, Set Free Ministries, Vandalia Correctional Center Bible study, the Prayer Shawl ministry, several Emergency Response Team trips and WJLY radio.

United Methodist missions: Spero Children's Home, Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House, Chaddock School, The Baby Fold, Our Conference Our Kids, Golden Cross Sunday, and missionaries to Liberia and Africa University.

International missions: Tim and Jamie Edwards, Jeff and Shauna Spence, Operation Christmas Child, and the Nicaragua food project (our youth groups).



February Events

Tuesday, February 1

5:30pm, Preschool Board
6:30pm, Pastor's Bible Study

Wednesday, February 2

10:00am, Staff Meeting
2:00pm, Pastor's Bible Study
6:30pm, Youth Groups

Thursday, February 3

9:00am, Family Center Reserved
5:30pm, Handbells
6:45pm, Choir

Monday, February 7

6:00pm, United Methodist Men

Tuesday, February 8

6:30pm, Pastor's Bible Study

Wednesday, February 9

6:15am, Men's Bible Study
2:00pm, Pastor's Bible Study
6:30pm, Youth Groups

Thursday, February 10

9:00am, Family Center Reserved
5:30pm, Handbells
6:30pm, Staff Parish Relations Committee
6:45pm, Choir

Wednesday, February 16

6:30pm, Youth Groups

Thursday, February 17

9:00am, Family Center Reserved
5:30pm, Handbells
6:45pm, Choir

Monday, February 21

Church Office Closed
President's Day

Wednesday, February 23

6:15am, Men's Bible Study
6:30pm, Youth Groups

Thursday, February 24

9:00am, Family Center Reserved
5:30pm, Handbells
6:45pm, Choir

Friday, February 25

Wedding Rehearsal

Saturday, February 26

Dugan/Fabela Wedding

Monday, February 28

5:30pm, Bucket Buddies



Pastor's Perspective

When I was a teenager, I worked at a restaurant busing tables. I did this to pay for my car insurance and to have spending money. One of my first expenditures was to join a record club. Some of you remember the enticing ads, "13 albums or cassettes (ugh) for just \$5.00!" Then each month the "club" would send you another two albums which you could keep and pay for, or exchange for something else.

When I signed up my father counseled me, "Tom, if it seems too good to be true it probably is." When I received an "Air Supply" album instead of "Boston" I realized how right he was! Month after month I found myself returning as many albums as I kept. I canceled my membership after the first year. I have never joined any mail order club since, still don't like to order anything on the phone or on-line.

If it seems too good to be true it probably is! I think sometimes that is our struggle with faith. We are asked to believe that God would sacrifice His son for our sins. Jesus, God's son, willingly died on a cross for us. His death means our sins are not held against us on judgement day. What we must do is believe in this sacrifice and the one who died for us (read John 14).

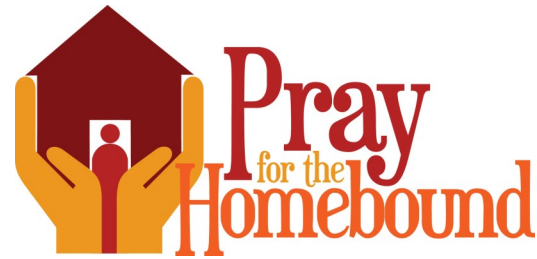
Too good to be true? I can understand why we westerners accustomed to having to work, earn, sweat for what we have might think so. Why should we believe in a promise that we have not worked for, did not earn, and really do not deserve?

The answer is, of course, because God loves us and wants us to have this blessing. Paul put it succinctly, "by grace you (we) have been saved through faith. This is not your (our) own doing, it is the gift of God. Not a result of works, so that we may not boast" (Ephesians 2).

Salvation is God's gift to us, and we must simply and personally believe it is not too good to be true. When we believe this we are welcomed into a relationship with God through His son Jesus Christ. I pray you believe this.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Tom





<p>Nursing Home Residents & Shut-ins: Brookstone (1607 W. Fillmore) Diane Adams (Apt. 15); Carlos Biellier (Apt. 2); Margaret Carroll (Apt. 10); Arlene Hoffman (Apt. 4); Larry Peyton Iris Rademacher (Apt. 36), Mary Ann Rhoades (Apt. 41), Frank Roeder (Apt. 25)</p> <p>FCH/Long Term Care (650 West Taylor) Audrey Fink (Rm. 408) Marian Miller (Rm. 404) Sandy Peyton</p> <p>Lakewood Nursing Home (800 W Temple Ave., Effingham, IL 62401) Mary Crawford</p>	<p>Dolan Memory Care Homes (Dublin—11330 Dolan Way, St. Louis, MO 63146) Phyllis Rames</p> <p>Willowbrook (1124 Sunset Dr., Vandalia) Deb Endres Norman Rhoades Ed Taylor</p> <p>Shut-Ins: Mike Beckett, 2625 W. Jefferson St., Vandalia</p>
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<p>Elloise Black (recovering from surgery) Patti Bohner (Diane Adams' daughter, mobility issues) Mary Crawford (congestive heart failure; Lakeland Nursing Home; Effingham) Gary Doolen (cancer) Mona Durbin (friend of Sue Miller and Jaime Warren; breast cancer; chemo completed; recuperating from surgery) Shona Edwards (Bill Warner's niece; cancer) Mason Feltner (Kelly Clark's nephew; chemotherapy for A.L.L. leukemia)</p>	<p>Amy Holaday (friend of Gathe's; breast cancer) Carson LaDage (Sharon and Bill's grandson; brain stem tumor remains stable, as he remains in a clinical trial at St. Jude) Marian Miller (comfort care) Heather Overlin (Larry Osborne's daughter; health concerns)</p>
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February

FEBRUARY Birthdays

- 2—Sydney Rosborough
Courtney Scott
Rich Well
Randy White
- 4—Tom Diveley
- 5—Robin Kistler
Ed Taylor, Jr.
- 6—Jeff Casey
Gary Doolen
- 7—Mark Paine
Dave Roberts
- 8—Dannie Donaldson
Bryce Dunn
- 9—Barb White
- 10—Gary Jenkins
- 12—Brian Kern
Bob McCart
Janel Protz
- 13—Steve Cox
- 14—Steve Bohner
- 15—Lauren Kaiser
- 17—Reid Well
- 18—Sheila Kinney
David Rademacher
- 19—Louise Davis
Todd Metzger
- 20—Tanner Swain
- 24—Melody Freeman
- 26—Diana Tippet
- 28—Ruth Ann Garrison
Aiden Politte
Judy Roberts

FEBRUARY Anniversaries

- 2—Joe & Sandra Cearlock
(20 years)
- 14—Bob & Barb McCart
(35 years)
- 15—Mark & Barb Paine
(36 years)
- 19—Mark & Lisa Burnam
(11 years)
- 24—BJ & Sharon Mueller
(60 years)
- 25—Rodes & Bev Hood
(61 years)
- 28—Dannie & Patty Donaldson
(41 years)

Acolytes

- 6—Brylee & Bryce Kistler
- 13—Trevor, Parker, Kelly Clark
- 20—Payton & Brandi Gathe
- 27—Haven & Mark Burnam

Sound Tech

Zac Stombaugh

Video Tech

Patrick Myers

Song Leaders

Traditional: James Hejl
 Contemporary: Kathy Taylor

Bus Ministry

6 **Driver:** Ed Taylor
Rider: Kim Taylor
Greeter: Gail DePaolo

13 **Driver:** Max Durbin
Rider: Deb Durbin
Greeter: Robin Kistler

20 **Driver:** Darrel Casey
Rider: Alan Lurkins
Greeter: Sandy Stombaugh

27 **Driver:** Bill Warner
Rider: Kim Warner
Greeter: Linda Dugan

Liturgist

Brandi Gathe

Head Ushers

- 6 JD Vieregge
- 13 John Burnam
- 20 Dean Black
- 27 Bryce Kistler

Offering Collector

- 6 Jack Johnston
- 13 Jeff Endres
- 20 Jack Johnston
- 27 Mary Fulton

