



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



*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”*

2021 Vacation Bible School

We're so excited for this year's Bible School on Saturday, June 12th, from 9:00am to 12:00pm, at the Family Center! All children ages pre-k thru sixth grade are welcome to attend. Enjoy a morning of crafts, Bible stories, singing and dancing, and a bounce house! Lunch is also provided.

We are requiring pre-registration this year. Forms are available in the Church office or on our Facebook page.

Contact Casey Kistler for more information.
The deadline to register is Monday, June 7th.



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 Laramée
Custodians: Mike & Sharon Hagy
Assistant Custodian: Andy Sidwell

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Contact us

M-W-TR: 8a—4p
T-F: 8a—12p
Phone: 618-283-3684
Email: vandaliafumc@outlook.com
Website: www.vandaliafirstumc.org



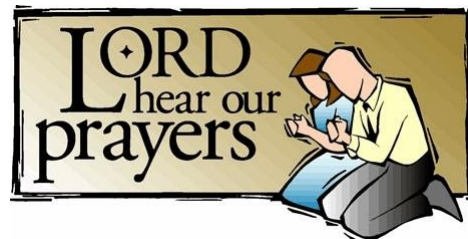
Nursing Home Residents & Shut-ins:
Brookstone (1607 W. Fillmore)
 Diane Adams (Apt. 15); Carlos Biellier (Apt. 2);
 Margaret Carroll (Apt. 10);
 Arlene Hoffman (Apt. 4); Iris Rademacher
 (Apt. 36), Mary Ann Rhoades, Frank Roeder
 (Apt. 25)

FCH/Long Term Care (650 West Taylor)
 Audrey Fink (Rm. 408)
 Marian Miller (Rm. 507)

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

Willowbrook
 (1124 Sunset Dr., Vandalia)
 Deb Endres
 Larry & Sandy Peyton
 Norman Rhoades

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



Patti Bohner (Diane Adams' daughter,
 mobility issues)
Denzel Boley (Health concerns)
Dan Brantley (back issues; home)
Roger Clark (surgery)
Gary Doolen (cancer)
Margie Dowell (Amanda Milam's
 grandmother; health concerns)
Mona Durbin (friend of Sue Miller and Jaime
 Warren; breast cancer; chemotherapy)
Mason Feltner (Kelly Clark's nephew;
 chemotherapy for A.L.L. leukemia)
Richard Knebel (recovering from colon
 surgery)

Carson LaDage (Sharon and Bill's grandson;
 brain stem tumor remains stable, as he
 remains in a clinical trial at St. Jude)
Mary Miller (treatment for lung cancer)
Heather Overlin (Larry Osborne's daughter;
 health concerns)
TJ Pryor (Tony & Johanna Eckhardt's
 nephew; chemo and radiation for cancerous
 tumor on brain)
Norman Rhoades (Parkinson's Disease)
Susann Schumacher (pulmonary fibrosis)
Udo Sines (friend of Eric & Sue Miller;
 rejection issues following heart transplant)

We have had a great school year and wish our 12
 graduating students the "Best of Luck" as they
 move on to Kindergarten! We are thankful to
 everyone who helped make this school year so
 successful! Registration will continue throughout
 the summer until spots are filled for the 2021-
 2022 school year. I will gladly help with the
 paperwork and set the student up for a spot in our
 program. We wish everyone a healthy, relaxing and
 fun summer!

Miss Cindy



A devotion from the Upper Room shared by Andy Sidwell:

"Do unto others as you would have them do to you" (Luke 6:31)

My apartment is close to a large shopping center, and I often visit the grocery store there. Even though there are many checkout counters at the exit of the grocery store, I usually push my shopping cart to one familiar cashier who has always been very friendly and efficient. One day she looked tired and sad, which was unusual. I wanted to cheer her up, so I told her how much I like her friendly attitude in serving customers. She looked at me and her eyes were filled with tears. She said, "Thank you for your kind words. My husband died yesterday in the hospital, and you have consoled me." I believe that God's Spirit prompted me to start that conversation. How often do we notice the needs of our neighbors? How often do we respond to God's prompting to speak a word of kindness? If we are willing to listen, we may hear God's voice guiding us to speak a word that someone needs to hear.

Undee Sunday

The N.O.W. committee has been working hard on the Backpack 2 School event. When youth are getting ready to head back to school, we sometimes forget about their basic needs as well (socks, underwear, etc.). We are asking you join in the fun!

June 13th will be "Undee Sunday". We are asking you for a donation of underwear from children's size 4 up to adults sizes. There will be a tote marked Undees you can bring to church that Sunday and drop off.

On **June 27th** we are asking for donation of Anti-bacterial wipes. After speaking with the elementary teachers, this is one of the most utilized items from wiping dirty faces to cleaning dirty desks. There will be a tote available that Sunday also to drop off your donations.

July 11th is "Sock It To Them Sunday". We need, you guessed it, sock of all sizes, shapes and colors.

July 18th we will be collecting tissues. Please help us make this Backpack 2 School event another great success!

We will also be looking for volunteers the night of August 11. If you can help, please let me know.

—Kim Warner



The family of Deb Endres is requesting a card shower for her birthday on June 26th. Cards should be mailed to her at:

Willowbrook Memory Care
 1124 N Sunset Dr.
 Vandalia, IL 62471.

Thank you!

CONTACT information



If you have an updated address, or phone number, please contact the church office so we are able to maintain as accurate information as possible in our database.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY

We will be celebrating together our members who have served 50 or more years as United Methodists! We have set Sunday, September 19, as our "Anniversary Celebration". We will honor those who have been members of this church, or have 50 years of membership in a United Methodist Church. Please help us, if you have transferred in from another Methodist Church and believe you have membership dating back to 1971, let the church office know! We are excited to celebrate together our legacy of service!



May ends our formal music season here at FUMC. So thankful for the handbells and Chancel Choir for their talents and perseverance in this unusual year! We will begin again after Labor Day. Our handbells have a reservation on Nov. 30 for servicing; as far as we know, they have never been serviced! While they are gone, we will use the hand chimes that haven't been played in a while. We have hired Sarah Vu to lead us in contemporary music; she starts with us in mid-August. We are excited to continue the good praise music that Brian Wells started for us. Welcome Sarah when she returns after summer! If anyone would like to contribute an anthem, prelude or postlude during June, July or August, please let me know and we will be delighted to expand our musical palette!

In Christ's service,
Louise

We Need The Following:

- Cookies
- Brownies
- Chips

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



Sunday, June 20th



I received a phone call a few weeks ago from **Sharon Mueller** telling me that **David Carter** of Ramsey wanted to donate Beanie Kids and Beanie Babies from his private collection. As I said in the last newsletter, I stand in awe how God works. Through connections with Sharon, we were the recipients of 19 Beanie Kids and 148 Beanie Babies. The above picture only shows a small sampling of the Beanie Babies. What a blessing for me to work as OCC Drop Off leader and see how God works through other people. Thank you **David** for thinking of the children who will be recipients of your special gifts. 167 children will receive one of your Beanie Babies or Beanie Kids and feel loved! What an awesome thing to share with others. I have never seen the Beanie Kids and found myself smiling just looking at them. Wish we could see their faces when they open their boxes! Again, David thank you for sharing God's love with others!



Lola Gehle, Deb Durbin's mother, has been busy making doll blankets to go with the dolls for our extra boxes. I'm sure that the little girls receiving these boxes will be all smiles when they open it and find a new doll with a blanket to love. Thank you Lola for using your talent to make things for others! You are appreciated!

Andy Sidwell donated Beanie Babies and more handmade coasters. Andy is always on the look out for items for our shoeboxes. Thanks Andy for your dedication! He has provided hundreds of items through the years and has blessed many children!

Thank you to **Sherry Schneider** for putting together the boxes, so we can finish packing! Sherry has been a tremendous help this year!

thank you!

"Dear Church Family, thank you so much for the reception, cards and gifts given to me. I have thoroughly enjoyed worshiping with you and will treasure these memories forever. I am looking to continue God's calling in music ministry."
—Brian Wells

The Staff Parish Relations Team is pleased to announce that we have hired Sarah Vu to be the new Director of Praise Worship. Sarah will start at the church in August. Welcome Sarah!





Sponsored Boxes Available June 6th - August 1st

Last year “Sponsored Boxes” were very well received, so we decided to offer them again! **Sponsorships will be available June 6th - August 1st.** A display of these boxes will be set up in the narthex. The following age categories were chosen because these 3 groups received the least number of boxes

After August 1st, Sponsored Boxes will not be available as we need time to order supplies and pack the boxes.

For those who want the joy of picking items out for their own boxes, boxes will be available on **October 10th for you to pack.**

Choose the box/boxes that you want to sponsor. Please write the number of boxes you want to purchase next to the box of your choice. Put this paper filled out into an envelope with your check and put it in the offering plate or send to the church office. **All box prices include the \$9.00 shipping fee.** Make checks out to the church for the number of boxes that you want to sponsor and put OCC on the memo line.

_____ **Girls (2-4 yrs. old) Doll Box** - Includes soft bodied doll with blanket, coloring book/crayons, shirt, beach ball, washcloth/soap, toothbrush/case, comb, flip flops, tiara, sunglasses, musical instrument, and \$9.00 shipping included. **\$20.00 for each box**

_____ **Boys (2-4 yrs. old) Curious George Box** - Includes large stuffed Curious George, coloring book/crayons, 2 cars, beach ball, shirt, washcloth/soap, comb, toothbrush/case, sunglasses, and \$9.00 shipping included. **\$25.00/box**

_____ **Boys (10-14 yrs. old) Soccer Box** Includes soccer ball/pump, shirt, washcloth/soap, toothbrush/case, comb, 2 hot wheels cars, yo-yo, school supplies (zippered pencil pouch, 6 pencils, 2 pens, eraser, ruler, scissors, spiral notebook and crayons) plus shipping included. **\$30.00/box**

SPONSOR: _____

TOTAL NUMBER OF BOXES: _____

TOTAL AMOUNT GIVEN: _____

Pastor's Perspective

Joshua 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

One year ago, Sherry and I were packing up the belongings in the Pontiac parsonage, preparing our Carlinville house for the market, saying good-bye to treasured friends in the Peoria area; and preparing for the unknown.

We knew that Vandalia was a county seat town, surrounding by farms and light industry, on a busy interchange, and home to a prison (sounds a lot like Pontiac!) Our trip to Vandalia informed us that you had three Mexican restaurants, a Walmart, three grocery stores and a strange statue of a fire-breathing dragon! We knew little else.

The transition was made more complicated by the pandemic. Normally, pastors meet multiple times to share information about the church. Normally, there are opportunities shortly after the new pastor arrives for social gatherings where s/he can learn about the lives of the parishioners. Normally, the first few Sundays are packed with the faithful, those who might have strayed, and the curious. But in the pandemic, nothing was normal.

I remember well the first night I spent in the Vandalia parsonage flipping through my Bible and finding the verse from Joshua. "Be strong and courageous...God is with you."

Sherry and I have experienced the presence of God every time we have "gone" as God directed. We experienced this in our move here. We love Vandalia, our church family, and the community. We are glad for the call to "go" to our new church and home.

Now that we are emerging from the pandemic together, we must hear God's call to "go" again. Not to a new place, but to be a new church in the same place. How is God calling us to "go" to those who have strayed from church? How is God calling us to "go" to those who are still afraid? How is God calling us to "go" to those who are struggling with shame, in poverty, in isolation?

Our church, and all churches, will never be the same again. We can be frightened of this reality, or we can seek where God is calling us to "go" now.

We remember the wisdom God gave to Abraham and Sarah shortly before He sent them on their journey of 1,000 miles. "Go, and if you go, I will go with you." The inference being that if they declined to go, they would not receive the blessing of God's presence and providence. I am excited about where God is calling us to "go" as a church and know you will be "going" with me and with God. So let's prepare to make a spiritual journey together. Amen.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Tom