



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



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:

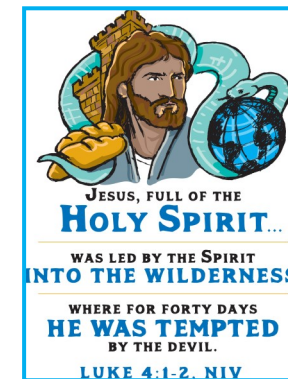
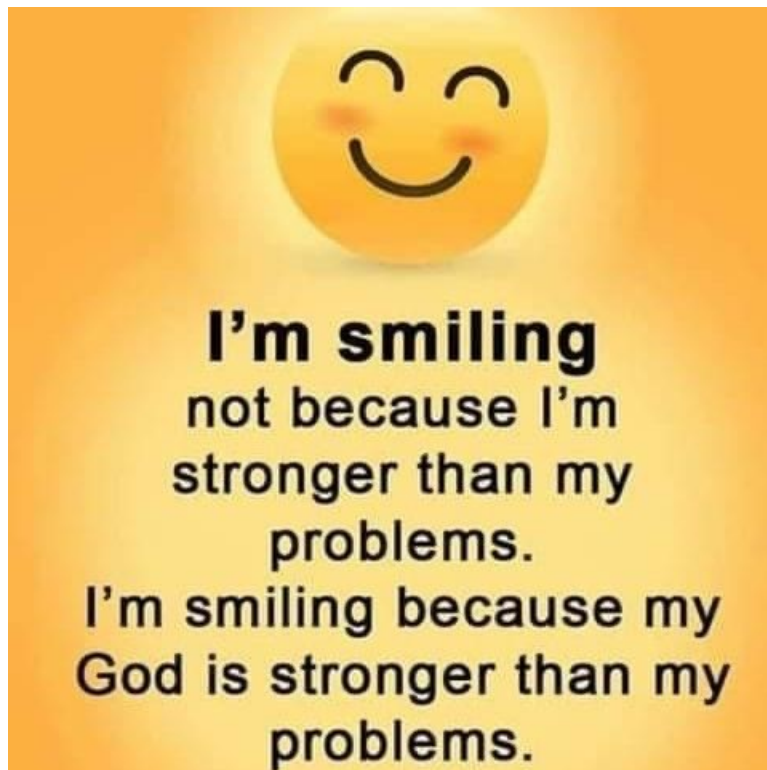
M-W-TR: 8a — 4p
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Looking Ahead:

- April 10—9:30am Palm Sunday Service
 10:45am Children's Easter Egg Hunt: Join us at the parsonage for this annual fun morning for all ages!
- April 14 —6:30pm Maundy (Holy) Thursday service.
 We will remember the last meal Jesus shared with his disciples.
- April 17—8:30am Easter Continental Breakfast
 9:30am Easter Worship Service
- April 24—9:30 am, Choir Cantata



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

Pastor's Perspective

My good friend, Jennifer Everett, has been serving as a missionary in Uzhhorod, Ukraine. She began serving there two years ago and has come to love the country and the people. Jennifer is a remarkable human being. She is largely self-supported as a missionary. Though she lived a comfortable life in a small, Central Illinois town; she answered God's stirring in her soul. God was calling her to care for others as a missionary and to do this overseas. She is one of the bravest people I know, answering that call and going where called. She has loved every moment of her mission work. She proudly boasts that she has "two homes", one in Washington, Illinois and the other in Ukraine. She left last week, just as Russian forces began to invade.

I appreciate deeply her posts about Ukraine and specifically Uzhhorod. Because the city is in the far western part of the country, near the borders of Slovakia and Poland, it has become a refugee center for those fleeing the interior. Uzhhorod also is the site of a national university and home to immigrants from other nations. The people she has worked alongside are of great faith, but still they are anxious. When one faces a monstrous evil, like that of Putin and his desire to destroy, how can you not be anxious.

Jennifer stayed as long as she could in Ukraine, before evacuating at the end of February. Jennifer wrote on her Facebook page after returning the States. "I returned to the USA on Sunday. While I understand many will be relieved to read this, that is not where my heart is right now.....Please pray for Ukraine and her beautiful people."

Her sentiments remind me of the pain Jesus experienced when he passed through the villages of Galilee and saw the poverty, the endemic hunger, the misery of living under foreign (Roman) occupation. Matthew describes his reaction, he was "moved with compassion" (the Greek is akin to his "intestines were twisted"). Jesus knew he had (in his earthly ministry) little capacity to change life for so many (at least their economic and social lives). But still he was moved. He prayed that his passion would stir the hearts of others, and begin to turn the world back towards God. Until the world turned back towards God, there would always be evil.

We should be moved about the plight of our brothers and sisters in Ukraine. I cringe when I see news footage of bombed out apartment complexes, of mothers walking miles with their children to arrive at border checkpoints, and of the destruction of such a beautiful country and people. Though there is not much I (we) can do to change the circumstances on the ground in Ukraine, we should be praying. Our prayers are the same as Christ's. We pray that the world would turn away from evil and back towards God. It may seem like a prayer that will be unanswered, but it is also the only permanent answer to the presence of real evil in the world.

I am glad to be writing this from the relative safety of my desk, in a church building, in Vandalia, Illinois. But my heart right now is with the people of Ukraine. And my prayers are that those who commit acts of evil, would turn towards the Lord. Amen.

March

MARCH Birthdays

- 4— Deb Durbin
Amelia Moulton
- 5—Wendell Dugan
- 6—Kara Dugan
Sherry Schneider
- 8—Eric Miller
- 9—Aubrey Brouk
- 10— Jeff Burnam
Mark Miller
Bill Warner
- 11—Gail DePaolo
Dennette Guyer
Bryce Kistler
- 12—Tim Edwards
- 14—Richard Knebel
Charlene Pryor
Mary Woolsey
- 15—Susan Casey
- 17—Zac Stombaugh
Wade Thompson
- 19—Adeline Bowen
Duane Dugan
- 20—Cindy Laramie
- 22—Trevor Clark
Betty Schaub
- 23—Danielle Miller
Frank Roeder
Ann Schwarm
- 24—Betty Guffey
- 25—Matthew Hagy
Bev Hood
- 26—Dean Black
Greg Fulk
Andy Schwarm
- 28—Darin Dugan
David Dugan
Madalynn Metzger
Suzie Thompson
- 31—Jody Burnam

MARCH Anniversaries

- 8—Bill & Kim Warner
(9 years)
 - 26—Bill & Cindy Bennett
(32 years)
 - 31—Jeff & Jan Casey
(37 years)
- ### Acolytes
- 6—Rebekah Miller,
Evan Warren
 - 13—Hannah & Kristen
Stombaugh
 - 20—Austin & Jaime Warren
 - 27—Trevor, Parker, &
Kelly Clark

Liturgist Brandi Gathe

Sound Tech Patrick Myers

Video Tech Rand Craycroft

Song Leaders Traditional: Dennette Guyer Contemporary: Susan Colburn

Bus Ministry

- 6 **Driver:** Ed Taylor
Rider: Kim Taylor
Greeter: Robin Kistler
- 13 **Driver:** Bill Warner
Rider: Kim Warner
Greeter: Jack Johnston
- 20 **Driver:** Darrel Casey
Rider: Alan Lurkins
Greeter: Donna Johnson
- 27 **Driver:** Max Durbin
Rider: Deb Durbin
Greeter: James Hejl

Offering Collectors

- 6—Jeff Endres
- 13—Casey Kistler
- 20—Jack Johnston
- 27—Casey Kistler

Ushers

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



Wednesday, March 2

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

Thursday, March 3

9:00am, Family Center Reserved
 5:30pm, Handbells
 6:00pm, Finance Committee
 6:30pm, Church Council
 6:45pm, Choir

Saturday, March 5

7:00am, Wesley Hall Reserved

Sunday, March 6

2:00pm, Rainbow Reflections
 3:00pm, Family Center Reserved

Monday, March 7

5:30pm, N.O.W. Committee
 6:00pm, United Methodist Men

Tuesday, March 8

9:00am, Family Center Reserved
 6:00pm, Family Center Reserved
 6:30pm, Pastor's Bible Study

Wednesday, March 9

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

Thursday, March 10

9:00am, Family Center Reserved
 3:00pm, Prayer Shawl Ministry
 5:30pm, Handbells
 6:00pm, Family Center Reserved
 6:30pm, Trustees
 6:45pm, Choir

Saturday, March 12

12:00pm, Family Center Reserved

Sunday, March 13

3:00pm, Family Center Reserved

Tuesday, March 15

9:00am, Family Center Reserved
 6:00pm, Family Center Reserved
 6:30pm, Pastor's Bible Study

Wednesday, March 16

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

Thursday, March 17

9:00am, Family Center Reserved
 4:30pm to 7:00pm, U.M.M. Pancake &
 Sausage Supper
 5:30pm, Handbells
 6:00pm, Family Center Reserved
 6:45pm, Choir

Sunday, March 20

2:00pm, Family Center Reserved

Tuesday, March 22

9:00am, Family Center Reserved
 6:00pm, Family Center Reserved
 6:30pm, Pastor's Bible Study

Wednesday, March 23

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

Thursday, March 24

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

Saturday, March 26

Family Center Reserved

Sunday, March 27

3:00pm, Family Center Reserved

Monday, March 28

5:30pm, Bucket Buddies

Tuesday, March 29

9:00am, Family Center Reserved
 5:00pm, Family Center Reserved
 6:30pm, Pastor's Bible Study

Wednesday, March 30

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

Thursday, March 31

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

Our Caring Continues

Operation Christmas Child exists because of the many people who are dedicated to spreading His word to the hurting children around the world through the means of a simple shoebox. It takes everyone working together for this ministry to be a **SUCCESS!**

2022 is off to a GREAT start with people working behind the scenes to get ready for OCC shoebox packing! Boxes of supplies have been arriving since the first of the year and last week, we had daily deliveries. UPS and FED EX even made Zimmer deliveries in the bad weather!

Anonymous - Thank you to the person who dropped off two bags of shoes! These will bless the children who receive our boxes.

Deb Durbin has been shopping for OCC supplies, as well as making doll blankets! Thanks Deb for your dedication to this ministry!

Jennifer Hunt, owner of Farm Girl Fabrics in Ramsey, donated plastic shoeboxes! Thanks Jennifer for your generosity and for the contact made by **Sharon Mueller**.

Andy Sidwell made a donation of soap and Beanie Babies for the OCC boxes! Thank you Andy for continuing to support this ministry and for blessing the children!

Pam Yates is ahead of the game this year! She has already made the "soap pouches" for the extra shoeboxes for 2022 and rumor has it, she is working on 2023! She also made dishcloths for the older girl boxes! Thanks Pam for your passion for this ministry! If you see Pam out in the community, please thank her for supporting our shoebox ministry!



Is your wife encouraging (or perhaps nagging ?) you to clean out your workshop area? Perhaps, the scraps from another wood project could be used to make cars for the "extra" boy OCC boxes! We would love to have some homemade cars from the men of our church! You can design it however you want too! What a wonderful way to use the scraps and bless a child!



“Wood” cars



The preschool is Springing into March with the hopes of warmer weather on the horizon! During March we will study the Letter Z (Zoo) to finish up the alphabet and also celebrate St Patrick's Day, Spring (Flowers), and the Rainforest! We will have a St. Patrick's Day Party in hopes of catching that leprechaun once again! We wish you all a healthy and happy March!

Miss Cindy



Time to spring forward! Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour on Sunday, March 13th!



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

You may bring your donations in and drop off in the tote located in the Fireplace Room!

This year's Vacation Bible School will be held Saturday, June 11th, from 9am-12pm, at the Family Center. The theme will focus on Matthew 6:11, "Give us this day our daily bread". If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Casey Kistler.



<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>Patti Bohner (Diane Adams' daughter, mobility issues) Mary Crawford (congestive heart failure; Lakeland Nursing Home; Effingham) Gary Doolen (cancer) Shona Edwards (Bill Warner's niece; cancer) Mason Feltner (Kelly Clark's nephew; chemotherapy for A.L.L. leukemia) Pat Hagy (Mike Hagy's mom, FCH Long Term Care)</p>	<p>Amy Holaday (friend of Gathe's; breast cancer; recuperating from surgery) Heather Jones (friend of Donna Johnson; diagnosed with hemochromatosis) Marian Miller (comfort care) Heather Overlin (Larry Osborne's daughter; health concerns) Tim Springsteen (heart issues) Phyllis Thoman (health concerns) Bud Zimmer (health concerns)</p>
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"Thanks to all of our Church Family for your prayers, food, cards, and concerns during my recovery. We are blessed to be a part of this Church."
 —Dean & Elloise Black