



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



May 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.

GRADUATION
Sunday

Graduation Sunday is Sunday, May 16. On this day we will recognize our eighth grade, high school, and college graduates. There will be a small reception in Wesley Hall following worship. Please submit names of graduates to the church office by Monday, May 10.

Sunday, May 2, will be Brian Wells' last Sunday with us. He is graduating from Greenville and moving south to further his music career. We want to say "Thank You" to Brian with a reception and card shower that Sunday. You may bring a card or mail in a card to the church office. You are welcome to put a gift card with your card to Brian.

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

Contact us

M-W-TR: 8:00a—4:00p
 T-F: 8:00a-12:00p
 Phone: 618-283-3684
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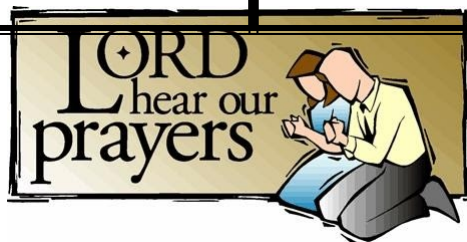
Nursing Home Residents & Shut-ins:
Brookstone (1607 W. Fillmore)
 Diane Adams (Apt. 15); Carlos Biellier (Apt. 2);
 Margaret Carroll (Apt. 10);
 Arlene Hoffman (Apt. 4); Iris Rademacher
 (Apt. 36), Mary Ann Rhoades, Frank Roeder
 (Apt. 25)

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)
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 (colon surgery Apr. 19)
Carson LaDage (Sharon and Bill's grandson; brain stem tumor remains stable, as he remains in a clinical trial at St. Jude)

Wanda McCollum Family
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)
Phil Richards (friend of Dannie Donaldson; swelling in legs and ankles)
Susann Schumacher (pulmonary fibrosis)

Honoring God—Thanks to Andy Sidwell for sharing this devotion!
Honor God with everything you own; give him the first and the best. Your barns will burst, your wine vats will brim over. Proverbs 3:9-10

At times, your life is probably hectic, demanding, and complicated. When the demands of life leave you rushing from place to place with scarcely a moment to spare, you may fail to pause and thank your Creator for the blessings He has bestowed upon you. But that's a big mistake. Whom will you choose to honor today? If you honor God and place Him at the center of your life, every day is a cause for celebration. But if you fail to honor your Heavenly Father, you're asking for trouble, and lots of it. So honor God for who He is and for what He has done for you. And don't just honor Him on Sunday morning. Praise Him all day long, every day, for as long as you live...and then for all eternity. Happiness is to be found only in the home where God is loved and honored, where each one loves, and helps, and cares for the others.

Wednesday Night Youth

How do you run a youth group during a pandemic? We have learned. Despite school conflicts (so many sports), and the ebb and flow of the virus in Fayette County; we have had a wonderful year. We will wrap up with a cookout and fun night at the park, Wednesday May 12th. Our Junior High youth will take a summer trip to Knight's Action Park, and our Senior High youth are planning a mission trip to Love Packages, and fun outing at Knight's as well. Spring activities included helping with the Easter Egg Hunt, bowling nights, a scavenger hunt, movie night and of course lots of fun at the Family Life Center. On behalf of the almost 100 youth and children who have joined us on Wednesday nights, thanks church!



Preschool News

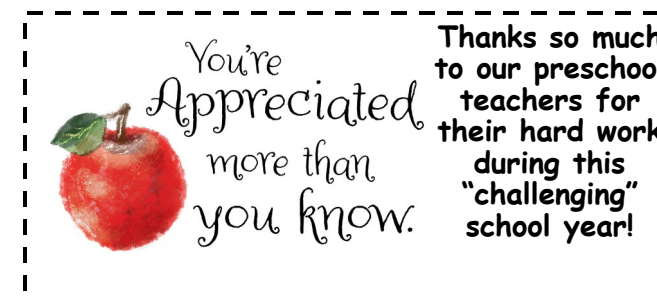
May is here! We are in our last month of the 2020-2021 School year and we are so happy to have had such a successful year! We have 12 students graduating and moving on to Kindergarten and as much as we will miss them, we wish them happy days as they move on to "big school" !!

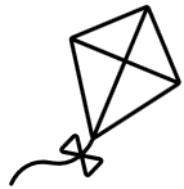
During May, we will finish up the alphabet with the letters Y and Z and will review letters U-Z ! We will explore the themes of the Yard (Outdoors) and the Zoo! May will also wrap up with Kindergarten evaluations and a Fun Week for the last week of school.!

We are celebrating Mom's Day on Friday May 14 and Graduation is scheduled for Thurs May 20 at 6:00 pm in the church Sanctuary. The last day of school for this year is Friday May 21. We have begun registration for the next school year. If you know of any family looking for a preschool program and combines Fun, Learning and Jesus... then give us a call at 283-9845!

Thank you to the church, the church staff, the Preschool Board, and the preschool parents for all of the many ways that we have been supported this year! We have had a great year and have stayed healthy! We are thankful for a loving God that watches over us and protects us every single day!

Miss Cindy





Pastor's Perspective

May 5 is "National Fly a Kite Day". Kite flying is a rite of childhood. I can still remember my "Batman" kite, with a long black tail that ended with a batarang flourish. I could never get the kite aloft enough to really fly, though; perhaps that batarang device was to blame.

Kites were invented by the Chinese, almost 200 years before Jesus. They were invented for military purposes, allowing generals to communicate safely with soldiers stationed across a vast field of warfare. Kites were also useful to measure wind speeds, and to spook the enemy (they were often disguised as large birds of prey).

But gradually the kite came to a greater purpose, entertaining children. Marco Polo brought back news of the kite to Italy after his journeys to China. By the 1600's there are images of children playing with kites. Today, kite flying remains a passion of children everywhere and kite flying clubs and stores are flourishing.

I like the idea of something originally designed for nefarious purposes being reclaimed as a tool of delight. Other inventions share the same metamorphosis (the bicycle and bow/arrow, for example). A creation designed for war has become a toy or joy.

The prophet Isaiah many years ago offered a similar sentiment about God's wishes for our weapons of mass destruction. Isaiah 2:4 famously reads, "they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks."

I wonder if we might practice such reinvention in simple ways in our lives. Might we answer a chain of gossip with a refrain of compassion. "Did you hear about Susie?" "Yes, and I know that she is struggling right now in her personal life and deserves our prayer." Or might we invade a chorus of negativism with a statement of positive faith. Or even turn the weapons of personal attack into an opportunity for grace filled compassion?

Sherry and I sat at a restaurant not long ago and listened as our waitress lamented the fact that her last table had completely skipped tipping her for her service. "And I did so much for that table", she sighed. When we left we gave her our tip, and another for the table that had "stiffed" her!

We live in a world that is constantly arming and displaying weapons of language, look and judgment. Perhaps it is time for us to fly kites of peace, love and grace. And while you are at it, find time to fly a kite as well (just not one with a batarang tail).

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Tom



OUR CARING CONTINUES

Peg Clark continues to bless the children around the world with her colorful sock monkeys. Through the years she has made 150+ monkeys and this year alone she has made 18 and more are being made. I'm sure that the monkeys will bring smiles to the little ones that will receive them. Peg has also been busy making purses and pencil pouches. Thanks Peg for your dedication to this ministry!



SPECIAL THANKS TO SHERRY SCHNEIDER: Sherry is a behind the scenes person and is responsible for putting items together so they are ready to pack into the extra boxes. This is a huge help to have this done before packing! Thanks Sherry for your many hours of work. 300Extra Boxes have already been packed!



ANDY SIDWELL is another behind the scenes person and a dedicated volunteer for OCC. He has given many Beanie Babies, hot wheels, devotionals, cups, etc. for the extra boxes. The photo shows brightly colored coasters that he found this month. Thank you Andy for your ongoing dedication to OCC!

Every month I stand in awe as I look at what has been accomplished and thank God for each person that partners with the OCC ministry! It takes each and everyone of us to continue to provide items for the extra boxes that are packed each year! A special thank you to those who give monetary gifts, those who make items (Peg Clark, Deb Durbin, Lola Gehle, Dennette Guyer, Kim Warner, and Pam Yates), for Andy always looking for items, and for Sherry Schneider's continued support in preparing items for the boxes! Also, a special thanks to Casey Kistler and Mark Burnam for their record keeping! Thank you for blessing the children and serving the Lord in this way! You are appreciated!



Music News

We have been so lucky to have Brian Wells with us as contemporary praise leader! He will be graduating from Greenville University on May 9, and his last day with us will be May 2. A reception is planned for him after church May 2 to show our appreciation for his talents. Please bring Brian a card or mail it to the church office before then.

Chancel choir sang in the service for the first time in a year on April 11 and they are excited to be back! We plan to sing April 25, May 9, and May 23 before we take a summer recess. We will regroup in the fall; we always welcome anyone who wants to join us!

Handbells rang on Easter Sunday and did a great job! We will play on May 16 and then break for summer recess. Fall rehearsals will resume after Labor Day, and anyone interested in joining us should contact me. Music reading not mandatory!

In Christ's service,
Louise



Vacation Bible School is set for Saturday, June 12, from 9:00am-12:00pm, at the Family Center. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Casey Kistler. We are in need of group leaders! This would entail walking the groups of youth to and from each station. Pre-registration is required this year. Forms are available in the Church office or on the Church's Facebook page. **Registration deadline is Monday, June 7.** All children ages pre-k thru 6th grade are invited to attend!

Summer Children's Sunday School Volunteers

We appreciate all of our Sunday School teachers! Our regular teachers will be taking some time off from teaching for the summer. Please consider signing up for one or more Sundays beginning June 6-September 5. A clipboard will be passed around during morning worship, or you may contact the Church office. All materials and snacks are provided. The Children's Sunday School time is 9:00am-9:30am downstairs in the youth area.



We will be honoring mothers on Mother's Day, May 9 during morning worship with a slideshow presentation. Please submit photos, along with names to be included, to the church office by Wednesday, May 5. You may email them to vandaliafumc@outlook.com, or drop them by the Church office to be scanned.

We will honor eighth grade, high school, and college graduates on Sunday, May 16, during morning worship with a slideshow presentation. Please submit photos, as well as name, school attended, and post graduation plans you'd like included on the power point to the church office by Wednesday, May 12. A cake and punch reception will be held in Wesley Hall following morning worship to honor our graduates.

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

We Need The Following:

Ramen Noodles
Mac & Cheese

You may drop off your items in the tote located in the Fireplace Room. Thank you!



Memorial Day

The Church office is closed Monday, May 31, in observance of Memorial Day.

May Sermons and Scriptures

2 May – Communion, Why does God allow suffering?
9 May – Mother's Day, A call to motherhood
Sermon Series: Loving Others
16 May – Do we really have to love others?
23 May – Loving others
30 May – Memorial Day Sunday, Loving our enemies

Text: Romans 5: 1-11
Text: Proverbs 31: 10-12, 27-31
Text: First John 4: 7-12
Text: Matthew 5: 38-42
Text: Matthew 5: 43-48