



Mark your calendars! The United Methodist Men's **Drive-Thru Fish Fry** will be Thursday, November 4, from 4:00pm to 6:30pm (or while supplies last). Please pull in the back parking lot and a U.M.M. member will be there to take your order! All proceeds go directly to the Coats and Shoes program which helps Fayette County children in need.
Thank you for your support!



CONTACT US:

Office Hours:
M-W-TR: 8a-4p
T-F: 8a-12 noon

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Operation 2
Christmas Child

Prayer 3
Concerns

Announcements 4

Pastor's 5
Perspective

Music News 6
Preschool News

Church Officers 7
Youth news



November 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

Surviving the Holidays

Grieving is difficult in any season but especially as the holidays approach. I can still remember the dread as Christmas approached, following the deaths of my parents twenty years ago. I worried about how the day would be different without them there. I worried about how I would be around my family. I resolved simply to get through the day.

Ten years ago, I was introduced to a marvelous resource "Grief Share". "Grief Share" is an introduction to the grieving process. I have led four churches through this study and highly recommend it. One of the best resources with this study is a session titled "Surviving the Holidays". If you have access to the web, there is a wonderful introduction on their website, www.griefshare.org/holidays, or put into your Google search, "Surviving the Holidays".

I will host this session at our church on Sunday, December 5, at 2:00pm. If there is enough interest, I will also make this open to people in Vandalia.

There is no charge or commitment beyond this one session. To RSVP please contact me, Pastor Tom, via email vandaliaumcpastor@gmail.com or through the church office.



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



Our Caring Continues

FUMC Continues to Bless Operation Christmas Child

As we wind down this year with National Collection Week happening the week of Nov. 15th, I stand amazed at the number of boxes that have been packed with more coming in! The people of First United Methodist Church have allowed God to work through them to bless the children. It takes each and everyone of us working together to further His kingdom. Thank you for your generosity through

your donations, sponsored boxes, or packing of the boxes!

Peg Clark made more sock monkeys, purses, and pencil pouches. The sock monkeys always bring a smile to my face and I am sure the children will have a new friend to love once they receive one of her monkeys. She has blessed many children through the years by sharing her gifts with them! Thank you, Peg!

Max and Deb Durbin picked up the shipping crates in Effingham for us to use when individual shoeboxes are packed during collection week! Thank you for the many ways that you serve! You are appreciated!

Pastor Tom and Sherry donated mens work gloves for our older boys boxes. They will be used for our “themed toolkit boxes.” They will make a great addition to those boxes.

Mike Hagy often carries in items for OCC whenever needed! Thank you Mike for going above and beyond. Your help this past year has been greatly appreciated!

Mark Miller Sr. donated toothbrushes for our extra boxes! It has been told that toothbrushes are treasured items as many times everyone in the household has to share 1 toothbrush!

Kim Warner continues to bless the children with purses, coin purses, pencil pouches, and slippers. Look at the adorable purses that she made this past month for the girls (pictured above). What a special gift for the girl receiving them!

Submitted By: Jill Zimmer



**SHOEBOXES DUE BY
NOV. 7TH**

Church Officers for 2022

Thank you to all who serve the local church and help us achieve our mission.

Church Council

Chairperson-Joe Cearlock Vice Chairperson – Sue Miller

Secretary – Casey Kistler Lay Leader- Ann Schwarm

Delegates to Annual Conference – Dean Black and Rich Well

At large members – Tim Springsteen (UMM), Megan Moulton (Youth), Barb McCart (Children), Rand Craycroft, Patti Craycroft, James Hejl, Clayton Gathe

Finance Team

John Burnam (chair), Jeff Endres, Jack Johnston, Mary Fulton, Byron Sikma, Alan Lurkins and Gene Schwarm

Staff Parish Team

Amy Vieregge (chair), Bill LaDage, Tina Kaiser, Patrick Myers, Kristin Stombaugh, Mark Burnam and Mark Payne

Trustees

Darin Dugan, Jack Johnston, Terese Sikma, JD Vieregge, Calista Eyman, Bryce Kistler, Jeff Casey, Greg Fulk and Brandi Gathe

Youth Group Activities



FUMC youth groups helped the NICE Foundation package 5000 meals for families in Nicaragua



Voyagers and Ignite youth groups took their annual trip to Happy Hollows Pumpkin Patch. Pictured are the Voyagers with leaders Pastor Tom and Brandi Gathe



Our vocal workshop with Dr. Grace Denton was fantastic! Our singers started with breathing exercises and tone production helps, and then 6 singers sang individually for Dr. Denton. The tips were great, evidenced by the amazing progress in the sounds made by the 6. As soon as I can get the video to open, I'll share it with choir/song leaders. I'm hoping to have Dr. Denton back with us next year!

Worship team welcomes Susan Coburn into our midst, making us stronger in our worship presentation. Sarah, Yamato, Dawn, Mark and I, as well as our contemporary song leaders Kathy, Sue, and Jody are enjoying worshipping together!

After bells play Nov. 7, we will ship the bells off for their long-awaited tune up, and we will break out the hand chimes for our advent practices. It could be up to a month for the bells to be gone (shipment time, repair time and reshipment time), but it will be well worth the wait!

Hopefully the choir will soon be back to singing twice a month, but in advent season we will have plenty of special music to inspire us in the season. We've been invited to sing Christmas carols uptown, so we are looking for a suitable date for all.

This month will mark my 2-year anniversary serving as your music director. It's been challenging because of COVID issues; I've done a lot of recording for both the daily devotions during our shutdown, and also for practice recordings for the choir. It's been a joy and privilege to work with our wonderful singers, ringers, song leaders and musicians to enhance the worship of this amazing church! To God be the glory!

In Christ's service,
Louise



FUMP is getting ready for the change in the seasons, weather and the Holidays!! In the month of November we will be studying the Letters K, L, M and N and the themes Kindness, Leaves, Monsters and the Night Sky. We will also cover numbers 11, 12, 13, and 14 to round out our lessons! We will be closed Thursday, November 11, for Veteran's Day and November 24-28 for Thanksgiving Break with an early dismissal of 4:00pm on Tuesday, November 23. Our annual Thanksgiving Feast Party will be held on Tuesday Nov 23 and we are looking forward to that!! As we celebrate this season of Thanksgiving,

we are especially Thankful for our health, our families, our preschool friends, and the support of the church here!! Thank you!!!!

Miss Cindy, Miss Sue and Miss Sarah



"I asked someone a couple of month's ago if they went to the Mayor's meeting in town. They said no they weren't invited because they weren't that important. I told them they are important to God. They said they knew they were. Famous actors, sports players on tv, etc., and you feel you aren't important. You are important to God. It doesn't matter how old or young you are. God can still use you to be a witness and blessing to others." —Andy Sidwell

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 (Apt. 41),
Frank Roeder (Apt. 25)

FCH/Long Term Care (650 West Taylor)
Audrey Fink (Rm. 408)
Marian Miller (Rm. 404)

Lutheran Care Center
(702 W. Cumberland Rd., Altamont, IL 62411)
Mary Crawford (Rm. 16)

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)
Roger Clark (surgery)
Mary Crawford (congestive heart failure)
Gary Doolen (cancer)
Margie Dowell (Amanda Milam's grandmother; health concerns)
Carroll Dugan (FCH)
Mona Durbin (friend of Sue Miller and Jaime Warren; breast cancer; chemotherapy)
Shona Edwards (Bill Warner's niece; cancer)

Mason Feltner (Kelly Clark's nephew; chemotherapy for A.L.L. leukemia)
Bill LaDage (pulmonary issues)
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)
Norman Rhoades (acute bronchitis, leukocytosis; FCH)
Udo Sines (issues with transplant rejection)

"We would like to express our gratitude to everyone for their prayers, visits, cards, flowers, memorials, and food. Your kindness will always be remembered. A special thanks to Pastor Tom and our wonderful church family. Also thanks to the BEST neighbors in the world. We are truly BLESSED."

—Mark A. Miller, Mark A. Miller, II & Brooke, Michelle Daniels & Mark

"I would like to thank my church family for their texts, calls, food, cards, and especially the prayers during my recent surgery and recovery. God is good."

—JD Vieregge

THANKS FROM THE HEART





Office Closed

The church office will be closed on Thursday, November 11, in observance of Veteran's Day.



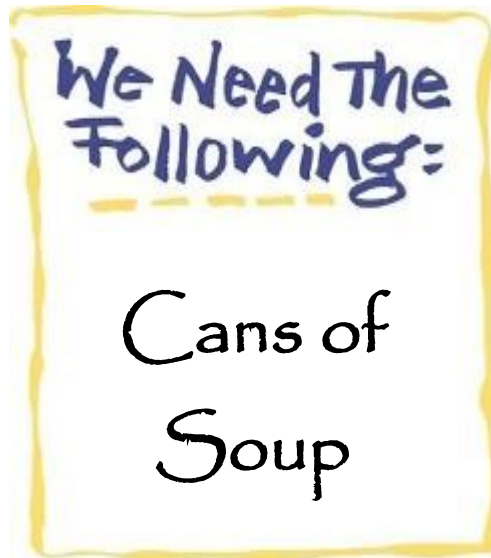
The church office will be closed November 25 & 26 for Thanksgiving. ★ Veterans Day: ★ Thank You for Your Service



We will celebrate Christmas Eve this year with a 7:00 PM candlelight service on December 24.

The Church building will be closed December 24-January 1. Church service on December 26 will be broadcasted via YouTube. Please have year end

contributions in to the church office by noon on December 23, or received by mail by December 30.



Conner McCall has installed shelving in the 6.35 Food Pantry as part of earning his Eagle Scout Status. The additional shelves will be used as storage and organization for Tools for School. Thank you Connor!



Vandalia FUMC will be ringing the Salvation Army bell at Walmart on Saturday, November 27th, from 8:30am to 5:30pm. If you are able to volunteer, please contact the Church office. All money raised during the bell ringing campaign stays in Fayette County and helps residents in need.



Ways you can SERVE

Get a jump start on your holiday baking! The N.O.W. committee will once again be doing appreciation platters this year. Donations of cookies and candies are needed. Please drop off your donations to Wesley Hall kitchen December 5th-6th.

College care packages will be delivered again this year. Donations of non-perishable food items, gifts cards, supplies, etc. will help relieve the stress of semester exams. Please drop your donated items by the Church office by November 14th.

← Please submit names and addresses for college care packages to the Church office by November 14th. As students move and graduate it is important to keep our records as accurate as possible. Thanks!

Pastor's Perspective

"Stand at the crossroads and look." Jeremiah 6

Lots of work is being done surveying Americans and seeking best practices for the church on the other side of the pandemic (and let's hope we are nearing that other side). Church scholars and social scientists agree that there is a place for the church in a post-pandemic world, but we cannot be the church of the pre-pandemic world. If you think honestly about this, we have transitioned before.

Before television shortened American attention spans most worship services were two-three hours on Sunday mornings and we expected a sizable portion of our congregation back in church on Sunday nights.

Before the automobile made weekend travel accessible, most Americans stayed home on weekends and pastors assumed their parishioners would be in worship 3 times each month (now the average is slightly above 1 Sunday per month).

So what are the "experts" saying about the post-pandemic church?

First, that some folks will not come back to in-person worship. We need to continue our hybrid approach. We post our worship every Sunday on our Facebook page and routinely have 20 households (30 people) worshipping on line with those worshipping in-house.

Second, that what we do outside of our building will be more influential than what we do inside of our building. Our involvement as a church in our community matters more than ever. Our ministry outreach in the community (coats and shoes, backpacks, food pantry) will be our primary legacy.

Third, small groups will matter more than ever. People will search, in a post pandemic world, for "safe" places to find community. Bible study, small groups and interest groups (book clubs, craft groups) will matter.

Finally, I find this hope filled for us, the Good News will be received more than the typical guilt-ridden-give 'em-hell monologue that the church has preached in the past. Frankly, those who have survived these two years need to hear good news, grace and love, from God and we are that messenger.

So how will this shape our priorities as a church and guide us into ministry in 2022? We can refuse to change and be the church of the past, or embrace God's calling and the Spirit's guiding and be the church that connects the Gospel to the world emerging from this two-year wandering in the wilderness. Or we can let other voices have this pulpit. I am glad that our church is choosing the former!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Tom

From One Pumpkin to Another

A woman was asked by a co-worker, "What is it like to be a Christian?" The co-worker replied, "It is like being a pumpkin. God picks you from the patch, brings you in and washes all the dirt off of you. Then he cuts off the top and scoops out the yucky stuff. He removed the seeds of doubt, hate and greed. Then he carves you a new smiling face, puts lights inside to shine for all of the world to see."



Thanks to Carolyn Daniels for submitting this!