



**First United Methodist Church**  
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# October 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*



Stewardship Sunday is October 31. A letter and pledge card will be mailed soon. This is not a time to think of giving towards the Church budget, but rather a time to think of your spiritual relationship with God through your giving.

As a celebration, we will have a brunch in Wesley Hall following morning worship. **Please RSVP to the church office by October 24th** so we may plan accordingly.

November 7, 2021 is All Saints Sunday. We will remember our saints and those of your immediate family during worship that morning. If you have someone you wish to remember, who has passed away since November 1, 2020, please submit their name, relationship to you, birthdate, and date they passed; and a picture of them for inclusion in the service.



You may email the picture (jpeg file please) to vandaliafumc@outlook.com, or drop off a picture to the church office to be scanned. **Please submit this information by October 27** to be included in the service.

## 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

I love the change of seasons. Despite my sister, who lives in Savannah, peppering me with weather reports in January (Tom, "we have six inches of snow and its six degrees here." Laura, "it's sixty today in Savannah"); I love fall and spring and would dearly miss these seasons.

With fall comes a change of routine. We mow and mulch more leaves than grass. We replace summer flowers in outside pots with hardier plants like mums. We may decorate the insides of our houses for the season. We prepare for yet another time change and less time in the evening to enjoy the great outdoors.

We learn to love pumpkin flavored foods again and hot drinks (like cider) to replace cold drinks. We prepare for an onslaught of miniature goblins and witches at our door on Halloween night. We might even watch a scary movie or two (though none in our house, thanks). Fall brings change and that is a good thing for us to experience.

As we change our flowers, our decorations, our clocks, and our to-do-lists; might we also consider some spiritual change? Might we consider adding five minutes of prayer time at the end of the day, it will be too dark to be outside!! Might we consider serving our community in some capacity with 2-3 hours per month? Might we look at that pledge card letter that is coming in the mail and consider a larger promise to God and the church?

We might also change our "personal scenery". Perhaps recycle our pessimism about the state of things in our country, with a reminder that we are hopeful to be living in God's Kingdom. Perhaps refrain from passing on gossip or swallow the urge to respond to gossip about ourselves or those we love.

One of the highlights of fall is watching the leaves turn color and eventually fall to the earth. As children this was a magical time when piles of leaves could be imagined as forts. As adults we understand the necessity of this change, in order to live again in spring, trees must "die" a bit in the fall. How is God calling us to "die a bit" now, in order to live more fully for Him? "Truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains a single grain. But if it dies it bears much fruit." Luke 9

The change of seasons is an opportunity to change our practices of the Christian faith. So how will you change with the season?

Pastor Tom



## OUR CARING CONTINUES



**Deb Durbin** made more baby blankets for the little girl boxes. The colors are bright and I'm sure the little girls will love them. I truly appreciate all of her work this past year making the baby blankets for the "sponsored boxes" and for all of her help with OCC!

**Andy Sidwell** continues to support OCC with items that he believes will make good shoebox filler items. Thank you Andy for your dedication to this ministry!

**Kim Warner** made 3 bags of items for our extra boxes. She made coin purses, pencil holders, purses, hats, slippers, and a new item, prayer rocks. She included a poem reminding the children to pray throughout the day! Thanks, Kim for your beautiful items! You have blessed many children through the years.

Choir plans have changed slightly due to the state mask mandates and my need to take care of my people! We will sing 1 anthem a month for the foreseeable future, with 1 shortened practice the Wednesday before we sing, and recorded parts and music to help choir members practice at home. Not ideal, but do-able. Handbells will continue as usual, with masked rehearsals.



We will host a vocal workshop with Dr. Grace Denton of Greenville University for our song leaders and choir members on Saturday Oct. 9 from 3-5. We will be masked and distanced, with the exception of 1 singer at a time who will work with Dr. Denton. We will learn about vocal technique, breathing, enunciation, microphone technique and other musical things. All song leaders and choir members (and anyone else if you are interested in learning about vocal health care) are encouraged to attend and learn from Dr. Denton!

Thanks for your patience as we continue to navigate this COVID world safely.

In Christ's service,

Louise



The United Methodist Men are planning their annual Fish Fry for Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, from 4:00pm to 7:00pm. This year's meal will be provided carry-out/drive thru as we did last year. We encourage you to support this fundraiser as proceeds are applied directly to the UMM Coats and Shoes program.



## “LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME... LUKE 18:16

Unlike the children in the picture who have already received OCC shoeboxes, millions of others are waiting! The harvest is ripe! There is an urgency in winning others to Christ. The children who will be receiving your shoebox/shoeboxes will have the opportunity to learn about Jesus, be able to attend a 12 week discipleship program, and may choose to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior! They need hope that only He can give!

I am humbled in the way that First United Methodist Church in Vandalia has been a part of the Great Commission by packing shoeboxes. Even though we can't deliver the boxes ourselves, know that you have played an integral part in taking his Word to these children. You were the beginning of this journey in reaching the children and others are able to share the Gospel with the children. Just as God is faithful, you too have been faithful through the years.

### CONTACTLESS SHOEBOX PICKUP AND DROP-OFF

Samaritans Purse has once again recommended that churches practice social distancing as much as possible in distributing shoeboxes, collecting them, and also during National Collection Week.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**Read information in the boxes before you pack**

**Boxes may be picked up beginning Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> in the narthex.** Please sign your name on the sheet on the table along with the number of boxes that you take.

**Return Boxes between October 17<sup>th</sup> - Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>!** The last day to return boxes is **Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>!** Please put a sticky note on your boxes with your name on it and cross your name off the list when you return them. Thank you!

**ADHESIVE LABELS - No taping is needed!** These labels will already be on the shoeboxes, so all you have to do is **mark either BOY or GIRL** and the **age of the child that you are packing your box for.**

**SHIPPING COST: \$9.00 per box** - Please read information inside the box concerning multiple ways that you can pay for your boxes.

**Rubber Bands** - Place 2 rubber bands around your box.

**Pray for the child/children who will be receiving your shoeboxes that they will receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior!**

Have fun packing your shoeboxes knowing that you will give each child **GREAT JOY** by taking the time to pick out special items that you would be proud to give your own child or grandchildren.

**Thank you for being obedient and for allowing God to use you in such a mighty way!**

#### 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; Lutheran Care Center, Altamont, room 16)

**Gary Doolen** (cancer)

**Margie Dowell** (Amanda Milam's grandmother; health concerns)

**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)

**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)

**Mary Miller** (treatment for lung cancer)

**Heather Overlin** (Larry Osborne's daughter; health concerns)

**Norman Rhoades** (Parkinson's Disease)

**Susann Schumacher** (pulmonary fibrosis)

**Terese Sikma** (health concerns; home)

**Udo Sines** (issues with transplant rejection)



**Thank you, thank you, thank you to Pastor Tom for ALL that he does, has done, and will do for Vandalia FUMC! October is Pastor Appreciation month. Be sure to take a moment and show your appreciation and gratitude. We are very thankful to have he and Sherry at Vandalia!**

# Celebrating 50 years!



On Sunday, September 19, we honored our 50+year members of the UMC church. Honorees were presented with a certificate and rose. A cake and punch reception was held in Wesley Hall following morning worship.

“A special thank you to Pastor Tom, Sharon LaDage, and the NOW team for making the 50 year member celebration so special! Even though we weren’t in attendance, we were watching it online and were so thankful that we could be a part of the FUMC family in that way. I was surprised to have a special delivery on Sunday afternoon by Deb and Max Durbin giving me the yellow rose, certificate, pen, and cake. I appreciate the work done by so many. FUMC holds a special place in my heart. You are appreciated!” —Jill Zimmer

“A big THANK YOU to Sharon LaDage and the NOW Team for an uplifting and fun event with the “50 Year Party”! It was wonderful to see and visit with family of 50 year members that we have missed for many years. Brought back many meaningful and happy times with special people. Great idea and beautifully executed!” —Jan & Jack Johnston

“A great big “thank You” for the gifts celebrating our fifty year membership and to Sharon LaDage for making this happen. It has been fifty years of joy.” —Diane Adams

“It was a lovely event from the recognition during worship to the nice fellowship time in Wesley Hall. The tables were beautiful. The lovely roses we received are still lovely. My kids enjoyed it very much - an opportunity to see people they had not seen in some time. Thank you for a lovely and memorable day.” — Jim & Joyce Staff

## Wednesday Night Youth Groups



Wow! What a start to the new year, we had 100 youth and adults here last Wednesday. Thanks to our great leadership team: Brandi Gathe and Tom Goodell— Voyagers;

Mark and Lisa Burnam -Ignite;

Kelly Clark and Patrick and Katie Myers – Epic;

John and Tina Kaiser and

Eric and Sue Miller -Impact.

Pictured are some of the 27 Voyagers present.

## Family Center update

We have added a Dr Dish Shooting Machine ([drdishbasketball.com](http://drdishbasketball.com)) to the Family Center. The machine is an automatic rebounder and passer for multiple shooting opportunities. The machine can be used for kids and adults. Multiple donors have made this possible for everyone to use. If anyone is interested in using and want help to show how to set it up please contact Rich Well or Mark Burnam.



## Travel Mugs still available

We still have mugs available for purchase; \$15 or free will offering. Would make great stocking stuffers!