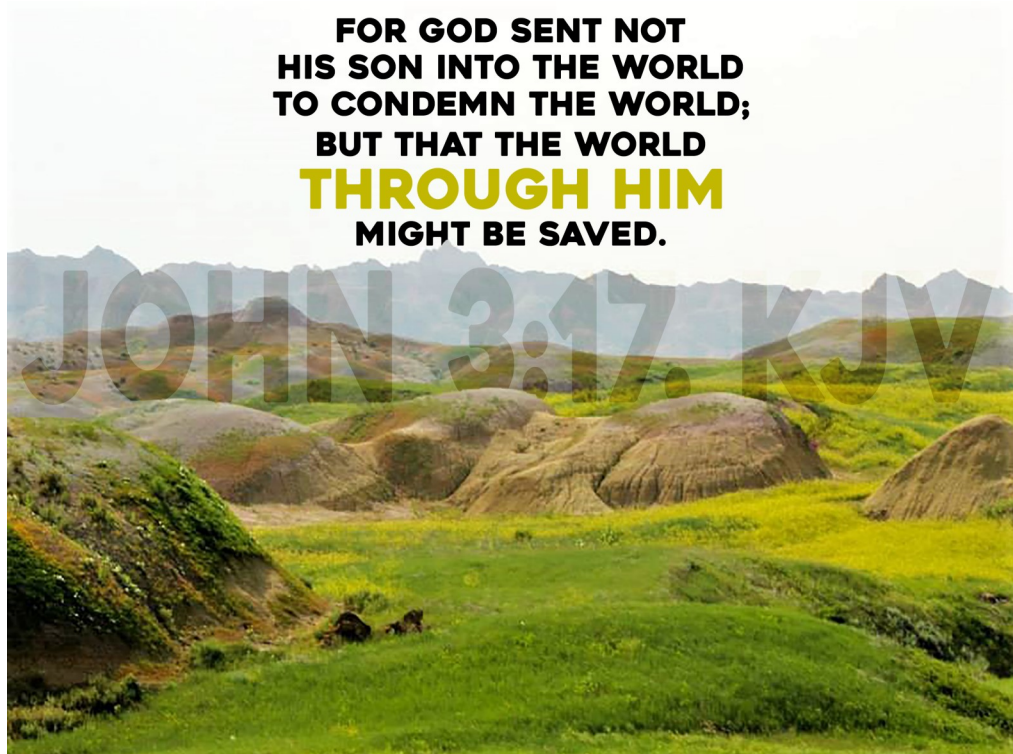




First United Methodist Church
127 N 4th St
Vandalia, IL 62471

**FOR GOD SENT NOT
HIS SON INTO THE WORLD
TO CONDEMN THE WORLD;
BUT THAT THE WORLD
MIGHT BE SAVED.
THROUGH HIM**



CONTACT US:

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September 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"*

Sunday School resumes!

*We would like to thank our volunteers for stepping up to lead
Sunday School this year! We resume Sunday, September 12th.*

- Pre-K/Kindergarten:** Susan Casey
(9:00a, meets downstairs in youth area)
- 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th grade:** Lisa Burnam, Kelly Clark
(9:00a, meets downstairs in youth area)
- 5th, 6th, 7th grade:** Pastor Tom, Casey Kistler
(9:00a, meets in old nursery-upstairs, first room
to the right)
- Agape Class:** Max Durbin (10:30a, meets in Library)
- Friendship Class:** Rotation (10:30a, meets in Wesley Hall)
- Young Adult Class:** Rich Well (9:00a, meets in Library)

*Kingdom Kids is available during morning worship as well as the
early Sunday School timeframe.*



Join us Sunday,
September 12, at 4pm, at
Ruemellin Park (bottom of
Jefferson hill) for an all
church picnic and bags
tournament! Meat, drinks,
and table service provided.

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
- Childcare Provider: Amanda Milam
- Preschool Director: Cindy Laramée
- Custodians: Mike & Sharon Hagy
- Assistant Custodian: Andy Sidwell



September 19th, we will honor our 50 year members! Members being honored should arrive at the church by 9:15am for a picture. We will have a cake and punch reception in Wesley Hall following morning worship.

We Need The Following:
Packaged Cookies

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

LABOR Day

The church office will be closed on Monday, September 6th.



A member of our church is requesting assistance for a caregiver for mornings and evenings at Brookstone. If you know of someone, please contact Pastor Tom or the Church office.

We are about to get back into the swing of things in the music department! Both handbells and choir rehearsals will be on Wednesday nights this year. Handbells will rehearse at 5:30 and choir at 6:45. Both will start the Wednesday after Labor Day and rehearsals will be in the music room. We may need to occasionally switch to a Thursday rehearsal but we will roll with that as we go!



Anyone interested in playing in either group can jump in with us! If you can do handbells only in the fall or only in the spring, we will be happy to have you! No music reading necessary! Handbells will play in services twice in the fall and twice in the spring. Choir will sing twice a month, so if you want to sing with us for a more limited time, we can work with that!

I look forward to making music with you this year!

In Christ's service,
Louise



OUR CARING CONTINUES

Peg Clark - Peg made 3 bags of beautiful purses, pencil pouches, and sock monkeys for our boxes. Her color combinations are always bold and colorful and will delight the girls! Thank you Peg for giving of your time and talent to bless others!

Linda Dugan - Linda gave a sack of Beanie Babies for our Extra Boxes! A special thanks goes out to Linda for blessing the children with something to snuggle with.

Andy Sidwell - Andy continues to be on the hunt for Beanie Babies and other things to bless the children. Thank you Andy for your dedication and passion for this ministry.

Members of Vandalia First United Methodist Church - A special "thank you" to the members who sponsored a shoebox! **99 children** and their families **will be blessed because you chose to "Sponsor a Box!"** It is very humbling to be a part of this church and see the generosity for others.

Extra Boxes packed: In addition to the 99 Sponsored Boxes, **427 extra boxes have been packed** from donations, donated items, and items made by the Prayer Shawl Ministry. These boxes would not have been packed without the generous people who have continued to support this ministry. A special thanks to Deb Durbin, Lola Gehle, and Pam Yates for making soap pouches, blankets, and dishcloths for the boxes! Also, a special thank you to Sherry Schneider for "prepping the supplies" to make it easier when we packed the boxes!

Special Note: Premade boxes will be available for those choosing to pack their own boxes beginning on Oct. 10 and the last day to return them will be on Sunday, November 7th! Information will be included inside the boxes for those packing boxes.

United Methodist Men's group meets the first Monday of each month, and recent meetings have been well attended and uplifting. A light meal is followed by a devotion and enough formal activity to keep the group focused on their outreach mission. The October 10 church service will be all UMM conducted.



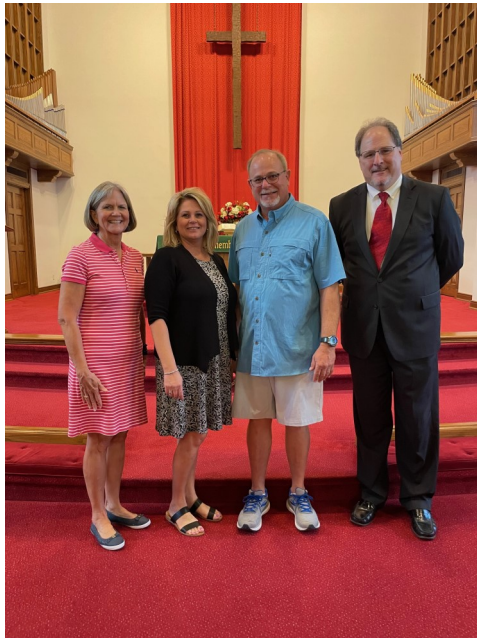
Men's Fellowship

It is widely known that Vandalia First UMM provide hundreds of coats and shoes at Christmas time to the youth of all nearby communities, as well as providing many hours of work at the 635 Food Pantry. But UMM is also reaching out to all the men in our church, hoping for their input in monthly meetings. Here's hoping all men of the church will attend the free cookout on September 13. Food and fellowship; no talking business. Come and enjoy. (Some details will be forthcoming).

UMM's annual Fish Fry will be November 4, and like the pandemic-era "drive through," this fund raiser will again observe no dining-in! Thanks to their Fish Frys and Pancake Suppers, the UMM treasury is healthy and able to provide all the coats and shoes needed this year. A recent donation of \$400 came from Andy Sidwell. Thanks Andy.

Cause for joy was shared in their last meeting when Illinois Association of School Business Officials honored Jeff Endres with the Calvin Jackson Career Impact Award. It recognizes someone who has impacted the association and its members with their years of service throughout their career. Jeff had a 40-year career! The award came with a \$1,000 donation to the honoree's choice and Jeff made it to the Coats & Shoes fund. Thanks and congratulations Jeff!!! (Insiders know that Jeff and wife Deb have dedicated many vacation trips to accessing the best coats and shoes at the lowest possible expense).

UMM will meet at 6:30 September 6 for supper to be provided by Pete Burnham and Whitey Daniels. A volunteer needs to step up for the Devotional.



We welcome Greg and Jacy Fulk to our church family! Greg and Jacy joined Vandalia FUMC on August 8th.

September Worship Notes

A good way to prepare for worship is to read the preaching text prior to worship on Sundays!

- Series: The Marks of a Methodist, based on John Wesley's sermons.
- September 5 Matthew 22: 34-40 A Methodist Loves God!
 - September 12 2 Corinthians 11: 21-32
 - September 19 A Methodist Rejoices in All Things!
 - September 19 Philippians 1: 3-11. *We will celebrate the legacy of our 50 plus year members!*
 - September 26 A Methodist Gives Thanks
 - September 26 1 Thessalonians 5: 12-22 A Methodist Prays Constantly
 - October 3 1 John 4: 7-16, Communion Sunday
 - October 3 A Methodist Loves Others.

Early Response Team

Six of our Early Response Team members travelled to Bloomington in July for a few days to help families whose basements were flooded when over 10 inches of rain fell in a short amount of time in late June. Most of the time was spent cleaning out basements of personal property, tearing out drywall covered with mold, and power washing and disinfecting moldy areas. The six people who were able to go were Bill and Kim Warner, Tim Springsteen, Deb Durbin and JD and Amy Vieregge. A special thank you to Clayton Gathe who allowed the team to use his truck to pull the ERT trailer. If you might be interested in going with the team the next time they go out, please contact JD Vieregge. The team would like to thank the church for their continued support and prayers.



FUMC is taking over 'Tools for School'

Huge thanks to special young men of our church for transporting supplies from the Presbyterian Church to the 6.35 Food Pantry where they will be stored for available use throughout the year! More details on this new ministry of the church coming soon.



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. 507)

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)
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)



What is the most important decision you have ever had to make in your life? Going to college? Buying a car? Making a down payment on a house? Getting married? The list goes on. As I thought on this, the most important decision you can make in your life is giving your life to Jesus Christ, who died on the cross for our sins. Spend eternity with Jesus in heaven.

Thank you to Andy Sidwell for sharing this!

Pastor's Perspective

"With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water?" James 3

I returned to Kansas for a family funeral in July and went by the grain elevator where my grandpa served as manager for many years (just outside Winfield). It was a nostalgic moment as I can still remember the days grandma would pack two lunches (one for grandpa and one for me) and I would get to go with him to work. I can still remember the grain dust billowing up inside the elevator, the smell of the wet grain and the sweat from the workers, the sounds of trucks pulling in and out, and the playful banter of the workers.

What I especially remember was that this banter changed markedly in tone whenever grandpa was anywhere near. He was a deacon in the Methodist Church in Winfield and to the best of my recollection never swore, told off-color jokes and seldom raised his voice in anger. I can still remember him once telling me in a soft voice, "Tommy, I am disappointed in you." Nothing filled me more with regret than these words! The men who labored and brought wheat and other grains into the elevator knew this and their language changed when Harold Bender was around. This was out of respect for his faith.

Recently the news has been awash with Americans shouting at each other and threatening violence at county board meetings, health meetings, school board meetings. It does not seem to matter which side of the issue folks side with, they want theirs to be the loudest (and sometimes the most profane) in the room. We think nothing of wearing expletives on our clothing, on yard signs and even plastered on the back of our vehicles. Our common language these days is peppered with violence, sexual innuendo, and cruelty. The sacred hours of family television, when it was assumed anyone could watch television without seeing and hearing certain things, is long passed by.

James reminds us of an important truth. Our language, stories, jokes and gossip reveal not just what we have heard from others, but what we feel in our hearts. It's not just the words we speak that judge us, it is the fact that we conjured them up first inside. Our words, stories and accusations reflect who we are. So James reminds us, "let us examine our hearts and not just our words." I am working on this.

What is our Christian witness to this world of abusive and aggressive tongues? Do we participate, pass on, or even overlook such crass language? Do we simply accept it as part of the times, or can we witness to another way of speaking? Perhaps we simply walk away? Maybe the simple truth that our friends, coworkers, and colleagues know that we do not talk this way might be deterrent enough? I think back to the witness of my grandpa and how out of respect for him, the language of those around him changed. Does it change when I walk into a room?

I remember years ago at Promise Keeper's meeting a challenge that has stayed with me. The speaker, addressing men who were used to mouthing whatever we feel, asked us. "Would you talk differently if you knew Jesus was in earshot of what you were saying?" The answer was obvious, "of course we would." Then came the speaker's reply. "Jesus is nearby when you speak"! So let us weigh our words, our condemnations, our judgment, our off-color stories; and let our willingness to speak words that heal and help inspire others to the same tongue. Amen.

Pastor Tom

Backpack 2 School Success!

I cannot thank our church family enough for all of the donations, volunteers, and prayers for the backpack event. It was a fabulous night. 200 children were blessed with backpacks, bibles, toothbrushes, haircuts, pizza, cookies, popcorn and games. Fun was had by all, including the volunteers.



Thank you to our community sponsors for another successful Backpack event!

All About You Spa	Fayette Co. YMCA	LCB CPA's & Advisors	Sloan Implement
Alpha Psi Sorority	Fayette Co. Real Estate	Los Amigos	Star Max Cinemas
Beauty Mark	FNB of Brownstown	McKellar, Robertson,	Stombaugh's Heating & A/C
Bluff Equipment	FNB Community Bank	McCarty & Click Insurance	Subway
Brownstown Road Angels	FUMC Friendship S.S. Class	Midland States Bank	Tangles
Burtschi Bros.	FUMC United Methodist Men	Midwest Tractor Sales	The Shop
Cain's Drug Store	Gallatin Street Grille	Miller Funeral Home	The Turning Leaf
Casey's General Store	Habitat Resale Store	Mr. Lube	Thrivent Financial
Country Financial	Hecht Chevrolet of Vandalia	Paddi's Balloons	Tiger Lily
County Market	Hohlt & File Funeral Home	Peoples State Bank	Timmerman & Co.
Dairy Queen	Hosicks	Pine Ridge Homes	Vandalia Dental
DePaolo's	Hunter's Heating & Appliance	Ponderosa	Vandalia Rotary Club
Dynamic Dental Group	Joe's Pizza	ProWire	Vandalia Rural King
Emerick Farms	Kaskaskia Supply	Sarah Bush Lincoln Fayette	WJLY
Eye Care of Vandalia (Dr. Childers)	Korner Store Too	County Hospital	Willy's
	Laack Flooring		Woolsey Bros.

School started back up on Monday August 23! We are excited to get this school year off to an awesome start! This summer, we hired Sarah Schmid to take over the 2/ 3 year old class. We sadly said goodbye to Miss Morgan as she traveled to Germany to take over as a Nanny to her twin cousins! We were also excited to get some much needed improvements to the upstairs, including a bathroom makeover, repainting the back staircase and a new dishwasher that will sanitize toys! Thank you to the volunteers in the church that always jump in to lend a hand in helping us upstairs!

We appreciate you! In August/Sept. we will start out with the letters A, B, C, D, E and F and learn about Animals, Birds, Crocodiles, Donuts, Exercise and Farming! We will be busy as the days, weeks and months fly by! Thank you for the tremendous support the church gives us in so many ways! We are truly blessed! Keep us in your prayers for a healthy year!

Miss Cindy

