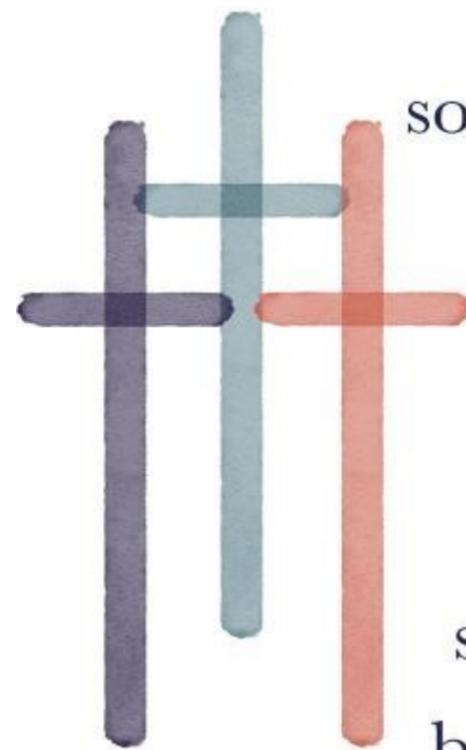




First United Methodist Church
 127 N 4th St
 Vandalia, IL 62471



For God
 so loved the world,
 that he gave
 his only son,
 that whoever
 believes in *him*
 should not perish
 but have *eternal life.*

John 3:16



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:

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Preschool News

Happy Easter! We are jumping into Spring with a busy April ! This month we will study Letters U,V,W and X and exploring the themes of Unicorns, Vegetables, Whales and X Marks the Spot! We are winding down our school year with Graduation Pictures, Registration for the next school year and final assessments. Hopefully the weather will cooperate to where we can enjoy more outdoor time.

Registration for 2021-2022 begins April 19 for current preschool families and Church members. Registration will be open to the public starting Thursday, April 22, from 4:30-5:30pm.

Paperwork can be picked up that week and returned to the preschool. There is a fee of \$50 that holds your child's spot. Call 283-9845 if you have any questions regarding our next school year!

Miss Cindy

PRESCHOOL



Registration

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



OCC RECIPIENTS WILL BE TRULY BLESSED (Our Caring Continues)

Deb Durbin - A special thank you to Deb for making sleeping bags for 18 dolls for 2 - 4 year old girls. Truly a special “wow” gift for the little girls who will be receiving them!! Thank you Deb for the many ways that you help with OCC!
Deb’s mother, **Lola Gehle** made 2 quilts for dolls for the 2-4 year old girls. I can see the little girls using them for themselves to cuddle up with. Thank you, Mrs. Gehle!

Pam Yates - Friend of Deb Durbin made all of the soap pouches this year for the girls. They certainly bring a colorful touch to the extra shoeboxes. Thanks, Pam!

Kim Warner - Kim went on vacation and came back with 2 large bags of items she made for our shoeboxes! Look at the beautiful creations by Kim - slippers, prayer squares, coin purses, market bags, headbands, pencil pouches, hats, hacky sacks, and purses! These items are sure to bring smiles to the girls receiving them. Thanks Kim for using your “driving” time to bless others with your handmade items.

Sherry Schneider - Sherry has been busy in the OCC room preparing more items to get ready for packing! Boxes have been put together and pumps have been put with soccer balls so they are ready to pack! Thanks Sherry for all the prep work that will streamline packing.

As I’ve stated before, it takes all of us working together to make this outreach ministry a success! I am truly blessed to be serving alongside each of you as we take the Good news and Great Joy of Jesus to the children around the world who are waiting for a Savior and friend.



Youth Ministry Update

Wednesday Night Youth Groups: Approximately 75 children and youth are attending our Wednesday night youth groups. February highlights included bowling nights for all four groups. What a blast! Thanks to Vandalia Bowl for hosting us, pizza and drinks! Youth will be helping to stuff Easter eggs and hide them on Palm Sunday. Special thanks to the many adults who lead this ministry.

Children’s Ministry Update



Kingdom Kids is going great on Sunday mornings. Amanda Milam, our director of young children’s ministries, takes the children upstairs during children’s time, then brings them back downstairs where they enjoy a snack and Bible lesson. All kids are welcome to attend. They meet downstairs in the lower level of the building.



Vacation Bible School is set for Saturday, June 12, from 9:00a-12:00p, at the Family Center. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Casey Kistler. Volunteer areas needed include:
Games/Recreation leader, Bible story/video leader, Crafts leader, Group leaders (walking kids to each station), and check-in/registration assistance.
Pre-registration will be required this year. Be on the lookout for forms to be posted online and available for pickup at the Church. All children ages pre-k thru 6th grade are invited to attend!

N.O.W. Committee



The N.O.W. Committee distributed 40 Spring Love Baskets on March 27.

Recipients are sincerely grateful for the baskets. A big thank you to the committee for their time spent shopping, assembling, and distributing these baskets. Also, thanks to Ann Schwarm for donating the wooden crosses for the baskets.

Lending Library

This is located where the Blessing Box used to be. Christian books and material are available. Take one, leave one. Generously donated by Ann Schwarm.



College Care packages will once again be sent to our college students within the next month. If you wish to donate any items (gift cards, pencils, pens, notepads, etc.) there is a tote across from the church office that you may drop off items. Please contact the church office if you have a student you would like added to the list. Packages will be delivered in time for students to enjoy while studying for finals.

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

One of my favorite children's lessons is "empty or full". I typically bring a variety of containers (cookie jar, candy jar, piggy bank) and ask "is this better if it is empty or full?" The kids always answer "full". They are right, a full cookie jar is usually better than an empty one, unless our stomachs are full of cookies!

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthian church about the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Apparently, some Corinthians did not believe Jesus was resurrected. Perhaps the burial tomb of Joseph (where Jesus' broken body had been taken after the crucifixion) had a hidden compartment, or his body had been moved to another tomb?

Here is a portion of Paul's response (1 Corinthians 15 The Berean Bible (www.Berean.Bible) Berean Study Bible (BSB) © 2016, 2020)

"But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is worthless, and so is your faith. In that case, we are also exposed as false witnesses about God. For we have testified about God that He raised Christ from the dead, but He did not raise Him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If our hope in Christ is for this life alone, we are to be pitied more than all human beings."

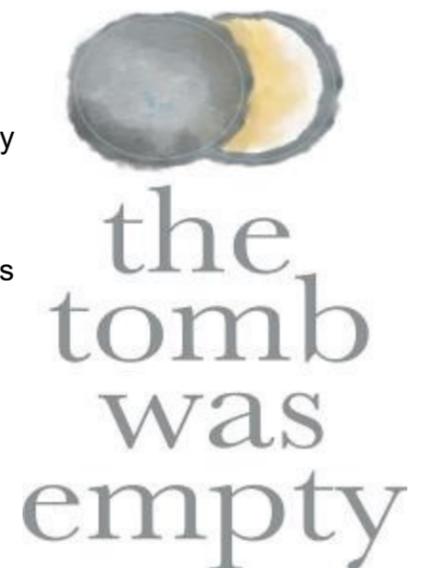
What Paul is arguing is that unless the Easter tomb was emptied because Jesus was resurrected or our faith itself is empty. What purpose is there to having faith unless we believe that God can bring the dead back to life? The empty tomb is the key to our full promise.

I have officiated at perhaps 500 funerals over the course of my ministry. At every single funeral I have recited the promise of Jesus (John 14), "in my Father's house..." This promise is that Jesus is now resurrected and so he can come for us at death and bring us into resurrection as well. I believe this to be true for myself as well. I hope you do also.

Our faith is that God can do what God promised to do. God has already saved His only Son from death (Easter). The tomb was empty because a promise was fulfilled. God will, one day, redeem this promise for us as well.

I guess you could say this is the one case where empty (the tomb) is better than full!

Have a blessed Easter!



Thanks to Andy Sidwell for sharing this devotion:

Giving Thanks for Today's Opportunities

When we were baptized, we were buried with Christ and shared his death. So, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the wonderful power of the Father, we also can live a new life.
(Romans 6:4, NCV)

Each morning offers a fresh opportunity to invite Christ, yet once again, to rule over our hearts and our days. Each morning provides another opportunity to sow seeds of hope among our family and friends. Each morning presents yet another chance to take up His cross and follow in His foot-steps.

God's Word is clear: When we genuinely invite Him to reign over our hearts, and when we accept His transforming love, we are forever changed. When we welcome Christ into our hearts, an old life ends and a new way of living—along with a completely new way of viewing the world—begins. Today, let us rejoice in the new life that is ours through Christ, and let us follow Him, step by step, on the path that He first walked.

<p>Nursing Home Residents & Shut-ins: <u>Brookstone</u> (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)</p> <p><u>FCH/Long Term Care</u> (650 West Taylor) Audrey Fink (Rm. 408) Marian Miller (Rm. 507)</p>	<p><u>Dolan Memory Care Homes</u> (Dublin—11330 Dolan Way, St. Louis, MO 63146) Phyllis Rames</p> <p><u>Willowbrook</u> (1124 Sunset Dr., Vandalia) Deb Endres Larry & Sandy Peyton Norman Rhoades</p> <p><u>Shut-Ins:</u> Mike Beckett, 2625 W. Jefferson St., Vandalia</p>
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We Need The Following:

Cookies

Sweet Treats

<p>Diane Adams (recovering from a fall; broken pelvis; FCH) Patti Bohner (Diane Adams' daughter, mobility issues) Dan Brantley (back issues; home) Kelly Clark (prayers for healing) 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)</p>	<p>Carson LaDage (Sharon and Bill's grandson; brain stem tumor remains stable, as he remains in a clinical trial at St. Jude) Wanda McCollum (recovering from surgery) 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)</p>
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You may drop off your items in the tote located in the Fireplace Room. Thank you!

Thank you!!

A big thank you to Pastor Tom and Sherry for hosting the children's Easter Egg hunt at the parsonage this year. Everyone had a great time!!

