

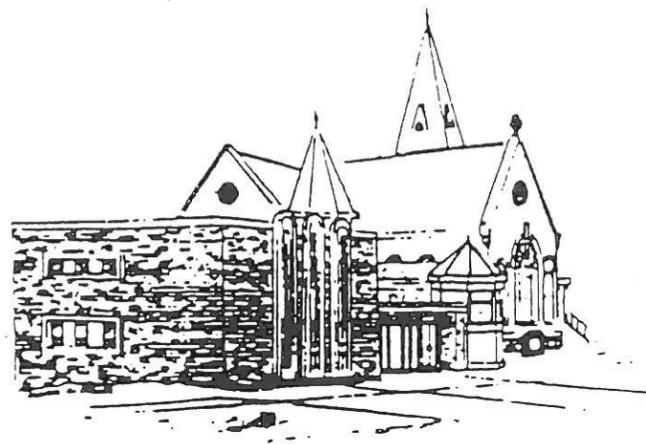
First United Methodist Church
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 Vandalia, IL 62471

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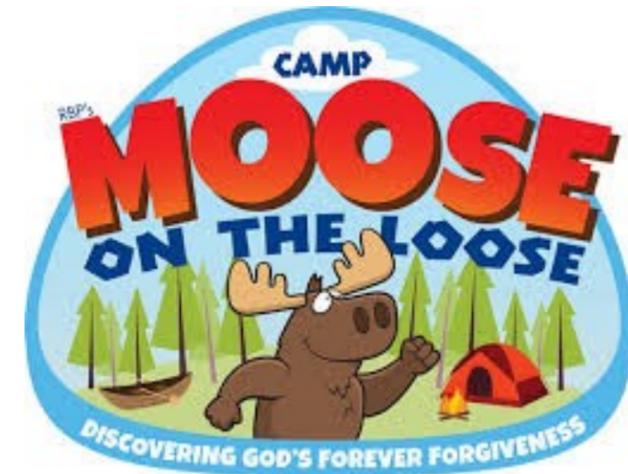
Preschool Graduates Eleven



First United Methodist Preschool graduated eleven students in front of a packed room during its graduation ceremony on Thursday, May 17, in Wesley Hall. The children sang several songs before sharing about their favorite aspects of Preschool. Students left the ceremony with a diploma, class photo, bag of cotton candy, and years of memories of their introduction to their formal education.

Vacation Bible School 2018

The Theme for this year's Vacation Bible School will be "Camp Moose on the Loose." Scheduled for **June 18—22**, from 8:45a to 11:00a, all children, age 3 through grade 6 are welcome to attend. Leading this year's VBS are Lisa Burnam, Brandi Gathe, and Amanda Milam.



Church Staff

Pastor: Terry Westerfield: tlwpastor@outlook.com
 Administrative Assistant: Casey Kistler (*on maternity leave*)
 Secretary: Linda Dugan
 Director of Music: Melody Freeman
 Accompanist: Blanche Dugan
 Childcare Providers: Jordyn Rademacher, Amanda Milam, & Caitlyn Campbell
 Custodian: Cindy Koonce
 Custodian: Andy Sidwell

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Contact us

M—F: 8a—12p
 Phone: 618-283-3684
 Email: vandaliafumc@outlook.com
 Website: www.vandaliafirstumc.org

Brookstone Estates (1607 W. Fillmore)
Carlos Biellier (Apt. 2); Margaret Carroll (Apt. 10); Iris Rademacher (Apt. 36); Frank Roeder (Apt. 25)

Sweetbriar Retirement Home (410 Sunset Dr.)
Kent Merry (Room 20)

Willowbrook Memory Care (1124 N. Sunset Dr.)
Joan Clayton, Rick Cox

Prayer Concerns

Virginia “Ginny” Anderson Family

Joel Blakley (16-year-old; surgery scheduled for June 7 to remove a brain tumor)

Joann Boggs (Andy Sidwell’s boss; health concerns)

Alydia Brylowski (friend of Dean & Elloise Black; leukemia)

Nathaniel “Buddy” Carroll (brain cancer)

Roger Clark (bladder cancer with complications)

Sara Clark (recuperating from surgery for an intestinal blockage; Mercy Hospital, St. Louis)

Betty Cothorn Family (Robin Kistler’s mother)

Rick Cox (middle stages of Alzheimer’s Disease; at Willowbrook in Vandalia)

Mason Currier (6 year old grandson of Roger & Peg Clark; cancer treatments)

Gary Doolen (chemotherapy for cancer that has returned)

Margie Dowell (Amanda Milam’s grandmother; recuperating from breast cancer surgery)

Billy Durbin (Karel Black’s father; heart surgery)

Janet Eckhardt-Cox (Tony’s mother; cancer)

Lora Foutch (heart ablation scheduled for July 5)

Gene Ireland (Kara Dugan’s uncle; cancer)

Liz Keller (Bob & Mary Burnside’s daughter; chemotherapy for lung cancer)

Sherry Kirby (Kara Dugan’s aunt; broken hip)

Carson LaDage (Bill & Sharon’s grandson; brain stem

Thank You

Thank you so much to our church family for the wonderful meals, gifts, cards, and well wishes welcoming our new baby girl, Carlee Ruth. Everyone is doing great! Blessings to you all!

*Bryce, Casey
Brylee & Carlee*

Thank you so much for the box of goodies! I really appreciate it during finals week. I am very thankful for our church and everyone’s generosity!

Nicole Craycroft

I will never forget your kindness. Thanks for the goodies!!

Sydney Rosborough

Fayette County Hospital—Long Term Care

(650 West Taylor)
Brad Elmore, Marian Miller, Priscilla Roeder, Eva Durbin, Bob Clark

Shut-ins

Mike Beckett, 2625 W. Jefferson St, Vandalia

tumor & cysts)
Katie Langham (27 year old friend of Kathryn Taylor; cancer)

Greg Lay Family

R.C. Litz (Lora Foutch’s extended family; 36 year old with inoperable, rare cancer)

Wanda McCollum (chemotherapy for cancer)

Dorothy Mefford (cancer)

Sue Miller (radiation for breast cancer)

Roy Nichels (friend of Dannie Donaldson; cancer)

Norman Rhoades (Kathryn Taylor’s father; Alzheimer’s)

Daron Rigdon (Lora Foutch’s son; multiple health concerns)

Kent Rincker (Peg Clark’s brother; treatment for several kinds of cancer)

Nicholas Rosborough (recuperating from surgery to repair meniscus and reconstruct ACL)

Gene & Ann Schwarm (tornado destroyed home)

Judy Seaton Family (Joyce Staff’s sister)

Hannah Shroyer (2 year old granddaughter of Randy & Janet Shroyer, chemo for stage 4 neuroblastoma)

Janet Shroyer (breast cancer)

Danny Small (cancer)

Joni Springman (health concerns)

Donna Taylor (broken arm from a fall)

Jaime Warren (breast cancer survivor)

Randy Wolf (friend of Gene & Ann Schwarm; completed chemotherapy for cancer)

Your kindness is a wonderful blessings. *Thank you for the flower, how thoughtful!*

*God bless,
Harold & Judy B.*

You’re the best! *Thank you for the flower! It was a lovely surprise to come home and find it on my porch.*

It must be a lot of work to prepare, label, and deliver these every year, and your thoughtfulness is much appreciated.

*Sincerely,
Cheryl Gale*

We would like to thank our church family for sending us wonderful care packages filled with many great items. We appreciate your support and thoughtfulness while we are away at college.

*Thanks again,
Taylor Well, Richie Well, and Kelly Jones*

From the Pastor’s Study: Why Pray?

What’s the necessity of prayer if God already knows our needs? That question has popped up a couple of times in my study groups. It makes a valid point. Do we need to bother God with our requests if he already knows our plight? We were discussing the healing of the leper in Matthew 8, and someone asked why God didn’t heal all of the lepers when the one came to Jesus for healing. My quick response was because only the one leper asked. There was faith prior to the leper asking for help, and it grew following his healing.

The world is full of hurting people, and God seems to allow them to continue hurting. If he is aware of their plight, why doesn’t God just heal/fix/restore all of them? If that were to happen without any kind of interaction with God, then faith would be meaningless. When Jesus healed the physical, he also involved the spiritual. He would tell the recipient that his/her faith had brought about healing or he would announce that the recipient’s sins were forgiven or he would direct him/her to a more righteous way of living.

If God were to just fix everything, then what would Christians have to do? Isn’t our calling, as disciples of Jesus, to do as he did and go out into the world to alleviate the sufferings of others? I suspect that our time on earth is a training ground for the way it will be in heaven. The pain we endure strengthens our faith in a God who will act within his time. If all suffering would be alleviated, then for what would we hope?

Not all prayers get answered the way we desire. Sometimes, the healing is more spiritual than physical. It is just as miraculous when we are able to accept the circumstances in which we live and use it for ministry to others than if got exactly what we requested. And, of course, how often do we pray for things that would actually harm us if we received them?

God wants to be asked. It demonstrates our dependence on him when we do ask. It’s a compliment to God when we recognize that we cannot make it through life without him. How much easier our lives would be if we would just go to God in the first place instead of trying to make it through life on our own.

One of the most important things that we can do as Christians is to pray for one another. There are times when each of us gets exhausted to the point that we can’t even muster up a prayer. That is when we need the prayers of our church family to lift us up, to initiate healing, or get us back on track.

A praying congregation is a vital congregation. A vital congregation is a praying congregation. Being the people of God and praying are interdependent: one feeds the other. One cannot exist without the other.

Please pray for one another without ceasing. Please pray for me as your pastor; I can tell when you are.

In blessed hope,
Terry

ments have been made concerning underperforming stocks.

Preschool Board

Bill LaDage sent a report that highlighted four recent Preschool activities: 1) Cindy Laramie and Abby Bayles attended an "Active Shooter Threat" workshop in Effingham; 2) Jeff Ray, the chief of police, took a tour of the Preschool to make suggestions for strengthening security; 3) recent Preschool registration at the April 26 open house showed an increase in interest; and 4) the Preschool graduated eleven boys and girls at a ceremony held on May 17. The next Board meeting will be on June 21.

Lay Leader

Gene Schwarm highlighted the Nurture Committee's plan to minister to shut-ins.

Staff Parish Relations Committee

Eric Miller said their was nothing to report.

Board of Trustees

The was an insufficient number of Trustees present to have a quorum at the meeting scheduled for May 10. It has been rescheduled for June 5.

Columbarium

Mike Baker said that fourteen of the thirty-two niches in the Columbarium have been sold. Linda Merry's remains were the first to be inurned there.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Terry Westerfield raised a question about the necessity of reconciling the Financial Secretary's information to the Treasurer's Report. He noted that the data base system the church uses offers a link to Quick Books that might make the weekly posting of offerings unnecessary.

He also noted that Annual Conference will be June 7-9 at the Peoria Civic Center.

The church will host the Janet Eckhardt Cox funeral on Friday, May 24, with two visiting clergy persons officiating.

Being there was no unfinished business nor new business, the Council was adjourned at 7:37p.

The next meeting will be June 26, 2018, 7:00p.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Westerfield

Thank You!

~A letter to our church family from Gene & Ann~

As you all know, on April 3, 2018, at approximately 4:25 pm an EF2 tornado with wind speeds estimated at 125 miles per hour changed our lives. It damaged our home, destroyed our garage and barn and "totaled" our cars, truck, ranger and stock trailer. After the wind came the flood. . . of people, that is. In our hours of need immediately following the tornado and for days and weeks following, you—our friends, our church family—joined with us in our efforts to recover, restore and rebuild.

We estimate that between 40 and 50 people—mostly Methodists—arrived at our home within the hour following the tornado and worked for hours to help us secure the house and remove and protect its contents. We know you were there to support us and show us your love and concern in one of the most significant moments of our lives. For these acts of kindness, that night, we are profoundly grateful. But it didn't stop there, for days you dear people showed up to assist with the many tasks, large and small, to help us move forward. You moved debris, packed dishes, photos, art, books, clothes, furniture and more. You toted and carried until you were no doubt exhausted. You brought meals along with encouragement. And. . . you prayed. We remained calm and in the palm of our Lord because you prayed for us. When we found it difficult to think a coherent thought, you carried our burden to the Lord in prayer. You wrapped us in a prayer shawl and you wrapped us in your love. We are overwhelmed with gratitude.

Neighbors, friends, passers-by and the friends of friend and you—our church family—arrived and pitched in. We say **Thank You!** You helped turn one of the most difficult situations we have ever faced into one of the most profound blessings we have ever experienced! Words seem so inadequate at times like these because it wasn't just words you shared, it was your time, physical efforts, prayers, talents—love put into actions.

Someday we hope to be able to "pay it forward" as members of the First United Methodist Church's Early Response Team and as the type of friends and neighbors you have shown us how to be. Until then, we say **Thank You!** to you!

Gene & Ann Schwarm

Ignite

Hi all,

We just wrapped another season of Ignite youth group. We had a great year, with lots of new kids introduced to word of Jesus Christ. Over the year we covered a lot, but in summary, how Jesus wants us to act towards and treat others. We applied the teachings of the Bible to our everyday lives and dealings with others.

We need the congregation to pray for our group as they go into the summer.

We pray they remember what they've learned and apply it to their interactions with others so that others may come to know the Lord through them. We pray the kids come back next year, all bring a friend, and we continue to touch as many lives as possible through this ministry.

Thank you for the support, we truly appreciate our church family.

Blessings,
Mark and Lisa Burnam

EPIC

Thank you to Alexa Campbell for helping me lead the EPIC Youth Group this last year. As we look forward to the fall, we are seeking new leaders for the group. Please be in prayer that leaders will come forward to be spiritual guides for our seventh and eighth graders. Suggestions or volunteers need to contact Brian and Beth Kern, co-chairpersons of the Youth Ministry Team.

Terry Westerfield

IMPACT

June wraps up our third year as youth leaders and our first year leading the senior high group. We have had approximately 22 senior high youth attend every Wednesday night throughout the entire year. We can't thank the church and the youth ministry committee enough for always supporting us. On Wednesday nights, these kids have the choice to stay home, cruise around with friends, go to a movie. . . whatever it may be...but, they choose to come to church and hang out with us every Wed night. When we ask them what makes them come every week, they tell us it is because they WANT to grow closer to God and deepen their relationship with him. Could you have answered this question with the same answer at their age? If leaders are not present to lead them on Wednesday nights, there would be no place for them to go. We bring this up because there is a huge hole that needs to be filled in our junior high youth group next year. We have kids that come faithfully every Wednesday night, and have for several years. If you feel like God is calling you to step out in faith (maybe, even out of your comfort zone) to be a leader, mentor, friend to these kids, please don't ignore it. Listen. Listen, and take that next step. These kids NEED you. Our church needs you. We will be there to help you. Being a leader to these kids will bless you in more ways than you can even imagine. We stepped out in faith three years ago and have been blessed time and time again by these kids. They are the future of the church. Please continue to pray for them.

To our IMPACT youth, and those that will be joining our group next year — We pray that you all have a fun and safe summer. We look forward to seeing you all again this fall!

SAVE THE DATE: We will be hosting a scavenger hunt (back by popular demand) on Sept 16 at the youth kickoff party! So mark your calendars! The big question is. . . will the same group win again after winning two years in a row? Only time will tell. To be continued. . .

John Kaiser, Tina Kaiser, Patrick Myers, Katie Myers

IMPACT June dates: June 1-3, IMPACT trip to Sandusky, Ohio

Summer Teachers

After nine months of commitment, our children's Sunday School teachers deserve a summer off. We are scheduling teachers for the summer from June 3 to September 2. If you would like to teach for a couple of weeks, using the "One-Room Sunday School" material, contact Children's Ministry Committee Chairperson, Barb McCart. Two teachers per Sunday are needed.

Graduate Sunday is June 10

Eighth Grade: Carter Burnam & Ryan Kaiser

High School: Eryn Barker, Garrett McNary, & Katie Tarkington

College: Lauren Dugan & Taylor Well

Summer Camp

Are you attending Camp this year? Registrations need to be made to assure placement in the camp of your choice. Scholarships are available for all IGRC camps. **Five** youth have submitted registration forms.

Outreach Opportunities

Golden Cross Offering

The Mother's Day offering goes to the Golden Cross Ministries located within the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. They are: Evenglow Lodge, Sunset Home, United Methodist Village, Wesley Village, Alton Memorial Hospital Pastoral Care, Unity Point Methodist Hospital Pastoral Care, Chaddock, Lesie Bates Davis Neighborhood House, The Baby Fold, and Spero Family Services. The offering has totaled \$1,545.00 to-date.

Lighthouse Pregnancy Center

Baby Bottles are available in the Narthex for the collection of change, from Mother's Day to Father's Day, for the Lighthouse Pregnancy Center. LHPS offers guidance for women to make choices. They offer confidential, non-judgmental services to men and women. LPHS provides free pregnancy tests, limited ultrasounds, professional counseling, parenting classes, reproductive loss counseling, and more.

Father's Day Ministry

The Vandalia Correctional Center is in need of good, used (or new) men's clothing. When the residents leave the Vandalia Correctional Center, it is helpful to own a set of street clothes for returning home or applying for a job. The Outreach Committee is designating Father's

Day, June 17, 2018, as a date to bring men's clothing to the church for this ministry. It may be placed on the hanging racks in the Fire Place Room, and the committee will deliver it to the Correctional Center. Thank you for helping meet this need.

Backpack 2 School Scheduled

The annual party that includes the giving of backpacks to in-need families is scheduled for 4:00p to 6:00p, Wednesday, August 8 in the Family Center.

Our Caring Continues

Operation Christmas Child exists because of the many people who are dedicated to spreading His word to the hurting children around the world through the means of a simple shoebox. It takes everyone working together for this ministry to be a **SUCCESS! YOU ARE APPRECIATED!**

Anonymous Donor - Thank you for donating fabric for the extra shoeboxes. Peg made adorable totes out of the bright colorful fabric that you donated!

Peg Clark - Peg continues to stay busy making things for OCC even though her schedule has been rather hectic this year. So far Peg has made a total of 102 items for our extra boxes-sock monkeys, purse, totes, and pencil pouches. Thanks Peg for your passion for Operation Christmas Child.

Dennette Guyer - Denette has made some pencil pouches and purses for the extra boxes. You are appreciated!

Members - Thank you to people who donated used ink cartridges, so school supplies can be purchased with money received from the ink cartridges.

Andy Sidwell - Andy is always on the lookout for items for Operation Christmas Child. This month he found plastic bins for us to use for storing items. Thanks, Andy for all of your hard work!

Jill Zimmer



Shoes are considered a luxury in many countries, so people make their own with whatever they can find in the dump. Consider buying an extra pair of flip flops for your OCC shoe box when you purchase your own this sum-

mer.

Flip flops are great to add to every shoebox. Please don't fret about the size. Pick out a size close to what would fit the age of the child who will be receiving your shoebox and God will see to it that they fit someone. Children are so excited to receive gifts that if they don't fit the person receiving your gift they gladly share with others.

Visit with Tim & Jamie Edwards

Tim and Jamie Edwards, missionaries in Vietnam and Thailand, will be in the United States for a few months this summer. They, along with their five children, will be in Vandalia the first part of July. Due to some commitments for new partnerships and speaking in those churches, they will not be able to be at our church on a Sunday. However, they will be at the home of Pat and Dan Laack on the evening of July 9. If you would like to visit with them and hear about their work, let Joyce Staff know and she can direct you to the Laacks.

Choir News

On June 10 Dennette Guyer and Jody Burnam will each be singing a solo, and Alexa Campbell will be playing a trumpet solo. On June 17 Ed Taylor will be playing the guitar, and B.J. And Sharon Mueller will be singing a duet. On June 24, along with Ed Taylor and Mark Miller II, we will be having two special guests.

Attention Shoppers

If you use one of the church's credit cards or if you charge a purchase from a business to a church account, you must turn in your receipts to the office or you will no longer be able to charge. We need the receipts to make certain that purchases are valid and to know from which account the expenditure is to be applied.

Church Council Minutes

May 22, 2018

Present: Joe Cearlock, Joyce Staff, Mike Baker, J.D. Vieregge, John Burnam, Gene Schwarm, Eric Miller, and Terry Westerfield.

Absent: Casey Kistler (on maternity leave), Amy Vieregge, Pam Baker, Calista Eyman, Bill LaDage, Al Schumacher, Susann Schumacher, Sydney Rosborough, Nicholas Rosborough, Patrick Myers,

Alexa Campbell, and Darrel Casey.

Chairperson Joe Cearlock called the meeting to order at 7:00p and Pastor Terry offered a prayer. J.D. Vieregge presented a devotion about forgiveness.

Minutes & Financial Statements

With no additions or corrections, the minutes from the April meeting were accepted as posted on the website.

Joe reviewed the financial statements for the month of May.

Outreach

Joyce Staff reported that letters to businesses for the Backpack 2 School event have been mailed. A grant of \$250.00 from Thrivent was received for the event.

The Blessing Box is in the process of being built.

Baby Bottles for the collection of change for Lighthouse Pregnancy Center are available. They should be returned by Father's Day.

The Father's Day Offering will be the collection of good, used clothing for Vandalia Correctional Center inmates to wear upon being release from the facility.

The Outreach Committee responded to a request from the Summer Lunch Program organizers by giving them \$500.

Tim Edwards and family will be back home during the summer. They will have a meet and greet at Dan Laack's home on July 9, and the FUMCV congregation is invited to attend.

Joyce will be scheduling another work day at the Midwest Mission Distribution Center.

Nurture Committee

Calista reported via text that the Committee will be organizing an "adopt a shut-in" ministry. Plans should be finalized at their June meeting.

College Care packages were mailed in April.

Finance Committee

John Burnam reported that members of the Finance Committee met with Jay Jolliff at First National Bank review the church's endowment funds. Some adjust-