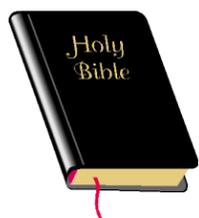




First United Methodist Church
127 N 4th St
Vandalia, IL 62471

What if we began to treat our Bibles the way we treat our cell phones?



What if we...

...carried it everywhere with us?

...turn back to get it if we forgot it?

...checked it for messages throughout the day?

...used it in case of emergencies?

...spend an hour or more using it each day?

What would our lives look like?



May 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.

OUR GRADUATES

Graduation Sunday is Sunday, June 2. On this day we will recognize our eighth grade, high school, and college graduates. There will be a small reception in Wesley Hall following worship. Please submit names of graduates to the church office by Sunday, May 19.

Our church has had a commitment with Meals on Wheels for forty-five years. We are in need of volunteers to deliver once every four weeks, which takes about one hour. The schedule is very flexible. If you're interested in volunteering for this important outreach, please contact Gwen Johnston at 618-283-4217 or 618-267-4217.

Church Staff

Pastor: Terry Westerfield: tlwpastor@outlook.com
 Administrative Assistant: Casey Kistler: vandaliafumc@outlook.com
 Secretary: Sue Miller (Tues. & Fri.)
 Director of Music: Steph Kilzer
 Childcare Providers: Jordyn Rademacher, Amanda Milam
 Custodian: Cindy Koonce
 Assistant Custodian: Andy Sidwell

Contact us

M-W-TR: 8:00a—4:00p
 T-F: 8:00a-12:00p
 Phone: 618-283-3684
 Email: vandaliafumc@outlook.com
 Website: www.vandaliafirstumc.org

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Nursing Home Residents:

Brookstone (1607 W. Fillmore)
 Don & Diane Adams (Apt. 15); Carlos Biellier (Apt. 2); Margaret Carroll (Apt. 10); Wendell & Arlene Hoffman (Apt.4); Iris Rademacher (Apt. 36); Frank Roeder (Apt. 25)

Willowbrook Residences

(1124 N. Sunset Dr.)
 Rick Cox

Sweet Briar (410 Sunset Dr.)
 Kent Merry (Room 18)
 Wayne Hale (Room 10)

FCH/Long Term Care (650 West Taylor)
 Marian Miller, Priscilla Roeder, Eva Durbin,
 Bob Clark

Shut-Ins:

Mike Beckett, 2625 W. Jefferson St, Vandalia
 Phyllis Rames, 620 N. 7th St, Vandalia



Patti Bohner (Don & Diane Adams' daughter; Mobility issues)
Roy Buchanan (Mike & Pam Baker's daughter-in-law's father; stage 4 inoperable brain tumor)
Jan Carroll (Candy's daughter; neck surgery on May 3)
Roger Clark (bladder cancer with complications)
Carolyn Cooper (treatable lung disease; Hillsboro Area Hospital)
Amanda Cowan (Darrel & Susan Casey's niece; difficult pregnancy)
Rick Cox (hospice care; Willowbrook in Vandalia)
Mason Currier (6 year old grandson of Roger & Peg Clark; cancer treatments)
Gary Doolen (chemotherapy for cancer)
Wendell Dugan (recuperating from surgery to treat infected, new hip)
Mason Feltner (Kelly Clark's 9 year old nephew; chemotherapy for A.L.L. leukemia)
Kent Jones (Peg Clark's brother-in-law; heart problems)
Brian Kelly (son of Paulette Kelly, friend of Kim Warner; brain cancer)
Louise Kruenegel (several health concerns; St. John's Hospital)
Carson LaDage (Bill & Sharon's grandson; brain stem tumor & cysts)
Katie Langham (friend of Kathryn Taylor; cancer)

Wanda McCollum (chemotherapy for cancer; home)
Kent Merry (congestive heart failure)
Dana Myers (Patrick's mother; breast cancer)
Roy Nichols (friend of Dannie Donaldson; cancer)
Bob Osborne (friend of Candy Carroll; cancer)
Ginny Peckenpaugh (friend of Carole White; ALS)
Norman Rhoades (Kathryn Taylor's father; Parkinson's Disease)
Dorine Rincker (Peg Clark's mother; comfort care)
Kent Rincker (Peg Clark's brother; chemotherapy for cancer)
Kurt Rincker (Peg Clark's brother; diagnosed with cancer; treatments begin soon)
Ericka Sanders (co-worker of Jaime Warren; stage 3 breast cancer)
Lana Sefton (Kara Dugan's mother; chemotherapy stopped because of complications; breast cancer)
Claudia Shilakis (Barb LeFevre's sister-in-law; recuperating from surgery for cancer in salivary glands)
Janet Smith (surgery for a broken foot)
Opal Rose Trimble (5-month-old granddaughter of Joy Lawson; polio-type illness; continues to show improvement)
Pam Wishum (Evyn Barker's grandmother; broken hip)

From the Pastor's Study: What Kind of Tree Would You Be?

It was Kathryn Hepburn when faced with the question, If you were a tree, what kind of tree would you be? who responded that she would be, I believe, an oak tree. If you were a tree, what kind of tree would you be? I set out to ask a half dozen or so people that question. One, trying to decide whether she would be an evergreen or an oak, settled on being an evergreen tree. "Evergreen trees look alive all year round," she stated, "In the winter they give shelter to all the little animals. Evergreen trees add beauty to the world when everything else looks dead, all brown and without color. It seems that there are signs of life with an evergreen tree, no matter what time of year it is." Another person said she would probably be a peach tree. "Peach trees produce delicious fruit, and squirrels are all over it, trying to eat. I like peach trees. I like it when they bloom all over." A third person stated she would be a cottonwood tree since "the seeds are all over." She thought she would be where she needs to be and know what those she cared about were doing all the time. Another person said she would be a weeping cherry tree, that when it blooms, makes the world look like a fairyland. Someone from one of my churches struggled with the question out loud: Steady - I wouldn't want to lose my leaves. Stubborn - what kind of tree is stubborn? I would like to be beautiful - a tree that would blossom, or just be. And everyone would like to be a tree that lives a long time. Then it suddenly came to her and she concluded with a shout - an apple tree! Apple trees give back something to the earth and humanity.

If you were a tree, what kind of tree would you be? And what would your purpose on earth be?

Betty Eadie in writing about her vision of heaven during a clinical death experience, tells about a garden that she explored. As she approached the river that wound through the garden, she noticed a rose near her that seemed to stand out from the other flowers. The rose swayed gently to faint music, and singing praises to the Lord with sweet tones of its own. Betty realized that she could actually see it growing. As it developed before her eyes, her spirit was moved, and she wanted to experience its life, to step into it, and feel its spirit. As this thought came to her, she seemed to be able to see down into it. It was as though her vision had become microscopic and allowed her to penetrate the rose's deepest parts. Betty felt the rose's presence around her, as if she were the flower. She tells that she felt the rose swaying to the music of all the other flowers, and she felt it creating its own music, a melody that perfectly harmonized with the thousands of other roses joining it. "I understood that the music in my flower came from its individual parts," writes Betty, "That its petals produced their own tones, and that each intelligence within that petal was adding to its perfect notes, each working harmoniously for the overall effect - which was joy. My joy was absolutely full again! I felt God in the plant, in me, his love pouring into us. We were all one!

From Betty's description it seems that each heavenly work of creation lives to praise God and bring joy into that world. As God created and cares for each part of creation, the flower or tree or heavenly being responds by living in honor of its creator. Being creatures of God mean that we carry a part of the master designer's being within us. Just as the flowers of heaven honor God in this way, we earthly creatures are to live accordingly. Every product of God's creative hands is meant to live in celebration of God, simply because we are. As trees provide food and shelter and beauty to our world, first and foremost, they are meant to praise God. Each flower that blooms in your garden is, first of all, meant to praise God. Every bird that glides through the air, every creature that swims in the sea, and every critter that walks upon the earth is primarily created to praise God.

That principle should pervade our very being, touching everything we say or do, and become a part of who we are. In the midst of the adversity that we often face, it is difficult to always praise God for the blessings he gives, not because God has abandoned us, but because hardship takes our focus off of God. However, the day of the Lord is at hand, even breaking into our lives at this very moment. We anticipate the day when a great reversal will come, and the hardships and adversity we face turn into abundant blessings and peace. Jesus came to bring about that new salvation and to tell us that the day of the Lord is at hand, breaking into our world now.

If you were a tree, what kind of tree would you be? I would be an olive tree. The first time I visited Israel in 1994, the church of all nations had the most powerful effect on me. Set in the "Garden of Gethsemane," it is a calming place with a soft alabaster glow throughout. Posed against the white light of the entrance was the dark silhouette of an olive tree with its gnarled and twisted trunk and branches, having survived decades of hardship and distress. And yet the olive tree continues to bear fruit year after year, sometimes for centuries. The olive tree symbolized in the Church of All Nations spoke of the great agony that Christ experienced in the Garden of Gethsemane. It told of strength that comes from facing great obstacles. And it told that one can continue to serve in ways that praise God throughout all the season of one's life. If I were a tree, I would be an olive tree.

If you were a tree, what kind of tree would you be?

Blessings,
 Terry

Present: Zac Stombaugh, Bill LaDage, JD Vieregge, Amy Vieregge, Dean Black, Brandi Gathe, Clayton Gathe, Kim Warner, Sue Miller, Gene Schwarm, Patrick Myers, Terry Westerfield, and Casey Kistler. Absent: John Burnam, Alan Lurkins, Rich Well, Kim Well, Reid Well, Ryan Kaiser, Gene Schwarm, Alexa Campbell, Mike Baker, Pam Baker, and Darrel Casey.

Chairperson Zac Stombaugh called the meeting to order at 11:45a. Pastor Terry offered prayer. Bill LaDage shared a devotion. With no additions or corrections, the minutes from the March meeting were approved as posted on the church's website. Year-to-date financial statements were reviewed. The statements were accepted and will be filed as presented.

Nurture: Chairperson Brandi Gathe reported that EPIC will be helping with the children's Easter egg hunt next week. Palm crosses will be made this Wednesday evening in Wesley Hall. Twelve Disciples are needed for Maundy Thursday. There will be a community wide worship service held on Sunday, June 16, during the Bicentennial weekend. We will publicize more details on this as they become available.

Outreach: Chairperson Kim Warner stated there is a trip planned to Midwest Distribution Center on August 29. The committee is finalizing details on The Church Has Left the Building. They are looking for a family/individual in need to assist in cleaning up a yard, housework, repairs, etc. Backpack 2 School is set for August 7. Clean up kits are needed for flood victims.

Witness: Chairperson Sue Miller said the committee discussed projects for the year. They plan to host another concert this year, there will be sixty (60) one-minute spots on the radio station for Easter, food or drink coupons from McDonald's are to be handed out during the Halloween parade, possibly hot chocolate provided for the Christmas parade, and the teacher appreciation trays will be made at Christmas. There will not be a meeting in May.

Finance: No report.

United Methodist Men: United Methodist Men President Dean Black reported attendance was lower than normal at the sausage and pancake supper, but they still made a good profit. The United Methodist Men donated \$500.00 to CEFS to assist people in need. They are also volunteering at the 6.35 Food Pantry on the fifth Thursday of the month.

Preschool: Chairperson Bill LaDage stated the board has not met since the last Council meeting. Their next meeting is April 11.

Lay Leader: On May 5, Cunningham Children's Home representative, Ginger McKee, will be delivering the message. Voyagers will also be singing on this Sunday. Gene also encouraged council members to volunteer as liturgist.

Staff Parish Relations: No report.

Trustees: Chairperson Clayton Gathe stated they have returned to Thursday evening meetings. They met last week and discussed the parking lot at the garage being oiled and chipped. The painting and cleaning in sanctuary have been completed. They voted to purchase garage door openers for bus drivers during inclement weather. They tabled a bid received for video surveillance at the garage and playground. They approved the purchase of a new Trailer for the Early Response Team for up to \$2,500.00.

Early Response Team: JD Vieregge said they need a larger trailer for their equipment. The Trustees voted to approve the purchase of a trailer up to \$2500.00. ERT is to provide remaining funds. This committee will only meet a few times per year going forward.

Columbarium Committee: No report.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Terry reiterated the importance of Invitation Sunday. Our regular worship attendance has declined, and this is a great opportunity to reach out and invite new people to attend.

New Business: Committee goals have been set. We still need to set Council goals for the year. One item brought up at last month's meeting was communication. How do we improve communication to the congregation? Zac volunteered to lead the worship service on July 14 and present the Church Assessment video to the congregation.

Our May meeting is moved to May 19 due to Mother's Day falling on May 12.

With no further business to be brought before the Council, Zac adjourned the meeting at 12:30p.

The next meeting will be on May 19, 2019, at 11:45a in Wesley Hall.

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!

Prayer Shawl Members: It is amazing what Peg Clark, Dennette Guyer, and Kim Warner make in a months time! You would not believe all of the purses, totes, pencil cases, clothes, baby blankets, sock monkeys, and prayer cloths they have made! Each shoebox that we send has at least one item in it made by one of these women and most have two or three items. Making things is very time consuming and these women truly have a heart for others to continue doing this.

Andy Sidwell: Andy continues to bless the children with his gifts for OCC! This month Andy donated bookmarks, small dolls, and Beanie Babies. He's always on the lookout for a good item for the shoeboxes. Thanks, Andy!

Ink Cartridges: Members continue to bring in ink cartridges! Thank you for dropping off your empty ink cartridges! Free pencils and scissors are bought with the money received from the empty cartridges.



Are you wondering what to do with a man's shirt or woman's blouse that you no longer want? Donate it to OCC. These items can be turned into quality gifts for children who receive a shoebox.

Kim Warner has been busy making dresses from shirts! Her creations are beautiful and will be a blessing to others. She takes shirts that people no longer want and turns them into something still usable by someone else. What a neat idea!

If you have any shirts to donate, please put them in a bag and label it with OCC written on the outside. Place these items on the coat rack across from the church office. Thank you!

**He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord,
and he will reward him for what he has done.
Proverbs 19:17**



**Our Mother's Day offering this year will go to
Our Place.**

Voyagers News

Voyagers is wrapping up their year. The group plans to sing on Sunday, May 5. Please plan to attend morning worship this day to hear the children sing their favorite songs they've learned throughout the year! Kindergartners have joined our group this year, so we've had a great turnout on Wednesday nights. We celebrated April-August birthdays on April 24. Our last meeting for this school year will be Wednesday, May 15. As we look forward to the fall, we are open to suggestions on how we may increase our membership. We believe every youth should have the opportunity to hear and learn about Jesus.

Thanks for a great year!

Al & Susann Schumacher
Jeremie Rademacher
Jordyn Rademacher

Impact News

Spring is here and summer is right around the corner! The month of May wraps up another year of IMPACT. We have been blessed with 25 high schoolers every Wednesday night, with 9 of them graduating this month. We wish them all the very best and pray that God's hand will guide them in all that they set out to do. May they always feel God's love surrounding them.

Thank you to everyone who came out and supported our Interactive Prayer Vigil in April. We had over 50 people go through the room this year and we hope that each person who experienced it walked away with a stronger relationship with God.

Have a fun and safe summer!

John and Tina Kaiser
Patrick and Katie Myers



The Church office is closed Monday, May 27, in observance of Memorial Day.

Henderson Settlement Mission Trip

Nine people, youth and adults, have committed to spend July 28-August 3 helping make life a little better for the less fortunate in the Appalachian area of Kentucky. Our congregation will be providing funds to cover building materials. Not all participants will be able to pay the cost of room and board which is \$325 per person. Those not able to go on the trip may support it with their gifts and prayers, both are very much appreciated.



2019 Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars for this year's Vacation Bible School: June 10-14, from 8:30a-11:00a. VBS is open to everyone ages preschool through sixth grade. The theme this year is To Mars and Beyond: "Glory to God who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by His power at work within us" (Ephesians 3:20). Volunteers are needed to walk each group to their stations. Registration forms are available in the church office and on the Welcome Center. **Saturday, June 8, at noon, we will decorate the church.** This is open to anyone and everyone to come help us set up.



Please contact Casey Kistler if you'd like to volunteer!

The Church Has Left the Building

The Outreach Committee is looking for a "Fayette County" mission job to complete. This project can be as simple as cleaning someone's yard, to small building and repairs. Please contact Kim Warner if you have any suggestions.

The Outreach Committee will be going to Midwest Distribution Center on August 29. We will be leaving the church parking lot at 7:00a and returning at 5:00p. Please bring a sack lunch. There are a variety of jobs to perform, so don't feel as though you will be "lacking skills." There's something for everyone to do. Midwest Distribution can only accommodate 10 workers so please contact Kim Warner as soon as possible in order to complete the necessary paperwork.