



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



Mark your calendars! The annual United Methodist Men's Fish Fry is set for Thursday, November 8, from 4:30p to 7:00p in Wesley Hall. Proceeds from this event go directly to the United Methodist Men's Coats and Shoes program.



October Pews News

CONTACT US:

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 M-W-TR: 8a-4p
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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



STAFF CHANGES

The Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) received the resignation of Linda Dugan who has been our church's secretary for nearly four years. Linda's last day will be October 9, 2018, and the staff will celebrate her retirement with a lunch on October 3. Linda will be greatly missed, but we wish her well in her retirement.

Sue Miller has been hired for the position that Linda's retirement leaves open. Sue is retiring from the probation office at the Fayette County Courthouse at the end of October. She will begin her duties at the church on Tuesdays and Fridays, on November 2, working from 8:00a to 12:00p. We look forward to having Sue with us in the office.

The SPRC also received the resignation of Caitlyn Campbell as a Child Care Provider in the Nursery. We certainly appreciate the care Caitlyn has provided for the children over that last year and a half. The SPRC is looking to fill the vacancy in the Nursery from within our church family. Any individual, at least 15 years old, may apply. The starting wage is \$12.73/hr. Currently, duties are primarily during worship and Sunday School, but applicants need to be open to working during other times of the week (primarily evenings). Those interested may pick up an application in the church office. Applicants will also need to consent to a background check.

Church Staff

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



Ever wonder, “What can I do?”, when watching news about flooding, hurricanes, tornadoes, explosions, and other disasters? If so, become a part of an Early Response Team. The Early Response Team (ERT) is a cooperative effort between the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (VIM). The team is neither a first response group of emergency workers nor a recover, re-build, or repair team. Rather, it fills a specific need in the early days after a disaster to establish the presence of the church. Take advantage of a mini-academy right here in Kaskaskia River District!

Mini Academy at West Salem Trinity UMC, Oct. 12-13, 2018.

Deadline to register is Oct. 5, 2018.

A Mini Academy is held with a variety of trainings which may include ERT, Connecting Neighbors, Spiritual & Emotional Care Team, and Volunteer in Mission Team Leader. An explanation of these training's are as follows:

- ◇ **What is Connecting Neighbors:** This training inspires congregations and communities to minimize disaster-caused harm to people and property and to respond to neighbors in helpful, cooperative and caring ways on behalf of the church and in the spirit of Jesus Christ. Information from this training comes from the knowledge and experience gleaned over many years by dedicated volunteers who have served their neighbors on behalf of the church.
- ◇ **What is the Spiritual & Emotional Care Team:** Provides spiritual & emotional care following disasters. Working closely with the conference Disaster Response committee, care teams help survivors connect with their personal and community spiritual, emotional & basic life resources.
- ◇ **What is a Volunteer in Mission Team Leader:** The work of a VIM team leader includes the planning & carrying out of an effective mission work trip. The mission trip is a ministry to those that you are leading and those served by the mission team.

To register, or for further information, go to www.igrc.org, or call the District Office 618-242-2817.

Midwest Distribution Center

The Outreach Committee has scheduled a work day at the Midwest Mission Distribution Center near Chatham, IL for Thursday, October 11. We will leave the church at 8:00a in the church bus and return home by 4:30p. The center is possibly one of the best kept secrets of the United Methodist Church. Those who have volunteered in the past were amazed at the many ways the center reaches the needs of people around the world and in our own country. Don't let your age keep you from volunteering — there is something for everyone to do! If you are interested in this mission project, contact Joyce Staff at 283-1246 or jjstaff@sbcglobal.net.

Unceasing Prayer for the Tai Dam

Feeling the need for a breakthrough with the Tai Dam people, Tim & Jamie Edwards, missionaries in Vietnam, organized a prayer vigil where someone someplace in the world would be praying all the time for five days (Sept. 16-20). Time slots of 30 minutes were scheduled for five days and every time slot was filled with 240 people from 12 different countries praying — praying that mountains are moved and obstacles to faith and discipleship are cleared away.

The following persons committed to “Unceasing Prayer for the Tai Dam:” Alan Lurkins, Rich Well, Mary Woolsey, James Hejl, Iris Rademacher, Billye Staff, Diane Adams, Joyce Staff, Pete Burnam, Margaret Carroll, Roger Corrington, Pam Baker, Sharon Mueller, Jamie Michel, Barbara LeFevre, and Sharon Lee.

Thank you for your commitment and being part of this ministry. How exciting to be a part of reaching people of a different culture and helping to lead them to Christ. Thank you Tim & Jamie for your good work — praying that “mountains are moved!”
Joyce Staff

From the Pastor's Study: When Truth Isn't Truth

Truth is truth, until it isn't. Just because you grew up believing something was true, doesn't mean it always will be. People long ago believed the world was flat, until someone sailed west and arrived back in the same spot from the east. I grew up knowing that there are nine planets in our solar system. That was true until they kicked Pluto out, now children learn that there are eight planets and one dwarf planet.

Truth is truth. Like my dad, I questioned the validity of all the details contained in the story of Noah's Ark. I could never accept that one man and his family could build a boat big enough to contain two of every kind of animal, with enough rations for their journey, and that they didn't devour one another along the way. Then in seminary I learned that there is a story older than Noah's Ark dating from the Babylonian Era. I then began to understand that the Old Testament contains many kinds of literature: pre-historic, historic, the law, wisdom, Psalms, prophecy, apocalyptic. There may indeed have been a great flood, but it may have been only over the world as they knew it. By passing the story from generation to generation the details changed according to the audience, and the characters became bigger than life (Noah lived for hundreds of years). What I discovered is that the truth of the story is not in the details of the account (who cares how old Noah was), but in what God wants us to learn from it. The truth behind Noah's Ark is that the world became so evil that it needed to be cleansed; and in pursuit of righteousness, God found one faithful man and his family.

Truth is truth. Some people cannot accept that the Bible came together as a process with God's Holy Spirit inspiring human beings to reveal his truth. They feel that would invalidate the resurrection of Jesus. But the Gospels were a new form of writing, something that had never been done before. The Gospels reveal the words and actions of God's Son who came to earth in human form. They are the recordings of eye-witnesses. And still, if we compare Matthew to Mark to Luke to John, we find differences. Not all of the authors' writings agree on the location or order of events. Each Gospel writer adapted the details of Jesus' ministry to fit the needs of each one's congregation. It is accepted that Mark was probably written first, with both Matthew and Luke using Mark as a guide. Yet, both added details that Mark did not have. Just because all details do not agree does not invalidate the message. Rather, it gives us a more complete understanding of God's truth.

Truth is truth. The Pharisees grew up knowing that the law was central to their faith. The law was sacred because it told them how to be righteous. The law was so sacred, that no should break any part of it. Therefore, according to the Pharisees, Jesus was breaking the law when he and his disciples did not wash their hands before they ate or they shelled grain for a meal on the Sabbath or Jesus healed on the Sabbath. Jesus came to earth to let us know that it is not the law that is sacred, but the love of God and the love for one another that is sacred. Therefore, we are to put the needs of God and our neighbors over the details of the law. The love of fellow human beings takes precedent over other details of the law.

Truth is truth. “You shall not make any gashes in your flesh for the dead or tattoo any marks upon you: I am the Lord.” [LEVITICUS 19:28] Why would God outlaw tattoos or piercing? On a practical level, it may have come from the wisdom of avoiding infections that come with penetrating the skin in a time when being sanitary was a challenge. However, it is generally accepted that this law is grounded in the need for the people of God, under Moses' leadership in the wilderness, to not stray into the pagan practices of those they left behind in Egypt or will they will meet in the Promised Land. Unless your body art is an advertisement for the devil, I don't think you have to worry about going to confession because you have a piercing or tattoo. I certainly wouldn't have told my mother she was going to hell because she had pierced ears.

Truth is truth. Not far from the comments about body art in Leviticus are details about proper bedroom behavior. And that is where the church is struggling today. Do we know more about homosexuality today than we did several thousand years ago? To what degree is it okay to love another human being, and where do we draw the line? I don't have the answers for this. What I fear the most is that this issue will divide the United Methodist Church and prohibit us from doing the work that can only be done as one body in Christ.

Truth is truth: *Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?* He said to him, “*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.*” *This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.* [MATTHEW 22:36-40] My understanding of truth is that we are all sinners and fall short of the glory of God, and that Jesus will give eternal life to all who believe in him.

In God's amazing grace,
Terry

Hello all,
We are off and running for the 2018-2019 school year. Ignite has opened the year with 15 children for each Wednesday night with commitments from several others so we are looking for a big group again this year. We had a great first two meetings of the year and a great turnout for the youth kick-off event. Everyone had a blast at the scavenger hunt and cookout, It was great to see all of the kids and the congregation members that made it out. Please invite any 4-6th graders you know to our group or give me their names and I will invite them personally. Keep our group in your prayers.

Blessings,
Mark and Lisa

Voyagers

Hi Everyone! Voyagers are off to a great start this year, being blessed with six Voyagers at our first meeting. We hope to add new members each week. We feel 20 members would be a good number to work with this year. If you know of any kids who would benefit by being a member of our Voyagers Club, please help by getting them to our Wednesday night 6:30 meeting. Our Voyagers are learning the Books of the New Testament, listening and asking questions during the Bible story time. They do a fantastic job singing Thy Word, Awesome God, and the Books of the New Testament. We gained three new members from reaching out at the Backpack 2 School event this year.

God Bless,
Al and Susann

Thank You!

The communities of Fayette County have once again met a need. Thanks to the generosity of so many and the response of many volunteers, we were able to provide more than 4,000 lunches to children in Vandalia at the Health Dept., Rogier Park, Kelly Park, as well as Shobonier, Vera, and Ramsey this summer. We asked for and received donations to purchase food for the lunches and were amazed by the generous donations. Summer Lunches for Kids was successful because YOU were willing to give your money and/or time to care for the children living in our community. Thank you for your generosity and help!

—Tammy Lowe, Edith Runkel, & Carol Bridges
Program coordinators for **Summer Lunches for Kids**



October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Be sure to take a moment this month and thank Pastor Terry for all he does for Vandalia FUMC! Thank you, Pastor Terry. We appreciate you!

We will be collecting for college care packages during the month of October. **If you'd like your college student to receive a care package, please submit their name and address to the office by Monday, October 15.** We will begin collecting prepackaged food items, tools for studying, gift cards, etc. the week of October 15 and continue through October 29. There will be a tote across from the office for the items.

COLLEGE STUDENT



A survey will be taken during worship on Sunday, October 21, for Candlelight Christmas Eve Service time preference. Options will be 7:00p, 8:00p, or 9:00p. You must select your preference, sign your name, and state whether you plan to be there or not. If you're not able to make it to worship that day, surveys will be available in the office and must be turned in by October 31.

Nursing Home Residents:
Brookstone (1607 W. Fillmore)
Carlos Biellier (Apt. 2)
Margaret Carroll (Apt. 10)
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 20)

FCH/Long Term Care (650 West Taylor)
Bob Clark, Eva Durbin, Brad Elmore, Wendell Hoffman, Marian Miller, & Priscilla Roeder

Shut-Ins:
Mike Beckett
2625 W. Jefferson St., Vandalia
Phyllis Rames
620 N. Seventh St., Vandalia

Prayer Concerns

Loyce Becker Family (Kara Dugan's best friend's mother)
Alydia Brylowski (Friend of Dean & Elloise Black; leukemia)
Nathaniel "Buddy" Carroll (brain cancer)
Lola Castellari (92 year old sister-in-law of Lora Foutch; complications from a stroke)
Roger Clark (bladder cancer with complications)
Rick Cox (Alzheimer's Disease; Willowbrook in Vandalia)
Mason Currier (6 year old grandson of Roger & Peg Clark; cancer treatments)
Patty Donaldson (injured back)
Gary Doolen (chemotherapy for cancer)
Joanne Ellis Family (Barb White's mother)
Angie Ferdie (granddaughter of Janie Nichols; recuperating from bicycle accident last fall)
Jeff Forbes Family (friend of Kara Dugan)
Wendell Hoffman (recovering from a stroke)
Kent Jones (Peg Clark's brother-in-law; surgery pending for heart problems)
Carson LaDage (Bill & Sharon's grandson; brain stem tumor & cysts)
Katie Langham (friend of Kathryn Taylor; cancer)
R.C. Litz (Lora Foutch's extended family; 36 year old with inoperable, rare cancer)
Wanda McCollum (chemotherapy for cancer;

recuperating from second surgery for broken hip; St. John's Hospital, Springfield)
William Robert Meadows (Clayton Gathe's sister's new-born; heart concerns; Cardinal Glennon)
Dorothy Mefford (cancer)
Kent Merry (congestive heart failure)
Roy Nichols (friend of Dannie Donaldson; cancer)
Janie Nichols (throat surgery at Barnes, St. Louis)
Marianne Page (chemotherapy for return of cancer)
Aiden Politte (broken leg)
Teny Ponce (cancer)
Norman Rhoades (Kathryn Taylor's father; Parkinson's Disease)
Kent Rincker (Peg Clark's brother; treatment for several kinds of cancer)
Hannah Shroyer (2 year old granddaughter of Randy & Janet Shroyer; chemo for stage 4 neuroblastoma)
Janet Shroyer (breast cancer)
Danny Small (cancer)
Julie Shineman Suterland (friend of Ann Schwarm; chemotherapy for cancer)
Randy Wolf Family
Randy Woolsey Family
Discernment concerning "The Way Forward"

Thank You!

"Thanks to all of you who helped us celebrate my 90th birthday. Whether you sent a card, came to the Open House, or simply said, "Happy Birthday", know that, in your very own way, you were each a part of my remarkable day. May God Bless you all." —Iris Rademacher & Family

Present: Joe Cearlock, Al Schumacher, Susann Schumacher, J.D. Vieregge, Amy Vieregge, Gene Schwarm, Bill LaDage, John Burnam, Calista Eyman, Alan Lurkins, Eric Miller, Terry Westerfield, and Casey Kistler.

Absent: Joyce Staff, Mike Baker, Patrick Myers, Alexa Campbell, Pam Baker, Sydney Rosborough, Nicholas Rosborough, and Darrel Casey.

Chairperson Joe Cearlock called the meeting to order at 7:00p, and Pastor Terry offered prayer. Calista Eyman gave a devotion.

With no additions or corrections, the minutes from the August 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.

Committee Reports:

Nurture: Calista Eyman reported items for college care packages will be collected in October and mailed out at the end of October. They will not be re-using old lists as many have graduated or moved. New addresses need to be submitted to the office by the middle of October. The picture directory has been put on hold for the time being. The committee is looking for someone to video Veterans and create a presentation to show during worship on Veteran's Day.

Outreach: No report.

Witness: No report.

Finance: John Burnam reported work has begun on the 2019 budget. The Finance Committee will meet in October to look over and approve the budget. If approved, the budget will then be presented to the Council at the October meeting.

United Methodist Men: The Annual Fish Fry is November 8, from 4:30p to 7:00p in Wesley Hall.

Preschool: Bill LaDage said the "Before the Show" advertisement at Starmax Theater should have begun earlier this month. The Preschool Board met last month and said the two, new part time teachers hired are working out very well. The teachers have four fundraisers planned for the year. The number of after school kids dropped after the fee increase. The fee went from \$8.00 to \$11.00. At the end of the semester they plan to drop the fee back to its original price in hopes to gain families back and perhaps some new ones as well. As chairman of the Preschool Board, Bill made a motion to allow the co-directors to begin their four-day work week at hourly pay effective in August. Gene seconded. Motion carried.

Lay Leader: Gene reported Laity Sunday is October 14. Jaime Warren and Sue Miller will deliver the message. Gene also noted that October is Pastor Appreciation month and urged all members to show Pastor Terry that we appreciate all he does.

Staff Parish Relations: Chairman Eric Miller reported the committee met last week to set staff salaries for 2019. Linda Dugan is retiring October 9. Sue Miller has been hired to fill Linda's vacancy. Sue will work Tuesdays and Fridays 8:00a to 12:00p beginning Friday, November 2. Caitlyn Campbell submitted her resignation as a child care provider. A blurb in the Weekly Pews News as well as the monthly Pews News will advertise for her position to be filled.

Trustees: J.D. Vieregge said work on the garage is progressing well. There was a leak in the roof upstairs of the Education Building which was leaking down into the kitchen off of Wesley Hall. Jewett Roofing was called and repaired the roof. The ice machine in Wesley Hall stopped working. A new machine was delivered this week.

Columbarium Committee: No report.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Terry would like the Nominating Committee to meet October 16 or October 18. A survey will be taken during worship on Sunday, October 21, for Candlelight Christmas Eve Service time preference. Options will be 7:00p, 8:00p, or 9:00p. You must select your preference, sign your name, and state whether you plan to be there or not. If you're not able to make it to worship that day, surveys will be available in the office and must be turned in by October 31. The electric bill has been running high lately. Pastor Terry asked JD to check with an electrician about the lights in the sanctuary. When the switch is set to off, they still appear to be on, but very dim. This was first noticed after the A/C work last summer in the sanctuary. Eric Miller must step down as chair of the Staff Parish Relations Committee now that Sue has been hired as staff. As chair of the nominating committee, Pastor Terry made a motion to nominate Alan Lurkins as chair of Staff Parish Relations Committee. Gene seconded. Motion carried.

With no further business to be brought before the Council, Joe adjourned the meeting at 7:30p. The next meeting will be on October 23, 2018, at 7:00p in Wesley Hall.

Respectfully submitted, Casey Kistler



Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritans Purse, has delivered 157 million shoeboxes to boys and girls around the world. These boxes have been delivered to over 160 different countries. Children's lives have been transformed because of a simple gift. First United Methodist Church has been packing boxes since the late 1990's. We became the "Drop-Off Center" for Fayette and Montgomery counties in 2009. This will be our tenth year serving as the *Drop-Off Center*. **Since statistics have been kept in 2009, FUMCV has packed 3,653 boxes! 3,653 lives have been transformed because of YOU and your generosity!**

I would like to encourage you to **pick up your shoeboxes on October 14 either before or after church**. All boxes need to be **returned no later than November 11!** Pack an extra box in celebration of OCC's 25th Anniversary. Thank you for blessing the children who may have never heard the Good News!

OCC Speaker

As we kick-off another year of OCC, I would like to encourage you to **watch the video on the Unity Baptist Website (www.unityvan.com)** of an OCC speaker that they hosted on July 22. Go to their website and click on services and scroll down to July 22 or else look in the archives for July 22! **You won't be disappointed!** I can honestly say that everyone who heard Elena speak was touched in a special way. It was an amazing service and it allowed us to see what happens beyond the box. One of Elena's special gifts was the booklet, "**The Greatest Gift**" that is included on top of each box.

Know that each box we pack has the potential to change that child's life for eternity!

Please consider packing one more box this year as we reach children who may never have the opportunity to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ if it were not for the boxes that you pack.

Memorials Given to Operation Christmas Child

BETTY COTHERN MEMORIALS: Robin Kistler designated that the memorials given in memory of her mother (Betty Cothorn) be used for boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Thank you Robin for blessing the children with your gifts in memory of your mother. May you be blessed as you have blessed others.

JOAN CLAYTON MEMORIALS: Several memorials received for Joan Clayton were designated for Operation Christmas Child by the individuals giving them. These gifts will be used to fill more boxes. Joan loved to help with OCC each year and I'm sure that she would be thrilled to know that some of her memorials went to OCC. Thank you to everyone that designated OCC to receive these gifts in memory of Joan.

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!** **SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:**

Dean and Elloise Black - Thanks Dean and Elloise for saving your empty ink cartridges and donating them to OCC, so they can be turned in to Staples for Rewards. School supplies will be bought using rewards from recycled ink and toner cartridges!

Elloise Black and Sherry Schneider: A special thank you to Elloise and Sherry for helping to pack the "extra boxes." Cooking themed boxes for girls (10-14) were packed along with other boxes this month.

Peg Clark -THANKS, PEG for the many sock monkeys(73) that you made this past year. I'm sure that each one will bring a smile to the face of the child receiving it. Most of the sock monkey boxes have been packed and are waiting for shipment.

Dennette Guyer -Thanks Dennette for continuing to make things for the extra boxes. The girls will love your gifts of purses, pencil pouches, and bangle bracelets.

Kim Warner -Kim continues to make items for the extra boxes. It's so nice to see the variety of items being made. The girls receiving them will feel blessed to have something so special.

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

Jill Zimmer