



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



# April Pews News

*Planting and nurturing seeds of faith, cultivating devoted disciples of Christ, and feeding souls for the glory of God.*

**Office Hours:**

M-TR: 8a — 4p  
 F: 8a — 12p

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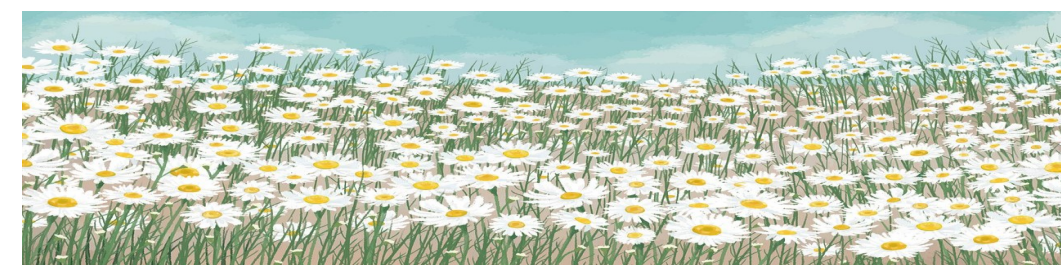
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**Church Staff**

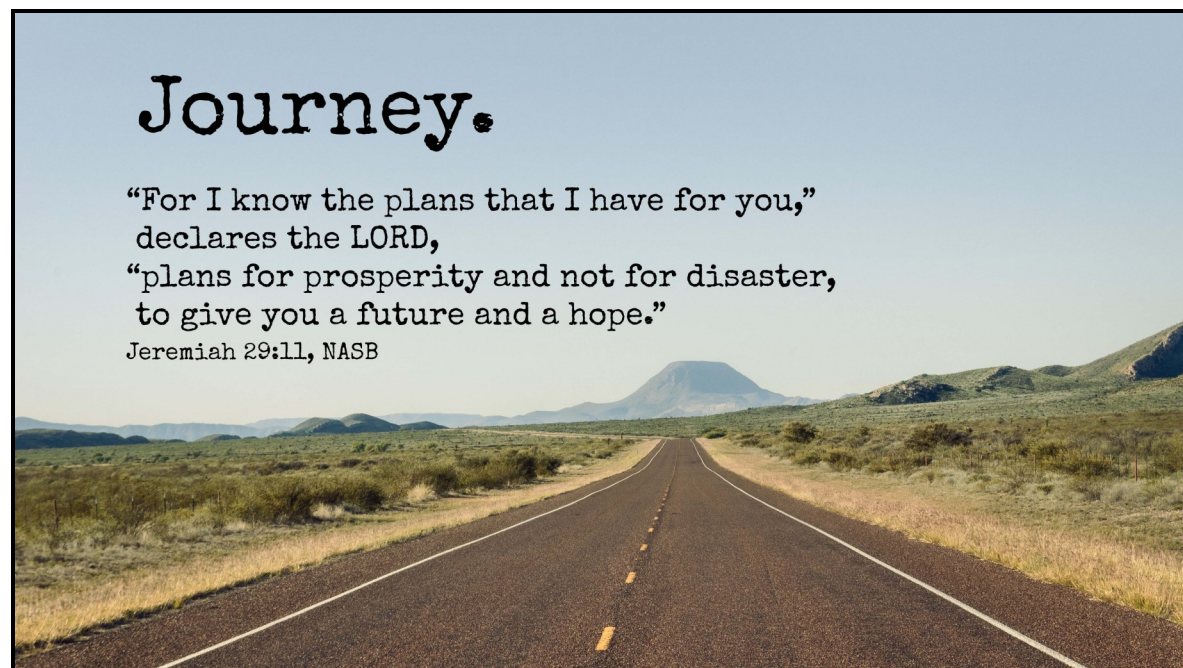
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 Director of Young Children's Ministries:  
 Preschool Director: Morgan Tessman  
 Custodian: Andy Sidwell  
 Family Center Custodian: Rich Well



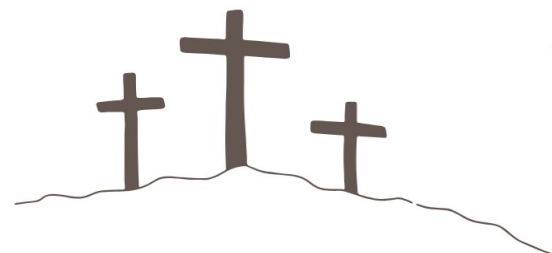
## Journey.

“For I know the plans that I have for you,”  
 declares the LORD,  
 “plans for prosperity and not for disaster,  
 to give you a future and a hope.”

Jeremiah 29:11, NASB







# First United Methodist Church of Vandalia

You are invited to experience the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus through the Liturgy.



## Worship Schedule:

### Maundy Thursday

17 April 2025

- 6:30 pm Service

### Good Friday

18 April 2025

- 6:30 pm Service

### Easter Sunday

20 April 2025

- 7:00 am Sunrise Service
- 9:30 am Service



- 2— Dylan Warren
- 3— Calista BreAnn Dothager
- 4— Mary Fulton  
Ella Meyer
- 9— Rodes Hood
- 10— Laura Miller
- 11— Joe Rosborough  
Gary Potts
- 12— Jan Johnston
- 14— Darryl Tjaden
- 16— Bill Bennett  
Monica Schwarm
- 19— Jake Tjaden
- 21— Hudson Schneider  
Kristin Stombaugh
- 23— Harper Goldsboro
- 24— Butch Johnston
- 25— Austin Warren
- 26— Elaina Hagy
- 27— Jeremie Rademacher
- 28— Chase McNary
- 30— Alex Burnam  
Randy Sasse  
Sue Schwarm  
Andy Sidwell

- 10— Bob & Gail DePaolo
- 14— Aaron & Hannah Konrad
- 15— Tom & Carla Diveley  
TJ & Jaime Warren
- 22— Ed & Kim Taylor
- 24— Robert & Ruth Ann  
Garrison
- 25— Herb & Mary Woolsey

**27 Driver:** Ed Taylor  
**Rider:** Kim Taylor  
**Greeter:** Sandy Stombaugh

### Acolytes

- 6- Addison Flake
- 13- Noelle Milam
- 20- Brayden Stombaugh
- 27- Noelle Milam

### Sound Tech

Rand Craycroft

### Video Tech

Patrick Myers

### Bus Ministry

**6 Driver:** Ed Taylor  
**Rider:** Kim Taylor  
**Greeter:** Sandy Stombaugh

**13 Driver:** Bill Warner  
**Rider:** Kim Warner  
**Greeter:** Mary Fulton

**20 Driver:** Max Durbin  
**Rider:** Deb Durbin  
**Greeter:** Jack Johnston

### Offering Collectors

- 6- John Burnam
- 13- Gene Schwarm
- 20- Barb Paine
- 27- Gene Schwarm



## Music Minute

Holy Week will be here before we know it. Here is the anthem schedule for April:

April 6th - Spirit Singers (He's My Rock, My Sword, My Shield)

April 13th - Sanctuary Choir (Hosanna to the Son) – Palm Sunday

April 20th - Sanctuary Choir (Sing in Celebration) – Easter Sunday

April 27th - TBD

Thank you to BJ Mueller for singing hymns in March, including Ash Wednesday and a hymn sing. Thanks to the Spirit Singers, Praise Team, Sanctuary Choir, and Handbell Choirs for serving in the month of March.

Here is our April rehearsal schedule:

April 1st	April 2nd
	4:30-5:30 Choir Practice
5:15-6:15 Praise Team	5:30-6:00 Spirit Singers (last practice of this semester)
April 8th	April 9th
5:15-6:15 Praise Team	4:30-5:30 Sanctuary Choir
	5:30-6:30 Handbells
April 15th	April 16th
5:15-6:15 Praise Team	4:30-5:30 Sanctuary Choir
	5:30-6:30 Handbells
April 22nd	April 23rd
5:15-6:15 Praise Team	5:30-6:30 Handbells
April 29 <sup>th</sup>	April 30th
5:15-6:15 Praise Team	4:30-5:30 Sanctuary Choir (ladies only)
	5:30-6:30 Handbells



Just a reminder that we are singing “Sister Act Medley” May 11<sup>th</sup>. We would love to have more ladies join us as we sing this fun song on Mother’s Day. The first practice is April 30<sup>th</sup> at 4:30; the second is May 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:30.

Musically,  
Taryn Flake



## Pastor's Perspective

### **Come Walk the Week with Jesus**

I believe this is one of the most important experiences of the church year.

I want to personally invite you to walk the full journey of Holy Week with us this year — not just Easter morning or even just Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday — but the *whole* story.

I know it can feel like a big commitment, but I encourage you to come to as many services as you can. It isn't quite as simple as Christmas. When we gather for the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, we feel the joy and hope of the season all wrapped into one night. Though, I'd also tell you that coming every Sunday of Advent deepens that experience too.

Holy Week, however, is different. It is a *roller coaster* of emotions — honestly, more than I can even name. Joy, hope, pain, sacrifice, sin, repentance, love, and redemption all weave together. Holy Week helps us reflect on the reality that joy and hope often come in the midst of sorrow and sacrifice.

It all begins on **Palm Sunday**, when palm branches are waved and shouts of “Hosanna!” fill the air as we remember how Jesus entered Jerusalem, welcomed like a king. There's so much joy and excitement, but if you listen closely, you can already hear the tension underneath — the story is just beginning.

Then we gather on **Maundy Thursday**, one of the most tender and personal nights of the church year. I love this service because it always brings me face-to-face with Jesus' love — how He knelt and washed feet, shared a simple meal, and gave His friends (and us) the command to love one another.

On **Good Friday**, we stand at the foot of the cross. I'll be honest — this is always the hardest service for me. And yet, year after year, I am reminded how necessary it is to face the sorrow and sacrifice. We need to stand there, not to dwell in sadness, but to truly grasp the depth of His love. To try to grasp for ourselves in the midst of sorrow and sacrifice what is good about Good Friday.

And then, before the sun even fully rises on **Easter morning**, we gather for the **Sunrise Service**. The quiet, the beauty, the first light breaking through the darkness — it's one of my favorite moments of the year. There is something sacred about proclaiming “Christ is risen” as the new day dawns. Later that morning, our full **Easter worship** will be filled with joy and celebration as we sing and shout the good news together.

I hope you'll come to all of it. Not because you “should,” but because each service tells part of the story we need — the story of hope, of love poured out, of life breaking through death. When we show up for the whole journey, Easter morning becomes more than a holiday. It becomes *personal*.

So, would you come? Walk the week with Jesus. Walk it with me. I promise, you'll be glad you did.

Pastor Curtis







# Ladies' Day Celebration

FUMC- Wesley Hall  
Saturday, May 3, 2025  
1:00p

RSVP AT (618)292-0901  
Bring your favorite China cup, saucer,  
and Bible passage.



The N.O.W. Committee will be sending out College Care Gift Cards the last week of April. If you have a child or grandchild in college, please give their names and addresses to Sandy Stombaugh, Calista Eyman, or the Church Office by Monday, April 14, 2025.

Vandalia FUMC is on duty at the 6:35 Food Pantry on Thursday, April 10th, 2025. Please arrive by 4pm if you plan to help!



**Nursing Home Residents & Shut-ins:**  
Brookstone (1607 W. Fillmore)  
 Pete & Retha Burnam (Apt 41);  
 Frank Roeder (Apt. 25); Jean Stombaugh (Apt. 32); Herb & Mary Woolsey (Apt. 32)  
FCH/Long Term Care (650 West Taylor)  
 Arlene Hoffman (Rm. 510); Sharon Lee; Deb Endres (Rm.708); Margaret Carroll; Larry Peyton (Rm.405)  
Meridian Village Assisted Living  
 (27 Auerbach Place, Glen Carbon, IL 62034)  
 Diane Adams

Stillwater Senior Living  
 (1111 University Dr. Edwardsville, IL 62025)  
 Patty Bohner (temp. address is:  
 3402 Anderson Healthcare Dr, Edwardsville)  
Willowbrook  
 (1124 Sunset Dr, Vandalia, IL 62471)  
 Edith Knebel  
Shut-Ins:  
 (2625 W. Jefferson St., Vandalia)  
 Mike Beckett



**Diane Adams** (health concerns)  
**Marti Bingham** (recuperating from surgery for brain tumor)  
**Patti Bohner** (At Anderson in Edwardsville for rehab for a broken hip)  
**Peter Cadigan** (son-in-law of Peg Dees, aortic valve replacement & is still weak)  
**Sara Clark** (health concerns)  
**Ava Cooper** (10 year-old neighbor of Candy Zeman, has received a heart & is recovering!)  
**Taryn Flake** (entering St. Paul Seminary)  
**Willard Fulk** (health concerns)  
**Ginger Hamilton** (cancer treatments)  
**Kay (Wright) Henry** (BJ & Sharon Muller's cousin has been placed on hospice)  
**Gene Hicks** (friend of Mark Miller, health concerns)  
**Amy Holaday** (breast cancer has returned)  
**Heather Jones** (hemochromatosis)  
**Bob & Joy Kloster** (both recovering from falls)  
**Carson LeDage** (please continue to pray, as the treatment plan is currently working)

**Brian Mason** (Mark Miller's nephew, injured in a construction accident)  
**Jason Mouser** (complications from stroke)  
**Patrick Myers** (Congratulations on becoming the new head wrestling coach at VHS)  
**Justin Peebles** (Calista Eyman's brother, has a mass on his left kidney, still awaiting biopsy)  
**David Rademacher** (diagnosed with chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia)  
**Judy Roberts** (recovering from back surgery)  
**Sydney Rosborough** (diagnosed with TOS, recovering from surgery)  
**Drew Schneider** (recovering from surgery)  
**Gaynelle Scott** (breast cancer)  
**Lana Sefton** (stage 4 breast cancer)  
**Donna Taylor** (recovering from brain bleed)  
**Heather (Jones) Thompson** (breast cancer)  
**Les Vaughan** (Lakeland Rehab)  
 Jeff Williams (BJ & Sharon Mueller's son-in-law, has a nodule on his lung)  
**Ken Williams** (health concerns)  
**Hudson Winters** (diagnosed with LCH and starting oral chemo)

