



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



A winter welcome

January 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"*

Contact Us:

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Special thanks to Morgan Tessman, Sue Roberts, Sarah Schmid, and Madeline Leib for organizing this year's Preschool Christmas Program!

Church



THE LORD HIMSELF GOES BEFORE YOU

AND WILL BE WITH YOU;

HE WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU.

DO NOT BE AFRAID; DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED.

DEUTERONOMY 31:8, NIV



Pastor: Curtis Flake: rev.cflake@gmail.com, 217-273-4432
 Administrative Assistants: Sue Miller & Megan Kern
 Church email: vandaliafumc@outlook.com
 Director of Choirs: Taryn Flake: taryn.a.flake@gmail.com
 Director of Young Children's Ministries:
 Preschool Director: Morgan Tessman
 Custodians: Andy Sidwell
 Family Center Custodian: Rich Well

Music Minute

Thank you to the Handbell players, Patti Craycroft, Sandy Ehrat, Amy Jones, Sue Miller, Barb McCart, Dawn Rosborough, and Amy Vieregge for providing the prelude and anthem for December 1st. Thank you to the Sanctuary Choir members, Deb Cook, Patty Donaldson, Dennette Guyer, Dorothy Ann Jenkins, Charlene Jett, Jan Johnston, Sandy Leidner, Sue Miller, BJ Mueller, Sharon Mueller, Mark Paine, Dawn Rosborough, Sandy Stombaugh, and Suzie Thompson for providing anthems on December 8th, 15th, and Christmas Eve. Thank you to Ed Taylor and Bob Culbertson for providing an anthem on December 22nd. Thank you to Kathy Taylor for singing the traditional songs for all of December. Thank you to Judy Roberts for covering me on December 29th so that I can have a Sunday off and for providing the anthem. Thank you to Curtis Flake, Sue Miller, Charlie Mills, Dawn Rosborough, and Kathy Taylor for being our weekly Praise Team.

I hope you had a very merry Christmas and that the music of service touched your heart and allowed you to sing praises to God through Advent. I am looking forward to another great semester of leading the music at church.

Our spring schedule is set for Sanctuary Choir, Handbells, and Spirit Singers and those schedules will be passed out at their first rehearsal in January.

Sanctuary Choir practice for January is scheduled for Thursday, January 2nd @ 4:30p-5:00p and Wednesday, January 15th from 4:30p-5:30p with anthems on January 5th and 19th.

Handbell practice for January is scheduled for January 8th, 15th, and 22nd from 6:00p-7:00p. The anthem will be on January 26th.

Spirit Singers practice for January will be from 5:30p-6:00p on January 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th in the Sanctuary. Our first anthem of 2025 will be on February 2nd. We would love to have more students in grades K-8 join us. This anthem is sure to be a fun one!

-Taryn Flake

Calling all ladies- We are looking for a large group of women who can sing, even if you are not currently part of the choir. We are going to sing a Sister Act Medley on Mother's Day- May 11th, 2025. We're hoping to have lots of fun with the song, but we need more voices. We would love to have any interested ladies come to choir practice on Wednesday, April 30th and Wednesday, May 7th, both at 4:30p, to perform this anthem with us! I will email out a practice track to those who are interested so that you can practice your part at home.

THANK YOU MEMBERS OF FUMC

As 2024 closes and 2025 awaits us, I would like to thank you for your faithfulness to the mission of OCC to send the Good News to the children of the world. It takes all of us working together whether you packed a box, sponsored a box, made or bought things for boxes, or served during Collection Week. Thank you for being faithful to what God called you to do and for allowing Him to work through you! I am truly humbled and blessed to work with such wonderful, faithful people. I pray that you have grown in your faith, as you served the Lord through OCC. Wishing you a joyous New Year!

The Prayer Shawl Ministry would like to thank you for your support and prayers this past year. In 2024, 49 prayer shawls were gifted. Each one was stitched in prayer and given in love. Besides prayer shawls, baby blankets and many items for the Operation Christmas Child boxes were also given away this year. As our partners in prayer, you have made such a difference in the lives of those blessed by the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

—The Prayer Shawl Ministry



January

JANUARY Birthdays

- 1— Noelle Milam
Camden Myers
- 2— Lisa Burnam
Abby Bayles
- 4— Herb Woolsey
- 6— Curtis Flake
Kristoffer Taylor
- 9— Gail Lockart
- 10— Gary Jenkins
Bruce Rubin
- 11— Patty Donaldson
Louis Frick
Susann Schumacher
- 12— Roger Clark
Jeff Endres
Kyle Guffey
Billye Staff
- 15— Brooklyn Burnam
- 16— BJ Mueller
Cameron White
- 17— Mary Kay Bennett
Hannah Stombaugh
- 18— Harper Burnam
Brandy Protz
- 20— Brittany White
- 23— Debbie Brantley
- 24— Donna Crotser
- 25— Rick Eyman
Keaton White
- 26— Erin Endres
Gwen Johnston
Alan Lurkins
- 27— Cindy Haas
Noah Sasse
- 31— Margaret Carroll
Kayla Taylor

JANUARY Anniversaries

- 22— Lance & Betty Guffey
(23 years)
- 26— Gary & Dorothy Ann
Jenkins (38 years)
- 29— Walt & Mandy Pearson
(29 years)



- 5 Amelia Moulton
- 12 Hannah Stombaugh
- 19 Addison Flake
- 26 Harper Burnam

Offering Collector

- 5 John Burnam
- 12 Gene Schwarm
- 19 Barb Paine
- 26 John Burnam

Video/Sound Tech

Rand Craycroft
Rick Eyman

Bus Ministry

- 5 **Driver:** Ed Taylor
Rider: Kim Taylor
Greeter:

- 12 **Driver:** Max Durbin
Rider: Deb Durbin
Greeter:

- 16 **Driver:** Ed Taylor
Rider: Kim Taylor
Greeter:

- 26 **Driver:** Max Durbin
Rider: Deb Durbin
Greeter:

Liturgist

Sherry Schneider

Head Ushers

- 5 JD Vieregge/Josh Figgins
- 12 JD Vieregge/Rand Craycroft
- 19 JD Vieregge/Jacy Fulk
- 26 JD Vieregge/Greg Fulk



Worship Notes

- January 5** Epiphany Sunday
 Scripture: Isaiah 60: 1-6, Matthew 2: 1-12
 Sermon: They All Gather Together
 Theme: Continuing Christmas spreading the light and hope of Jesus Christ through the new year.
- January 12** Baptism of Jesus Sunday & Children’s Christmas Pageant
 Scripture: Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22
 Sermon: I Will Be With You
 Theme: Continuing Christmas, yes we are technically after the Christmas Season and it is the Baptism of Jesus, but the Children shared with us and Christmas is all year round.
- January 19** Scripture: John 2: 1-11
 Sermon: What Concern Is That?
 Theme: Jesus’ first sign isn’t really about wine and Mary or as John puts it, “the Mother of Jesus,” it is the one who really shares the Gospel.
- January 26** Scripture: Luke 4: 14-21
 Sermon: As Was His Custom
 Theme: As was Jesus’ custom. Customs, resolutions, and goals: often we focus on the negative and insert a positive. How can we find strength when we reinforce the positive customs?

Pastor’s Note

Maybe I am still naïve, but turning the calendar to a new year fills me with a sense of hope and excitement for what God has in store for each of us. Naïve or not, this hope is like our Christian hope of forgiveness and God making new things. Throughout December and all of 2024, I talked a lot about hope. We’re in the hope business! “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, so that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

January is a great time for new beginnings and resolutions. It’s a wonderful moment to reflect on our journey with Christ and renew our commitment to our faith and community. In fact, it is a Methodist tradition to share in a covenant renewal service at the beginning of the year. It is a time to pay attention to what God is doing, what we hope God will do, and our commitment through our baptism and membership vows.

The book of Isaiah reminds us: “Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” (Isaiah 43:19) This passage encourages us to trust in God’s promise of renewal and transformation, even in the toughest times.

Let’s embrace this new year with open hearts, ready to receive God’s blessings and share His love with others. As we make our resolutions, let’s also resolve to deepen our spiritual lives, help those in need, and be a source of light and hope in our community.

I encourage each of you to take some time this month to reflect on your faith journey, seek God’s guidance, and commit to growing in faith, hope, and love. If you’re not one for resolutions, just take the time to notice how God is working in your life. Together, let’s make 2025 a year of growth and grace.

I will let you all in on a secret. We get a restart or a new beginning any time of the year. This is part of our repentance, prayer, and being an apprentice of Jesus Christ.

Wishing you all a joyous and blessed new year,

Pastor Curtis



Coats & Shoes Success!

The United Methodist Men would like to thank all of you who helped to make our annual Coats & Shoes mission a HUGE SUCCESS! On Monday, December 16th, 2024, approximately 370 coats and shoes were delivered to Vandalia, Brownstown, St. Elmo, Ramsey, and Mulberry Grove schools. This was the most coats and shoes that we have ever delivered. Thanks to the men and ladies who helped prepare and wrap the coats and shoes! Your efforts are much appreciated by me. Also, thanks to our church family who generously continue to support this mission with your financial donations along with your prayers.

- Jeff Endres, United Methodist Men



Nurture.Outreach.Witness

The N.O.W Committee would like to extend a thank you to everyone that donated cookies this year. They were able to deliver 12 appreciation platters to teachers, healthcare workers, police officers, and the fire department.



Reminder, the Children’s Christmas Program will be held on January 12, 2025 during the morning service.

Prep Tables

The Church just upgraded their kitchen prep tables. Meaning the prep tables that were in the church kitchen are looking for a new home. Both tables have a butcher block top. The smaller table we are asking \$100 and the bigger table we are asking \$300. If you have any questions please contact Steve Stombaugh or Pastor Curtis.

Helping our Ukrainian Friends

Just a little over a month ago Ann Schwarm reminded our congregation of our ongoing support and the continued need of Zoryana's family (Victoria, Oleg and family).

This season, as we reflect on and continue the gift of generosity we are reminded of the ongoing story of Victoria, Oleg, and their three children—Ukrainian refugees who found safety in the U.S. through the Unit-ing for Ukraine Program. With our support and that of John Calvin Presbyterian Church, they've spent the last year acclimating to life in the St. Louis area. Despite challenges, they are thriving: the children love school, and both parents are employed. However, they face new hurdles as financial support from their ini-tial sponsors has ended, leaving them worried about meeting basic needs.

Victoria's recent words resonate deeply: "I am scared for the future of my family here and for my loved ones in Ukraine." In response, I ask two things of you:

1. **Pray for peace**—that the war ends and lives on both sides are spared.
2. **Give generously** to our Ukrainian Refugee Fund, ensuring this family can continue to build a stable life here. Share the story. Maybe you can't give or can't give any more. Maybe someone you know is waiting for this opportunity.

No gift is too small. As in the story of the man saving starfish, every contribution matters to this family's journey toward security and hope. This Advent, let us embody Christ's love by answering the call to help "this one."

To donate, mark checks or online contributions with "URF" and send them to First United Methodist Church of Vandalia, 127 N. 4th Street, Vandalia, IL 62471. Once again, share this message with others who may feel called to give.

We Need The Following:

- ANYTHING!
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Ramen Noodles
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Pancake Mix
- Spaghetti
- Spaghetti Sauce

6:35 PANTRY
"I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty." John 6:35

We will need volunteers from the First United Methodist Men on January 2nd to work at the 6:35 food pantry. We will also need any additional vol-unteers to work at the food pantry on January 30th.



Nursing Home Residents & Shut-ins:
Brookstone (1607 W. Fillmore)
 Diane Adams (Apt.15); Pete & Retha Burnam (Apt 41); Edith Knebel (Apt. 43);
 Larry Peyton (Apt. 16), 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

Dolan Memory Care Homes
 (Dublin—11330 Dolan Way, St. Louis, MO 63146)

Stillwater Senior Living
 (1111 University Dr. Edwardsville, IL 62025)
 Patty Bohner (temp. address is:
 3402 Anderson Healthcare Dr, Edwardsville)

Shut-Ins:
 Mike Beckett, 2625 W. Jefferson St., Vandalia

Prayer Concerns

Marti Bingham (recuperating from surgery for brain tumor)
Patti Bohner (At Anderson in Edwardsville for re-hab for a broken hip)
John Blythe (recuperating from hernia surgery)
Sara Clark (health concerns)
Ava Cooper (10 year-old neighbor of Candy Zeman, now #2 on the list for a heart transplant)
Steve Cox (Jane Cox's son, recovering at home)
Elaine Culbertson (health concerns)
Willard Fulk (health concerns)
Leonard Gehle (Deb Durbin's father; prostate cancer treatment)
Ginger Hamilton (cancer treatments)
Amy Holaday (breast cancer has returned)
Heather Jones (hemochromatosis)
Carson LeDage (please continue to pray, as the treatment plan is currently working)

Heather Overlin (Larry Osborne's daughter; health concerns)
David Rademacher (diagnosed with chronic Lym-phocytic Leukemia)
Sydney Rosborough (diagnosed with TOS, recov-ering from surgery)
Gaynelle Scott (breast cancer)
Lana Sefton (stage 4 breast cancer)
Family of Dana Smith
Donna Taylor (recovering from brain bleed)
Heather (Jones) Thompson (breast cancer)
Darin Wells (in partial remission from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma)
Ken Williams (health concerns)
Hudson Winters (diagnosed with LCH and starting oral chemo)

"I received the prayer shawl from the Prayer Ministry of FUMC Vandalia. It is love-ly. Ava's mom Jamie was very touched and grateful to receive it. She is going to drape it over Ava's headboard at the hospital."
—Candy Zeman

Thank you ❤️



The Church office will be closed Monday, January 20, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

