

First Connection

First United Methodist Church of Normal
Connecting All People With Jesus Christ

WELCOME TO OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

Our Staff-Parish Relations Committee is excited to announce that Jill McNiff will be our new Director of Children and Family Ministries. Jill will join our First UMC family on July 16. There will be a reception to welcome Jill at 10:30am on Sunday, July 23. Jill brings a lot of passion and enthusiasm, and a love for kids and for Jesus Christ. We think she will be a great fit with our church. Look for more information about Jill next month. We also want to take this opportunity to thank Zach Uphold and all the wonderful teachers and volunteers who have kept our children's ministries growing during this transition.

SUMMER GIVING

Good news. We are finishing May in a strong position financially, with all bills paid and all ministry support up to date. We want to celebrate the faithfulness of the congregation's continued financial support of our church. Thank you! As we go into the summer months, we are hoping to not fall behind. Summer is a busy time for activities and travel, and sometimes that may take people away from regular attendance and giving. If that is the case for you, we encourage you to stay current with your giving. The expenses and the upkeep of the church continue even in the summer, and your regular support helps greatly. For those who like to make an extra gift to support ministry, summer is a great time to do that. Thank you again for all you do in support of our church and our ministries.

NEWCOMERS RECEPTION

Pastors Kathy and Kent will host a reception for those who are new to our congregation on Wednesday, July 19 from 7 to 8:30pm in the Lounge. If interested, please call the church office at 452-2096 or email btodd@normalfirst.org. This informal event will provide an opportunity for fellowship and give a brief overview of the history, beliefs and structure the church. If you are relatively new, or just want to learn more about the church, you are welcome.

FAREWELL TO YANGYANG

After giving us beautiful music and becoming part of our family these past years, our organist Yangyang Tian will be moving this summer. Her husband Ben has completed his doctoral coursework and has taken a job out of state. Yangyang's last day playing for us will be July 23. We will have a reception for Yangyang at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday July 9. We want to shower her with cards on that day. Drop off your cards in the church office or bring them and put them in a basket for her on July 9. Let's send Yangyang out with our love and blessings. While we will miss Yangyang and Ben, the Staff-Parish Relations Committee is happy to announce that they have re-hired Dennis Gotkowski. Dennis was our organist before Yangyang. He has been at the University of Wisconsin Madison completing his doctorate and has returned to the area. We are excited to have Dennis back.

THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR

Fear not. Be not afraid.

This is a common refrain in our scriptures. So much so that we are told that there is at least 365 verses of “Fear Not” in the Bible. . . giving us one or more for each day of the year.

After David has been seized by the Philistines, he becomes fearful, but then resolves to put his trust in God.

When I am afraid, **I will trust in you.**
In God, whose word I praise, In God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me? (Psalm 56:3-4).

When Joshua is called by God to lead the people across the Jordan after Moses’ death, in the words of commissioning we read, “Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, **for the Lord your God is with you** wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9).

When the angel comes to Mary, announcing her pregnancy, she is told, “Do not be afraid, Mary, **for you have found favor with God**” (Luke 1:30).

And when Jesus is preparing the disciples for when he’ll no longer be with them, we read, “**Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.** I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid” (John 14:27).

In many of these “Do Not Fear” passages, there’s usually a 2nd refrain, giving a reason for the commandment. These are the words in bold print above.

Do not fear...because we can trust in God.
Do not fear...because God is with us.
Do not fear...because God has called us.
Do not fear...because we have been given peace.

No doubt there are a multitude of reasons to be afraid. And of course, psychologists have helped us understand that fear can be healthy. But as people of faith, it’s not that we are to dismiss the very important human emotion of fear, but we don’t want to get stuck there. Perhaps if we were writing the scriptures today, we would write, “Do not be overcome by fear.” “Do not be controlled by fear.”

We can approach fear with the attitude that there’s something for us to learn. We can approach fear with the attitude that we’re going to dig deep and find the strength we need to persevere. And we can approach fear with the confidence of God’s children . . . because we can trust in God, the One who is with us, called us, and given us peace.

May we grow in our ability to face fear, assured of God’s presence and peace with us always.

Pastor Kathy

SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES

A Design Team has been meeting to design a slate of NEW small group ministries that will begin in the fall. These will be in addition to the current groups that are meeting now.

An information brochure will be available as well as informational sessions in August presenting the various small groups.

Please contact one of the following Design team members if you have ideas or interest in leading or participating in a small group.

Rich Beal, Chip & Patty Kimberlin, Andy & Larissa Peterson, Eric & Hallie Cook, Kathy Gossard, Sondra Wisdom and Pastor

OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

Would you be able to assist with preparing Communion? We have a team of people, but are needing a few more helpers to prepare the elements take to the Sanctuary and clean up. Please contact Linda Waldron (Linda.h.waldron@gmail.com) or the church office to learn more or to volunteer.

Health and Member Care

We are a church family concerned about the health and well being of each other. If you wish to have an emergency contact name and phone number on record in the church office, please share it with us. This would be for emergency use only.



NEW ALL CHURCH DIRECTORY: SMILE! Be looking for information about our next congregation directory coming soon! Photography sessions will be available on Tuesday, August 1 for those with family members heading off to college and September 12-16 and 26-30. Watch upcoming bulletins on how to sign up for your photo session.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING BY PROFESSIONALS

Saturday, July 1, 4:30pm and Sunday, July 2, 9 & 10:30am



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

At the services on May 20th and 21st, 35 new items were blessed. There were 16 each of shawls and lap robes and 3 baby afghans. Someone asked us recently how many we have given since we renewed the ministry in 2011. Our records indicate 359 items have been accepted. We now have 69 items available. Many thanks to all who take part in this ministry. Make requests to co-chairs: Judy Poultney and Lois Young

FIT Wed @ 9am

The sum total of our FIT class is good friends, good exercise, and good food. Join the group on Wednesdays from 9 to 10 am in Room 53.

ALL CHURCH FIRST FEST

Thank you to all who attended, and especially to those who helped with the All Church First Fest on Sunday, June 4. The weather was warm, but it did not rain! What a great time together with our church family.

SSO The next Second Sunday Out will be on July 9 at 5:30 pm at Panera's 208 Greenbriar Dr., Normal. All are welcome to join for this Dutch-treat, order off the menu fellowship time.



CONDOLENCES

To the family and friends of Patricia Evans
To the family and friends of Del (Delano Hanes)

THANK YOU

Dear Normal First UMC, Thank you for your generous gift of \$268.00. Your donation helped support our student mentor program this semester. ISU Wesley Foundation

NEW MEMBERS: Kaitlin Carter and Eddie Creighton joined on May 28. Kaitlin joins us as a transfer from Goodlettsville Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Tennessee. She grew up outside Nashville, Tennessee, and graduated from Clemson University in May 2016. She is an actuary at State Farm. Kaitlin first started attending our church last summer when she was an intern at State Farm. Eddie joins us as a transfer from Eutawville United Methodist Church in Eutawville, South Carolina, where he grew up. He was born in Buffalo, New York. Also, a Clemson University graduate of the Class of 2016, Eddie is an electrical engineer at Ameren Illinois in Peoria. Eddie and Kaitlin were engaged recently and are planning a wedding for 2018.



BAPTISMS

Samantha Hadden
June 11
Elizabeth Rydz
June 11

Christian Education Ministries

Vacation Bible School

51 Super Heroes, 36 Amazing Volunteers, 4 Exciting Nights, and as Flame would say...One Epic VBS!
 At Hero Central, our Heroes discovered that their strength comes from God and that they are called to
 "Do good! Seek peace and go after it!" (Psalm 34:14 CEB)
 Thanks to everyone that made VBS 2017 Hero Central a great success!

Zach Uphold



July 1
July 9
 @ THE

4-8pm Cooking/serving meal at Safe Harbor.
 5-7pm SECOND SUMMER YOUTH COOKOUT/POOL PARTY

July 16

FULLER'S. Bring dish or drinks to share, plus a swimsuit and towel.
 5-7pm THIRD SUMMER YOUTH COOKOUT @ THE HOERNER'S.
 Bring dish or drinks to share.

July 30

5-7pm FOURTH SUMMER YOUTH COOKOUT @ THE KING-NOBLES'.
 Bring dish or drinks to share.

August 12-13 Youth leading worship services

August 20 Tentative date for MESSY GAMES!!

August 27 Youth/Parent Potluck Kick-off

YOUTH

In early June, 16 senior highs and 3 adult advisors went to the Heifer Ranch in Perryville, Arkansas for a week of serving and learning. Our time was filled with teambuilding, experiential learning, and working on the ranch. We were educated about poverty and hunger in the United States and around the world. We harvested onions (more than 500 lbs. in one morning!), milked goats, and did general maintenance work. We also spent a night in the Global Village where we experienced a little bit of life in another culture and having to choose how to use very limited resources (would we use some of our resources for food for our whole family or to get treatment for one sick family member?). Please enjoy some pictures of our week!



Celebrate Music Ministries—Building Relationships & Transforming the World

Summer Singers (pick-up choir) dates: July 9 & 29; August 13. We'll learn an anthem prior to worship and will then sing in the service(s). All are welcome! Teens, adults, singers, non-singers! If you enjoy music and love worship, you are welcome to join us!

Concert Pianist, Drew Pace, at Normal First! Saturday, September 16, 7pm. Drew will present a lecture concert featuring four of the Chopin *Ballades*. It is not often that a concert pianist has multiple Chopin pieces "in their fingers." What a great opportunity for our church and community! Invite your piano-loving friends to this free-will offering concert. (For additional information on the *Ballades*: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ballades_\(Chopin\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ballades_(Chopin)))



Contact Janna Peterson (jpeterson@normalfirst.org) for further information about Music Ministries at Normal First

MISSIONS HAPPENINGS

You'll want to make sure to attend services the weekend of July 22nd. Our guest speaker will be Marshall, Illinois native, Connie Wieck, who we support through our missions efforts here at First United Methodist Church. Connie will be sharing her experiences as a teacher with the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church under the auspices of the Amity Foundation. Since August 2014, she has been serving at Luzhou Vo-

cational and Technical College in Luzhou, Sichuan Province, China.

More information about Connie is available at: <http://www.umcmmission.org/Explore-Our-Work/Missionaries-in-Service/Missionary-Profiles/Wieck-Cornelia-Connie>

Let's have a large, welcoming group when Connie comes to share with us!

FAIRVIEW SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

Do YOU have an hour or more to spare each week for fun and laughter? First Church has been very supportive of Fairview School and we hope to continue with our service as volunteers. Please consider attending a meeting in our lounge, Tuesday, July 11 at 4pm to meet with men and women already volunteering and learn what a delight it is to work with elementary children. You may volunteer 1 or more hours a week and if you want to leave for vacation time we will find a sub for you. There are a variety of things you can do to assist teachers and

you will be rewarded with a smile by the teachers and the students. Please contact Sue Anvick, sueanvick@hotmail.com or Shirley Irion, shirleyirion@yahoo.com if would like to learn more.

AND school supplies will be going on sale very soon, so keep your eyes open for items to help those children who are less fortunate. There will be a list of supplies needed in our bulletin insert in the coming weeks as well as by the mission bins near the elevator.

NEXT NOISY OFFERING—July 29 & 30

Keep saving your coins. We are collecting again. Our children are leading an effort to raise money for the Baby Fold. Once a month, we'll have a designated "Noisy Offering". The children will assist us in receiving the offering during those services.

Before June's Noisy Offering, we have collected over \$1,834.00 for this fund.





UMW
Circles

Sonrise Circle

1st & 3rd Wednesday
6:30 am

Denny's Restaurant
1615 N. Main St.
Normal

Ruth Circle

3rd Monday of month
7 pm Church lounge

Vesper Circle

3rd Tuesday of month
1:30 pm Church lounge

Mercy Circle

3rd Wednesday of month
9:30 am Church lounge

New Hope Circle

4th Monday of month
7 pm Church lounge

**ALL WOMEN ARE
WELCOME!**



**DOWNNS VILLAGE MARKET-AUGUST 23, 4-6PM
CALLING ALL BAKERS!!**

The UMW will once again be sponsoring a food booth at the Downs Farmers Market on August 23, 2017. Please save the date on your calendar and plan to bake a couple of yummy pies, cookies, unfrosted cakes or other desserts that can withstand the heat from this outside event. Full details will be in our August First Connection.



**2017 UMW ATTIC SALE
Friday, July 21, 2017**

Donations will be accepted starting 2pm on Sunday, July 9th. For questions or to volunteer your time, please call: Carol Morgan 452-3127, Denise Myatt 827-9184, Linda Park 452-7052.

**TEA ROOM AND BAKE SALE
FRIDAY, JULY 21**

“Oooh sooo good” is what everyone says about our wonderful baked goodies and the delicious tea room lunch provided at our ATTIC SALE.

Once again we are calling on our bakers to fire up the ovens and begin cooking/baking your delicious items for the bake sale held during the Attic Sale, Friday, July 21. Many goodies can be baked ahead and frozen, so you don't have to do it during the hot summer days. Top sellers have been pies, cakes, breakfast rolls, muffins, cookies, brownies, candy, and other treats. Items should be wrapped, ready for sale and brought to the kitchen on Thursday, July 20.

LABELING is very important in these days of allergies and intolerances to a variety of ingredients. So please list ingredients that may be a problem for some, peanuts, etc. If you can make “Gluten Free” items please do so, and label them, as we do have a call for them. Also, if you use sugar or egg substitutes in your items, let us know so we can label them appropriately.

The Tea Room is open early on the day of the sale and our customers like to have coffee or tea and a wonderful pastry or even a nice piece of pie before the sale begins! So we look forward to seeing lots of those great coffee cakes, sweet rolls, etc. on Thursday.

The Tea Room will open at 7:00am, an hour before the Attic Sale begins for anyone who would like a cup of coffee and a breakfast treat before shopping. Lunch will be served from 11:00 to 1:00pm (or until supplies run out!). Our lunch menu will consist of Pulled Pork BBQ Sandwiches, chips, and a drink for \$6.00. Please tell your friends about the delicious food we Methodists prepare.

We can use a few good volunteers to help in a variety of ways, so if you are interested in helping cut, label and package the treats on Thursday or Friday morning, call Jane Whitman at 454-8770. If you are able to help with the Tea Room Lunch, please contact Joan McGuire at 452-1728 or Linda Pilant at 662-1893.

CHURCH OFFICERS BEGIN IN JULY

We have moved to a scholastic calendar so our new church officers begin in July. You can pick up a complete list of committees and officers at the Welcome Desk or in the church office. If you would like to serve and have not yet been asked, please talk to one of the pastors or your Lay Leader, John Freese. Most committee members serve for 3 years, with 1/3 of the committee rotating off each year. In reality, everything is reconsidered each year. If a particular committee is not a good fit for you, you can rotate off at any time. These are the chairpersons for the year.

Chair of Church Council
 Church and Society Chair
 Education Chair
 Finance & Stewardship Chair
 Health & Member Care Chair
 Marketing & Advertising Chair
 Memorial & Special Gifts Chair
 Missions Chair
 Nominating Comm. Chair
 Endowment Comm. Chair
 Staff-Parish Relations Chair
 Trustees Chair
 Building Subcommittee Chair
 UMM President
 UMW President
 Worship Comm. Chair

Kathy Alexander
 Kathy Gossard
 Michelle Kuznik
 Rich Beal
 Alice Pomeroy
 Erin Easter
 Becky Goeckner
 Michael Stanton
 Rev. Kent King-Nobles
 Don Garrett
 Chuck McGuire
 Mike Peterson
 Linda Waldron
 Duane Yockey
 Sara Knight
 Rev. Kent King-Nobles

Lay Leader
 Lay Members to Annual Conf.
 Membership Secretary
 Church Treasurer

John Freese
 Steve and Kathy Gossard
 Joan Beattie
 Linda Waldron

FINANCE CORNER

During the month of July, we will focus on the Missions portion of our church operating budget. Supporting missions is an important part of our church life at Normal First. Presently, we have 19 different missions that we support through our operating budget. In addition, we also support a variety of conference missions through our monthly apportionments. Also, the United Methodist Women and individual members of our congregation provide monetary and service support to many mission works. The mission committee has been active in garnering support for our mission commitments. At the end of each month, the children collect a "Noisy Offering," during service to give to the Baby Fold. This is just one example of the many ways that the committee is providing support for missions. We hope you take this opportunity during the month of July to learn more about the good work that your financial contributions are supporting. Thank you for all you do for Normal First.

Financial Report

General Fund		
April	Monthly	YTD
Income	\$57,817.95	\$333,765.55
Expenses	\$63,190.03	\$303,315.89

Attendance

Date	Attendance
May 6 & 7	389
May 13 & 14	331
May 20 & 21	304
May 27 & 28	288

Published Monthly (USPS 414120)
First United Methodist Church
Periodicals Postage Paid at Normal, IL
POSTMASTER send address change:
First Connection, 211 N. School St., Normal, IL 61761

Periodicals
U.S. Postage
PAID
Normal, IL

First Connection is a monthly publication of
First United Methodist Church of Normal.

Editor: secretary@normalfirst.org.

All submissions subject to editing.

Submission Deadline: 2nd Sunday of each month.

Publication Date: 3rd Sunday of each month.

Worship Times

Saturdays:

5:00 pm Worship-casual

Sundays:

9:30 am Worship-traditional

9:30 am Sunday School for all ages

11:00 am Worship-blended

11:00 am Sunday School for adults

First United Methodist Church of Normal Staff & Information

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Jinyang Tian

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1-4 pm
Monday-Friday

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Wi-Fi Network: FUMC-Guest
Password: normal1st



We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons.

(Social Principles of The United Methodist Church)

First United Methodist Church in Normal has committed itself to provide a Christian community and ministry without reference to any boundaries including age, race, ethnicity, culture, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, economic condition, physical or mental ability. We strive to be an open and accepting community in line with our understanding of what the Gospel of Jesus Christ expects of us.