

First Connection

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

ANNUAL FIRST FEST

Over 100 people gathered on June 3 at Underwood Park for the annual First Fest and had a wonderful afternoon of food, fellowship and fun. Snow cones, soccer games, yard games, bubbles, train rides and the modern version of “whack a mole” made it a great time for all ages!



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY FIRST CHURCH BUILD

July 7, 8-12pm

806 S. Madison St. Bloomington

Sign up at <https://habitatmclean.volunteerhub.com/lp/methodist/event/index/6285277>

JUNIOR HIGH MISSION TRIP

July 8-13, Quad Cities

The youth will be serving with YouthWorks. Please be in prayer for our youth and adults.

HOLY COMMUNION FOR JULY

We will observe Communion on July 7 & 8 at all services.



FAREWELL FOR MIKE

Mike Sweeney ended his 35-year career at FUMC on May 31. The congregation celebrated and thanked him for his many years of service on Sunday, June 3. During his tenure here, Mike has not only maintained our building but also developed and fostered relationships to help the church thrive. Congratulations Mike, and best wishes always.



THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR

Last year, my New Year's resolution was to read the Harry Potter series. Our sons had virtually *grown up* with Harry. But at that time, I hadn't been interested in that type of fiction.

I knew someday though I would want to read the series. I wanted to better understand my kids' childhood. It's not unusual still, during a family conversation, for a *Harry Potter* quote or scene to be shared. And it became obvious to me that many experiences of our lives and themes from our faith could be connected to scenes in the HP series.

So I decided, that even if I wasn't drawn to that type of writing, I should read the series. So January of 2017, I began reading Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone. And 14 months later, I finished book 7.

And I'm grateful. My kids were right. What a great story with so many life and faith lessons. And, what a great way to connect with our now young adult sons and their generation.

So what was next? What should I be reading that would stretch me, that would help me connect with others, that would help me understand our culture and world better?

This time I was drawn to some non-fiction, books about the future of the Christian Church. So this year I've been reading Weird Church, Christianity after Religion, Millennials and the Mission of God, and Future Faith.

Historians have been able to identify times of major shifts in religious thought – 4th century AD, 500 years ago, and then more recently in the United States, 3 significant times of Great Awakenings. During these times, “old patterns of religious life gave way to new ones and, eventually, spawned new forms of organizations and

institutions . . .” (Christianity after Religion, p. 29, by Diana Butler Bass).

Notice none of these were the end of Christianity, but rather significant shifts in the way that the church operated and the way people lived out their faith. Sociologists believe we're at one of those times again – a time of great awakening.

Wesley Granberg-Michaelson writes in Future Faith about the 10 challenges reshaping Christianity in the 21st century. Here's a few of them from the chapter titles:

- *Embracing the Color of the Future
- *Seeing through Non-Western Eyes
- *Rejecting the Heresy of Individualism
- *De-Americanizing the Gospel
- *Defeating Divisive Culture Wars

Times like these can be very unsettling, especially when it has to do with our faith, the major thing that we rely on to give us a sturdy foundation. But times like these can also be invigorating as we dig in and dive deeper to understand our faith better and open ourselves up to listen and learn from and about others.

In our lives, there are often many things that we resist (like reading *Harry Potter*). But often when we begin *these* journeys, we not only wonder why we resisted, we discover something new that changes our lives.

How will we journey into this time of great awakening? Resisting, probably. Together, hopefully. I hope *together* we will be open to learn from one another, to share our concerns, to listen carefully to others, and to seek God's guidance.

Pastor Kathy

“Differences of habit and language are nothing at all if our aims are identical and our hearts are open.”
Goblet of Fire Albus Dumbledore

CONGREGATIONAL CARE NEWS

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

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



SSO

Second Sunday Out will be on July 8 at 5:30 pm. Meet at Panera's in Normal. All are welcome to join for this Dutch-treat, order-off-the-menu fellowship time.

FIT Wed @ 9am

The sum total of our FIT class is good friends, good exercise, and good food. Join the group on Wednesdays 9:15 am in Room 53.

PASTOR RECEPTIONS

Pastors Kathy and Kent will be meeting with members of the congregation.

Westminster Village
Monday, July 9, 2 pm

Luther Oaks
Monday, August 27, 2pm

All are welcome to attend these casual, conversation receptions.

AED MACHINES

We have a second AED in our Church. It is located on the 4th floor near the elevator.

We still have the first AED located in the main hallway outside of the Lounge.

Heart to Heart – Tuesday, July 10, 10am, Lounge **Puerto Rico – Life after Hurricane Maria**

Heart to Heart will have as a special guest presenter, Fabiola Acevedo from Puerto Rico. Fabiola is a student in Pre-Vet at Iowa State University. She is doing an internship at Town & Country Animal Hospital in Normal this summer and staying with Becky & Ron Goeckner. While Fabiola was not in Puerto Rico when Hurricane Maria struck on September 20, 2017; her family: mother, father, sister, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends lived through the hurricane. The island continues to struggle more than 9 months later.



UPCOMING WORSHIP

Roxy Twaddle, ISU Wesley Foundation Campus Minister, will be preaching in all 3 services the weekend of July 28 & 29. In addition to her job at the Wesley Foundation, Roxy is a full-time student at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston.

It's been a great pleasure for me to work with Roxy this past year. She is creative, passionate, and dedicated to offering students a safe place to grow in their faith. And she is excited about working together with Normal 1st to offer ministries to the campus community and beyond.

Pastor Kathy

SAVE THE DATE

September 23, 9:30 Worship service

Bishop Sally Dyck, Northern Illinois Conference will be preaching.

Bishop Dyck is an outstanding clergy who gives fantastic sermons.

She will be here as part of UMW Sunday. You don't want to miss this opportunity.

OUR PRAYER GARDEN

needs watering! The hot, dry weather we've been having means we need **YOU** to help us water the garden 1-2 times each week. Stop by the office M-F to get the water key. You may water as many sections of the garden as your time allows. We will have a sign-up sheet in the office so that you'll know when watering has been done and which sections were watered!



Calling all singers!

Please join us during the summer for our occasional Summer Singers pick-up choir. This is a great time to test out your vocal cords without the weekly rehearsal commitment. Junior High through adult singers are welcome! Rehearsals will be at 8:30am; here are the plans:



July 1, "And the Church Shall Rise"

July 29, "I Will Rise" <http://www.beckenhorstpress.com/i-will-rise/>

August 12, "Prayer of the Children" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=khRznLpLpHc>

August 19, "Joy in the Morning" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2K5zKmfUeTc>

We look forward to having you join the fun!

Please contact Janna Peterson (jpeterson@normalfirst.org) to become connected!

YOUTH AT NORMAL FIRST

I'm Emily Lewis! I'm really excited to be the Children and Youth Ministry intern this summer. I've been a member of this church for about 20 years and I've loved growing up here at Normal First. I had awesome experiences in both children and youth ministries and I want to provide that for our kids now. I currently attend Heartland Community College studying social work with a minor in nonprofit. I look forward to deepening relationships with youth and families here at Normal First. Thank you all for continuing to be welcoming and supportive. Let's have a great summer!



OUR CONFERENCE, OUR KIDS

Our Conference, Our Kids is a very special effort to fund the Spiritual Growth programs at all 5 of our children's agencies. We at Normal First have been asked to fund \$25,000 of the \$2,500,000 needed for the endowment fund. Our current total is \$17,355. Many of you have responded with pledges and gifts – THANK YOU! I was pleased to take a check to Annual Conference in June for over \$8000. But, we are still a way from our goal. Please give this some thought, some prayers, and share your gift for this special need. Children across the Conference need the Spiritual guidance that this endowment fund will allow. You may mail funds to the church or the offering plate (notate OC, OK).

Our Conference, Our Kids is supporting the following organizations:

The Baby Fold—Lessie Bates Neighborhood Home—Chaddock
Spero Family Services—Cunningham Children's Home

Carolyn Yockey

UMW Bake Sale—Downs Village Market Wednesday, August 22nd from 4-6 pm

Please help the UMW again by baking goodies to sell at the market. Bring your home-made baked goods to the Church Lounge on Tuesday afternoon or by noon on Wednesday. Due to the heat, no products with cream cheese, frosting made with eggs, custard, sour cream, or cream-filled. Pies go quickly and are especially welcomed. Please package and label your goodies. Mark special ingredients such as nuts, no nuts, gluten-free, or peanut butter.

NEXT NOISY OFFERING

July 28 & 29

We are collecting our coins and loose bills for The Baby Fold. Normal First made a commitment this year of \$6,500.00 to this amazing organization.

NORMAL FIRST

Director of Building and Grounds
First United Methodist Church is seeking a mission-oriented, servant leader to lead people and projects that support the Church's mission, vision and values and maintain an attractive, clean, safe and functional facility for our Church and its activities. Will consider part-time or full-time candidates with flexible availability. Demonstrated experience in mechanics, carpentry, painting, electrical work, preventative maintenance, and working with external service providers required. Additional information at www.normalfirst.org. For consideration, send a cover letter and full resume to
Pastorkent@NormalFirst.org.

NEW IN YOUR CHURCH LIBRARY

The Anchor Bible Dictionary, six volumes, a gift from Judy Thomson

When Did God Become A Christian, by David Kalas, A gift from the Yokefellows

Christianity After Religion, The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening, by Diana B. Bass, A gift from the Yokefellows

Love, by Emma Dodd. A beautiful children's book

SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR FAIRVIEW SCHOOL

The mission emphasis for **July** will be school supplies for Fairview School. It does seem early, but we would like to get the supplies there so they can be distributed in August.

Helpful items would be:

- ** Wide ruled Spiral Notebooks (8" x 10 1/2)
- ** 70 to 80 pages 3 Hole Punched, Wide-Lined Notebook Paper
- **Crayons
- **Washable Glue
- **Washable Markers
- **Pencils
- **Pencil Grips
- **2 1/2" Pencil Eraser
- **Scissors-Fiskars brand
- **Pocket Folders with and without prongs
- **Kleenex/Tissues
- **Disinfectant Wipes

Monetary gifts to Fairview School for these supplies are also appreciated. Label money or check given at FUMC, for Fairview School.

**ALL ITEMS MAY BE BROUGHT TO THE MISSION CENTER IN THE LOUNGE.
THANK YOU!**

FINANCE NEWS

Ever toss a small rock into a lake & watch how many ripples it makes & how far the ripples go? Think about our FUMC "ripple" effect! Take all our church members & friends, multiply the time given helping in our church & the community and the financial support provided – you have a lot of "ripples" that have a positive impact on the lives of many people. Thank you for making "ripples" that make positive things happen!

Financial Report

General Fund

May	Monthly	YTD
Income	\$63,894.88	\$360,505.01
Expenses	\$81,066.08	\$347,556.85

Attendance

Date	Attendance
May 5 & 6	298
May 12 & 13	291
May 19 & 20	283
May 26 & 27	254

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fun in the Sun July 25, Miller Spray Park

- Just simple laid back play and fellowship for families. Let's stay connected this summer. Fun snacks provided.

Curriculum News

- K-5th graders are getting AMPED up to learn about what it really means to have confidence. So far they have discovered what is most important: Jesus. Each Sunday there will be more EXTREME challenges and another episode of the So and So Show (say that 10 times fast!). Stay tuned for more updates on our AMPED up summer!

Nursery Volunteers Needed

- We are expecting! Our children's ministry is growing so that means our volunteer team must grow. The Holy Spirit is ever present in the nursery each and every Sunday. To hold and love a child of God is most rewarding. We rotate monthly and require a background check. Contact Jill McNiff (children@normalfirst.org) to talk more about this growing ministry.

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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

We had lots of fun! The kids and staff would like to thank all of our awesome volunteers that made Vacation Bible School a huge success!!



Energy Conserving Practices During the Warm Season

- Set the thermostat at 76 degrees or higher
- Make sure cooling vents or registers are free of obstructions for greater efficiency
- Turn off the air conditioner when no one is home
- Shade windows and glass doors from the sun to help prevent heat build-up
- Run your exhaust fan after showering to vent hot, moist air outside



From the FUMC Green



UMW
Circles

Sonrise Circle
1st & 3rd
Wednesday
6:30 am

Time's Past Inn

Ruth Circle

Monthly, 7 pm

Check Facebook page

Vesper Circle

3rd Tuesday of month
1:30 pm Church lounge

Mercy Circle

3rd Wednesday of month
9:30 am Church lounge

**(no meetings June, July
and August)**

New Hope Circle

4th Monday of month
(no meeting June or July)



Ruth Circle-July 16, 7pm

We will meet to sort for the Attic Sale. All are welcome to come and help. Afterwards we will walk up-town for something to eat and a time to visit.

**Vesper Circle-July 17, 12:30pm
McAlister's Deli,
Bone Student Center**

Other women of the church and guests are welcome.
Call Patsy Sherrard for reservations at 452-3711.

**United Methodist
Women**

UMW - Please check the kitchen for dishes you may have left after a Sunday lunch, funeral dinner or circle meeting. Many items have been waiting to be retrieved for several months. Thank you!

**2018 UMW ATTIC SALE
Friday, July 20, 2018**



Donations will be accepted
beginning 2 pm on Sunday, July 8th.

For questions or to volunteer your time, please call Carol Morgan 452-3127, Mary Foster 452-2479, or Linda Park 452-7052.

**ATTIC SALE
FURNITURE PICK-UP IN B/N AREA!**



TWO MEN AND A TRUCK
"Movers Who Care."

Please call Ralph Morgan @ 452-3127
By Sunday July 8th to reserve space for
your large item.

We appreciate your contribution!

**Thank you, TWO MEN AND A TRUCK,
For donating your service!**

ATTIC SALE TEA ROOM: JULY 20, 7-1PM. LUNCH 11-1PM.

ATTENTION BAKERS

Our baked goods have been favorites of the Tea Room customers. We are hoping to have many of these delicious baked goods again this year!

The best sellers have been sweet rolls (small and medium), breads, candy, cookies, cakes, fruit pies (NO cream cheese or other items that must be refrigerated), and any kind of snack treat. Please list ingredients for possible allergy conditions. Also, gluten free items are appreciated!

Items should be wrapped, labeled, and ready for pricing if possible. Please bring them to the kitchen by Thursday morning, July 19.

Thanks to all the wonderful bakers for all you have done in past years. We hope you are ready to continue the great baking again this year!

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All submissions subject to editing.

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Worship Times

Saturdays:

5:00 pm Worship-casual

Sundays:

9:30 am Worship-traditional

9:30 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship-blended

11:00 am Sunday School for adults

First United Methodist Church of Normal Staff & Information

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8-12 pm
1-4 pm
Monday-Friday

Website: <http://normalfumc.org/>

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.