

First Connection

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



ALL CHURCH FIRST FEST

Sunday, June 3, 2018
4:00 – 6:30pm
Underwood Park

Fun, Food, Family and Friends

Fun

Games, Bounce House, Mike's Little Train, Light Action Arena

Food

Hot dogs and drinks will be provided.
You are invited to bring your favorite dish to share.

Family and Friends

Bring a lawn chair and relax with family and friends.
Bring a kite if you'd like to engage in that timeless enjoyment.

Help Make It Happen – Volunteers are needed to monitor games as well as for set up and clean up.

Sign Up - At the Information Center.

Looking forward to seeing you there!



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Upcoming Dates

June 2, 11am Groundbreaking Ceremony for our home build at
806 S. Madison St., Blm.

June 30 & July 7, 8-12pm First Church will be working on
the home

This home is being built for Kia & Georgia Griffin.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 10-13, 6-8pm, Dinner available from 5:30-6 in Lounge
Rolling River Rampage: Experience the Ride of a Lifetime with God
Ages Preschool to 5th grade

Register/Volunteer online <https://rrr.cokesburyvbs.com/normalfirst/>
Contact Jill at jmcniff@normalfirst.org
with any questions.



HOLY COMMUNION FOR JUNE

We will observe
Communion on June
2 & 3 at all services.

THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR

“THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS”

Shortly after the Parkland school shooting, I heard more than one student say, “Your thoughts and prayers are not enough.” I was tempted to be offended the first time I heard it. I was definitely curious. What did they mean? What were they saying about my faith?

One young man put it this way: “Sending your thoughts and prayers is important but it is not enough. People are dying.” I began to hear these sentiments as theological complaints. What so many people seemed to be saying is this: “Our thoughts and prayers are with you” is something of a cop out. For most of us, when we say this we are not really putting in any effort. Sometimes we say this without even praying at all. We are not sacrificing anything important. It is a way of saying, “we care” without really taking any caring actions. It is like saying, “luv ya” without any real commitment to love.

Don't get me wrong, I believe in the power of prayer. Prayer can change things. Let me say that even stronger. Prayer should change things. If we are sincerely, earnestly going to God in prayer about something, our prayers should have feet. They should lead to action. They should bring change. The God we serve is not lacking in power. The weak link is too often us, the people God is calling to act.

“My thoughts and prayers are with you.” It is easy to say. I say it often. And, while my

first instinct was to be offended when the students and others said that this is not enough, I now am feeling that their accusations are a challenge or word of judgment from God. Those students tell me that people are dying and something has to change. Students here in our community tell me that they shiver in fear and write goodbye notes to loved ones when they have lock downs and active shooter drills. They are asking what is coming out of our thoughts and prayers. They are anxiously looking for signs of hope. They are asking if our thoughts and prayers are leading us to new ideas, to new laws, or to new services. In other words, are our thoughts and prayers making any difference in the world? Are they leading us to action? Are they leading us to any sacrifice or commitment that would look like standing with those in need and helping shoulder their burden?

It is true not just of people directly affected by school shootings. It is true of so many people dealing with difficult situations. Now when I say, “My thoughts and prayers are with you,” I remember the urgent plea, “people are dying out here.” And, I try to ask myself what my thoughts and prayers are leading me to offer. If our thoughts and prayers are not leading us to concrete actions, then maybe it is time for us to think harder and pray deeper.

Pastor Kent

NEWS FROM YOUR FUMC PRAYER TEAM

Why do any of us pray? Some of us routinely seek God's direction and forgiveness. Others like to review the day expressing thanks to God for seeing us through it all. Many prayers are in moments of crisis.

When do we pray? Starting and ending the day with God. We pray about our problems - especially if we are hurt or confused. “God give me strength!”

The Normal FUMC Prayer Team meets weekly. We are honored to pray over lots of joys and concerns as outlined on special request prayer cards (as well as phone calls and/or private concerns you may have shared with us in conversation). Many requests remain on our list for a long time and it would be quite helpful if you could help us in the following ways:

Request Timeline - When completing a prayer card, please list us know the length of time you need us to keep your request on the list (ie: 1 x only; 2wks; long term).

Updates - Is it time to thank God for answered prayer?

Consider letting us know updates on a previous request by completing a new prayer card. OR . . .

Send a note or card to the church office and address it to FUMC PRAYER TEAM. Insert any updates of news you wish us to know (everything is kept confidential).

CONGREGATIONAL CARE NEWS

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Saturday, June 2,
4:30pm
and Sunday, June 3,
9 & 10:30am: Library



SSO

Second Sunday Out will be on June 10th 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.

NEXT NOISY OFFERING

June 23 & 24

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.

CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF:

Virginia Streeper-April 6, 2018
Loren Thomson-April 13, 2018
Donna Walker-May 8, 2018

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.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The co-chairs of the prayer shawl ministry wish to extend appreciation to all of the women who crocheted and knitted the many unique shawls, lap robes and baby blankets. We were pleased to have the congregation participate in the blessing of the of them during the services the weekend of May 12th & 13th. Contact Judy 452-7665 or Lois Young 963-5517 with question about the ministry or to suggest someone to receive one of the items.

PASTOR RECEPTIONS

Pastors Kathy and Kent will be meeting with members of the congregation at Westminster Village in Resident Center 3 on Monday, **July 9 at 2 pm** and at Luther Oaks on Monday, **August 27 at 2 pm** in the Private Dining Room. All are welcome to attend these casual, conversation receptions.

FAREWELL RECEPTION

Saturday, June 2, 1-3pm
Dwight UMC

Farewell reception and Open House for our DS Rev. Leah Pogemiller.

REV. JIM BORTELL PREACHING

June 16 & 17, Rev. Bortell will preach at all services. We are honored to have Jim back in the pulpit.

NEW MEMBER

Janice Yeager joined our congregation on April 29 as a transfer from the 1st United Methodist Church in Marion, IL. Janice and her husband recently moved into our community to be closer to family. She is a retired teacher for the deaf and is now a full-time caregiver of her grandson. They lived in Marion for over 20 years after her husband retired from the Air Force. As an Air Force family, they traveled the world. Janice's hobbies include music, crafts and reading.



Want to sing with Chancel Choir? 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:

June 10, "Let Everything that Hath Breath" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DOWUmW3JLU0>

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!

11am Worship Team Musicians needed – guitarists, drummers, vocalists

Summer Instrumentalists needed – woodwinds players, brass players, string players.

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

YOUTH AT NORMAL FIRST

Thank you to everyone who invested in the youth by purchasing stock! You will receive information at a later date about the shareholder meal, which will be August 12.

Please be praying for the youth and adults on our senior high trip (June 16-23): Tristan, Treyson, Gavin, Emily, Lydia, Andy, Austin, Zachary, Alex, Tori, Benjamin, Makayla, Caleb, Jill, Kent, Laurie, Harlan, Dan, and Kim. Some ways that you might pray for us: that we will have servant's hearts, that our eyes will be open to see how God is at work in our lives and the world around us, that God will use us to show God's love, and for safety.

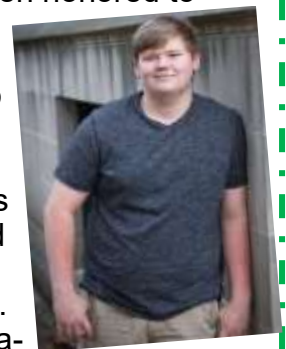
Last month I promised you more information about the junior high mission trip, so here it is! We will be traveling to the Quad Cities July 8-13 to serve with YouthWorks. While we are there, we may serve in a food pantry, clothing distribution center, soup kitchen, children's program, or elderly care facility.

Suggested School Supplies

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| -Three-Ring Binders | -Backpacks |
| -Tab Dividers | -Wide-Rule Notebooks |
| -Clear, Plastic Cover Sheets | -Folders |
| -Construction Paper | -No. 2 Pencil Erasers |
| -Protractors | -Pencil Sharpeners |
| -Compasses | -Rulers |
| -Scissors (child-safe) | -Crayons |
| -Washable Glue | -Colored Pencils |
| -Glue Sticks | -Markers |
| -Pencil Boxes | -Pens |
| -Daily Schedule Planners | -Wide-Rule Notebook Paper |
| -Book Covers | -Graph Paper |
| -Washable Paint Sets | -Art Sketch Pads |
| -Lunch Boxes/Bags | |



Over the past year I have been honored to serve as the Junior High Youth Intern, learning and experiencing what it is like to lead a youth ministry. With that I have experienced all the joy when something goes just like you wanted it to, and all the discouragement when your idea falls flat on its face. I've been able to develop relationships with the adults in the congregation as well as the youth in new ways. Through this internship I have become even more sure that this is where God is calling me to be.



By: Ryan Haas

<https://youthworks.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Day-4-SchoolSupplyDriveFlyerChurches.17.pdf>

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

June 7-9, Peoria

United Methodists from the IGRC will be gathering for worship, decision-making and fellowship. Attending from our congregation will be the pastors, lay delegates (Steve & Kathy Gossard) and other lay members representing various ministries.

THANK YOU FROM PAT TURNER

Dear Friends at First United Methodist,

I wish you could see my face right now. In fact, I wish you could see the faces of the many that have been blessed by your recent "Bag-O-Blessings" toiletries drive. We are all smiling from ear to ear! You have outdone yourself again. This time we received nearly one hundred and ten bags filled with much needed items from toothpaste, toothbrushes, bath tissue, shampoo, deodorant to cleaning supplies and kitchen necessities.

I want to add an additional thank you for the \$30.00 Walmart gift card, \$25.00 Kroger gift card and \$20.00 Walmart gift card. Store gift cards are a special blessing to us as they allow us to address unique unmet needs for our clients. We also use them to keep our store room balanced for optimum nutrition and care.

We also give a very special thanks to Peggy Scott and Ron Irion for bringing your generous bounty to our 1308 E. Empire site each week. More than anything though, we are grateful for your steadfast support for the Center for Hope Outreach Programs for more than twenty-five years! We do as Paul did in Philippians 1:3, thank God upon every remembrance of you!

Yours truly,

Pat Turner
Executive Director
Center for Hope Outreach Programs



Dear Normal First,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$500.00. Our summer months are filled with recruiting and planning the next school year—your donation will help support these efforts.

Thanks again!!
ISU Wesley

SAVE THE DATE

September 23, 9:30 Church service

Bishop Sally Dyck, Northern Illinois Methodist Conference will be preaching.

Bishop Dyck is an outstanding clergy who gives fantastic sermons.

She will be here as part of UMW Sunday.

SCHOOL STREET FOOD PANTRY

The advisory board continues to meet monthly for the opening of this food pantry in August/September. The board is comprised of members of Normal 1st; ISU Wesley Foundation; ISU students, faculty and staff; and the Town of Normal. The Food Pantry will be located in room 208. Members of the advisory board have been working on several tasks: publicity, logo, funding, food bank contacts, health department guidelines, room set-up, furnishing, volunteers, etc. This ministry continues to be a great partnership between Normal 1st, ISU and the community.

Financial Report

General Fund

April	Monthly	YTD
Income	\$78,814.55	\$296,314.20
Expenses	\$68,688.30	\$266,490.77

Attendance

Date	Attendance
April 7 & 8	300
April 14 & 15	324
April 21 & 22	368
April 28 & 29	289

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

K-5th grade Summer Sunday Series!

If you want to live fully alive, you've got to know what you're living FOR. You've got to know what your life is built on, and figuring that out starts with knowing what really matters to you.



Mark Your Calendars for Summer Fun in the Sun!

Join other Normal First families for some simple fun in the sun. Bring neighbors and friends to the spray park for play and refreshments (provided by Normal First) 6-7:30pm
—June 27 McGraw Spray Park, Bloomington
—July 25 Miller Spray Park, Bloomington



Lightbulb Disposal 101

Disposal in the trash:

- Incandescent bulbs and lamps can be disposed of in the trash. If the bulb is broken, wrap it first.
- Halogen bulbs contain halogen gas. Make sure to put a used halogen bulb back into its original carton to prevent it from shattering.

Handle with care & recycle at Lowes, Menards, Home Depot, or a Hazardous Household Waste Event:

- CFLs use much less energy than the older bulbs, but contain mercury which cannot be thrown in the trash because toxins seep into landfill groundwater and eventually your drinking supply. Toxic components in CFLs can be recycled.
- LEDs are long-lasting energy efficient bulbs that contain lead and arsenic, so they cannot be thrown in the trash/ landfill.
- Fluorescent tubes contain mercury which makes them hazardous and difficult to recycle. Handling fluorescents can be dangerous for the environment and sanitation workers because they break easily. They may need to be recycled through special processing programs.

~Your FUMC Green Team

Solar Power Hour at FUMC

The Ecology Action Center will present the Solar Bloomington-Normal 2.0 Group Buy Program at FUMC on June 20, 12:30-1:30pm. You will hear about the benefits of solar and the unique pricing elements of this program. EAC will offer easy access to a vetted solar installer who will offer installations at a reduced price. Come, learn all about this solar program for our community.



UMW
Circles

Sonrise Circle

1st & 3rd
Wednesday
6:30 am
Time's Past Inn

Ruth Circle

Monthly
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
(no meetings June, July
and August)

New Hope Circle

4th Monday of month
7 pm various locations



United Methodist Women

Ruth Circle will meet at 7:00 pm on Sunday, June 24th at Emack & Bolio's in Uptown Normal. All women are welcome to join us for this social event. For questions or more information contact Nicole Rummel at rummelnicole@yahoo.com or Janet Lammey at jclammey@gmail.com.

VESPER CIRCLE

June 19, 9am
Carmella's Restaurant
2203 E. Washington St.
(w. of Jim's Steak House)

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



TWO MEN AND A TRUCK.
"Movers Who Care."

**PLEASE CALL RALPH MORGAN AT 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!**

**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.

NEW BOOKS IN YOUR CHURCH LIBRARY

The New Jim Crow, Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander

Focus by Daniel Coleman. One reviewer, Chip Conley, wrote "Daniel Coleman has written the perfect prescription for today's deficit of attention in business and life."

Overcoming Life's Disappointments by Rabbi Harold Kushner. Lessons we can learn from the life of Moses.

Interfaith Leadership, A Primer Eboo Patel. How to have good relationships with those who have different views.

Missionary Conferences of the United Methodist Church in the United States by J. Ann Craig. Gives the reader the foundational understanding of how The United Methodist Church developed into the organization it is today.

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All submissions subject to editing.

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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

11:00 am Worship-blended

11:00 am Sunday School for adults

First United Methodist Church of Normal Staff & Information

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Office Hours
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.