

First Connection

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



Heart AND Soul in Concert

**Sunday May 19
4:00 p.m.**

First United Methodist
Church

Heart & Soul is a choir for
people with special needs.
Their program offers a variety
of music all presented
with great enthusiasm and
heartwarming charm

WE ARE IN THE LOOP!



We are excited to announce that a hearing induction loop has been installed in the seating area of the sanctuary. The hearing induction loop allows any hearing aid equipped with a telecoil to listen directly to our sound system. This result in very clear sound to the hearing aid making speech very easy to understand.

Many hearing aids already have telecoils and simply need to be activated by your hearing care professional. If you don't have a hearing aid, receivers will be available to check out during worship services. To learn more about how this works, please come to the Training on Sunday, May 5 at 12:00 noon (in the sanctuary, following worship).

CHILDREN'S MUSICAL

May 1, 6pm, Sanctuary
Two musical chime
performances by our
K-5 graders.
More information on page 6.



MEDITATION WALK

May 4, 10-12 noon, \$5.00
Sugar Grove Nature Center at Funk's Grove

"Pay attention, be astonished,
do something about it."
Mary Oliver

Led by Jim Bortell who will teach us guided slow walking, paying attention to the present moment, and aid in experiencing nature as a healer of body, mind, and spirit.

Please come ready to be immersed in nature.
Sign up at the Welcome Center.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 3-6pm, 5:30-7pm
Meal at 5pm
Sign up online at <http://normalfirst.org/> or at the
Welcome Center.



CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

May 5, 11am Worship service
For more information, see page 4.

THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR

Summer Worship Summer Fun

Summer is often the time when schedules look a bit different. Evenings are stretched with more daylight. Warmer weather invites us outside. And rhythms at work and school may change, giving us more flexibility.

Our staff has been talking for some time about trying something different in the summer months. We know that many travel in the summer, not only for a week or more, but often times for out-of-town mini-vacations over the weekends. So it's easy to miss weekly worship and miss staying connected with your church family when mini vacations happen several weekends in a row.

So, this summer, we are offering some Mid-week Worship Services followed by Summer Fun. In addition to our weekend worship services, we'll be offering a worship service on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 beginning June 12. Most weeks, we'll gather in the Fellowship Hall, but plans are still being worked out for some off-site worship locations.

This will be an informal service. Basically, we're moving our Sunday morning 11:00 service to Wednesday evening for the summer. (But keep reading below to see what will fill that Sunday morning 11:00 slot.) On Wednesday evenings, the music will vary – there will be some similarities to our current 11:00 service, but also you'll see some other instruments and styles. With the flexible space in the Fellowship Hall,

the set-up will vary. A pray-ground will be offered for children. The service will be designed for all ages.

At 7:15, following worship, *Summer Fun* is planned. Games, Dance videos, water games, music and bowling are just some of the ideas. A full schedule will be posted soon.

Whether or not you come to Wednesday evening worship, you are invited to *Summer Fun*.

Wednesday Night worship (6:30) & *Summer Fun* (7:15) will happen on these nights: June 12, 19, 26 July 10, 17, 24, 31 August 7 (No worship on July 3)

But keep reading! There's more!

Beginning on June 19th, the Sunday morning 11:00 service will move to the chapel where we'll offer a more traditional worship service. That means that we'll still have our regular weekend worship times: Saturday at 5:00 and Sunday at 9:30 & 11:00. But our more informal service will now be held on Wednesday evenings for the summer.

We promise to communicate well so you'll know *the what and where* each week! Our hope is that this will offer more opportunities for staying connected through worship this summer and more opportunities for connecting with one another.

And, as always, please feel free to contact us with questions, concerns, and ideas. We value our partnership with you as we love God together and serve our community and world together.

Pastor Kathy

WORSHIP THEMES FOR MAY

May 4 & 5	Confirmation Sunday (11am) "Don't Give Up Too Soon" - Judas
May 11 & 12	"Faith Takes Time" - Thomas
May 18 & 19	Environmental Emphasis Senior Recognition
May 25 & 26	Remembering

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

COMING IN MAY

May 5 @ 10:30am—Blood Pressure screening-in library

NO SECOND SATURDAY/SUNDAY OUT IN MAY, WE WILL RESUME IN JUNE

Wednesdays @ 9am—FIT, Room 53

HOLY LAND TRIP

Want to go to the Holy Land and walk where Jesus walked? Everyone who is able should do this trip at least once in their lifetime. Being in this land opens up the Bible and gives people a renewed excitement about faith and a better understanding of who Jesus is. Pastor Kent will be leading a trip to the Holy Land in January of this next year, 2020. If you might be interested, talk to Pastor Kent.

SUMMER DINERS CLUB

The Fall Diners Club groups were very well received! Let's get even more people involved as we organize new groups. All ages are welcome – families, couples, and singles. Who doesn't enjoy a delicious meal and wonderful fellowship!

Participating is easy. If you are interested, just complete form in the Saturday/Sunday May bulletins and drop in the collection plate or church office by Sunday, May 12.

Small groups of about eight people will be randomly put together for monthly social gatherings. A group leader will help with organization. What a great opportunity to make new friends!

CHURCH DIRECTORY



SMILE! LifeTouch will be at the church on Tuesday, May 28 to take directory photographs! If you are new to our church, have new faces in your family, were unable to have your portrait taken for the last directory, or just want a new or better picture in the directory schedule your portrait session now! Go online to (<https://bit.ly/2CS53NI>) to schedule your appointment or call the church office at 452-2096.

Please note that if your portrait is in the last directory and you do not wish to have another portrait taken, your photograph from the last directory will be used.

If you are interested in volunteering to work check-in that day or wish to coordinate the volunteers needed, please contact Barb Todd.

ILLINOIS SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

Saturday, August 3, 8pm

Group tickets are available for a church outing at the Illinois Shakespeare Festival for a performance of the comedy *As You Like It*. Tickets are \$28 each for the 8 pm performance in the Theatre on the grounds of Ewing Cultural Center. There are a limited number of tickets, and must be paid for when requested. Look for an information table starting in June. For additional information please contact btodd@normalfirst.org.



2019 UMW ATTIC SALE JULY 26, 8-3PM



When clearing out your clutter in your attic, basement, closets, etc., remember to donate your items to the Attic Sale. Drop off your items starting July 14 after 2pm.

During the first quarter of 2019, memorial contributions were received in memory of the following:

**Lauri DeVault
Rick Heiser
Lloyd Johnston**

Eagle Scout Court of Honor



Please join us in celebrating the achievement of **Benjamin Morgan** as he is awarded the rank of **Eagle Scout** Sunday, May 19th at 1:30 pm at FUMC

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES



Stop by our Vacation Bible School Display located in the Narthex to find ways to get involved! This event (June 3-6) is a tremendous opportunity for us to show our children and surrounding community the great love of God. Please be a part of it!



YOUTH AT NORMAL FIRST

It's so hard to believe we are coming to the end of the school year! May is an exciting month for youth ministries.

On May 5, we will celebrate as members of this year's confirmation class choose to confirm their faith.

This year's class of 8th and 9th graders has met weekly to explore our faith journeys. We have attended worship together. We have met with our Friends in Faith, and visited a synagogue for worship. We have created a statement of faith that reflects what we believe about the Christian faith.

Thank you to the parents and Friends in Faith who helped make this year of learning and community a priority.

Confirmation 2018-19 (Friend in Faith)

Carson Brown (Steve Gossard)

Audrey Cigainero (Kris Williams)

Natalie Curtis (Leta Buhrmann)

Graham Huffman (Nathan Ambuehl)

Joe Long (Dan Bixby)

Geoffrey Morgan (Greg Anvick)

Zachary Ogdon (Jeremy Cunningham)

Carrie Smolen (Julie Cunningham)

Austin Turner (Don Garrett)

Carson Brucker (Steve Easter)

Keaton Cunningham (Mike Kortkamp)

Corey Hadden (Dale Hoerner)

Samantha Laudner (Jill McNiff)

Gavin McNiff (Kim Burke)

Abby Morse (Michelle Hoerner)

Makayla Smedley (Chris Isted)

Logan Sprouls (Jim Wisdom)

Paige Voorheis (Melissa Plank)

On May 19, our congregation will celebrate with our graduating seniors as we recognize them and offer our blessings on the next part of their life journey.

Students for Good!



Merge at ISU Wesley is hosting our 24-7 prayer room from April 10 to the 17th! During this time, students from Merge will be in constant prayer for 168 hours, each taking 1-hour time slots. We are so excited. This semester's prayer room will have something just a little different - Merge students raised just over \$100 to purchase fabric to make blankets for The Linus Project. The Linus Project provides blankets for babies who are born prematurely. The students are including the making of the blankets in prayer week, so that each blanket made will be prayed over, and each baby who receives a blanket will have been prayed for. This was a student idea and a completely student led event, and due to student efforts, Merge is able to donate 20 blankets! Here is a photo of these selfless, wonderful people on the Quad at ISU raising funds with a bake sale.

If you or someone you know would like to volunteer with Merge or help our ministry continue to flourish, please consider making a financial contribution at isumerge.org. If you have any questions, contact Roxy at roxy@isuwesley.org.



Our Conference, Our Kids

A little over a year ago, we launched a campaign to support Our Conference, Our Kids. This is to endow the Spiritual Life Programs at our 5 children’s agencies. The goal for the Conference is \$2.5 million, and our suggested share is \$25,000.

We have done well! As of last week, we have gifts and pledges totaling \$21,862.30. Let’s see if we can complete our goal by June 1. If you have already given, thank you! Perhaps you will consider another gift. If you were not able to give last year, please consider doing so this year. Gifts can be given to the church office, left in the offering plate with the indication OCOK or by giving online. I know we can do it! Watch for frequent updates.

FIRST FEST

Sunday, June 2, 2019, 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
engagement.

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

Sign Up - All signup sheets will be available at the
Welcome Center beginning May 4th.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

MISSIONS PROJECT FOR MAY

MCLEAN COUNTY NURSING HOME

Our mission project for May is sharing items with the residents of the McLean County Nursing Home. The items may be placed in the mission baskets in the lounge throughout the month. The items are:

- ** Small packs of tissues
- ** Small pads of paper and pens
- ** Puzzle books such as word searches
- ** Small/regular size bottles of lotions or body washes
- ** Snack items such as cheese and crackers or peanut butter crackers
- ** Mints
- ** (No homemade food items are accepted.)

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Our May meetings are Tuesday, May 14 and 28th
and 1:30pm. We will meet in the Youth Lounge
(Room 302). Please bring completed projected for
the blessing on June 8 & 9.

ENDOWMENT NEWS

In our final article regarding our transition to Wespath Investment Management, we will summarize the advantages of Wespath. In addition to alignment with the social principles of the United Methodist Church, they also use a diversified multi-manager approach to investing. Wespath has consistent long-term outperformance versus their peers, and they also utilize a cost-effective bundled service that provides administrative simplicity. While the church has only been investing with Wespath for seven months, our committee is very pleased and impressed with them.

Financial Report

General Fund

March	Monthly	YTD
Income	\$99,647.39	\$243,230.29
Expenses	\$74,964.91	\$206,179.71

Attendance

Date	Attendance
March 2 & 3	336
March 9 & 10	259
March 16 & 17	356
March 23 & 24	237
March 30 & 31	312

 "Our" **Amazing Children** will present two chimes musicals on Wed, May 1 at 6pm!

 Cherub Choir will tell us the story of God's protection over Daniel through the cute story *The Lions and their 'Den-ner' Guests*. We'll learn about Jesus feeding the multitude from our Wesley Choir in the musical *The Little Boy and the Lunch*. Each musical is about 15 minutes long. Come for this very special experience led by Normal First kiddos!



Summer Music @ Normal First: Play an instrument? Love to sing? Would you like to share your gifts in worship this summer? Special Music is needed for each worship service during the summer months and we'd love to hear you! Please contact Janna Peterson (jpeterson@normalfirst.org) to volunteer. We are so blessed by your offering in worship. **Thank you!!** Summer Singers – a pick-up choir – will participate in summer worship from time to time. Watch for detail
Contact Janna Peterson (jpeterson@normalfirst.org) for further Music Ministries information!

Serving a Meal at Safe Harbor

Are you interested in helping prepare and serve a meal to people who REALLY appreciate it? Normal First Youth have the fantastic opportunity to serve a meal at Safe Harbor several times in 2019 and we're inviting the congregation to join us!

Each time we have served previously has been very meaningful. It's a chance for us to show radical hospitality to people who are often overlooked.

We'll begin preparing the meal at the church at 4pm, and then take it to Safe Harbor to serve. We will be back to the church by 8pm. Children age 8 and older are welcome to serve with a parent.

Please sign up using this link: <https://bit.ly/2ldDS3S>.

Here are our dates:

Sunday, May 12 (this is Mother's Day!)
Saturday, June 1
Saturday, July 6
Wednesday, July 31
Friday, August 9
Saturday, September 7
Saturday, November 23
Friday, December 13

If you have questions or would like more information, contact Kim Burke at kburke@normalfirst.org. Looking forward to serving with you!

NEW BOOKS AND MAGAZINES IN YOUR CHURCH LIBRARY

The current **Book of Discipline and Book of Resolution of the United Methodist Church**

Plough — a quarterly magazine that features art, poetry, stories, and ideas to inspire everyday faith and action.

Sing a Song of Popcorn, Every Child's Book of Poems

When the Wind Stops by Charlotte Zolotow

Mommy's Best Kisses by Margaret Winter

Biscuit Finds a Friend by Capucilli

Be My Valentine by Rosemary Wells

The Baseball Counting Book by Barbara McGrath

**A COMMUNITY OF WOMEN
WHOSE PURPOSE IS:**

- to know God
- to experience freedom as whole persons through **Jesus Christ**
- to develop a creative, supportive fellowship
- to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church



7TH ANNUAL DAUGHTERS ALL BANQUET

April Showers Bring May Flowers

May 7, 5:30 pm

Are you as anxious to celebrate Spring as we are? If so, we hope you'll plan to attend our garden party in the Fellowship Hall. Dinner will be chicken salad, croissants, pasta salad, fruit, and dessert.

The delightful duo of Davenport and Dish will entertain us with a variety of 1970's music. Tickets will be on sale in advance only the weekends of April 13-14 and 27-28 between and after services.

Tickets will not be available at the door.

DOWNS VILLAGE MARKET

UMW will once again be sponsoring a food booth at the Downs Village Market. Please save the date of August 7th and plan to bake for this bake sale. Last year, we made a profit of \$489.50. Additional information will come. Your help is always appreciated!

VESPER CIRCLE

- May 21 @ 1:30pm, Church lounge
- Program: "Sterile Feral"
- Speaker: Patsy Wieland
- Hostesses: Mary Foster, Bonnie Moser, Janet Auer
- Devotions: Carol Morgan

**NEW SCHOOL AT
CUNNINGHAM CHILDREN'S HOME**

In early 2013, the United Methodist Women became aware of the need to raise funds for a new school at Cunningham Children's Home. A speaker from Cunningham spoke to each of the Circles, and there was a field trip to Cunningham to see what needed to be replaced. Individual women gave gifts and made pledges; there were a few gifts from the UMW treasury. To date the women have given \$63,890! With this size of gift, the women were given the opportunity to name a room and chose the Title One Reading Office. On March 22, 2019, there was a special time to present the women with a plaque. On March 23, there was a ribbon cutting ceremony to share the joy of the Noel Education Center. The plaque will be hung in the church – look for it.

Cunningham Children's Home has not raised all they need for the new school, so please don't stop giving.

MERCY CIRCLE

May 15 @ 9:30am, Church Lounge
Program: School Street Food Pantry with Rev. Kathy King-Nobles
Hostesses: Marlene Dietz and Mary Ryder
Devotions: Sue Coons

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



Please call Ralph Morgan at 452-3127 by Sunday, July 14th to reserve space for your large item.

We appreciate your contribution!

A special thank you to Two Men and a Truck for donating their service!

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month.

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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-informal

11:00 am Sunday School for adults

First United Methodist Church of Normal Staff & Information

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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.

POST EASTER SCRIPTURE READINGS

Celebrating Creation

May 13	Genesis 1:1-5
May 14	Genesis 1:6-8
May 15	Genesis 1:9-13
May 16	Genesis 1:14-19
May 17	Genesis 1:20 - 23
May 18	Genesis 1:24-31
May 19	Genesis 2:1-3

Remembering

May 20	Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 9-14
May 21	Luke 22:19-20
May 22	Luke 24:1-12
May 23	Isaiah 49:15-16
May 24	Psalms 77:7-15
May 25	Jeremiah 31:31-34
May 26	Exodus 20:8-11

Love: 1 John

May 27	1 John 1:1-4
May 28	1 John 1:5-10
May 29	1 John 2:7-11
May 30	1 John 3:18-24
May 31	1 John 4:7-12
June 1	1 John 4:13-16
June 2	1 John 4:17-21