

First Connection

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

ALL SAINTS REMEMBRANCE

November 3 & 4, 5:00pm & 9:30am

We will be remembering and honoring those from our congregation who died this past year. We have invited their family members to join us.

As part of the Service of Remembrance, we'll be celebrating Holy Communion. Though it is the custom of this congregation to come forward for Communion, on this particular occasion, we will be serving communion in the pews. With all the varied ways that Communion can be served, passing the communion plates in the pews gives us an opportunity to serve one another, acknowledging that together we are part of this community of faith. Eating and drinking together symbolizes for us the bond of faith that we share. On this weekend, we will be giving thanks for the *Saints* and for one another.

HOLY COMMUNION FOR NOVEMBER

We will observe Communion on Nov. 3 & 4, Nov. 24 & 25.
We will not serve Communion on Dec. 1 & 2



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

**The Good News Hour, December 2nd
11:00am/Sanctuary**

Kindergarten through 5th graders will engage through a "newsroom" retelling of the Christmas story. ALL are welcome to participate. It will be helpful for your children to come to Wonderful Wednesdays Oct 24-Nov 28th/ 5:45-6:45pm.

For more information, contact Janna (jpeterson@normalfirst.org) or Jill (jmcniff@normalfirst.org).

Dress rehearsals will be Wed., Nov. 28, 5:45-6:45pm and Sat., Dec 1, 9-11am (this will also be our fun Christmas Brunch with wonderful food, games and crafts)

Our preschoolers will also be singing in the pageant. They will practice their song during their Sunday School hour.



CELEBRATION OF BABIES AND CHILDREN

Nov. 11, 9:30 & 11am

Recognizing families who have added babies and children by birth or adoption in this last year. It is such a blessing when our family continues to grow. If your family has grown and you haven't heard from Rev. Kim Burke, please contact her at kburke@normalfirst.org.

WELCOME TIFFANY OGDON-SMITH

11:00 Worship Music Director

Tiffany began in October as our Worship Music Director for the 11:00 service. She brings with her a wealth of experience-Worship leader, Children's Director, piano teacher, bachelor/master in music. We're glad to have more Ogdons in our church family – she's the sister of Mike & Jared. Please welcome Tiffany and her family to our church.

THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The School Street Food Pantry, housed here at Normal 1st, has been open for a month now. Worried that first night if anyone would come, we closed the doors at the designated closing time after serving 52 students. All of the doubt of whether this was needed or if students would come, quickly faded away.

There are many ways to tell about the food pantry. I'll start with numbers.

- Week one: 52 individuals came to the pantry representing 92 people (family members in their home).
- Week 2: 74 students served representing 128 family members.
- Week 3: 91 students came representing 195 family members.

In all, the pantry has served 150 students who represent about 300 people. It has primarily been ISU students, but there have also been a few Heartland students as well.

We can also talk about the pantry with stories:

- The pantry provided food for a young family from El Salvador who had a newborn baby still in the hospital and no family in town. They are students at ISU.
- The student who shopped for herself and then returned an hour later with a couple of friends who were grateful to learn about the pantry and appreciative of the help.

Lastly, the comments from the students as they leave the building with their bags, perhaps best tell the story:

- *Thank you for doing this. It has truly been a blessing. This has helped me a lot.*
- *Leaving with a couple of cookbooks and food, I'm really excited to try out*

some slow cooker recipes.

The pantry has received a lot of support from the community, campus, and our church.

- Pat Turner from Center for Hope has guided us and shared her years of experience.
- Many have volunteered to work in the pantry.
- Fresh Favs at ISU bring their extra produce each week to share with the students.
- ISU provided lots of shelving and a refrigerator for the pantry.
- In addition to providing food and toiletries, several cookbooks have gone home with students.
- The ISU Nutrition & Dietetic Department hosted their first cooking class. They provided all of the ingredients from foods available in the pantry and taught the students how to prepare healthy and affordable meals.

The official name for the pantry is "The School Street Food Pantry". The unofficial title we're using is *Food for Thought*. This seems like an appropriate title for a food ministry that supports college students.

The vision of the food pantry board has always been more than providing food for hungry students. It's also about providing tools and resources and support for long-term success. The food is one piece of enabling students to be successful in college. Thank you, Normal 1st, for providing this ministry to our campus community.

Pastor Kathy

www.schoolstreetfoodpantry.org.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING DONE BY MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

Saturday, Nov. 3,
4:30pm
and Sunday, Nov. 4,
9 & 10:30am: Library



FIT Weds. @ 9:30am

The sum total of our
FIT class is good
friends, good exercise,
and good food. Join
the group in Room 53.

LEAF RAKING

We will again organize work teams to lend a helping rake for our members who need assistance with leaf removal on Saturday, November 10 from 9 am to 12 noon. If you wish to volunteer or need assistance with your yard, please contact the church office or sign up in the Narthex or contact Brian Wills at bpwills20@frontier.com.

SHARE A THANKSGIVING DAY MEAL WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

Thursday, November 22, 2018
Social Time – 12:30 PM in the
Church Lounge

Buffet Meal – 1:00 PM in the
Fellowship Hall

Turkey and gravy will be provided.
You are invited to bring a dish to
share.



Sign up at the
Welcome Center be-
ginning October 28.

RECEPTION AFTER WORSHIP ON SATURDAY, NOV. 3

Immediately following worship we will have a brief reception. Nothing too fancy or formal, just a chance to grab a snack and visit for a minute before heading out. Catch up with an old friend or meet a new one. Or both. The reception will be in the Narthex. You are invited.

CHURCH POTLUCK ON SUNDAY, NOV. 4 AT NOON

Enjoy a good meal with some good people in a casual atmosphere. We will be having a church pot-luck in the lounge. Bring a side dish, if you are able. Come after the 11:00 worship, after Sunday School or come back just for this. Stay for a leisurely conversation or eat and run. We hope you can join us and get to know members of your church community better.

BAGS OF BLESSING

They will be distributed following each service Nov. 3 and 4. Attached to each bag will be a list of items to be donated to Center of Hope for the Thanksgiving baskets. Please bring back items the following two weeks and place on table in back hallway across from church office. Missions Committee thanks you for your donations.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry were pleased to send 5 shawls and 3 lap robes to Myrtle Beach, SC. for victims of Hurricane Florence. Our contact was the Uphold family, former FUMC members, who will distribute the items through their Methodist Church. Current and new members are welcome to join us for needlework and conversation Nov. 13, 1:30pm in Room 303. The Blessing of the Prayers Shawls will be Nov. 17 & 18 during worship services.

MEMORIALS

During the third quarter of 2018, Memorial contributions were received in memory of the following:

Rebecca Ansher
Gavin Coffman
Guy Fritz
Wally Mead
Chuck Murray
Terry Park

Festival of Trees for The Baby Fold Interstate Center

Nov. 16, Opening Day Breakfast, 7-9am,
reservations required
Open to the public, Friday, Nov. 16 & Saturday,
Nov. 17, 9pm to 8pm. Sunday, Nov. 18, 9 - 4 pm
Much more information at www.festoftrees.org.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

November 17th: A Night Out for Parents

Parents, please accept this gift of a night out without kids! Drop your kiddos ages 2 to 5th grade off at Normal First for a few hours of fun while you and your beloved spend some time alone. 5:30-7:30pm.

We will feed kiddos pizza for dinner, then head into games and fun. We will have a cookie decorating station, a craft station, and much more. RSVP to Jill at jmcniff@normalfirst.org

Items needed: Children's Ministry is growing! Our nursery is in need of a few items and would appreciate any donations you could provide. Items such as:

Crib sheets

Wet wipes

Clorox Spray (the kind you can spray and leave on)

Playdough

Large bottles of hand sanitizer

Thank you in advance for your generous donations! You can drop these items off in the office.

YOUTH AT NORMAL FIRST

12 Junior high youth and 3 adults traveled to Lake Williamson Retreat Center for NOW Initiative in October. While there, we worshiped together, attended workshops, and listened to speaker Rev. Mike Rayson. Mike challenged the youth to go lead and change the world because we are the church of NOW! While learning about the ministries Midwest Distribution Center, we put together school bags, and assembled towel kits for flood buckets.



FAIRVIEW VOLUNTEERS

The volunteers at Fairview are off to a wonderful start. However, more are needed. We have openings for all ages from pre-k to fifth grade and also the library. If you could help us or have questions, call Sue Anvick 217-283-7589.

COMING IN DECEMBER

Dec 2, 11am Children's Musical
 Dec 9, 3pm Candlelight Carol Service
 Dec 16, 11am Choir Cantata
 Dec 19, 12 & 7pm Longest Night Services
 Dec 24, 4 & 7pm Christmas Eve Services
 Dec 29, 5pm Worship
 Dec 30, 10pm Worship
 (No 11:00 Service or Sunday School)

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOME BUILD

Nov. 3, 8-12pm
 Normal First will be working again on the home for Kia & Georgia Griffin. To sign up go to: <https://goo.gl/T8gUDe>.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Come, Help Prepare Our Church for the Christmas Season, 4 - 6pm Sunday, Nov 25

There will be a variety of activities for children and adults.

Sign in at the Welcome Center so adequate plans may be made.

Walk-ins are always welcome.

A 5:15pm Barbecue Pork Supper is planned. You may want to bring a dish to share.



Men's Small Groups, TWO Weds. Sessions

The 7-8pm session of Men's Small Group continues. A new 5:45 session has the same core values of respect & growing in faith, faithfulness, and relationships. Both groups meet in Room 303. On Nov. 7, both groups begin discussing Eight Life-Enriching Practices of United Methodists (copies available for \$7).

Both Weds. sessions of Men's Small Group (5:45pm and 7pm) welcome new members. For more info, contact Brent Anderson, PapaBrentA@gmail.com or 309-808-0914.

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

The Endowment Committee, with the approval of the Finance Committee and the Church Council, decided to move the Church's endowment funds and long term savings funds to Wespeth (formerly known as the General Board of Pensions of the United Methodist Church). This decision was made after a great deal of research and conversation. All of these committees felt that the returns on our investments would be just as strong or stronger than with our past investment manager. Also, and perhaps even more importantly, these funds are now invested according to The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church. Over the next few months, we will share more specifics about why we are excited to announce this change.

Financial Report

General Fund

September	Monthly	YTD
Income	\$69,599.55	\$617,837.18
Expenses	\$65,835.49	\$600,765.73

Attendance

Date	Attendance
Sept. 1 & 2	295
Sept. 8 & 9	332
Sept. 15 & 16	305
Sept. 22 & 23	316
Sept. 29 & 30	291

REMEMBER TO VOTE ON TUESDAY, NOV. 6

As Christians we are not required to agree on which candidate or party is best. We do have a moral obligation to discern, to seek God's guidance, and to vote. If you have not already voted, please take care to not neglect this duty. If you need help getting to the polls, you can call the church office for assistance.

Chancel Choir and actors: We will present Gustav Holst's *The Coming of Christ* in 5pm worship December 15 as well as 9:30am worship December 16. You will hear the story of Christ's birth in a completely fresh way. Perspectives include the angels, the kings, and the shepherds, in addition to Christ himself. Directed by Tracy Koch; conducted by Janna Peterson; accompanied by Dr. Dennis Gotkowski!

- M**aking disciples
- U**nderstanding each other's stories
- S**earching for opportunities to be of service
- I**ncluding everyone
- C**alling people to be God's hands and feet

Youth Music – Outreach Tour!

Let's share our music and the good news of Jesus Christ outside the church walls! We're heading to Evergreen Place on Nov. 18. Watch your email for further information! Rehearsals Nov. 4 & 11, 4:45-5:30. Ring in 9:30 worship Nov. 18 and then head out to Evergreen Place!

Youth Music is directed by Tyler DeVault, tyler.devault.clarinet@gmail.com



Contact Janna Peterson (jpetererson@normalfirst.org) for further Music Ministries information!

The Wisdom of God: Seeing Jesus in the Psalms & Wisdom Books

by Nancy Guthrie

Group Leader: Mary Foster mjfooster416@gmail.com

Thursdays, 2:00-3:30 pm, beginning January 10, 2019 (10 weeks)

With her passion for applying God's Word to real life, the author leads us through an in-depth study of the Psalms and Old Testament Wisdom Books (Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon), with practical life lessons and the supreme Wisdom of God in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

SAVE THE DATE

An Interfaith Thanksgiving Service hosted by the McLean County Interfaith Alliance
Sunday, November 18th,
4:30 - 5:30pm
Evelyn Chapel, IWU
followed by a reception

If you wish to participate, or if you need more information, please contact me.

With much gratitude!
Rabbi Rebecca L. Dubowe
Moses Montefiore Congregation
309-662-3182 (office)

GREEN TEAM

On September 22, Steve Gossard, representing our church, attended the Green Team Summit at the Field Museum in Chicago. There, as a celebration of your stewardship of the Earth, Faith in Place presented The 2018 Green Team Award to First United Methodist Church in Normal.

Over the last two years The Green Team and Trustees have worked with Faith in Place, an interfaith organization that encourages Creation Care. Their energy audit of our church showed we could save energy and dollars in several ways. After prioritizing their suggestions, our church has replaced lights in the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall, promoted recycling, earned a Smart Energy grant, replaced an old refrigerator in the Wesley Foundation kitchen, and began washing reusable dishes after Wonderful Wednesday meals and Sunday church fellowship.



Thank you for all the ways that you show care for creation and devotion to our creator.

UMW Circles

Sonrise Circle

1st & 3rd Wednesday
6:30am Denny's, Normal

Ruth Circle

Monthly, 7pm
Check Facebook page

Vesper Circle

3rd Tuesday of month
1:30pm Church lounge

Mercy Circle

3rd Wednesday of month
9:30am Church lounge

New Hope Circle

4th Monday
7pm Church lounge

United Methodist Women



VESPER CIRCLE

Tuesday, Nov. 20, 1:30pm, Lounge

Program: Making Nursing Home Favors

Devotions: Kathy Gossard

Hostesses: Ellen Tingley,
Patsy Sherrard, Sharon Shoopman

November 7 at 1:30pm.

Please join us for our annual celebration gathering at Westminster Village. We will install 2019 officers, remember members who have died this year, recognize two members for life-time service to mission, and thank officers who have completed their service.

This is a very special time of sharing, hosted by Vesper Circle.

MERCY CIRCLE

Wednesday, Nov. 14, 9:30am, Lounge

World Thank Offering

Program: "Healing Rides: Offering Healing Through Fresh Air and Sunshine" given by Barbara Brown, Coordinator of Healing Rides

Devotions: Peggy Cope

Hostesses: Pam Bloom and Peggy Cope



SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, December 9th at 3:30 PM
2nd Annual Candlelight Carols Service.
All are welcome!!!

At this service you will find wonderful respite time from the bustle of holiday activities. We will sing together many familiar Christmas Carols, hear thoughtful words of the Christmas Story and hear a special musical group, "Beauties and the Beat" sing beautiful Christmas selections.

Following the service, heavy appetizers will be served in the Narthex and lounge for a time of fellowship. Sponsored by the United Methodist Women.

**Beauties and the Beat is a group of 11 high school and college freshmen girls directed by Tracy Koch, a member of our church.

COOKIES, COOKIES, COOKIES!!

What better way to begin your Christmas holiday than with a box full of yummy, homemade cookies? The UMW Cookie Sale will be on Dec. 15, from 10:00 until 11:00 in the Lounge, before the 5:00 Saturday service, and before services on Dec. 16. Stock up for all those visitors! All proceeds go to UMW missions. Buy for those "hard-to-buy-for" people on your list, for your always hungry children, for the service people who need break at this busy time of year. Buy for yourself. Indulge! To contribute goodies to the sale, bring your cookies to the Church Lounge anytime on Friday or by 9:00 on Saturday morning.



Let's Get Reading!

UMW members still have time to read the minimum five books for the year to complete the Reading Program by mid-December. Remember that children's books count, too, so you can read to the young ones! The book selection this year is diverse and very interesting. Check out your choices from our library, where you will also find the forms for recording what you have read. Any questions call Mary Ryder at 452-7278.

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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

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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.