

First Connection

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



Fifth Annual Trunk or Treat and Chili Cook-off

October 28, 4-6pm
Fellowship Hall &
Church parking lot



Sign up at the Welcome Center by Sunday, October 21 to let us know who will be decorating their trunk and handing out treats, have their chili in the competition, and to bring a dish for the hot/dog pot luck meal! Come join us for this all ages event and enjoy the spooky fun!!

OCTOBER 9 AT 7:00PM EBOO PATEL AT ISU

What will bring our divided communities back together? What are we to make of other religions in our midst? Eboo Patel will be addressing these and other issues with the Bloomington/ Normal communities. His address is titled, "Better Together: Bridging Interfaith Barriers." The event will be held at ISU in the Center for the Performing Arts, Concert Hall. This is co-sponsored by our church and the Margaret Parret Endowment for Religion, Culture and the Arts.



SCHOOL STREET FOOD PANTRY

Open Every Friday 4-6pm
Serving College Students
(ISU, IWU, Heartland, &
Lincoln College)

With shipments from Midwest Food Bank & Eastern Il Foodbank, donations of shelving from ISU, and lots of volunteer hours from students, community members, and church members, the School Street Food Pantry opened on September 21st. Prior to that, an open house was held along with a blessing.

The pantry will be open on Fridays, from 4-6pm. On Tuesdays & Thursdays, volunteers will be working in the pantry to organize, sort, and clean.

To volunteer, fill out an application at Schoolstreetfoodpantry.org or contact Pastor Kathy.



COMING IN NOVEMBER

Nov 3 & 4: All Saints Celebration
Remembering those from our congregation who died this past year

Nov 11: Celebration of babies and new children.

Nov. 17 & 18: Blessing of the Prayer Shawls

HOLY COMMUNION FOR OCTOBER

We will observe
Communion on
October 6 & 7.



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOME BUILD

September 29 &
October 6, 8-12pm
Normal First will be
working again on the
home for Kia &
Georgia Griffin. To
sign up go to:
[https://goo.gl/
T8gUDe](https://goo.gl/T8gUDe).

THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR

THE RIPPLE EFFECT

Are you familiar with the “Butterfly Effect” from chaos theory? It was presented to me like this: the simple flapping of a butterfly wing could cause a hurricane somewhere in the world. I was a bit skeptical at first (as is sometimes my nature). Some scientists suggest that this is a real possibility, however. What they are pointing to is the reality that in a world that is connected and interdependent, seemingly small and simple movements can, over time, lead to big changes.

This reminds me of one of my favorite Christmas movies. In “*It’s A Wonderful Life*,” George Bailey hits a crisis and feels like everyone would be better off without him. The lovable and slightly goofy angel, Clarence, is assigned to give George a tour of what his community would have been like if he had never lived. Through this tour, George discovers a new gratitude for life. The rest of us are shown that even when we do not realize it, our small actions of goodness and kindness ripple out to change the world.

If Clarence took you on that tour, I wonder what he would show you and how

the world would be a darker, less hopeful place if you had never lived. How have your actions rippled out across the world?

This month we will be celebrating the Ripple Effect. When you drop a pebble into a body of water, you can see the waves ripple out in all directions. Even though the pebble only directly touches a tiny part of the water, its impact ripples out to effect a much greater part of that water. So it is with our Christian lives. Our calling is to continue to do good and kind deeds, allowing God’s Spirit to let them ripple out across our communities in surprising ways. Working together as a church, we can do even more good.

This month I encourage you to take these steps:

1. Thank God for the power you have been given to make a difference.
2. Reflect on how your generosity and faithfulness may have made a difference in your world, and maybe a much bigger difference than is immediately apparent.
3. Ask God if there are more ways that your generosity can change the world.

Pastor Kent

Future Faith: Ten Challenges Reshaping Christianity in the 21st Century

by Wesley Granberg-Michaelson

Book Study with Pastor Kathy begins Oct 3, 5:45-6:45pm, Lounge

In *Future Faith*, the author “provides a view of how the top ten winds of change blowing through global Christian faith are reshaping the practice of Christianity today. Drawing on the stories, examples, and personalities of pastors and congregations from throughout the U.S. as well as those from Africa, Asia, Latin America, *Future Faith* is designed to inform and empower followers of Jesus to seek new ways of becoming the face of Christ to a rapidly changing world.”

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING DONE BY MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

Saturday, Oct. 6,
4:30pm
and Sunday, Oct. 7,
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.

SSO WEEKEND IS HERE:

Second Saturday Out:

October 13, after church service at
Denny's in north Normal.

Second Sunday Out:

October 14, at Panera's in Normal.

No reservations needed for either
outing. We order and pay for our own
meal.

Questions call Jane Whitman at
825-3356.

FLU SHOTS

Church member Matt Layman,
Pharm.D., will give flu shots on Sunday,
October 7 from 9 to 10:45 am in the
Alcove. Please bring insurance and/or
Medicare cards as Matt will bill your
insurance. \$10 donations are suggest-
ed if not covered by your insurance.



LEAF RAKING

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 9-12PM

We will again organize work teams to lend a
helping rake for our members who need
assistance with leaf removal. If you wish to
volunteer or need assist-
ance with your yard,
please contact the
church office or sign up
in October at the
Welcome Center.



THANK YOU

Thank you for your continued support of
our students and ministry! Your \$500
donation in July helped with summer
recruiting materials and events and
covered the cost of paint and
decorations to freshen up the entry
and basement.

Thanks again from all of us at
ISU Wesley Merge.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY IN OCTOBER

We will meet on Tues. the 9th & Tues. the
23rd at 1:30 p.m. in the Youth Lounge. Bring
items you are working on or stitch in labels &
tag. Bring your completed items.

Completed items will be blessed at services in
November. New members are always
welcome. Call Judy Poultney: 452-7665 or
Lois Young: 963-5517 with questions or to
recommend a recipient.

CHARGE CONFERENCE

**OCTOBER 14, 3PM
COLFAX UMC**

WORSHIP GREETERS!!

Greeters are special people who
warmly welcome all who enter our
building for worship. If you are
interested in being added to the list of
possible greeters, please let Carolyn
Yockey know: CLPY508@aol.com or
452-3936.

Condolences to the family of:

Luella Sabick

May 22, 1930-August 30, 2018

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

October 3rd

Parenting through the Phases Small Group Begins

5:45-6:45pm Room 53, 6 week class, Sign up at: jmcniff@normalfirst.org

You have approx. 936 weeks from the time your child is born until he or she moves on to what's next. It goes by fast, and kids change and grow quickly. Sessions include: Start the Countdown, Rediscover Your Kid Every Year, Make History One Week at a Time, Talk About What Matters, Connect Your Kid to a Bigger Story, and Create a Rhythm in your Home.

October 31st

NO Wonderful Wednesday/Happy Halloween!

Every Tuesday in October, 4th and 5th grade girls are invited to join Jill for **Doodle Tuesday!** We meet at The Coffee House, Uptown Normal from 4-6 (come anytime) and choose a scripture to doodle and create around. Supplies provided.

October K-5th Grade Curriculum

On Sundays, K-5th grade kids will be discovering what it really means to be CONTENT!



YOUTH AT NORMAL FIRST

CoZzzy Comfy Bed Linen Fundraiser 1800 Thread Count



\$40 ANY SIZE
(except Split Kings - \$60)



Please feel free to contact our account manager with questions.
Penny Dawson at penny@cozzzycomfy.com or 770.720.0040

Super soft microfiber material that feels like Egyptian Cotton

Sizes: Twin, Extra-Long Twin, Full, Queen, King, California King, and Split King

Set Includes: Fitted Sheet, Flat Sheet, and Two Pillowcases
(Twins have one pillowcase)

Anti-pilling, Wrinkle Resistant, Breathable, Double-Brushed

EXTRA deep 18-inch pockets to fit most pillow top mattresses

100% Money-Back Satisfaction Guaranteed

During October, the youth will be selling the CoZzzy Comfy Bed Linen sets. Delivery will be in time for the holidays! These sheets were incredibly well received when we sold them earlier this year for both quality and value. Please watch email and bulletin inserts for the specific dates, or you can ask a youth or Kim Burke (kburke@normalfirst.org).

ANNUAL WORK TRIP PLANNED TO MMDC

October 29, 7:15-5:30pm

Midwest Mission Distribution Center is a disaster relief facility located on an eight acre campus near Springfield, Illinois. It is a caring ministry related to the Illinois Great Rivers Conference and the North Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church. It is also a cooperating depot in the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Supply Network. The campus provides opportunities for individuals and groups of all kinds to help provide disaster relief kits and resources as well as educational and medical supplies to those in need both locally and internationally.



Volunteers are needed for this year's trip. Sign up at the Welcome Center. Trip will be taken using the church bus. Bring insurance card to assist in filling out required release form from the center. Wear closed toed shoes and bring a sack lunch, snacks will be provided. Prepare for a gratifying day with fellow church members. It's a great way to get to know each other!

NEXT NOISY OFFERING

October 27 & 28

Our church has pledged \$6500 to The Baby Fold this year.

Through Pizza Ranch's sharing profits program, the noisy offering, and Vacation Bible School offering, 4,700 has been raised with another \$1000 expected in upcoming Noisy Offerings. Would you help us reach our goal by the end of October by making a special gift to Baby Fold through our church offering or the office? Help us help our neighbor. Thank you



Normal First Mission Committee

FINANCE CORNER

The "Ripple Effect" is the theme this year for our Stewardship campaign. Toss a rock into the water & you have no idea how many waves it will make & how far they will go. Making your pledge to First Church has a major impact on the many ministries of our church & the people who benefit from them. Your commitment also makes a big difference in covering the monthly operating expenses of the church. Make your pledge & watch how far the "ripples" go.



Once again, Missions Committee will be sponsoring a fundraiser at Pizza Ranch. **Monday, October 15** is the date and 5:00 - 8:00 pm are the times to come eat and enjoy. Normal First will receive 10% of all sales (You don't need a flyer to show) and 100% of all tips. Last April's fundraiser brought in \$430.00 which was given to the Baby Fold, which will again be the recipient. Help is needed to bus tables - 6 persons per shift. If you would like to volunteer please contact Mary Stanton, mestanton1@gmail.com or 808-0102.

The Missions Committee truly appreciates the generosity of the members of First Church.

Financial Report

General Fund

August	Monthly	YTD
Income	\$57,120.19	\$547,920.41
Expenses	\$67,289.49	\$534,930.24

Attendance

Date	Attendance
August 4 & 5	281
August 11 & 12	285
August 18 & 19	331
August 25 & 26	369

Music Ministries—TOGETHER WE CAN BE CHRIST'S HANDS AND FEET

Chancel Choir: Youth through adults are welcome to join this musical family. Be a part of the creativity in worship. Weekly rehearsals are Wednesdays, 7-8pm; childcare provided. Come belong in Chancel Choir. Directed by Janna Peterson; accompanied by Dr. Dennis Gotkowski.

Celebration Ringers: Anthony Morrison leads this new handbell ensemble. The ability to read music is essential in this ensemble. Rehearsals are Sundays, 3:30-4:30pm in the Sanctuary. Questions: contact Anthony at 217-512-1911 or via email almorrison1@comcast.net

Making disciples

Understanding each other's stories

Searching for opportunities to be of service

Including everyone

Calling people to be God's hands and feet

Youth Music – Double the opportunities; double the fun!

Shalom Bells Plus – youth and a few adults thrown into the mix. We'll teach you how to ring and how to read music! Super fun; super low-stress! Upcoming rehearsals: October 14, 21, 28. Ring in 9:30 worship Oct. 21.

The Disciples (short-term instrumental ensemble) – Rehearsals September 30, October 14, 21. Play in 11am worship Oct. 28. **Youth Music** is directed by Tyler DeVault, tyler.devault.clarinet@gmail.com

Children's Choirs – yippee! Ghanaian drumming, singing, rhythm instruments – this is just part of the fun we have while building faith, and sharing music with our church family. Our Wednesday schedule: Meal for all, 5:15-5:45; *Cherub Choir* (K-2) & *Wesley Fellowship* (3-5), 5:45-6:15; *Cherub Fellowship* & *Wesley Choir*, 6:15-6:45.

Parents, no children's Wonderful Wednesday activities on October 31!!!

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



WE WANT TO THANK ALL OF YOU ENVIRONMENTAL HEROES WHO ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR OUR PLANET!

The Green Team has put a triple bin recycling center in the church lounge. Beside the bins, there is a wastebasket. How do you decide where to put items you want to discard?

Paper Recycling:

*will accept newspaper, paperboard such as a tissue box, envelopes, bulletins, computer paper and card stock.

Plastic, metal, or glass container Recycling:

*will accept plastic containers marked with # 1-7, such as pop bottles, yogurt containers, plastic ring carriers from soda bottles

*will accept aluminum cans & containers; or steel containers such as empty aerosol cans (excluding those that held spray paint, pesticides or other hazardous materials)

*will accept *clean* clear, brown, green or blue glass bottles & jars

Wastebasket

*facial tissues, paper towels, napkins, or any fast food containers that have food residue;

*paper with a plastic coating such as compostable cups;

*styrofoam marked with a #6 labeled



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

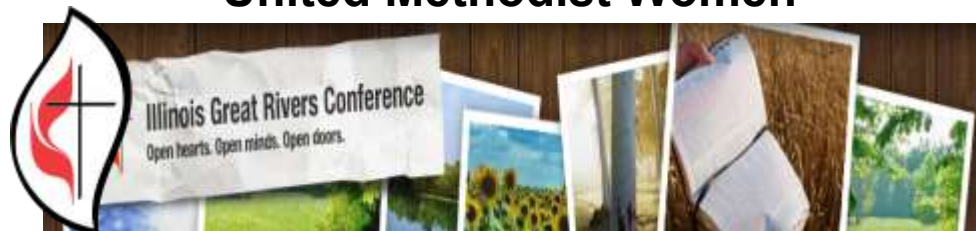
Mercy Circle

3rd Wednesday of month
9:30am Church lounge

New Hope Circle

4th Monday
7pm Church lounge

United Methodist Women



VESPER CIRCLE

Tuesday, October 16, - 1:30pm, Lounge

Program: Ecology Action Center

Hostesses: Shirley Irion, Beverly Sywassink, Liz Locke, Annette Long

Devotions: Lois Young

SAVE THE DATE

Candlelight Carols Service
Sunday December 9th at 3:00 pm
Reception following the service

MERCY CIRCLE

Wednesday, October 17, 9:30am, Lounge

Program: "Being a Long-Term Volunteer at UMCOR Sager Brown" - Ellen Tingley

Devotions: Mary Ryder

Hostesses: Mary Caisley and Joann Tuttle

Men's Small Group, New Wednesday Session

Especially for men with kids at Wonderful Wednesdays or men with regular 7pm Wednesday commitments (like Choir), a **new** 5:45-6:45pm session of Men's Small Group began on Sept. 19.

The 7-8pm session of Men's Small Group continues. The new 5:45 session will have the same core values of respect & growing in faith, faithfulness, and relationships. The 5:45 session will also use the same faith discussion materials (currently God Came Near by Max Lucado) which will be provided. Both sessions meet in Room 303, next to the Youth Lounge.

Both Wednesday 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.



The school year has begun! Merge kicked things off this year with over a dozen recruitment events to connect with new students, an awesome worship service, the purchasing of a brand new oven, and several leadership team meetings. Overall Merge has connected with over 2000 students, and we have big plans to keep connecting throughout the school year. We are thrilled to have started 5 new small groups, we and will continue with weekly worship and our famous Sunday Supper meals on Sundays. At Festival ISU, our group caught a photo with Illinois State University's President Dietz. We are very much looking forward to all the incredible things the 2018-2019 school year will bring.

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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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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.