

First Connection

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

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
enjoyment.

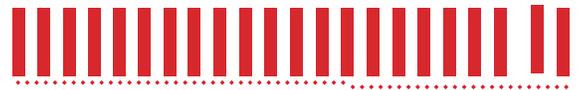


WEDNESDAY NIGHT WORSHIP

Beginning June 12 ~ 6:30pm
Followed by activities
More information ~ see page 2

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 3-6pm, 5:30-7pm
Meal at 5pm



Portillo's for GOOD

FUNDRAISERS

Bring in this flyer or show it on your smartphone
and 20% of the proceeds will benefit

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NORMAL
SUPPORTING THE BABY FOLD

June 20, 2019
4:00pm - 8:00pm

at the Portillo's located at:
202 Landmark Drive
Normal, IL 61761

We look forward to seeing you there!

To learn more about how you can partner with us
to serve up a better tomorrow, visit
portillos.com/good



Not valid with online orders. Promoting on Portillo's premises is strictly prohibited.

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.

THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR

COMMUNITY

Think about a Baptism at our church. Of course, the baby is cute. The proud parents take the vows for the child. The water is blessed. And then at some point, all those present are also asked to make a promise. We are asked to love this child and offer our prayers and support so this precious little one can come to know God's amazing love. A similar thing happens when a confirmand or adult joins our church. We are asked if we will welcome this person into our church family, to grow with them in faith. A similar thing happens at weddings in our church. Everyone attending is asked if they will support the couple and pray for God's blessing for them. Why do we ask you to make these promises? What do they mean?

We take very seriously the power of community. Faith is not an individual experience. It takes more than just loving parents for a child to grow into a strong, healthy and faithful adult. We all need a strong community to help us grow and be the persons God calls us to be. The young couple does

not know everything they will face in their marriage. They need support, examples and mentors to face life's challenges and grow deeper in love.

How do you live out your promises to be part of this church community for others? I remember one man who brought a pocket full of Jolly Ranchers to hand out to us kids every Sunday morning. That was his way of telling us he loved us. So many other adults taught me about God through Sunday School and youth group and through letting me watch the way they lived. They took interest in me. They knew my name. They went out of their way to ask about school, sports, work, or whatever I was doing. Some sent me notes of encouragement from time to time. They prayed for me. In all of these ways, they lived out the promises they made at my Baptism and Confirmation. They demonstrated that they cared.

How are you living out your promises? What can you do?

You are part of building the strong community we all need.

Pastor Kent

Wednesday Night worship (6:30) & Summer Fun (7:15):

June 12, 19, 26

July 10, 17, 24, 31

August 7

no worship July 3

Here's a chance to stay in touch with your church family, connect through worship, and not miss out . . . even if you're gone over the weekends this summer.

This will be an informal service in the Fellowship Hall (most weeks). We'll also have a few off-site locations.

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*.

Beginning on June 19th, the Sunday morning 11:00 service will move to the chapel (for the summer) where we'll offer a more traditional worship service. That means 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.

Contact Pastors Kent, Kathy or Kim, with questions and ideas!

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

COMING IN JUNE

June 2 @ 10:30am—Blood Pressure screening-in library

Wednesdays @ 9am—FIT, Room 5

June 8 @ 6pm Second Saturday Out (SSO)-Denny's in Normal

June 9 @ 5:30pm Second Sunday Out (SSO)-Panera in Normal

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN THE SSO'S FOR A DUTCH TREAT TIME OF FELLOWSHIP AND FUN!

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.

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE 8TH ANNUAL HISTORY MAKERS GALA

The History Makers Gala will be on June 19 at 5:30 p.m. in the Brown Ballroom at ISU. The program begins at 6:15 p.m. One of our own church members, Jana Edge, will be one of the honorees. For more information you can go to this website: <https://mchistory.org/history-makers-gala>

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Join us for the blessing of the prayer shawls, lap robes, and baby blankets at the June 8th and June 9th church services.

HEARING LOOP

Have YOU heard about the new hearing assistance loop that is installed in the sanctuary? I have, and because of it I can hear everything so much clearer and completely. The microphones feed directly into my hearing aids with just the touch of a button which activates the T-coils in my devices. It helps to block out surrounding noises which have caused a distraction previously. If you have hearing aids and aren't sure whether they have the ability to sync with the hearing assistance loop check with your audiologist or hearing aid dispenser. If you don't have hearing aids but want to try out the system and its benefits ask one of the ushers for a loaner device and headset. You might be surprised to find out that you've been missing out on clarity.

Becky Goeckner

NEW MEMBERS TO THE CONGREGATION

Carolyn and Gordon Hansen joined Normal First on April 28. They live in Minier and are both retired from State Farm. Gordon is a substitute bus driver for the Olympia School District. Carolyn volunteers for several different organizations. They both follow college football, but their teams are different – Carolyn is an Ohio State Buckeye and Gordon is a Nebraska Cornhusker! You have already seen Carolyn as a member of the Chancel Choir and a volunteer for the Wonderful Wednesday meals. Gordon recently started working with the worship tech crew.



HEARING INDUCTION LOOP

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. The result is 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 are available from ushers to check out during worship services.



CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

SUMMER SUNDAY FUNDAYS



We're talking about fruit this summer, you know...a certain KIND of fruit called the fruit of the Spirit. See, we know that God wants us to live in a certain way. We know God wants us to live out different Life Apps every single day. A Life App is what God is doing in you to change the world around you. During the month of June, we'll take a look at the Life



App of KINDNESS. When you put your faith in Jesus, you have the Holy Spirit living inside you. The Spirit will help you live the way God wants you to live—showing things like love, joy, peace, patience, and kindness. Those things are the fruit of the Spirit. They're like the evidence of what God is doing in you to make a difference in the world around you.

Summer is a great time to come and take a peek at all the amazing things happening in Children's Ministry. If you are interested in helping out with the kids just a few Sundays over the summer, shoot me an email or catch me on Sundays to hear more about it. Plus, I NEED YOU! We give our regular Sunday School teachers a much deserved break over the summer but guess what???....

We will have church and stuff so we need subs over the summer months. I will be leading all the lessons so your role would be to assist and watch the magic unfold! Email jmcniff@normalfirst.org to get plugged in!

YOUTH AT NORMAL FIRST

SUMMER YOUTH MISSIONS

It's June, and the junior highs are heading to Madison, Wisconsin for our mission trip with Next Step Ministries! We will leave Sunday, June 9, and return Saturday, June 15. Please pray for Justin, Emma, Jonah, Natalie, Cooper, Owen, Ryan, and Kim. Next Step Ministries is "passionate about the experience students can have on a mission trip—serving others while encountering a living God who offers freedom and grace... and passionate about communities thriving—developing from within and restoring dignity." We are excited to be serving alongside community members and building relationships!

SAFE HARBOR MEALS

Our first team prepared a meal and served it at Safe Harbor on Mother's Day. Thanks to Ben, Geoffrey, Graham, Makayla, Natalie, Stefan, Karla, and Chris for all of their hard work and spirit of gracious hospitality! We had the opportunity to visit with guests while they were enjoying a delicious meal of sloppy joes, fruit, corn, and brownies.

There are more chances to serve! Anyone in the church is invited to sign up to help. June 1, July 6, July 31, August 9, September 7, November 23, and December 13 are the dates for the remainder of the year. We meet at the church at 4pm to prepare food. We'll return to the church by 8pm.

If you aren't able to help with food prep and serving, and you would like to be part of this great ministry, we invite you to consider donating money to help offset the cost.

Please visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F044EAFAB2DA3FE3-safe> or email kburke@normalfirst.org to sign up to serve or donate money.



CENTER FOR HOPE FOOD PANTRY

This June marks the 15-year anniversary of my volunteering for the Center for Hope Food Pantry, and I'd like to share with you why I continue to serve and enjoy my time there.

I began as a volunteer while I was still teaching. I wasn't teaching summer school as I usually did and thought of the many times I'd read in the church bulletin to contact Pat Turner if anyone was interested in working. I thought it would be something to do for a few hours for a few short weeks over the summer, but soon learned that I wouldn't even begin to understand the pantry's operations in that length of time. I'd anticipated simply passing through and handing out bags of food to people who came in for help... which was and is nowhere near the whole story.

I've now stayed through four different locations; different distribution plans; many, many Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter food baskets and Bags of Blessings; and several different computers! I have met wonderful people: many volunteers who have come and gone, students from ISU classes, people who enjoy helping with the holiday programs, various clients and families, people representing area churches who donate to the pantry, and Director Pat Turner. I have done clerical work, served clients, picked up and delivered food, sorted canned foods from food drives such as the Letter Carriers, filled shelves, sorted bread and produce, unloaded deliveries from Midwest Food Bank/Target/Sam's, cleaned, etc.. I've participated in a Poverty Simulation, represented the pantry at ISU programs and the First Christian Church Block Party. I've been a leader and a follower; I've done tasks requiring intellect and creativity and tasks that required no thought. I believe there's something for almost everyone who would like to volunteer.

Why do I continue to volunteer? Because Pat Turner is an inspiration and by working Monday mornings, I can start my week with inspiration. Because I've made wonderful friends and enjoy spending time with them each week. Because I know how many people are helped with food, clothing, informational assistance, medical checks and prayer.

I have found that although I often think I'm busy or too busy, I can always find time for the things that I want to do. The Center for Hope is something I want to do; you might find that to be true for you as well. To volunteer, contact Pat Turner at 309-808-3742.

Sincerely,
Peggy Scott

IGRC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Peoria, Il. June 6 -8
 Attending from our church will be:
 Pastors Kathy, Kent, & Kim
 Retired clergy & spouses
 Lay Delegates: Steve & Kathy Gossard,
 John Freese, Sarah Ogdon
 District Youth Delegates: Gavin Cunningham & Emily King-Nobles
 Conference Secretary of Global Ministries:
 Carolyn Yockey

JUNE MISSIONS

Neville House - Countering Domestic Violence - Mid Central Community Action, Inc. They provide free and confidential services to victims of domestic violence including: 24-hour hotline, 24 hour emergency shelter, individual counseling for adults, support groups for both adults and children, criminal justice advocacy, legal advocacy, safety planning, community education and professional training.

ITEMS TO BE COLLECTED

Laundry soap - especially needed
 Paper towels
 Dish soap
 Cleaning spray
 Gas cards
 Garbage bags
 Clorox wipes
 Bus passes

Call 309-828-8913 re: donations and 24 hour hotline 309-827-7070.

Donations may be taken to MCCA, Inc. - 1301 West Washington, BL.

Financial Report

General Fund

April	Monthly	YTD
Income	\$70,403.31	\$313,786.66
Expenses	\$72,863.07	\$279,042.78

Attendance

Date	Attendance
April 6 & 7	314
April 13 & 14	315
April 20 & 21	519
April 27 & 28	311

Music Ministries



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!!**

Come join in the fun of **Summer Singers** – a pick-up choir for youth through adults. On the Sunday dates, we'll gather at 8:30am on the following dates; on Saturday dates, we'll gather at 4:20pm.

We'll learn an anthem and will participate in 9:30am or 5pm worship, respectively.
Sat., June 8, August 3 Sun., June 9, July 14, August 18 & 25

Prayers appreciated as members of your Chancel Choir head to Italy. We'll join other choirs in presenting sacred concerts featuring the works of Craig Courtney.

Reflections from this spring

From Eve, a member of Chancel Choir, regarding singing John Rutter's *Requiem*:

I didn't like it right away except movement 6 to which I loved the minute I listened. Daily I listened to the CD or YouTube that you (Janna) put out in your e-mail message. I read the lyrics. I practiced the areas that were "funny". It grew on me slowly. Then one day I LOVE it!

"It's selfish to enjoy so much beauty without sharing." I thought. But how we, as a group, to share such beauty with the congregation and with our guests? I need to familiarize myself with the words, the melody, and made sure the two elements meshed. Namely, I need to make it mine, to sing like I mean it, so others also "get it" ...

From Jess, a member of Chancel Choir and the Spring Music Intern:

As a 1st & 2nd grade Sunday School teacher for the past five years, it has astounded me how literate the children at NFUMC are in comparison, and I credit all of this to the Wednesday night Music Program and Children's Ministries, which I have seen benefitting the students firsthand in reading and many other useful skills.

The moral of the story is – music is as much a connecting point as it is a venue for faith development. There is a place for you in Normal First Music Ministries!

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

Merge Finishes the School Year Strong

It's hard to believe it, but we just wrapped up another school year here at Merge! We celebrated the end of the year in a few big ways. Twelve of our graduating seniors spoke at our senior night worship service on May 1st, where they shared some things they had learned during their time in college and how Merge at ISU Wesley impacted their college experiences. To help our students finish out the year strong, we also had a couple fun, food-based events during their finals week! We fed about 40 students breakfast during our "Finals Week Brunch" on Tuesday, May 7th - we all got to eat pancakes, drink coffee, and talk about our excitement for the summer. On Wednesday, May 8th, around 60 students came to the cookout that we hosted here at the church. The rain held off long enough for us to play bags, eat burgers and brats, and roast some marshmallows for s'mores. While we're always sad to see our seniors leave, we are also looking forward to the opportunities that come with a new school year.



If you would like to support Merge financially, you can give by going to isumerge.org. Contact Roxy at roxy@isuwesley.org if you would like to volunteer with us or if you have any questions.



**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



Back by popular demand....Attic Sale's Tea Room/Bake Sale!!! Your great pies, cakes, cookies, breads, breakfast rolls, etc. have made the Tea Room such a success in the past years. We want to be certain to have those delicious favorites available for our guests and church members this year too. So start those ovens and enjoy baking so we have a good supply to sell. We will be accepting items the morning of Thursday, July 20th. For more details or questions contact Sara Knight at smknight07@gmail.com.



DOWNNS 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

June 19 @ 9:30am we will have breakfast at Carmella's. The address is 2203 E. Washington, Bl. Please RSVP to Jean Macesich (jmacesich@hotmail.com) or Linda Park (park3032000@yahoo.com).

2019 UMW ATTIC SALE
JULY 26, 8-3PM



Donations will be accepted **beginning 2 pm** on Sunday, July 14th.

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!



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!

NEW BOOKS IN YOUR CHURCH LIBRARY

Thanks to Diane Boeck and the Green Team for their Earth Day presentation in the library on Sunday, April 28th. Your church library has many books to help you care for God's Earth.

We have books for children:

Sheila Says We're Weird (but we're just green)
A Prayer For The Earth: the story of Naamah, Noah's wife

All Around Us
Let's Celebrate Earth Day!

And we have books for youth and adults too!

Climate Justice: a call to hope and action
Rewilding Our Hearts: Building Pathways Of Compassion And Coexistence

Silent Spring

Stop in and check out the display-and check out a book-today

Published Monthly (USPS 414120)
First United Methodist Church
Periodicals Postage Paid at Normal, IL
POSTMASTER send address change:
First Connection, 211 N. School St., Normal, IL
61761

Periodicals
U.S. Postage
PAID
Normal, IL

First Connection is a monthly
publication of First United Methodist
Church of Normal.

Editor: secretary@normalfirst.org.

All submissions subject to editing.

Submission Deadline: 2nd Sunday of each
month.

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-informal

11:00 am Sunday School for adults

First United Methodist Church of Normal Staff & Information

Co-Pastor

Rev. Kent King-Nobles
pastorkent@normalfirst.org

Co-Pastor

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Director of Children & Family Ministries

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Congregational Care Coordinator

Barb Todd
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Organist

Dr. Dennis Gotkowski

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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.

Did you know that Normal 1st has the first solar Parsonage in Illinois? Here's a chance to see if your home would be a good candidate for solar panels.

**Questions about the parsonage or other solar installations?
Talk with the Gossards, Hathways or the Pastors.**

Grow Solar Bloomington-Normal is a grassroots group purchasing program for residential and commercial solar.

Building on the success of 2016 and 2018's Solar Bloomington-Normal, the solar group-buy is back with Grow Solar Bloomington-Normal! Offered by the Ecology Action Center and the Midwest Renewable Energy Association, property owners and renters throughout McLean County, Illinois may participate in this program to pool their buying power and secure significant discounts that make installing solar more affordable.

- Start by attending a Solar Power Hour. Our free information session teaches you the basics of solar, its financial implications for your property, and how the Solar Bloomington-Normal 2.0 program works.
- Then, get a free, no obligation site assessment from our competitively-selected installer.

SOLAR POWER HOURS

(All are free and open to the public)

6/2/19 Sunday 3:00PM **Bloomington Public Library Community Room** 205 E. Olive

6/4/19 Tuesday 6:00PM **Children's Discovery Museum** 101 E Beaufort St, Normal

6/10/19 Monday 6:30PM **Bloomington Public Library Comm Room** 205 E. Olive

6/18/19 Tuesday 6:30PM **Green Top Grocery** 921 E. Washington, Bloomington

6/26/19 Wednesday 6:30PM **YWCA of McLean County** 1201 N Hershey Rd

7/10/19 Wednesday 6:30PM **YWCA of McLean County** 1201 N Hershey Rd

7/18/19 Thursday 6:30PM **Green Top Grocery** 921 E. Washington, Bloomington

7/22/19 Monday 6:30PM **YWCA of McLean County** 1201 N Hershey Rd

7/27/19 Saturday 1:30PM **Children's Discovery Museum** 101 E Beaufort St, Normal

8/7/19 Wednesday 6:30PM **YWCA of McLean County** 1201 N Hershey Rd

8/15/19 Thursday 6:30PM **Green Top Grocery** 921 E. Washington, Bloomington

8/20/19 Tuesday 6:00PM **Children's Discovery Museum** 101 E Beaufort St, Normal

8/31/19 Saturday 1:30PM **Children's Discovery Museum** 101 E Beaufort St, Normal

9/19/19 Thursday 6:30PM **Green Top Grocery** 921 E. Washington, Bloomington

The Parables of Jesus:

June 3 Matthew 13:1-9
June 4 Matthew 13:10-17
June 5 Matthew 13:18-23
June 6 Matthew 13:24-30
June 7 Matthew 13:36-43
June 8 Matthew 13:31-32
June 9 Matthew 13:33-34

June 10 Matthew 13:44
June 11 Matthew 13:45-46
June 12 Matthew 18:10-14
June 13 Matthew 18:23-35
June 14 Matthew 20:1-16
June 15 Matthew 22:1-14
June 16 Matthew 25:14-30

June 17 Mark 4:1-9
June 18 Mark 4:10-20
June 19 Mark 4:26-29
June 20 Mark 4:30-34
June 21 Luke 10:25-37
June 22 Luke 11:5-13
June 23 Luke 12:13-21

June 24 Luke 14:7-14
June 25 Luke 15:1-7
June 26 Luke 15:1-2, 8-10
June 27 Luke 15:1-2, 11-32
June 28 Luke 16:19-31
June 29 Luke 18:1-8
June 30 Luke 18:9-14

