

First Connection

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

AUGUST WORSHIP

August 7 6:30pm
Last Wednesday night worship in the Fellowship Hall

August 10 & 11

Led by Members of our Middle School & High School Youth Mission Teams
Middle School Youth spent a week serving Madison, WI.
Sr High Youth spent a week in Kansas City – serving the community and attending Youth2019.

**Beginning August 11, the Sunday 11:00am service will be in the sanctuary.

CONFIRMATION 2019/2020

for 8th graders will begin August 18.

Please contact Kim Burke (kburke@normalfirst.org) if you have not already registered.

GRAZIE, ITALIA

Sunday, August 4, noon in the Fellowship Hall

Join us as members of our Chancel Choir shares the sights, sounds and a sampling of the flavors of Italy with you all. Come join in our adventure!

We recently returned home from a life-changing tour of Italy. We spent time in Rome, Florence, and Venice, singing in four venues. A highlight was singing in a Mass in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican!!!



The altar at St. Peter's Basilica; long view of the enormity and grandeur of this space.



The Pantheon



Concert time at Santa Maria sopra Minerva

THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.”
[Ecclesiastes 3:1](#) (ESV)

Do you ever wish you had more time? One day when I was complaining that I just did not have enough time, a wise friend challenged me with this statement: “God has given you just the right amount of time. You just have to figure out how to use your time well.”

When the summer comes to a close and we begin another Fall, how will you use the time that God gives to you? As I think about my time, I am making two lists. One is a list of things that promise to be a good use of my time. The other list is ways I spend my time that do not tend to add value to my life.

For example, these are a few things that I give my time to and rarely regret.

1. Showing gratitude
2. Worshiping
3. Spending quality time with family
4. Having meaningful conversations with friends
5. Serving – making a difference in someone else’s life.
6. Spending time in nature.

This is the beginning of my list of things that can take a lot of my time but do not seem to give me back much in return.

1. Complaining
2. Staring at my cell phone
3. Keeping up with every email
4. Watching TV
5. Following the latest political scandals or rivalries.

What would you put on your lists?

Pastor Kent

FOOD PANTRY NEWS—SUMMER GARDEN

The land where the garden is located is sponsored through the ISU horticulture center. The plot contains 4 rows, 8 ft x 140 ft. The plot is located on the east side of the center, and was tilled in preparation for planting by volunteer members of the horticulture center that include community members, and ISU students, faculty, and staff.

The garden is maintained by community and student volunteers. **Volunteer hours usually take place Wednesdays starting 6pm and Saturdays starting at 11am;** on occasions when there is rain, garden work is postponed. Individuals who are interested in volunteering do not need prior experience with gardening. There are a number of jobs that include planting, weeding, watering, mulching, composting, tilling, and harvesting. Once the plants are ready for harvest, transportation of the produce to the pantry will be an additional volunteer opportunity.

For more information, contact the student leaders: Trevor Rickerd (tjricke@ilstu.edu) or Jeanna Campbell (jmcampb1@ilstu.edu).

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

COMING IN AUGUST

Blood Pressure Screenings will be done by a medical professional on Sunday, August 4 at 10:30 am in the Library.

Wednesdays @ 9am—FIT, Room 53

August 11 @ 5:30pm Second Sunday Out (SSO)-Panera in Normal

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN SSO FOR A DUTCH TREAT TIME OF **FELLOWSHIP**

WANT TO EXPERIENCE THE HOLY LANDS?

It is not too late for you to decide to go with Pastor Kent and our church group to the Holy Lands in January. Currently there are about 20 people who are planning to go. Contrary to what many people assume, it is a safe trip. Most people experience the trip to be life-changing. If you think you might be interested, talk to Pastor Kent. Decide by the end of September, if possible.

Memorials

During the second quarter of 2019 Memorial contributions were received in memory of the following:

Ronald Blake
Lauri DeVault
Lloyd Johnston

NEW MEMBERS TO THE CONGREGATION



Beth, Stefan, Charlotte and Anne Harris

also joined on July 14 as transfers from the Charlottesville, Virginia, First United Methodist Church. They have recently moved into our community for Stefan's job at State Farm. Beth is living outside her home state for the first time. She enjoys gardening and yard work and wants to be a farmer when she grows up. She is a school psychologist by profession and will soon begin her new job here. But, she thinks of herself as an artist and enjoys various mediums. Stefan's hobbies include guitar, gardening, and helping others. Their two daughters are Charlotte who is 10 years old and Anne who is 8 years old. The family is already actively involved in our church and they look forward to serving alongside the congregation, having been very active in their previous church.



Ronnie and Sue Coons

joined on Sunday, July 14. They recently moved into our community from Wenona. Ronnie grew up in Dana and Sue was raised in Pawnee, IL. They met while students at Illinois Wesleyan. Ronnie is active in his Masonic Lodge and is an adult Scouter. While a member of the Wenona United Methodist Church, he was Lay Leader and had been a member of the Board of Trustees. Sue is a retired Spanish and French teacher at Fieldcrest High School. She keeps busy with UMW having served as president of her local unit. She is currently Vice President for the Conference UMW. At the Wenona UMW Sue was also very active. Both Sue and Ronnie love to travel, enjoy attending theatre productions, spend time working on the computer, playing bridge, and reading.



Ed and Betty Grove

of Bloomington joined Normal First on Sunday, June 2. Ed is originally from the Chicago area and Betty grew up in Southern Illinois. Both are retired school teachers from Danville. Betty is a former piano teacher and still loves playing piano for her own enjoyment. Ed plays violin and likes to restore antique radios. They love spending time with their family, including their three grandsons.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

End of Summer Swim Party!

Sunday, August 4th, 3-6pm

McNiff's home—19901 Oakwood Drive, Bloomington (out by Downs)

Let's wrap up a fantastic summer with a PARTY! Bring your swimsuits and a towel and we will provide the rest. Ice Cream Sundae Bar, Bags Tournament, Swimming (Parents, you are in charge of watching your children swim) and loads of FUN! No need to RSVP...just come on out!



Blessing Box

One way to serve as a family is to go out and purchase items for our Blessing Box located out by the garage. We see things being taken daily so we are always in need of new supply. Please only donate unused, non-perishable items. No homemade food or opened containers. A few popular items to donate are:

- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Soap and other personal hygiene products
- Ramen noodles and instant meals like Mac and Cheese
- Granola bars
- Peanut Butter
- Cleaning products
- School items like folders, pencils, binders, etc.

Say YES! To the Next Generation

We are ramping up for fall and are looking for Small Group leaders for our K-5th graders. A small group leader is someone who is looking to make a difference in the lives of a few. Think about what you needed as a child growing in faith, and wonder if YOU can be that person to a child here at Normal First. Commitment can vary. Prep is minimal. We will equip you to lead with love. Please stop Jill anytime to find out more or email jmcniff@normalfirst.org.

Move Up Sunday!

August 18th. During the 9:30 service, kids will get to meet their "new" class and small group leader. This day will be getting to know each other and having fun!

YOUTH AT NORMAL FIRST

We had an amazing week with 16 high schoolers and 4 adults! We went to Kansas City to serve the community and attend



Youth 2019. Some of the highlights included a scavenger hunt through downtown KC, serving with Micah Ministry, gleaning blackberries, and 2 shifts with Harvesters. During the first shift at Harvesters, we packed bread for distribution. We were in a clean room (which was 58 degrees) repackaging frozen chicken for the second shift. We also had a tour of Church of the Resurrection and dinner with Bishop Frank Beard.

During the conference, we attended a variety of workshops, worshiped together, packed school bags for Midwest Distribution Center, and had the opportunity to meet several of our active bishops, including Bishop Karen Oliveto and Bishop Peggy Johnson.

Thank you to our church family for your support and prayers during this week away.

**NOW YOUTH
RETREAT**

SAVE THE DATE!! ALL YOUTH (BOTH JR. & SR. HIGH)
October 4-6

Lake Williamson Christian Conference Center, Carlinville, IL

**Daily Readings for August
The Sermon on the Mount
Matthew 5-7**

These 3 chapters are one of the best summaries of the Christian faith. It's likely that all of these verses were not spoken by Jesus consecutively but rather Matthew, the Gospel writer, took one of the sermons of Jesus and expanded it with relevant teachings.

The NIV Study Bible describes the Sermon on the Mount in this way: "The Sermon on the Mount's call to moral and ethical living is so high that some have dismissed it as being completely unrealistic. . . There is no doubt, however, that Jesus (and Matthew) gave the sermon as a standard for all Christians, realizing that its demands cannot be met in our own power" (p. 1449).

As always, the teachings of Jesus were given during a different time and in a different cultural context. When the teachings confuse us or seem irrelevant for us today, I invite you to consider first what they meant in their original context and then consider what message they might still have for us today.

The readings are available for you in 3 different ways:

- *Daily emails – contact tgarrett@normalfirst.org – to be added to the list.
- *Bookmark available at the Welcome Center.
- *Paper copy – contact Theresa (452-2096 or tgarrett@normalfirst.org)

May the timeless words of Jesus form and shape us in unexpected ways.

Pastor Kathy

FINANCE CORNER

One of Jesus' great teaching parables involved a sower who cast seed along the ground. Some seeds fell among thorns and were choked out. Jesus said the thorns were "the cares of the world & the lure of wealth".

In a culture where having "enough" seems to have a never-ending pursuit, Jesus' parable remains incredibly relevant. Chasing the American dream can lead to stress, anxiety & fear.

This fall we will explore what the Bible teaches us about financial management through a study called "Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity & Generosity".

Rich Beal, Chair of Finance Committee

MISSIONS



The August Missions drive will focus on The Boys and Girls Club of Bloomington/Normal. We will be collecting school supplies for the youth at the club. We are looking for commonly needed supplies such as: pens and pencils, erasers, notebooks, crayons, markers, glue, folders, Kleenex, etc.

Monetary gifts are appreciated too. Label money or checks given to Normal 1st for Boys and Girls Club. All items may be brought to the mission center in the lounge.

Thank you to all who donated items for Fairview Elementary in July. Donated items were greatly needed and much appreciated.

Financial Report

General Fund

June	Monthly	YTD
Income	\$71,615.52	\$451,774.95
Expenses	\$65,280.88	\$416,983.06

Attendance

Date	Attendance
June 1 & 2	317
June 8 & 9	326
June 15 & 16	235
June 22 & 23	260
June 29 & 30	258

MUSIC MINISTRIES



SUMMER SINGERS is rockin' our way through some great music! Come join this laid-back, low-commitment choir! On the Sunday dates, we'll gather at 8:30am; 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., August 3, Sun., August 18 & 25

JOIN THE FUN OF CHANCEL CHOIR!

Looking for a place to connect? Do you love to sing? Would you like to be part of a loving fellowship? Chancel Choir will welcome you with open arms! You don't even have to know how to sing – we'll teach you! Open to youth through adults (or those who pretend to be adults)

Weekly rehearsals resume Wed., August 21, 7-8pm. Childcare provided.

We are looking forward to seeing you!

FALL PLANS ARE COMING TOGETHER!

Become connected with Music Ministries this fall. Here's a list of all the fabulous opportunities waiting for you:

Shalom Bells – a handbell ensemble for youth. No musical experience needed; we'll learn together! Sundays, 4:45-5:30 beginning September 8

Celebration Ringers – handbell ensemble for adults. Must be able to read music. Sundays, 3:30-4:30 beginning September 1

Cherub & Wesley Choirs – for children in grades K-2 & 3-5, respectively. Part of our Wonderful Wednesday programming, Wednesdays, 5:15-6:45 (this includes a family meal together and fellowship time with Miss Jill)

Chancel Choir – a vibrant choir for youth through adults. Wednesdays, 7-8pm, beginning August 21, New members welcome at any time!

Worship Team – singers, drums, piano, guitars, etc. Contact Tiffany Ogdon togdon1981@gmail.com to connect with this creative ensemble!

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

Vegetarian Potluck Dinner and a Movie

Friday, August 16 at 6:00 pm,
Fellowship Hall



What a bounty of fresh vegetables and fruits we are enjoying from our gardens and local farmers! You probably have a wonderful recipe using these fresh foods. Please prepare that dish and join us for a meal to celebrate these food gifts. A food dish is not required to attend.

After dinner we will show of the documentary film, *Eating Animals*. This documentary explores the food we eat and large-scale factory farming. This documentary explores the impact of large-scale factory farming on our planet, and offers a path to global sustainability for a growing population.

Please sign up at the Welcome Center so we can have an idea of the number to plan for. Tableware and drinks will be provided.

SMALL GROUP FAIR September 8 & 9

Stop by the lounge before or after worship to learn more about the many small group opportunities here at 1st UMC. Some are on-going groups while others are launching for the first time this fall.

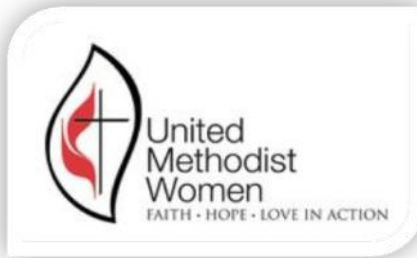
SUPPORTING THE BABY FOLD

We continue to raise funds to support our \$6500 pledge to The Baby Fold for 2019. To date we have raised \$2600. We invite you to consider making an extra gift towards our 2019 Baby Fold pledge.

Mission Committee

**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



VESPER CIRCLE

August 20 @ 9am in the Church Lounge
(Change from original program)
Please join us for Breakfast and Fellowship. We will work on our poster for UMW Sunday.

2019 UMW ATTIC SALE



We are so thankful for all of the hard work everyone put in to make this another successful UMW Attic Sale. We are so blessed with the many helping hands and donations so we can give to our many missions. Your Committee chairs, **Mary, Linda, Carol and Ralph**

CALLING ALL BAKERS!!



The UMW will have a bake sale booth at the Downs Village Market on August 7th this year.

The hours are 4:00pm – 6:00pm. Our Church bakers will be needed once again!! Several guidelines

must be followed. Please avoid cream- filled, custard, or frosting made with cream, sour cream, cream cheese or eggs. Also, package and label your goodies. Please mark special ingredients such as nuts, no nuts, gluten free, or peanut butter. Home-made pies sell very well. Drop off your goodies anytime Tuesday, August 6th to noon on Wednesday, August 7th to the Church kitchen.

UMW TEA ROOM

Thanks to all the Tea Room workers for all your time and to all the bakers for the delicious items that were sold in the Tea Room!

It was so appreciated!!



WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY VOLUNTEERS

It is time to plan for Wonderful Wednesdays this fall! Volunteers are needed to assist with the meal preparation, service, clean up, and dish washing. Barb will reach out to last years' volunteers to confirm their participation this year, but we are always seeking new people to involve in this wonderful ministry. If interested, contact btodd@normalfirst.org.

COFFEE WITH THE PASTORS

Pastors Kent, Kathy, and Kim will host a casual opportunity for people to meet each other, ask questions and learn more about our church, and discover ways they may wish to serve on Sunday, August 25 from 10:30 am to noon in the Fellowship Hall. Reservations are not required but are appreciated. To RSVP or for further information, contact Barb at btodd@normalfirst.org.



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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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Password: normal1st

connect on facebook
www.facebook.com/NormalFirst



Find us on Instagram
Instagram account
name:normalfirst
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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.