

Dear Normal First Family,

We would like to express our gratitude for the support given to our family during this difficult time. Your prayers were a source of inspiration for my sister Phyllis and provided comfort to us after her passing. Thanks to Pastor Kathy for her patience, understanding and spiritual guidance, to Gaylen Bourland for the beautiful music during her service and to Mike Walker for providing tech support. Lastly, heartfelt thanks for the meal and fellowship provided following the service. We are grateful to be able to worship and serve with you at Normal First. Thanks to you all for your love, compassion, and support. *Larry Swinger and Ethel Hovde*

Thank you, Tiffany! We are grateful to Tiffany Ogdon Smith for her musical leadership and fun, creative spirit over these past many years. Most recently, she has served as our keyboardist for the 11:00 service. Cards and expressions of appreciation can be left in the office before May 18th.

Earth Day Celebration: We will have special activities for all ages to experience creation in hands-on ways & a Creation Care/Sustainability Fair in the lounge, open before & after all services **April 26 & 27 and May 3 & 4.**

May 10 & 11 we will celebrate ***United Women in Faith*** Weekend. Our guest preacher will be Chaplain Anne Fuquay, from Cunningham Children's Home in Urbana. She will bring the message at each service and tell a little about the needs of children & families served by Cunningham, a mission of United Women in Faith.

Daughter's All Aloha Banquet Thursday, May 15, 5:30 pm. Tickets will be available in the Welcome center before & after worship services April 26, 27 & May 3,4.

Centering Prayer Workshop

Want to deepen your relationship with God? **Centering Prayer** is a simple method of silent prayer rooted in scripture and ancient Christian tradition. All are invited.

Where - East Bay Camp, 24248 Ron Smith Memorial Highway, Hudson, IL 61748

When - Saturday, May 17, 2025, from 8:30am –12:30pm

Workshop Cost \$20.00 or free will offering. There will be 4 follow up sessions to support you in your practice.

To Register, e-mail CICOfriends@gmail.com or Text/call Anne 309-830-3231 on or before May 12.

School Street Food Pantry Volunteers Needed: Volunteers needed to serve as the Door Greeter for the Pantry. This is very rewarding and not difficult. The Door Greeter is the first person to welcome the students to the pantry and assists with checking them in. Volunteers are needed 3:30-6:15 on Fridays (during the school year) and Thursdays (June & July). Contact Janet Lammey (jclammey@gmail.com)

Ministry Opportunities

- **Weekly Worship Reflections: Sundays at 10:45am in room 303** All are Welcome.
- **Card Ministry: Monday, May 12, 1:30-3:30pm, church lounge.** No experience necessary. Make a card from a kit (\$1 donation) or create your own.
- **Every Wednesday: 6:00 - 7:00pm** Men's Ministry (All Men Welcome), **Rm 303**
7:00 - 8:00pm Chancel Choir – Sanctuary

Faith Based Book Club: *If Grace is True* by Philip Gutley and James Mulholland **Thursday May 1st @ 1:00pm or 6:30pm w/ Kim Burke at Morningstar UMC Parsonage.** Please let Kim know if you are attending: kburke@normalfirst.org

April Donation Opportunities:

Mission Focus: COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE CLINIC Provides quality healthcare to medically underserved residents through a free clinic. Medical, dental services and prescription medications are provided to each patient's needs, all at no cost. Our financial donations help them serve our community. Mark your gift: CHCC.

School Street Food Pantry; our needs are growing with our numbers ❤️ . Canned vegetables (no green beans) Oatmeal, Soup (broth based), Pasta sauce, Personal care (shampoo, toothpaste, conditioner, lotion, lip balm, dish & laundry soap, anti-liners).

Oasis Community Outreach (formerly Center for Hope Food Pantry) requests pasta sauce in any form—bottles, cans, packets, etc. from now until the end of May. Pasta sauce is a frequent request and difficult to keep on hand when we are serving around 30 families a week. Thank you for your faithful support!

Please sign in using the Attendance pad or the link to the right.

For Pastoral Care, contact the church office (309-452-2096 or office@normalfirst.org) After hours – 309-336-8335

