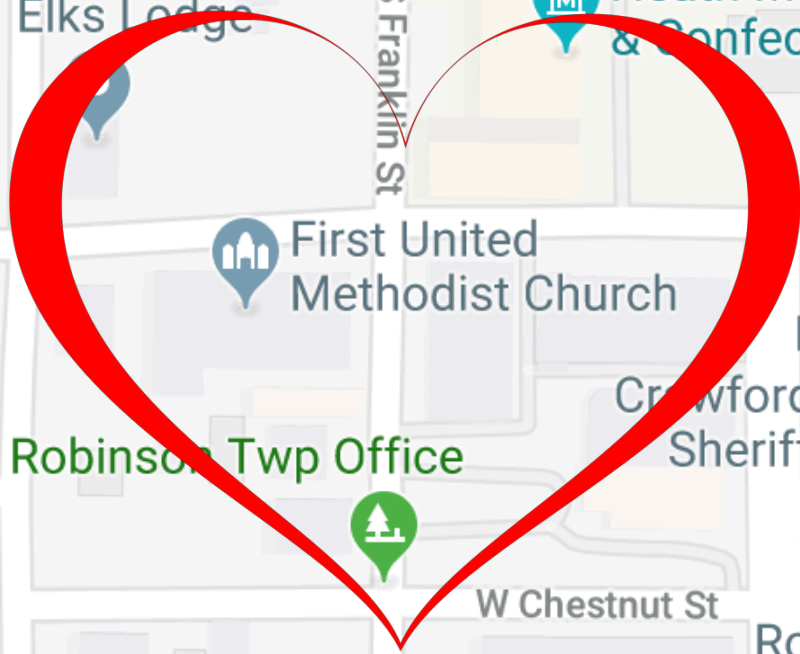


ROBINSON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH • MAY 2019

The Herald

Listening to God's Heart from the heart of the city.



OUR VISION

From the Pastor's Desk

We're in the middle of a sermon series about the mission of the church. Earlier this year, we shared with you the mission statement that our church council felt reflects First United Methodist Church:

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ
and share the love of God in word and deed.

We've begun having some interesting discussions in church council and in our various committee meetings about aligning our ministries to help us complete this mission. One recent realignment was a change in what happens on Easter Sunday for children. This year, each child got to learn about the colors of faith and create a cross necklace, so that they will always remember the story of Jesus - much different than finding eggs and getting prizes.

Our mission tells us what we are to be doing as a church; our vision gives us a picture of what our church will look like in the future. The church council has spent lots of time praying together about God's vision for our congregation, and in April, they arrived at this vision:

First United Methodist Church will be a congregation
seeking after the very heartbeat of God.

Our physical location has placed us at the center of Crawford County
and the city of Robinson.

We will be God's heartbeat in the center of the city.

All of our ministries will focus on the heartbeat of God,

helping people follow Jesus Christ,

and listening to the Holy Spirit to heal the hearts of the least and the lost.

What kind of church would First United Methodist Church be if we sought to make this vision a reality? As we reflected on this vision, members of the church council began to speak of ways that we could carry out this vision - with our children in Kids' Club, with students in Refresh, in the jail ministry, within the local schools, for people with addictions, and those that are hurting. The possibilities of strengthening our existing ministries and creating new ones that help the church be God's heartbeat, move people to follow Jesus, and heal broken hearts are endless.

What might God be calling you to do to make this vision become a reality? I hope you'll join in praying with and for the church council as we continue to discern what's next for First UMC!

Grace and Peace,

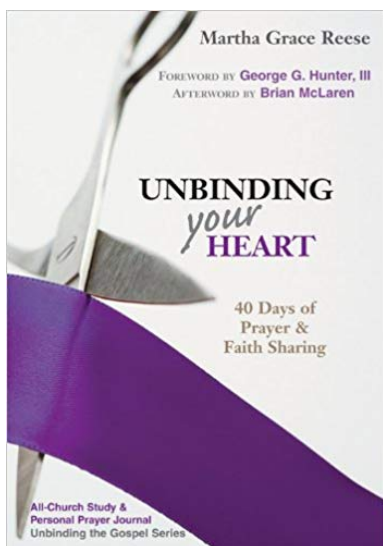


Pastor Jay

First UMC Is on the Move!

You'll probably notice a lot of physical changes to our building in the next few weeks! This week, the education wing entry is being fixed and updated, so both doors will be operational. You'll also notice new tile and paint, giving it a fresh look. We're also inspecting the bell tower to repair a water leak. These repairs will help our church be more welcoming the community.

We're growing! Many of our Sunday school classes and small groups have outgrown their meeting spaces, because they continue to invite new people to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ (which means we are fulfilling our mission)! As of April 28, the Koinonia class will now meet in the parlor; the SPICE class and couples' small group will meet in 2201, and the Faith and Friends class will meet in 2202. We love to see our church growing, so keep inviting people!



Unbinding Your Heart

Looking for a way to deepen your faith experience? This small group could be for you. We will work through the book, *Unbinding Your Heart*, by Martha Grace Reese, with particular emphasis on the prayer journal. This is a companion book to *Unbinding the Gospel*. We will meet on Monday nights for six weeks, beginning June 3. A sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex, or you may call the church office to register. What a great way to become a better follower of Jesus! Questions? Contact Lori Treadway at lhtreadway@robinsonschools.com.

Music Opportunities

The last MATS (Moms and Tots Sing) is May 7th at 11 a.m. at Harmony Park. This group continues to reach out into the community and meet a need for music, fellowship, and sharing the Gospel!

Spots are open for special music, readings, drama and dance during worship this summer. Please contact Antje at 562-0859 or antje2959@hotmail.com to volunteer yourself or someone you love! Sharing the love of God through worship arts is one of the most powerful ways to testify!

Care News from Stephen Ministry

We've been talking about Stephen Ministry at First UMC for over a year now. We will be sending Janelle Oxford, Marcia Schmidlin, Janis Daugherty, and Pastor Jay to Stephen Leader training in Orlando this June. Please pray for them! In the meantime, Stephen Ministry isn't idle! If you need someone to pray with you, Stephen Ministers are available in the chapel 15 minutes prior to and after the 9:00 am worship service each Sunday. Also, our Stephen Ministers have been reaching out to those in our congregation and community who have been going through times of grief and loss. We're seeking to heal broken hearts, one person at a time.

Stephen Ministry provides one-on-one care to persons who are experiencing life transitions and major life moments. Because the care is one-on-one, each Stephen Minister will only be assigned one person to journey with at a time, and they are assigned to a person of the same gender. Right now, we only have three male Stephen Ministers, and we could use some more. If God has placed it on your heart to walk with people during a difficult time in their life journey, please contact one of the Stephen Leaders listed above.



One of the first questions you may wonder is how did Stephen Ministry get its name. In the book of Acts, Stephen was chosen to provide caring ministry to those in need. Since the time of the Apostles, caring ministry has been considered a hallmark of the Christian faith community. The Stephen Ministry logo also captures the essence of this care ministry. The Stephen Ministry logo represents a care receiver's journey from brokenness toward wholeness through the cross of Jesus. In this way, it illustrates "Christ caring for people through people," which is the Stephen Ministry motto. Stephen Ministers walk beside another who is going through a difficult time. God works through Stephen Ministers as they listen, pray, and encourage their care receivers. Stephen Ministers are available for prayer each Sunday after worship in the Chapel.



How Can We Say Thanks?

Did you know that we've begun a partnership with Lincoln Trail College? Throughout the school year, the men's basketball team and the women's softball team have come to the church on several Wednesdays after school to assist with Kids' Club. Our students have really enjoyed working with them and having young people as positive role models for them. To say thank you, we are hosting a taco bar for them on Sunday, May 5, at 5:00 pm. There is a sign-up by the nametags in the narthex, if you'd like to contribute food, or you may speak with Shannon Goebel if you'd like to help. We're always grateful for community partners who help us make disciples of Jesus Christ!

End-of-School-Year Student Ministries

Refresh Student Ministries is winding down for the school year. By the time you've received *The Herald*, we will have hosted all parents for breakfast and Bible study on May 1, as well as our 5th graders and their parents, so they can see what their kids experience (or will experience) each week. Wednesday, May 8, will be the last Refresh breakfast and Bible study for the school year. We are grateful for our cooks (Gary Oxford, Dennis Inboden, Larry Bonnell, Ron Veenstra, Garrett Graham, Kent Paschen, and John Brimberry) and our Bible study leaders (Janelle Oxford, Brennan Tracy, Nina Davis, and Pastor Jay) for their ministry with students this year.

Kids' Club also has its last two gatherings on May 1 and May 8 for the school year. We want to thank our volunteers who have worked so hard this year to love all of the kids in this growing ministry - Steve Diel, Garrett Graham, Sue Roales, Susan and Dennis Inboden, Lori Treadway, Robin Davis, Libbi Fearday, Katie Aydt, Debbie Goff, Cash Veteto, Liam Osborne, Joe Hartke, Brantley Littlejohn, Dalton Davis, Sydney Harmon, and our staff (Kirbie Ackman, Brenda Graham, Antje Pippin, Nina Davis, and Pastor Jay). We're certainly meeting the needs and healing some hearts of the littlest ones in our community through Kids' Club.



Music and Arts Camp

Make sure to mark your calendars for this summer's Music and Arts Camp. We will be gathering from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm July 8-12 at the church. This year, we'll be exploring a *Summer of Seuss*, where we tie Bible stories with Dr. Seuss stories for a fun adventure. There will be music, art, Bible study, recreation, missions, and brain-benders for students who have completed preschool through fifth grade.

Registration will be available on our website, www.robinsonfumc.org beginning this month! Last year's Music and Arts Camp was very successful due to great organization and volunteers. If you're willing to help us as we make disciples of Jesus Christ and heal the hearts of the least and the lost, please sign up at the nametag area in the narthex. We have lots of opportunities available to serve!

Jail Ministry

Our Women's Jail Ministry at the Crawford County Jail is still going strong! Each Thursday, two women from our church go to the jail to lead devotions and talk with the women. We provide each of them with a Bible, some assistance when they transition from the jail to rehab or back into the community, and also write to those who go to prison. Others knit prayer shawls for them. One of our team members will be moving out of state this summer, and we are looking for some more women to join this ministry to take her place. We encourage you to pray and discern about your involvement in a ministry to help heal women who feel lost. Please contact Janelle Oxford, Brenda Graham, Linda Null, Jennifer Emken, Becky Veenstra, or Shannon Goebel if you feel called to serve.

Counseling Services Available

Holding Hope Counseling will be operating out of First United Methodist Church, beginning this month.

Gretchen Corn, a licensed professional counselor, will be providing services as an independent contractor. Her office will be located on the second floor at the top of the stairs. Gretchen is comfortable working with children, adolescents, and adults. You can read more about Holding Hope Counseling, Gretchen, and her practice on our website, [https://](https://www.robinsonfumc.org/holdinghope)

www.robinsonfumc.org/holdinghope.

We're so grateful to have Gretchen as a partner in healing the hearts of the least and the lost in our church and community!



NOW Program

Our last bagging dates for the school year are May 2, May 9, and May 16, at 4:00 pm in Asbury Hall. Please consider joining us! Our next food order pickup at Ruler is on Wednesday, May 8, so if you can help with that, please let Kirbie know in the church office.

Summer lunches start Tuesday, May 28. If you would like to sign up to help, visit this website: <http://signup.com/go/rcYGAjB>. On Thursday, May 23, we'll be preparing 1,000 bags for summer lunches at 4:00 pm.

Our "Just One" item for May is a two-pocket folder. You can place your donations in the NOW Program bin outside the church office. There are lots of opportunities here to help children in our community, to give them dignity and help them heal.

May Birthdays

- 5/2 Gary Oxford Jr, Mary Truitt,
Henry Treadway
5/4 Patience Regennitter
5/5 Melissa Newbold
5/6 Cohlson Fearday
5/7 Valerie Vermilya
5/10 Lillian Bertram, Garrett Graham,
Susan Sills, Chance Harmon
5/11 Ann Pfeiffer, Victoria McDonald
5/12 John Schmidlin
5/13 Margaret Conner
5/14 Avery DeDoming, Gerald Gordy,
Jay Steinman, Deanna Watson
5/15 Ron Veenstra
5/17 Jeannie Bibby, Gary Null,
Ben McDonald
5/19 Amy DeDoming, Juanita Fox
5/23 Mary Correll, Sue Roales
5/25 Tim Thompson, Joe Hartke
5/26 Keith Carter, Lynn McCord
5/27 Shannon Goebel
5/29 David Foote
5/30 Kwyn Goebel
5/31 Eve Diel, Paul Johnson,
Cindy Cassady

May Anniversaries

- 5/20 Dennis & Susan Inboden
5/21 Mike & Pam Bell
5/29 Garrett & Brenda Graham
5/31 Ernie & Sue Roales,
Shannon & Kurtis Goebel

Prayer Requests

John, Jeremy, and Greg Markello; Carol Wolf; Carl and Helen Blanton; Michael Brady; Patty Steele; Cathy Thomas; Judson Richardson; Jennifer Newlin; Jennifer Null; Julie Zhang; Bill Thompson; Michael Keene; John Larrabee; Nicole Young; Evan Prah; Ray Dotson; Bev Arrington Campbell; Margie Moore McNamara; Richard Youngs; Kay Young; Joan Fulling; Nancy Young; Tim Roth; Fred White; Vonnetta Shipman; Becky Goodwin; Caius Bell; Nelda Dotson; Kim Collins; Bill Hubbard; Ashley Griffith; Claudette Mejean; Ava Seaney; Demmie Long; Jaycie Hoagland; Emma Bodine; Charles Hough; Tonja Bradford; Charley Clark; Sheltyn James Henry; Coleen Roach; Layton Roy; Susan Rodgers; Norris Adams; Rick Pritchard; Dana Bishop; Carl Tarwater; Helen Larrabee; Diane Crampton; Jim Barnett; Chris Blair; Rosanna Hart; Marilyn Boyd; Brenda Graham; Laurie Vaughn; John Poland; Doug & Brad Finkbiner; Bill Jones; McKee Family; The Aydtt Family; The Family of Bill Hubbard

May 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30 am Refresh Breakfast & Bible Study 10:00 am NOW Food Order 3:00 pm Kids' Club	2 9:30 am Jesus and the Gospels 4:00 pm NOW Bagging 5:30 pm Couples Small Group 6:00 pm Jail Ministry 6:30 pm Glory Handbell Rehearsal	3	4
5 8 & 11 am Glory Handbell Rehearsal 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 5:30 pm LTC Thank You Meal 6:00 pm Evening Worship	6	7 10:30 am MATS 6:00 pm Jesus and the Gospels	8 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 am Refresh Breakfast & Bible Study 10:00 am NOW Food Order 3:00 pm Kids' Club 5:30 pm Second Wednesday Dinner 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Meeting	9 9:30 am Jesus and the Gospels 4:00 pm NOW Bagging 5:30 pm Couples Small Group 6:00 pm Jail Ministry	10	11 11:00 am Tancy Finkbinder Memorial Service
12 8:00 am Praise Kids & Choir Ladies Rehearse 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 2:30 pm Heritage Health Service 6:00 pm Evening Worship	13	14	15 6:30 am Refresh Breakfast & Bible Study	16 4:00 pm NOW Bagging 5:30 pm Couples Small Group 6:00 pm Jail Ministry	17	18
19 8 & 11 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 6:00 pm Evening Worship	20	21	22	23 4:00 pm NOW Summer Lunch Bagging 5:30 pm Couples Small Group 6:00 pm Jail Ministry	24	25
26 8:00 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 6:00 pm Evening Worship	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28 10:30 am NOW Lunches at parks	29 10:30 am NOW Lunches at parks	30 10:30 am NOW Lunches at parks 5:30 pm Couples Small Group 6:00 pm Jail Ministry	31	

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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antje2959@hotmail.com

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doubleg@mediacombb.net

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Nursery Staff: Jennifer Boatman, Danielle Stuller,
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