

ROBINSON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH • MAY 2023

# THE HERALD

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







## FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN:

I must confess something, I am not a writer. In fact, I often struggle with topics to write about for the monthly newsletter. Not too long ago, I found myself passing the afternoon sitting in an old porch swing. The old swing was there when I moved into the community, and the old fella, like me, has seen some things over the years. The swing has faced the seasons from extremely hot to frigid, from beautiful days to raging storms. The old fella has suffered a few scars of time. The paint is beginning to chip away and creaking sounds are more the norm these days, yes, the old fella has some scars, but the old friend is always ready and willing to pass the summer afternoon together.

During one of my visits under the shade of the trees and a gentle breeze, I started thinking... I know that can be dangerous. Some of us can relate to the old swing. We have faced the days good and bad, and longed for a connection with someone, something to provide us with a purpose. Yes, we are weathered and we creak more than we used to but we still have a purpose.

While I sat there with my thoughts, surprisingly, I don't have a lot of them. I searched for a way to connect the church of our recent past with the newer narrative that we are experiencing. Surprisingly, I was drawn back to something old for something new, the power of the gospel message. Even though our seasons change and we have battled storms and celebrated blessings, the message never has changed: Love.

Love is defined many ways and each person has a different understanding of love. The love we share with a spouse is different than that of a child, the love we share with a friend is unlike that of an acquaintance, but there is still a form of love. Within the gospel we are introduced to the various types of love that Christ shares with each person he encounters, from children to disciples, the woman and the well, the ill and suffering, Lazarus and the Roman Centurion, Christ shows love to each person and shares that same love with us, still today. The love of Christ never weathers and is always welcome to us no matter what season we are in.

While sitting there in the gentle breeze, I began to focus on the struggles of our nation. Our current narrative is not one of love for our fellow man, but conditional interactions, "agree with me and support me and my opinions or you are wrong and not worthy of my attention." We must first recognize that when we draw the preverbal lines in the sand we are restricting love and we weaken the message of the gospel. Christ has shown each one of us that we can be different and that is fine, for we all were created to be individuals full of dreams, adventures, and ultimately love to share and welcome each other in the seasons. As for me, I will keep sitting under the trees with my friend, the swing, stop by sometime and we can share some lemonade and talk about the good old days.

Creaking and swinging,

Pastor Terry

## **Second Wednesday Dinner**

2nd Wednesday Dinner this month will be on May 10th, and we will be raising funds for Vacation Bible School! We will be serving a BIG salad bar with lots of options to make your salad a full meal. And of course, desserts! There is no need to bring anything, except maybe a friend! Please sign up at the welcome center so we can prepare accordingly.

- *Nurture Team*

## **Church Chum Party**

If you are a Church Chum, Mark your calendar for a Church Chum Reveal Party on May 21st! We will have pizza, cake and drinks following Sunday School. If you are an adult Church Chum, please be sure to send your young Church Chum an invitation! If you need help with this, please contact a member of the Nurture Team.

## **Movie Night**

Movie night will be Friday, May 26th at 6:00 pm! Popcorn and drinks will be provided! Come wearing your comfy clothes, bring your blankets, and anything you need to make this movie night great for you!

Join us for a fun and easy night where we will learn that "Growing up is a beast"!

See you at the movies,

- *Kirbie & Wryn*



## **NOW Program**

During the month of April NOW has been through things I never imagined! Our NOW team has really stepped up and brought a lot of hope and promise to the community at this very scary time! If you volunteered for us, donated items or funds, I want to say thank you so much! We couldn't have done it without you!

The Just One Item for May will be underwear! We accept 4T - all adult sizes. Donations can be made in the box outside of my office!

NOW Summer Lunches will begin on Tuesday, May 30th! If you would like to sign up to serve lunches, please use the link: <https://signup.com/go/FKwWPoW>

We will do a huge lunch bagging on May 25th at 4:00 pm, volunteers are needed!

Mark your calendars! The NOW Back to School Shopping Day is Saturday, August 5th!

## **Thank You**

I would like to thank everyone for all prayers for me for my recent surgery. - *Ken Mattsey*

## **Sunday School**

This is the Sunday School calendar for the rest of the year:

The combined Stephen Ministry Sunday School class will continue through June 18th.

**June 25 - September 3:** Sunday School Summer Break----No Sunday School Classes will meet during this 11 week period.

**September 10 - November 19:** Regular Sunday School Classes resume. No Sunday School classes will meet on the Sunday mornings of Hanging of the Greens and Unhanging of the Greens.

**Advent 2023:** There will be a combined Adult Sunday School Bible Study in Asbury Hall.

# Care News from Stephen Ministry

## Active Listening Tips

James 1:19 Let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak.

Listening is an important skill in all areas of our lives. Listening actively is an art. When we are actively listening, we are concentrating on what is being said. We are not trying to relate the conversation back to our own thoughts, experiences, and feelings. Active listening is helpful in many situations, but it is especially helpful during times of conflict or when speaking with someone who is hurting. The following are some tips on how to be an effective active listener:

1. **STAY PRESENT:** When you “stay present” you are in the moment. Do not get distracted thinking about the things on your “to do” list. Stay focused on the speaker, remain quiet, and eliminate interruptions and distractions.
2. **BE CURIOUS:** Ask thoughtful follow-up questions. Show that you want to know more.
3. **NO JUDGMENT:** You want the other person to feel safe, so be careful giving your own opinions.
4. **BE EMPATHIC:** Empathetic listening involves listening for understanding and reflecting back the emotions you heard. The speaker will share more when you validate without judgment.
5. **BE PATIENT:** Processing difficult emotions takes time. Be patient with the process.
6. **LISTEN FOR UNDERSTANDING:** You may not ever fully appreciate what the other person has experienced, but you should listen with empathy and love.



## May Birthdays

- 5/2 Gary Oxford Jr, Mary Truitt,  
Henry Treadway  
5/6 Cohlson Fearday  
5/10 Lillian Bertram,  
Garrett Graham, Susan Sills  
5/11 Victoria McDonald  
5/12 John Schmidlin  
5/14 Avery DeDoming,  
Jay Steinman, Deanna Watson  
5/15 Ron Veenstra  
5/17 Ben McDonald  
5/19 Amy DeDoming  
5/23 Mary Correll, Sue Roales  
5/25 Joe Hartke  
5/26 Keith Carter, Lynn McCord,  
Vincent Boatman  
5/27 Shannon Goebel,  
Wesley Emken  
5/28 Jennifer Boatman  
5/29 David Foote  
5/30 Kwyn Goebel

## May Anniversaries

- 5/20 Dennis & Susan Inboden  
5/25 Bob & Barbara Bell  
5/29 Garrett & Brenda Graham  
Robert & Breann Quick  
5/31 Ernie & Sue Roales,  
Shannon & Kurtis Goebel

## Prayer Requests

Carol Wolf; Carl Blanton; Michael Brady; Cathy Thomas; Judson Richardson; Julie Zhang; Bill Thompson; Michael Keene; Lisa Schaefer; Nicole Young; Evan Prah; Richard Youngs; Kay Young; Vonnetta Shipman; Thelma Gifford; Jennifer Newlin; Bernie Limper; Melinda Wehrle; Mandy Harris; Cindy Weger; Blain Loll; Miranda Waddell; Dave Freeland; Ruth Fiscus; Rhea Hayden; Ray & Nelda Dotson; Margaret Beaman; Alexander Forrey; Ninetta Faith; Lou Bonnell; Larry Quick; Claudette Mejean; Laurie Vaugh; Susan Rodgers; Adrian Hays; Rachel Tracy; Paula Aydt, Connie Calvert; Randy Butcher; Marnie Inboden; Louis Youngs; Stephen Ministers; Care Receivers; Dorothy Fasig; Doug Finkbiner; Clem Aydt; Annette Leighty; Spencer Meagher; Craig Waggoner; Tom Price; Brenda Graham; Allen Stucker; KJ Reid, Tricia Anderson; Jon Anderson; Alex Townsend; Brad Harris; Andy Limper; Karen Villalobos; Tornado victims; NOW Program; Dason Douglas, Dorris Ballard; Pastor Terry





# MAY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 <b>4:00 pm</b> - NOW Weekend Bagging	5	6
7 <b>9:00 am</b> - Worship <b>10:15 am</b> - Sunday School <b>3:00 pm</b> - Game Night	8	9	10 <b>5:30 pm</b> - - Second Wednesday Dinner <b>6:30 pm</b> - Stephen Ministry	11 <b>4:00 pm</b> - NOW Weekend Bagging	12	13
14 <b>9:00 am</b> - Worship <b>10:15 am</b> - Sunday School	15	16	17 <b>6:00 pm</b> - Committee Meetings <b>7:00 pm</b> - Church Council Meeting	18 <b>4:00 pm</b> - NOW Weekend Bagging	19	20
21 <b>9:00 am</b> - Worship <b>10:15 am</b> - Sunday School <b>12:00 pm</b> - Church Chum Party	22 <b>4:00 pm</b> - NOW Weekend Bagging	23	24	25 <b>4:00 pm</b> - NOW Summer Lunch Bagging <b>6:00 pm</b> - SPY Youth Group	26 <b>6:00 pm</b> - Movie Night	27
28 <b>9:00 am</b> - Worship <b>10:15 am</b> - Sunday School	29 <b>Office Closed</b>	30 <b>10:45 am</b> - NOW Summer Lunch Bagging	31 <b>10:45 am</b> - NOW Summer Lunch Bagging			



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# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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