

ROBINSON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH • FEBRUARY 2021

THE HERALD

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



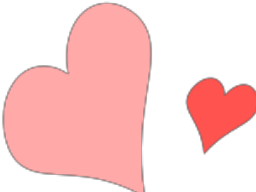
175th Anniversary
1846 - 2021

FIRST LOVE


This month, we are looking at ways that First UMC has shown love to its neighbors and to the surrounding community. Look inside for ways you can get involved!




From the Pastor's Desk



Did you know that our church's mission statement incorporates our theme? "We make disciples of Jesus Christ and share the love of God in word and deed." That's really what the church is all about. When we make disciples of Jesus Christ, we're showing love. When we witness to others about our faith, we're showing love. When we do works of mercy, we're showing love.



I think it's great that we think about how we carry out the Great Commandment during a month when we think about love. Of course, the world thinks of February as a month full of chocolate, candy conversation hearts, flowers, and Valentine's...but the church is much different. I've been thinking about that a lot lately, especially during this pandemic. We're not called as a church to do what the world does, but to be an alternative to what the world does. We're not about sappy, romantic love as the church. We're about roll-up-your-sleeves and put on your boots and gloves love. It's love that makes a difference in the lives of people. It's love that makes people in our community go "hmmm...I wonder why First UMC does that?"



Fortunately, this kind of love is in our church's DNA. You'll get a chance this month to read about some of the things that First UMC has done to share love with our community over the last 175 years. We'll also share some ways that you can show love right here and now, in 2021. I hope you'll join us in celebrating and carrying out our mission.



Grace and peace,



Jay Regan

Pastor Jay

NOW Spreads Love

The NOW Program has only ever shown love to its neighbor and the community. Every week we make sure that the students of our community have food to take home. I'm not sure there is a better way to show someone that they are loved.

On Wednesday, March 3rd, we will be hosting our annual Fundraising Soup Supper, 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm. This year it will be a little different but if we've learned anything from this pandemic, it's that different isn't always bad. This year we will have a drive - up or carry out meal, with free will donations accepted. The menu will be limited to four types of soup: chili, chicken and noodles, gumbo and vegetable soup. There will be an online order form or orders can be made by calling the church office. We still need volunteers to come and help out at the soup supper and volunteers that would be willing to donate soup (using a specific recipe) or a dessert. If you would be interested in helping out please contact me in the office!

The Just-One Item for February will be a one subject notebook! Donations can be made in the drop box right outside the office.

A fun and easy way to get involved is to attend our weekly baggings! Please use the link below to sign up to join us!

<https://signup.com/go/QFTppWB>



Human Relations Day

When you support Human Relations Day, your gift builds community leadership and resources. For example in Chicago, churches are in partnership to engage in community based alternatives to juvenile incarceration. In the Philippines, community organizations are strengthening family resiliency to address substance abuse, particularly with those who are living in the Manila North Cemetery. And in West Congo, United Methodist Churches are working with ecumenical partners to provide pastoral support and advocacy for children and youth who are in prison.

To donate, send a check with Human Relations Day in the memo to the office.

Ways to Love God

We've always been about loving God here at First UMC! If you're wanting to find ways to deepen your relationship with God, we've got them for you!

Beginning February 21, Pastor Jay's Sunday School class (the Koinonia class) will begin studying The Grand Sweep, which takes us through the Bible in a year. Class books outline daily readings (don't worry, it's not too much to do!), and are available in the church office. If you want to make a donation to cover the cost, they will be \$13 each. We'll be discussing the week's readings during our Sunday school time. What a cool way to celebrate our 175th anniversary as a church by committing to read the Bible together in 2021! Want to read with us, but don't feel like you can do Sunday school? You can still pick up a book!

The Faith and Friends/SPICE Sunday school classes are remaining combined (on Zoom) for Lent, and will begin a new study for the season of Lent. Entering the Passion of Jesus, by Amy Jill Levine, takes students through the events of the last week of Jesus' life. Books are available to pick up at the church office, or we can mail one to your home. If you want to make a donation, the book cost is \$9.

Good news! Refresh for our middle and high school students is able to relaunch due to our move back to Phase 4 with no restrictions. We will be meeting as we did in the fall, with High School students meeting on Tuesdays from 6:45-7:20am, and Middle School students meeting on Thursdays from 6:45-7:20am. Bible study happens during that time, and then students are able to take their food to go and eat once they arrive at school. Students do need to register to attend (if you registered in the fall, you do not need to re-register). Registration and all details can be found here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1NdIY5yoDW4V9JfyIBg4VGwf30dBwfv3y2_zk-WSBUpo/edit?usp=sharing We look forward to seeing our high school students on February 2 and our middle school students on February 4!

One of the ways we love God the most is through worship! As you know, we will continue to livestream and radio broadcast the 9:00 am service each week. Starting February 21, we will re-launch the 6:00 pm in-person indoor worship service. Come and enjoy a time of prayer, children's focus, Scripture reading, and spoken word! We do ask that you register your attendance ahead of time. Registration links will be provided on our website and in e-news. You must wear a mask and practice social distancing.

We will have a unique Ash Wednesday experience on February 17! Pastor Jay is developing a devotional guide that will include Scripture and prayer. These will be distributed to you during an imposition of ashes from 8:00-9:00 am and 5:00-5:30 pm at First UMC! Simply drive up by the front doors, and he'll provide ashes on the foreheads of everyone in your car (in a safe way) and give you your devotional guide to go! Please join us as we begin the celebration of Lent this month.

We will also be publishing our congregation's Lenten devotional this month. Printed guides will be available the week of February 14, and you will also receive them in your e-mail daily. Please contact the church office by February 4 if you would like to submit a devotion for use (Scriptures and a sign-up are available in E-news).



First Love

First United Methodist Church has a long history of showing love to its neighbors. As mentioned in last month's edition of The Herald, when our first facility was built in 1866, we shared our facility with the Presbyterian congregation in town. Our history tells us that the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society started in 1883, and had 24 members. This society was the predecessor to the Ladies' Aid Society and Women's Society of Christian Service and what is today known as United Methodist Women. Although our congregation no longer has a unit of United Methodist Women, for decades the women who belonged to these groups made a huge difference in spreading the Gospel through the United States and around the world. Many of our conference agencies, including Cunningham Children's Home in Urbana and Lessie Bates Davis House in East St. Louis make a difference in the lives of children each day due to the work of the UMW.

Our church has long reached out in love to our youth. The Epworth League was first organized in 1890 with 20 youth participating. For 50 years, that group continued to meet, and then formed the Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF) with the 1939 denominational merger. Eventually, this became known as United Methodist Youth Fellowship (after the 1968 merger). The ACES program, Walnut Street Kids, and now Refresh and Kids' Club continue to reach out and show the love of Christ to children and students in our community.

First UMC has a long history of holding revivals, dating back to 1849. These revivals featured preachers and music, and served to help people hear the Gospel message. More recently, our revivals have taken the shape of Praise Fests, with outdoor music and activities.

As you can see, we have been loving people for most of our church's history, and we continue to do so today. The NOW Program, Refresh, Kids' Club, jail ministry, Stephen Ministry, and so many other ministries. We will continue to love God and our neighbors well in the future!



FUMC Sharing Christ's Love

by Phuong Quick

Did you know that FUMC has a history of sharing the love of Christ in big ways? This is a story of how a FUMC outreach shared the love of Christ by sponsoring a refugee family, and it all started back in 1980. Those were the days in the aftermath of the Vietnam War. It was a chaotic and hopeless time for the countless refugees that were escaping the ravages of war and fleeing for their lives.

Imagine, if you will, setting off in the middle of the night with the clothes on your back and a few possessions that you can carry. You sneak towards the place where the boat is supposed to be, fearful that at any moment you could be caught and sent to a "reeducation camp". When you arrive at the boat, the price to be smuggled out is steep because the crew is taking a risk and it's not cheap to pay off lookouts along the route.

The harrowing story of the escape is for another time. Let's fast forward to the refugee camp. This was where the refugees waited for countries to sponsor them. I have brothers and sisters that live in Australia to this day, because Australia was taking young healthy Vietnamese to try to build up their population. My father had a bone disease in his leg which would require advanced medical attention. This was the point where the United States said it would take those that other countries didn't want. Eight of us were brought to the US.

We made our way to the church that had sponsored us, First United Methodist Church in Robinson. A church we still call home to this day. I'm not sure how little FUMC would have even come up with the idea of sponsoring a refugee family back in 1980, let alone actually make it happen. I can only believe that it was a God thing. FUMC, by sharing God's love, touched a family on the other side of the world. FUMC, with God's guidance, has done big things in the past, is doing big things now, and will do big things in the future. Glory to God!

Care News from Stephen Ministry

How do we show love for our neighbors?

*I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications.
Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.
Psalm 116:1-2*

To show love for your neighbor, you must be neighborly. When you are neighborly you are helpful, friendly, and kind. Being a good listener is a neighborly act. **A good listener focuses on active listening.** Active listening is the act of concentrating on what is being said and not trying to relate it back to your own thoughts, experiences and feelings. This technique is useful for many different situations, but it can prove especially helpful in conflict or when speaking with someone who is hurting.

*You must understand this, my beloved:
let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.
James 1:19*

1. **STAY PRESENT:** To stay present means to really be in the moment. You're not thinking about your to-do list or what you are having for lunch. You are focused on the speaker.
2. **STAY CURIOUS:** When you want to know more, it's easier to stay present. Ask genuine follow-up questions only when the speaker asks for your input.
3. **NO JUDGMENT:** Keep an open mind and accept that what you hear may be different from your own opinions or values. When you are free of judgment, people will feel safe sharing with you and being vulnerable in front of you.
4. **BE EMPATHIC:** Empathy means experiencing someone else's feelings. "Emotional empathy is what motivates us to help others."
Brian Goldman, MD
5. **BE PATIENT:** It takes time to process difficult emotions. Do not rush it.
6. **LISTEN FOR UNDERSTANDING:** Similar to tip number two above, it's easier to stay present and to be empathic when you understand. Put yourself in the speaker's shoes, but know that you can never fully appreciate all of their experiences and influences, but you can try. Also, side note: There may be times when you won't fully understand, and that's ok. Do your best.



*So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.
Romans 10:17*

February Birthdays

2/1	Katie Hartke
2/2	Mary Jane Parker, Nicholas Ramos
2/4	Lenzi Ippolito
2/5	Allie Oxford, Nadene Keene
2/7	Taya Harmon, Tomi Skaggs
2/8	Brenda Graham
2/9	Heidi Wright
2/10	Jack Frakes
2/11	Dalton Davis
2/12	Lori Treadway
2/14	Dorcas Sills
2/15	Stacy Baize
2/16	Ruth Parrott
2/18	Walt Conner
2/20	Katelin Veenstra
2/22	Greg Catt
2/24	Connie Carter
2/25	Jane Elliott
2/26	Trevor Carter

February Anniversaries

2/1	Walt & Margaret Conner
2/28	Stacy & Jim Baize
2/14	David & Mary Correll
2/16	Guy & Shirley Treadway
2/28	Larry & Kay Bonnell

Prayer Requests

Jeremy and Greg Markello; Carol Wolf; Carl Blanton; Michael Brady; Cathy Thomas; Judson Richardson; Julie Zhang; Bill Thompson; Michael Keene; John Larrabee; Nicole Young; Evan Prah; Margie Moore McNamara; Richard Youngs; Kay Young; Nancy & Charlie Young; Vonnetta Shipman; Becky Goodwin; Caius Bell; Ray & Nelda Dotson; Kim Collins; Claudette Mejean; Ava Seaney; Demmie Long; Emma Bodine; Charles Hough; Sheltyn James Henry; Norris Adams; Rick Pritchard; Laurie Vaughn; Bill Jones; Kay Bonnell; Wally Leggit; Joe Schmidlin; Cathy Frakes, Judy Eckert; Bernice Kibler; Lisa Schaefer; Shirley Wakefield; Matthew Williams; Bob Callier; Larry Potts; Patricia Hodgson; Pamela Hart; June Watson; Maria Reis; Paul Davis; Kathy Kennedy; Roger Pethel; Tina Klender; Paul Clinton; Duane Parker; Ruth Fiscus; Max & Debbie Tedford; Charlie & Janet Clark; Jan Riker; Alan & Joan Summers; Carolyn Leggett; Dustin Ikemire; Robin Bray; Greg Faylor; Susan Rodgers; Mary Etta Whitmer; Melinda Ashby; Elwin Falor; Brad Smith; Floyd Brinkman; Barb Coffey; Leah Buser; Kamillah Rollins; Cuma Barnett; Matt Schmidlin; Brent Jones; Dorothy Youngs; The family of Don Runyan; the family of Chris (Dean) Heiny



February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		6:45 am - High School Refresh 6:30 pm - Invitation to John (Zoom)		6:45 am - Middle School Refresh 8:45 am - Invitation to John (Zoom) 4:00 pm - NOW Weekend Meal Bagging		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:00 am - Worship (Live Stream, YouTube and Radio) 10:30 am - Sunday School (Zoom) 4:30 pm - Stephen Leaders (Zoom)		6:45 am - High School Refresh 6:30 pm - Invitation to John (Zoom)	4:00 pm - NOW Weekend Meal Bagging 6:30 pm - Stephen Ministry (Zoom)	6:45 am - Middle School Refresh 8:45 am - Invitation to John (Zoom)		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:00 am - Worship (Live Stream, YouTube and Radio) 10:30 am - Sunday School (Zoom)		6:45 am - High School Refresh 6:30 pm - Invitation to John (Zoom)	Ash Wednesday 8:00 am & 5:00 pm - Imposition of Ashes 6:00 pm - Committee Meetings (Zoom) 7:00 pm - Church Council Meeting (Zoom)	6:45 am - Middle School Refresh 8:45 am - Invitation to John (Zoom) 4:00 pm - NOW Weekend Meal Bagging		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:00 am - Worship (Live Stream, YouTube and Radio) 10:30 am - Sunday School (Zoom) 6:00 pm - Worship (In-Person)		6:45 am - High School Refresh 6:30 pm - Invitation to John (Zoom)		6:45 am - Middle School Refresh 8:45 am - Invitation to John (Zoom) 4:00 pm - NOW Weekend Meal Bagging		
28						
9:00 am - Worship (Live Stream, YouTube and Radio) 10:30 am - Sunday School (Zoom) 6:00 pm - Worship (In-Person)						



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