

First United  
Methodist Church  
OCTOBER 2016

# THE HERALD

LISTENING TO GOD'S HEART FROM THE HEART OF THE CITY

2016 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN  
ROBINSON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**SOWING SEEDS**  
- FOR THE FUTURE -  
*Matt. 13:1-9*

# FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

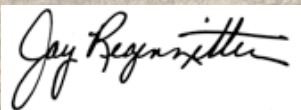
I want to express to you, as a congregation, about what a joy it is to be your pastor! Each and every day, I am amazed to see the ways that you sow seed into our church and our community. Let me lift up a few ways that I see that sowing happening:

- Every week during the school year, a small group of men gathers at 5:30 am on Wednesday morning to prepare a homecooked breakfast for over a dozen youth and leaders.
- Each week, six women give of their time and their compassion to visit the women in the county jail, sharing with them the gifts of their own stories and the good news of Jesus.
- Every Sunday, a gentleman in our church arrives early to unlock the church, turn on lights and make coffee. He and another woman make sure that the church is locked when everyone leaves.
- Every Sunday, three gentlemen arrive early to set up and run the sound system, lights, and projection to help us worship God more fully, and include those who listen via the radio broadcast.
- Whenever there is a need in our congregation (youth mission trip, Bibles for FCA, the NOW program, etc.), you rise to meet it with great generosity.
- We see new faces in worship and in our educational and outreach ministries on a regular basis. We are reaching new people!

I could add more to this list – pages and pages of the ways that you are sowing seeds – not just for now, but for future generations. I am grateful, and I want to say thanks to you. So, when you sign up for this month's 2nd Wednesday Dinner, please know that it is being provided at no cost to you. And, as always, the October 2nd Wednesday Dinner will be held at the parsonage, so bring a roasting stick to cook hot dogs, and a lawn chair. We'll have a grand time celebrating together!

Please make sure to take note of a variety of ways that you can sow seeds in the pages of this newsletter. Of particular note during this month is our capital improvements campaign. You'll be hearing more about it throughout the month through mailings, worship, and social media. Please prayerfully consider how you might be a part of this campaign to help us continue to sow seeds for the sake of the Gospel.

Grace and peace,



Pastor Jay

# SOWING SEEDS FOR A FUTURE

In the past few months (including in this newsletter), we've been sharing with you about the need to undertake some capital improvements for our facilities. To spell it out for you in plain language, here are the major projects we hope to undertake:

- Repaying our internal loan from fire insurance so that we could purchase the properties south of the church.
- Hopefully purchasing and demolishing the apartment building west of the church (sealed bids were due September 30 – at the time of the printing of this newsletter, we do not know the outcome, but will share in worship as soon as we know the results).
- Resurfacing existing parking and expanding parking on the south side of the church.

The total cost of these projects is approximately \$514,000.

These are amazing projects that have the potential to prepare us for future growth. Think of the things that could result from sowing these seeds – green space for our growing Kids' Club ministry; making space for a future building expansion to house additional educational and outreach ministries; closer parking for those who need to be dropped off at our accessible door; expanded parking for visitors and families with children.

We're already seeing so much growth from the seeds we've been sowing in rebuilding the church, developing new opportunities for spiritual growth, and expanding outreach ministries. It's an exciting time to be a part of First UMC, and we hope you'll consider making a three-year pledge to the capital campaign so that we can accomplish these major projects.

## SOWING SEEDS THAT MAY SPROUT

Disaster recover begins with an early response team by providing a caring Christian presence in the aftermath of a disaster. It is a cooperative effort between the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission. The team is neither a first response group of emergency workers nor a recover, rebuild or repair team. Rather, it fills a specific need in the early days after a disaster to establish the presence of the church.

Teams are trained primarily to respond within their own community and district. The Illinois Great Rivers Conference has several UMCOR trainers available, and they will be coming here to Robinson FUMC on Saturday, October 15. The workshop begins at 8:00 am and will be completed by 4:00 pm. The training costs \$40, but the lay leadership team at FUMC will reimburse a portion or all of your registration, if needed. The cost includes a background check, training materials, lunch, an ERT shirt and badging. Registration deadline is October 7, and you can register here: <https://igrc-reg.brtapp.com/ERTRobinsonFirst161015>

This opportunity is a great way for you to be prepared, and find out how you can serve when a disaster (flooding, tornado, etc) comes to our area. What a great way to sow some seeds for those who may be affected by a natural disaster!

# SMALL SEEDS MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

Jesus reminds us that even the tiny mustard seed grows into a great bush. Check out these ways that you can contribute in small ways for a great harvest!

## Just One

Our “Just One” collection for October is hairbrushes. Please pick up a hairbrush or two and place it in the collection bin outside the church office. Our goal is 200 hairbrushes, so your generosity will make a big difference in helping us reach our goal.

## Spread the Word

The first Fellowship of Christian Athletes meeting at RHS this year brought with it 30 new students, which means we can give them 30 new sports Bibles. If you'd like to contribute toward those Bibles, please write “spread the word” in your check memo.

## Prayer Support

Would you consider praying for our youth this month? Confirmation begins October 2 (we have nine in our class), and we'd love to have you pray for the students and their mentors. The youth are having a bonfire at the Oxfords on October 16 at 4:00 pm, and will go with the youth from St. Elizabeth Catholic Church to Lark Ranch on October 23. And there are always youth breakfasts each Wednesday at 6:30 am – so your prayer support for all of these events means a lot!

## Kids' Club

In the first few weeks of Kids' Club, we've averaged 35 students! We're giving away new Bibles every week as we reach new kids. Our bus makes a trip to Washington Elementary School, and a second trip to Lincoln Grade School. Soon, the bus will be full for each trip. So, if you're willing to help plant a seed by driving your vehicle to pick up kids, or to be an extra pair of hands, please let Pastor Jay know. We're seeing some amazing growth in these kids, and in this ministry!

## Support

Our annual charge conference is Sunday, October 2, at 2:00 pm. We are hosting this group charge conference in our sanctuary. Consider how you might support our leaders through your attendance, through your prayer support, or by organizing some light refreshments after the conference. This is a great time to celebrate the ways God is working in our church!

Also, we thank those who have offered to provide cookies. If you're willing to provide fresh fruit for refreshments, please let Pastor Jay know.

# SOWING SEEDS OF HOPE

BY AUDRA BELL & SHELBY KOESTER

October is Domestic Violence Awareness month. Did you know that 24 people per minute are victims of domestic abuse in the United States, according to The National Domestic Abuse Hotline? When the youth traveled to Baldwin, Louisiana this past June, they got the opportunity to volunteer at a local women and children's shelter for the abused. The facility is called Chez Hope, which literally means "In the house of hope." This safe house is a donation run organization. It is a completely free and confidential service. Because it is free, they rely on generous donations from the community. Their needs list is posted on their website and it changes daily. For instance, one day they may need cleaning supplies and the next day need over the counter medication. Chez Hope's statistics show that it costs about \$50 per night for one person at the shelter. The caretakers allow residents to stay up to three months or more if needed. In 2016, 1,107 people have been helped by this generous organization.

When the youth entered the building, they had to sign in and as they looked around, they were shocked by a very purple sight. The Chez Hope facility is filled with life size, purple plywood cutouts of unfortunate victims of domestic violence that have passed away. The campaign is called The Silhouette Project. This is in remembrance of those who have lost their lives to domestic abuse. Each cutout has a deceased victim's story. One such cutout told of a young, promising athlete who lost his life while trying to protect his mom from her boyfriend's abuse. Walking around and reading each story had a big impact on the youth. They got to tour an apartment that a resident would live in and walk around a clothing and home goods store where the residents can freely shop for anything they may need.

On the wall in the foyer of Chez Hope, there is a tree. It is called The Tree of Hope. The leaves of the tree are little plaques that are either silver or gold. Around the base of the tree are golden plaques that look like rocks. Rocks and leaves can be purchased in the memory of someone to help those in need. The Tree of Hope is a lot like the Parable of the Sower found in Matthew 13. Like the seeds in the parable that had fallen onto the bad soil, the people who come to Chez Hope have been oppressed and cannot thrive. When they come to Chez Hope, they can grow and prosper because of seeds of hope. The seeds found in the help and the love from the word of God through volunteers and those who donate fall on good soil and help those at Chez Hope to prosper.

Since the youth were so moved when they visited Chez Hope, the youth would like to make a donation in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The youth are planning a bake sale after the service on October 30th. The families of the youth will be baking desserts. If you would like to donate a dessert, please contact Janelle Oxford. Our goal of this sale is to raise at \$500 to donate to Chez Hope to purchase a rock for the Tree of Hope that adorns the wall in the foyer at Chez Hope. First United Methodist Church of Robinson will be inscribed on the plaque. Any and all donations would be appreciated.



## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/ Ka Su Kelly, Julie Pfeiffer, Julia Roberson  
10/3 Emily Holtzhouser, Kenton Carver  
10/4 Sabra Adams, Maezie Fearday  
10/6 Robert Quick  
10/7 Rich Johnson  
10/12 Greg Markello  
10/13 Leavone Johnson, Victoria McMillan  
10/14 Allison Damron  
10/16 Janey Branson  
10/19 Ann York, Colby McGahey, Calvin Turner  
10/21 Allen Lowry  
10/24 Mary Jourdan  
10/25 Shirley Wakefield  
10/27 Sydney Harmon  
10/30 Bob Bert, Julie Wilson

## OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

10/2 Gary & Susan Rodgers  
10/7 Bill & Kaye Damron, Lance & Tabitha Seaney  
10/16 Janet & Charley Clark, Billy & Connie Calvert  
10/21 Jack & Edna Frakes  
10/27 John & Marcia Schmidlin

## PRAYER CONCERNS

Peg, John, Jeremy, and Greg Markello; Ken Martin; Carol Wolf; Lois McConnell; Carl and Helen Blanton; Judy Wilson Wall; Marilyn Musgrave; Michael Brady; Elaine Siler; Nancy Young; Amy DeDoming; Susan Rodgers and family; Gary Albin; Donna Reed; Mike Richards; Charley Clark; Neema Mutayoba; Elmer & Beverly Harness; Michelle Hall; Patty Steele; Darrell Barry; Rick Morris; Mike Richards; Joseph Hartke; Marty Attaway; Cathy Thomas; The women in the Crawford County jail; Judson Richardson; Jackson Barry; Jerry Adkins; Jewell Arthur; Richard Youngs; Kay Albin; Susan Polgar; Shirley Allison; Lisa Graham Miller; Jay Holtzhouser; Anna Jones; Janna Coonce; Carolyn Vanway; Jennifer Utterback; Jennifer Durham; Julie Uebienger

## FUMC YOUTH

We will be having two fun events this month! On Sunday, October 16, we will meet at the Oxfords for our annual bonfire at 4:00 pm. Then, on Friday, October 21, we will be departing from FUMC at 3:00 pm to go to Knepp Fun Fest in Indiana, and we plan to return by 8:30 pm. Your admission will be covered, but please plan to bring \$\$ for dinner that evening. Please sign up at the welcome center if you plan to attend so that we can arrange appropriate transportation.



# OCTOBER 2016

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

1  
10:00 am  
Heath Harvest  
Festival Hospitality  
Table  
1:00 pm  
Volunteers  
distribute water  
during parade

2 8 & 11 am Chancel Choir rehearsal 8:30 am Kids' Club rehearse 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Confirmation Orientation 2:00 pm Charge Conference	3 9:30 am Library Reorganization	4 6:00 pm Disciple III	5 6:30 am Youth Breakfast 3:00 pm Kids' Club 6:00 pm SPRC	6 9:30 am Disciple III 4:30 pm NOW bagging 6:00 pm Jail Ministry 6:00 pm Foundation Meeting 7:00 pm Handbell rehearsal	7	8
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9 8:00 am Bell rehearsal 8:30 am Kids' Club rehearse 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Chancel Choir rehearsal 2:30 pm Worship service at Heritage Health	10 9:30 am Library Reorganization	11 6:00 pm Disciple III	12 6:30 am Youth Breakfast 3:00 pm Kids' Club 5:30 pm 2nd Wednesday Dinner @ parsonage 6:30 pm Worship Committee @ parsonage	13 9:30 am Disciple III 4:30 pm NOW Bagging 6:00 pm Jail Ministry 7:00 pm Handbell rehearsal	14	15 10:00 am Early Response Training
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16 8:30 am Kids' Club rehearse 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Chancel Choir rehearsal	17 9:30 am Library Reorganization 4:30 pm NOW Bagging	18 5:00 pm Outreach Committee Meeting 6:00 pm Disciple III	19 6:30 am Youth Breakfast 6:00 pm Lay Leadership Meeting	20 9:30 am Disciple III 6:00 pm Jail Ministry 7:00 pm Handbell rehearsal	21 3:00 pm Youth Trip to Knepp Fun Fest	22
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23 8 & 11 am Chancel Choir rehearsal 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School	24 9:30 am Library Reorganization	25 6:00 pm Disciple III	26 6:30 am Youth Breakfast 3:00 pm Kids' Club 5:30 pm Trustees Meeting	27 9:30 am Disciple III 4:30 pm NOW bagging 6:00 pm Jail Ministry	28	29
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30 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School	31 9:30 am Library Reorganization					
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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