

THE HERALD

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

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

I can remember being fascinated by “old-fashioned” telephones - you know the ones to which I refer - a wooden box with a rotary dial, and an earpiece connected by a cord. There’s currently a trend in the making of historical television dramas now, and it always amazes me how telephone operators did their jobs. We moved from rotary phones to phones with buttons, to phones that have a digital dialpad. Technology seems to propel us in a forward direction.

Some time ago, Verizon had a commercial on TV where they would be testing their wireless signals. To do so, they would ask the question “Can you hear me now?” It’s been a couple of years since those commercials aired, but we are still asking the same question. When we make contact with the radio station for our broadcast, we are making sure that we hear one another, and I know that when I’ve done some of our recent tests with them, that’s been the question we have asked.

As we enter 2018, and we think about all that is going on in our world today, I believe God is asking that same question: “Can you hear me now?” What does it mean for us to hear God’s voice in this day and age, and be able to respond? What is God calling you to do today, tomorrow, next week, over the course of this year, to bring the kingdom of heaven here on earth.

As you read the pages of The Herald, keep in mind that there are many opportunities that are available for you through First United Methodist Church to hear and answer God’s call for your life. Pray about what God is calling you to do next, and be brave enough to say, “Here I am, Lord! Send me!”

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jay

SERVE WITH NOW

There are several ways that you can get involved with the NOW Program at First UMC. During the month of January, our “Just One” item is men’s and women’s deodorant. Pick up a stick of each and place it in the bin outside the church office.

If you can’t donate to the “Just One” item, consider coming to help bag the weekly food items (usually Thursdays at 4:00 pm, depending on the school calendar - check this newsletter’s calendar for correct bagging dates) in the library. If that time doesn’t work for you, we can always use help with picking up and unloading the monthly food purchase - so please contact the church office if you are willing to help in that way. And, if none of those times work, but you still want to help in some way, please contact Kirbie in the church office. There are many projects that need volunteer time and attention, but can be done based on volunteer availability (double-bagging plastic bags, sorting clothing, sorting donations, etc.). Pray about how God might be calling you to serve with NOW in 2018.



CALLED TO WRITE?

Yes, it’s only January, and we’re just getting ready to finish the season of Christmas; however, Lent begins February 14, and Scriptures are now available for First UMC’s Lenten devotional. As many of you have experienced by now, we produce a daily devotion during the seasons of Advent and Lent. Devotions aren’t long at all (1-2 paragraphs, with a short prayer), and are distributed as a printed devotional book, as well as a daily e-mailed devotion. If you feel like God has been gently nudging you to write a devotion, please sign up at the welcome center. And, if you don’t feel called to write, but feel that you have the time to edit the devotions once they are received (and before they are printed), please contact the church office.

“I WANT TO SERVE, BUT...”

...I don’t know how God is calling me.” If you’ve ever thought or spoken this statement, you may be struggling because you don’t know your spiritual gifts.

Fortunately for you, the lay leadership and education committees have a solution for you! During the Sundays of Lent, Connie Carter and Antje Pippin will be leading a six-week spiritual gifts study in the parlor. Their study will be during the Sunday school hour. Find out about the Biblical background of spiritual gifts, take an inventory, think about your skills and talents, and discover your passion. Even though this class will not start until February 17, you can sign up to participate at the welcome center now.

IS GOD CALLING YOU TO RESPOND FIRST?

This fall, Pastor Jay shared with the congregation that he had gone to an Early Response Team (ERT) training in preparation for this summer's mission trip.

He shared that the number of people trained in our district is small, and several of you mentioned that you would be interested in attending the training when it was offered close to us. The closest upcoming training is on Saturday, January 20, in Vandalia. If you are interested in going, please register at the following link: <https://www.igrc.org/disasterresponse>.

Please note that there are two other training locations and dates available, but the Vandalia location is the closest in proximity to Robinson. If you plan to go, the deadline to register is January 12. The church (on behalf of the lay leadership and outreach committees) will pay for or reimburse you for your registration fee.

IS GOD CALLING YOU TO SERVE ON MINISTRY STAFF?

The Staff Parish Relations Committee has announced the opening of a part-time (20 hours per week) position as Director of Christian Education. The position has been advertised on our church's website, in the Robinson Daily News, on the conference website, and through the church's social media. A job description and application details are located on our website, <https://www.robinsonfumc.org/employment-opportunities>. If you feel God is calling you to serve in this way, please apply, and if you know someone who is qualified or who might feel called to serve, please share the job posting with them as well.

ARE YOU CALLED TO MISSION WORK?

Now that we have passed the deadline to sign up for the 2018 youth mission trip, we can share that approximately 14 young people and six chaperones plan to attend this summer's mission trip. We are looking for one more male chaperone to go with us, so if you are interested in going July 21-29, please contact Pastor Jay.

Can't go on a mission trip, but want to support it? The youth will be hosting this month's Second Wednesday dinner on January 10 at 5:30 pm. They will be having their annual soup supper fundraiser.

Chili, cheesy vegetable soup, sides, and desserts will be available for a suggested donation of \$8 for adults and \$3 for children. Please sign up at the welcome center if you plan to attend. Plan to stay afterwards and support the performing arts department at Lincoln Trail College, who will be offering a reprise of their Winter's Night by Candlelight concert in our sanctuary at 7:00 pm!



CALLED TO LIVE TOGETHER

As stated in other parts of this newsletter, it's just January, but we are looking ahead to Lent. Pastor Jay will be offering a Lenten Bible study on how we continue to live and love together when we disagree, which will be part of our Lenten focus on forgiveness. Classes will begin February 18 at 4:30 pm, and will be held for the six weeks of Lent. The cost of materials is \$12.

If you are interested in participating, please sign up at the welcome center.

Childcare will be available upon request.

CALLED...TO COMPLETE A SEASON

As you are receiving this newsletter, we are in the midst of the Christmas season, which ends with Epiphany (January 6). On Sunday, January 7, we will complete this season by taking down all of the beautiful Christmas decorations and storing them for another year. We'll begin after Sunday school (approximately 11:00 am), and we will have lunch available (pizza) for those who need a pick-me-up. We look forward to this time when people can answer this call for help!



January Birthdays

1/6 Shelby Koester

1/7 Pat Campbell, Bill Thomas

1/8 Larry Quick

1/10 John Rankin, Mary St. John

1/13 Willie Legg

1/14 Karen Catt

1/15 Kaye Damron, Sallay Jones

1/16 Fred Finkbiner

1/17 Dustin McDonald

1/18 Sharon Freeland,
Jesse Newbold

1/19 David Peraino

1/22 Paul Roales

1/24 Kristin Wallace

1/25 Cindy Crawford

1/29 Kurtis Goebel, Kaitlin Murrell

1/30 Barbara Bradt

Prayer Requests

Peg, John, Jeremy, and Greg Markello; Ken Martin; Carol Wolf; Lois McConnell; Carl and Helen Blanton; Judy Wilson Wall; Michael Brady; Gary Albin; Patty Steele; Marty Attaway; Cathy Thomas; Judson Richardson; Jerry Adkins; Susan Polgar; Janna Coonce; Jennifer Newlin; Kaye Parrott Weger; Jennifer Null; Julie Zhang; Bill Thompson; Bob Duzan; Janey Branson; Kate Dale; Shirley Treadway; Neema Mutayoba; Mary Kay Jurcin; Barb Myers; Michael Keene; Dick Drake; John Larrabee; Myrtle Garrard; Larry Nichol; Floyd Brinkman Sr; Janet & Charley Clark; Allen Summers; Nicole Young; Bev Turkal; Vicki Vinson Farris; Evan Prah; Ray Dotson; Bev Arrington Campbell; Rick Koester; Margie Moore McNamara; Richard Youngs; Kay Blanchard; Kay Young; John Poland; Bob Berty; Joan Fulling; Nancy Young; Doris Prier; Unchanging Grace; Dorothy Fasig; Wally Treadway; Jackson Barry; John Mosher; Lisa Schaefer; Young people who are facing challenging personal and family situations; Wally Riley; Sidney Iubelt

JANUARY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Office Closed	2 10:30 am MATS	3	4 9:30 am Disciple IV 4:00 pm NOW Bagging 6:00 pm Jail Ministry	5	6
7 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 11:30 am Lunch and the unhanging of the greens 6:00 pm Evening Worship	8	9 10:30 am MATS 4:00 pm Youth Food Prep 6:00 pm Disciple IV	10 6:30 am Refresh Wednesday 3:00 pm Kids' Club 5:30 pm Second Wednesday Dinner 7:00 pm LTC Choir Concert	11 9:30 am Disciple IV 4:00 pm NOW Bagging 6:00 pm Jail Ministry 6:00 pm Glory Handbell Rehearsal	12	13
14 8 & 11 am Chancel Choir 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 2:30 pm Heritage Health Service 6:00 pm Evening Worship	15	16 10:30 am MATS 6:00 pm Disciple IV	17 6:30 am Refresh Wednesday 3:00 pm Kids' Club 4:00 pm NOW Bagging 6:00 pm Committee Meetings 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting	18 9:30 am Disciple IV 6:00 pm Jail Ministry 6:00 pm Glory Handbell Rehearsal	19	20
21 8 & 11 am Chancel Choir 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 6:00 pm Evening Worship	22	23 10:30 am MATS 6:00 pm Disciple IV	24 6:30 am Refresh Wednesday 3:00 pm Kids' Club	25 9:30 am Disciple IV 4:00 pm NOW Bagging 6:00 pm Jail Ministry 6:00 pm Glory Handbell Rehearsal	26	27
28 8 & 11 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 6:00 pm Evening Worship	29	30 10:30 am MATS 6:00 pm Disciple IV	31 6:30 am Refresh Wednesday 3:00 pm Kids' Club			

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Organist/Pianist: Brenda Graham

Custodian: Amy DeDoming

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Tiffany Beard

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