

# THE HERALD

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

# WHAT'S NEXT !

A few months ago, we asked the congregation what was next in the life of Robinson FUMC. Look inside for the answers that we found and for updates on what is in the works!

# FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

I know I've had the question asked of me several times: When are we going to find out about the results of the "What's Next?" gatherings and surveys? Yes, that was five months ago that we were engaged in those gatherings and receiving information (it did take quite a bit of time to review those surveys and gatherings, because you had a LOT to say).

The church council is tasked with articulating the church's vision and strategic direction for the congregation. They took some time during their June meeting to read through the 20+ pages of responses. In July, our intern, Charlotte Crofton, shared some summary findings and common themes with the council. In August, the council discussed the mission and purpose of the church, and this past month, felt that they needed to share with you what they have discovered so far.

In this newsletter, you'll find the eight questions that were asked, and a summary of the responses. The responses were quite varied, and would take too long to list out specifics, but hopefully the summary will be helpful to you. You'll find some "news" about ways that we are already seeking to address some of the things that have come to light. You'll also find that putting together our strategic direction takes time. We are going to continue honing First UMC's mission, and making that the lens through which we evaluate, strengthen, and birth new ministries.

Rest assured, the church council got a lot of feedback from you. It will take time to address all the information, hopes, dreams, and concerns that were shared. We will seek to be faithful in addressing them - which may mean that those hopes and concerns may or may not be addressed in the way you'd like, but they will be heard. In the meantime, I encourage you to pray for the church council, for God to grant them wisdom and discernment, to listen for God's voice, and the direction of the Holy Spirit.

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Regan". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a thin black rectangular border.

Pastor Jay

# WHAT'S NEXT FINDINGS

## What brought you to First UMC?

- Outreach/welcoming atmosphere - 35.4%
- Our family/grew up UMC - 33.8%
- Children's/Youth ministries - 12.3%
- Sermons/Gospel - 7.7%
- Worship - 6.2%
- Convenience - 4.6%

## How is First UMC helping you grown in your faith?

- Bible Study/Sunday School - 35.2%
- Sermon/Worship - 22.5%
- Opportunities to serve - 18.3%
- Community/Fellowship - 11.3%
- Openness - 7%
- Outreach - 5.6%

## What church ministry most greatly impacts your life?

- Children's ministry - 26.8%
- Youth ministry - 22.5%
- Sunday programming - 22.5%
- Member care - 11.3%
- Bible study - 8.5%
- Music - 4.2%
- Jail ministry - 4.2%

## What excites you most about First UMC?

- Children's and youth ministry - 24.7%
- Church family - 16.4%
- Opportunities to serve - 15.1%
- Our growth - 12.3%
- Music/worship - 11%
- Study/Fellowship - 6.8%
- Outreach - 6.8%
- Openness of the facility - 4.1%
- Communication - 2.7%

## What new ministries do you believe are needed in the next five years?

- Outreach/mission - 30.6%
- Member care - 24.7%
- Additional children and youth ministry - 15.3%
- Fellowship opportunities - 12.9%
- None - 8.2%
- Change in worship - 4.7%
- Increased communication - 3.5%

## Are there any ministries we currently do that we should stop doing?

- None - 75%
- Don't know enough about our ministries to say - 25%

## How would you like to get involved at First UMC?

- Not sure how or want to - 20%
- Member care - 17.1%
- Mission/opportunities to serve - 17.1%
- Unable to be involved - 14.3%
- NOW Program - 14.3%
- Sunday worship - 8.6%
- I am already involved - 8.6%

## What can we do better?

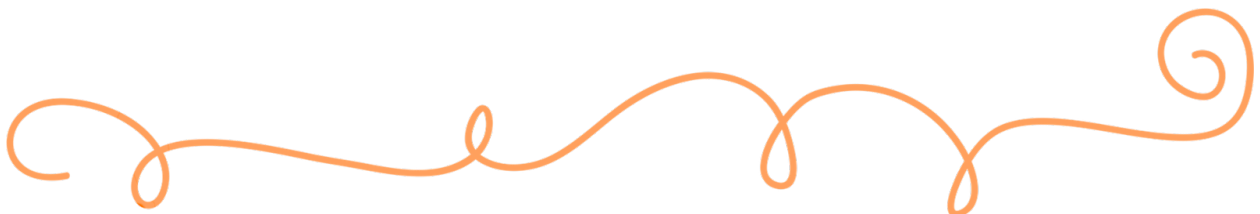
- Member care - 19.6%
- Nothing - 15.7%
- More open/friendly - 13.7%
- Music/worship service - 13.7%
- Communication - 13.7%
- Outreach - 9.8%
- More for children and youth - 9.8%
- Fellowship 3.9%

# WHAT'S NEXT? IN THE WORKS

While lots of wonderful ideas, dreams, hopes, and concerns were expressed at our gatherings, we cannot address all of them at once. However, there's a lot that we've already done to address several things that came up in What's Next? Gatherings.

Here are some of the highlights:

- We've begun offering family movie nights (there will be one after Trunk or Treat on October 31), which gives people a time to come together for fellowship, as well as invite people from outside the church to come and enjoy a family-friendly movie, popcorn, and drinks (addresses fellowship/outreach).
- The communications coordinator position will have increased hours in 2019, and we will be working to provide even more ways to bring information to you (a comprehensive quarterly mailed resource and a texting app are part of the plan) (addresses communication).
- You'll discover that there will be more children and youth leadership in worship; Praise Kids will be singing more often, and there will be more opportunities for youth to sing/play in ensembles, read Scripture, and more (addresses worship)
- We are working on hospitality for more our mobility challenged friends by adding more handicapped parking in the south parking lot, as well as along the street (addresses member care).
- A couples' small group has begun to provide additional learning and fellowship opportunities (addresses fellowship, member care, and outreach).
- We are planning some quarterly fellowship events for our Refresh student ministry (addresses additional children's/youth ministries).
- Preliminary plans for some adult mission trip opportunities are in the works (addresses outreach/serving).
- We will be registered to be a Stephen Ministry congregation by the time you receive this newsletter - a ministry that will help walk with our members and friends during times of transition in their lives (addresses member care).
- Someone from the congregation has begun (as of September) sending birthday and anniversary cards to people in the congregation on each others' behalf. If you find that you are not receiving a card or your birthday/anniversary is not listed in the newsletter, please notify the church office so that we can update records (addresses member care).



# HEATH HARVEST HOSPITALITY

- Lori Treadway

The Heath Harvest Festival is fast approaching, and First UMC is gearing up for some community outreach and hospitality. Our prime location at the end of the parade route gives us a chance be good neighbors to many. On October 6, the church will be open for sanctuary tours and restroom access. We will need workers to sit at an information table, greet people, and give tours. We will also need volunteers to hand out water at the end of the parade. We need donations of water bottles, as well, to be brought to the church before Wednesday, October 3rd. The small sized bottles are best. The children at Kids Club will put labels on the bottles that include information about our congregation. As it says in Matthew 25, verse 35, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in." Sign up sheets are in the narthex at the welcome center, or you may call or email the church office to sign up.

# PRAISEFEST

- Robert Quick

PraiseFest 2018 will be on October 6th, roughly from 2-5pm, starting shortly after the RHS band plays, at the end of the fall festival parade. We've got an exciting lineup of the Jake Hault Band as our headliner as well as performances by Outer West Market's praise team. We won't be having food this year, but we will still be giving away baked goods at the cake walk. Please sign up to bring in some goodies to give away. We will also have some bounce houses and volunteers are needed. Please see the sign up sheet at the welcome center. Bring your friends, bring your lawn chairs, and give God the glory.





## TRUNK OR TREAT

- *Kirbie Ackman*

After last year's huge success, we are so excited to be doing Trunk or Treat once again. We had ten colorful and fun trunks and our hope is to have more this year. Trunk or Treat will be held in the north parking lot, which will be well lit. We will have hotdogs and plenty of candy for our trick-or-treaters! If you are interested in setting up a trunk but don't know what to do, please ask Jennifer Boatman or Kirbie Ackman. There is also a small booklet next to the sign up on the welcome center with some quick and easy ideas! We have a sign up for trunks and for candy in the narthex. Free will donations are also accepted! Please help us spread the word and lets make FUMC's second annual Trunk or Treat just as amazing as last year! Happy Halloween!

## FCA

- *Robert Quick*

As another school year starts, so does our support for the RHS Fellowship of Christian Athletes. We have a tradition of providing a Sports Bible to every student that attends. Recently, Sports Bibles have become hard to find, so we are looking at changing to The Athlete's Bible. Please help support this ministry by earmarking a donation to Spread the Word. For some of the students, this may be their first or only exposure to the Bible.

## JUST ONE

For October, our “Just One” item for the NOW Program is bar soap. We would appreciate it if you would NOT bring body wash. Please bring your bar(s) of soap and place them in the container labeled “Just One” outside the church office.

## SECOND WEDNESDAY DINNER

Student ministry will be hosting a pasta bar for second Wednesday Dinner on October 10 at 5:30 pm. Suggested donation is \$8 for adults and \$3 for children. Pasta, salad, garlic bread, desserts, and beverages will be available. Please support our students as they raise funds for the 2019 student mission trip.

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE MEALS

We’ve had a number of people recently who have been hospitalized, experienced the death of a loved one, or other life transition (new baby, adoption, etc.). As people go through those transitions, many people have expressed a desire to help. If you would be interested in being on a contact list for meals (funeral dinners, meal delivery to homes after hospitalization or newborns, etc.), you can email the church office or sign up at the welcome center. We’ll utilize the list to do a better job of engaging more people in this simple act of care, while doing a much more thorough and organized job of providing care to those in need.



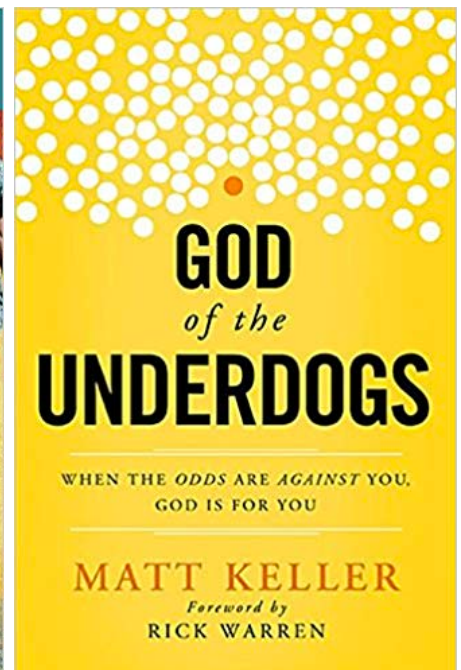
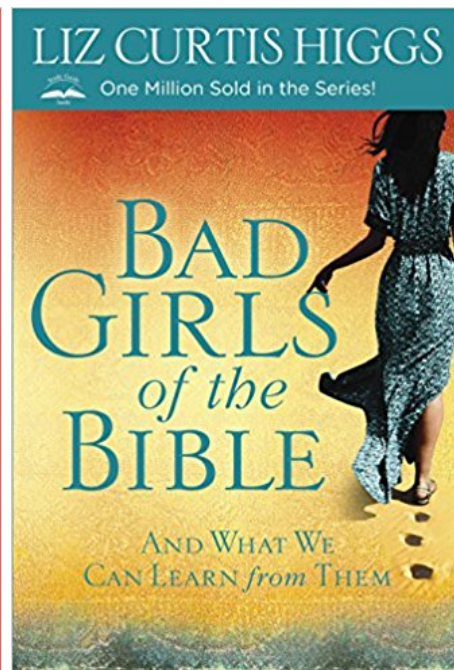
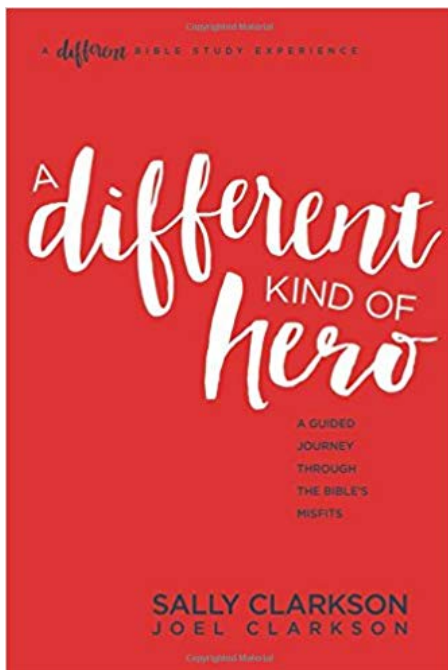
## 2019 SPONSORSHIPS

The flower and radio broadcasts sponsor sign-ups for 2019 are now available outside the church office. The cost of a radio broadcast sponsorship remains \$100. Due to rising costs of tariffs on flower imports, the cost of flower sponsorship will be \$25. Please feel free to sign up and indicate your gift in honor or memory of someone.

## LIBRARY

- Robert Quick

The Library is pleased to announce some titles that you may find interesting to supplement Pastor Jay's upcoming sermon series: *A Different Kind of Hero: A Guided Journey through the Bible's Misfits* by Sally Clarkson and Joel Clarkson, *Bad Girls of the Bible: And What We Can Learn from Them* by Liz Curtis Higgs, and *God of the Underdogs: When the Odds Are Against You, God Is For You* by Matt Keller. These will be available to borrow at the welcome center throughout the sermon series, while in stock. When finished, please return to the desk in the library for restocking.







ROBINSON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PRESENTS

# PRAISEFEST

*FEATURING:*

## THE JAKE HOULTS BAND

AND OTHER AREA CHURCH GROUPS

MUSIC, GAMES,  
WORSHIP, &  
MORE!

**OCTOBER 6**

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING  
THE HEATH HARVEST  
FESTIVAL PARADE

APPROX. 2-5 PM

201 W. WALNUT  
STREET  
ROBINSON, IL  
62454

THIS EVENT IS FREE ADMISSION AND IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 10/1 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  
10/10 Evelyn Blanchard  
10/12 Greg Markello  
10/13 Leavone Johnson,  
Victoria McMillan  
10/14 Allison Damron  
10/16 Jason Hartke  
10/19 Ann York, Colby McGahey,  
Calvin Turner  
10/21 Allen Lowry  
10/23 Ethan Dhom  
10/25 Shirley Wakefield  
10/27 Sydney Harmon  
10/30 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 REQUESTS

John, Jeremy, and Greg Markello;  
Carol Wolf; Carl and Helen Blanton;  
Judy Wilson Wall; Michael Brady;  
Patty Steele; Cathy Thomas; Judson  
Richardson; Jennifer Newlin; Jennifer  
Null; Julie Zhang; Bill Thompson;  
Michael Keene; John Larrabee; Larry  
Nichol; Nicole Young; Bev Turkal;  
Evan Prah; Ray Dotson; Bev  
Arrington Campbell; Margie Moore  
McNamara; Richard Youngs; Kay  
Young; John Poland; Joan Fulling;  
Nancy Young; Tim Roth; Fred White;  
Kip Davis; Vonnetta Shipman; Nash  
Drake; Rodney Denoux; Becky  
Goodwin; Caius Bell; Nelda Dotson;  
Kim Collins; Bill Hubbard; Brenda  
Wolfe; Ashley Griffith; Claudette  
Mejean; Ava Seaney; Thelma Gifford;  
Demmie Long; Jaycie Hoagland;  
Emma Bodine; Charles Hough; Tonja  
Bradford; the Finkbiner Family;  
Charley Clark; Dorothy Youngs; the  
family of Bob Berty; Susan Rodgers;  
Sheltyn James Henry; the family of  
Lillian Powers; Coleen Roach; Lane  
Kessler; Charlotte Crofton; The family  
of Sidney Iubelt

# OCTOBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 <b>6:00 pm</b> Jesus and the Gospels	3 <b>6:30 am</b> Refresh Breakfast & Bible Study <b>3:00 pm</b> Kids' Club	4 <b>9:30 am</b> Jesus and the Gospels <b>4:00 pm</b> NOW Bagging <b>6:00 pm</b> Jail Ministry <b>6:00 pm</b> Couples Small Group <b>6:30 pm</b> Glory Handbell Rehearsal	5	6 <b>10:00 am</b> Hospitality Table at Heath Harvest Festival <b>1:00 pm</b> Water Bottle Handout <b>2:00 pm</b> PraiseFest
7 <b>8 &amp; 11 am</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal <b>9:00 am</b> Worship <b>10:00 am</b> Sunday School <b>6:00 pm</b> Evening Worship	8	9 <b>11:00 am</b> MATS	10 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  <b>6:30 am</b> Refresh Breakfast & Bible Study <b>3:00 pm</b> Kids' Club <b>5:30 pm</b> Second Wednesday Dinner	11 <b>4:00 pm</b> NOW Bagging <b>6:00 pm</b> Jail Ministry <b>6:00 pm</b> Couples Small Group <b>6:30 pm</b> Glory Handbell Rehearsal	12	13
14 <b>8:00 am</b> Glory Handbell Rehearsal <b>9:00 am</b> Worship <b>10:00 am</b> Sunday School <b>11:00 am</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal <b>2:30 pm</b> Heritage Health Service <b>6:00 pm</b> Evening Worship	15 <b>4:00 pm</b> NOW Bagging	16 <b>11:00 am</b> MATS <b>6:00 pm</b> Jesus and the Gospels	17 <b>6:30 am</b> Refresh Breakfast & Bible Study <b>3:00 pm</b> Kids' Club <b>6:00 pm</b> Committee Meetings <b>7:00 pm</b> Church Council Meeting	18 <b>9:30 am</b> Jesus and the Gospels <b>6:00 pm</b> Jail Ministry <b>6:00 pm</b> Couples Small Group	19	20
21 <b>8 &amp; 11 am</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal <b>9:00 am</b> Worship <b>10:00 am</b> Sunday School <b>6:00 pm</b> Evening Worship	22	23 <b>11:00 am</b> MATS <b>6:00 pm</b> Jesus and the Gospels	24 <b>6:30 am</b> Refresh Breakfast & Bible Study <b>3:00 pm</b> Kids' Club <b>7:30 pm</b> FCA Meeting	25 <b>9:30 am</b> Jesus and the Gospels <b>4:00 pm</b> NOW Bagging <b>6:00 pm</b> Jail Ministry <b>6:00 pm</b> Couples Small Group <b>6:30 pm</b> Glory Handbell Rehearsal	26	27
28 <b>8 &amp; 11 am</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal <b>9:00 am</b> Worship <b>10:00 am</b> Sunday School <b>6:00 pm</b> Evening Worship	29	30 <b>11:00 am</b> MATS	31 <b>6:30 am</b> Refresh Breakfast & Bible Study <b>5:00 pm</b> Trunk or Treat <b>8:00 pm</b> Family Movie Night			

First United Methodist Church  
201 West Walnut Street  
PO Box 45  
Robinson, IL 62454  
[fumcrob@frontier.com](mailto:fumcrob@frontier.com)  
[www.robinsonfumc.org](http://www.robinsonfumc.org)  
618-544-8016

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor: Jay Regennitter

[robinsonfumcpastor@gmail.com](mailto:robinsonfumcpastor@gmail.com)

Office Manager: Kirbie Ackman

[fumcrob@frontier.com](mailto:fumcrob@frontier.com)

Director of Christian Education: Nina Davis

[nineah3@gmail.com](mailto:nineah3@gmail.com)

Communications Coordinator: Brennan Seth Tracy

[brennansethtracy@gmail.com](mailto:brennansethtracy@gmail.com)

Music Director: Antje Pippin

[antje2959@hotmail.com](mailto:antje2959@hotmail.com)

Organist/Pianist: Brenda Graham

[doubleg@mediacombb.net](mailto:doubleg@mediacombb.net)

Custodian: Amy DeDoming

Nursery Staff: Jennifer Boatman, Danielle Stuller,  
Tiffany Beard