

ROBINSON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH • SEPTEMBER 2020

The Herald

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

SHIFTING SANDS

In this time of constant change, there is no "new normal." However, we are doing our best to look forward! Look inside to read about FUMC's plans for the fall months!

From the Pastor's Desk

Well, friends, here we are! We're into month six of this pandemic, and everywhere around us the ground keeps shifting. We don't know what to expect week to week, day to day, hour by hour. We make plans, and they get altered. We have guidelines to follow, and cases of COVID-19 in our county seem to be rising every day. Despite calls for the past several months for us to embrace this "new normal," there really isn't a new normal.

The best we can do, sometimes, is to take aim at the dartboard, and hope we stick to an ever-moving target. I know that, for many of you, we'd like for the church to be our rock, the thing that's steady, and the thing we can cling to. Perhaps you've felt like the church has been a part of the shifting sand, instead of being a rock. We're trying to do the best we can, and I hope we've continued to be the best church that we can be.


That said, much of this issue of *The Herald* is devoted to some of our fall planning. As you've probably noticed, we have not produced the past few Quarterly Field Guides, mostly due to the uncertainty of what might happen (it's hard to produce something that's already changed by the time you've received it), so let this issue serve as our attempt to hit the target for the next couple of months. Inside, you'll find that we do have some plans for Sunday school, Kids' Club, Refresh, adult studies, and outreach events. Please know that we're trying to work within the guidelines provided for us to make these ministries happen, and that they are also designed to be flexible, so that they might continue, should everything shift again.

I'm reminded, of course, that our congregation isn't what is meant to be the rock during this time - or any time. Edward Mote penned the words in 1834 that proclaim the truth about the real rock:

"On Christ the solid rock I stand,
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand."
- *My Hope Is Built*, #368, UMH

Cling to the rock, my brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes on Jesus. And don't worry, the church will still be here for you, helping to point you toward Christ!

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jay Regan", enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Pastor Jay

Invitation to the Psalms

It's good to be grounded during times like these, and the Psalms have long been referred to as "the prayer book of the Bible." It is that, and it also gives us words to express the myriad of human emotions we experience. Pastor Jay will be offering his weekly Bible study this fall called *Invitation to the Psalms*. You can see the participant book image to the right, and you can order your own book through Amazon, Cokesbury, or other sources. The class will be offered on Tuesday nights at 6:30 pm, or Thursday morning at 8:30 am. Please let Pastor Jay know (robinsonfumcpastor@gmail.com) by September 3 if you plan to attend. Right now, we'll keep the flexibility of meeting on Zoom or in-person, depending on what is happening with COVID-19.

Sunday School

We're re-launching Sunday school (although it never really went away)! Our adults will finish up their current studies on August 30. We will take September 6 off (there will be no Sunday school for any age that day), but beginning September 14, we will do a Zoom launch of Sunday school for all ages! All classes will meet at 10:30 am, and we'll send you to break-out rooms for each age. That means, of course, that if you have people in your household who would be in multiple rooms (i.e. parents in SPICE class, student in the middle/high school class, or student in younger elementary), you will need separate devices for each person. If you need assistance, the church has 20 Kindles available that can be checked out from the church office. Please reserve those by Friday, September 11. If you plan to participate, please e-mail the church office by September 7 - we have some special things to send out to folks, especially our younger elementary students!

Kids' Club and Refresh

We'd love to tell you we have a firm plan for Kids' Club and Refresh; however, the education committee feels that, at this time, we need for students and parents to settle into the new school year before making decisions regarding these ministries. We are trying to re-develop these ministries to work with students and parents, while also trying to follow conference guidelines and making sure that we have the volunteer base and disinfecting supplies to care for our students safely. Our education committee will meet twice in September (2 & 16) at 6:00 pm (on Zoom) to try to monitor how school is going and develop plans (to hopefully begin no later than October 1). Rest assured, though, that we will be offering both of these ministries this year! Please pray for us as we try to discern the best way forward!



Holy Land/Oberammergrau Trip Rescheduled

Due to COVID-19, this summer's church trip to the Holy Land and to the Passion Play was postponed to 2022. We now know the dates of rescheduling (most of our original group plans to go), and we will be departing July 12, 2022. Educational Opportunities, our tour company, is still putting together publicity for us, but we wanted you to know that, if you didn't sign up to join us this summer, you have the opportunity to join us in 2022 instead. You can find out more information here: <http://www.eo.travelwithus.com/tours/ho22e#.Xz57ti05RBx>.

Those who determine they wish to travel with us by October 31, 2020 will receive an early registration discount. If you have more questions, please contact Pastor Jay.

Trunk or Treat at First UMC

Kirbie Ackman

Spooky season is almost here! Jennifer Boatman and I are so excited to announce that we will be doing Trunk or Treat in October! Now like everything, we are navigating around Covid-19 and trying to figure out what is this new normal. There will be changes in order for all our kiddos to be safe and healthy! We will be planning and will be able to present our full plan very soon!

Right now though, we need your help! In order for Trunk or Treat to be a success we need candy, candy and oh did i say candy!? If anyone would like to donate large bags of individually wrapped candy to Trunk or Treat, there will be a large bucket outside my office! We know everything has been stressful and adjusting to this has been a challenge but we hope you will volunteer, donate and/or bring your kids out on Halloween for some safe and healthy fun!

There will be a sign up for volunteers soon but if you have any questions, please let Jennifer or I know!

NOW

Weekend Meal Bagging is back in action and the new normal for NOW is unfortunately still limited volunteers. We will be bagging every Thursday in September at 4:00 pm. If you would like to sign up to bag meals please use the link, <https://signup.com/go/QFTppWB>.

The Just One Item for September will be toothpaste, for adults and/or children! If you would like to make a donation please drop it off in the box in front of the church office!

Music at FUMC

Musicians are known for their adaptability! No microphone? Sing louder. Piano out of tune? Sing a capella. Masks a must in worship? Play bells. We hope to add more instrumental ways for our church musicians to participate in worship in the coming months. New bell pieces requiring fewer bells and fewer ringers will become the new normal for the future. Ringers of all ages and abilities will be needed for a successful music program to continue at First UMC. If you would like to participate or receive more information on ringing, please contact Antje at 618-562-0859 or email antje2959@hotmail.com.

Care News from Stephen Ministry

Marcia Schmidlin

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. Isaiah 43: 1-3

What to do when there is a new normal...or no normal?

Do not fear, but rely on God. Know the Holy Spirit will walk with you through a Stephen Minister.

How does Stephen Ministry benefit people?

Stephen Ministry benefits the lonely, widow(er)s, recent retirees, despairing, new parents, hospitalized, separated and divorced, grieving, terminally ill, shut-ins, and struggling.

What is Stephen Ministry?

One-to-One Ministry by trained, caring Lay Ministers who have responded to Christ's call to "carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Gal. 6:2

What is a Stephen Minister?

- A person of God who walks beside a hurting person
- A caring Christian companion who really listens
- A lay person with 50 hours of training to provide distinctively Christian care
- A person trained in confidentiality
- A person offering God's love through a Christian caring relationship on a one-to-one basis

A Stephen Minister is NOT....

- A counselor or therapist
- A problem solver
- A casual visitor
- A caretaker
- A personal friend



Stephen Ministry

"Christ Caring for People through People"

September Birthdays

9/1 Allison Reinoehl
9/2 Valerie Weck
9/4 Madison Utterback
9/7 Charles Young, Mark DeDoming
9/9 Jack Davis
9/10 Samantha Davis
9/17 Jerry Conner, Marjorie Pfeiffer
9/20 Gina Colliflower
9/22 Jeff Murrell; Robin Davis
9/27 Judith Adams, Gloria Devonshire
9/29 Krosby Goebel
9/29 Emily Midgett

September Anniversaries

9/1 Max & Debbie Tedford
9/4 Brent & Joyce Owen
Chris & Laura Dhom
9/7 Ron & Becky Veenstra
9/10 Larry & Phoung Quick
9/11 Diane & Darold Crampton
9/12 Tyler & Kristy Veenstra
9/20 Greta & Allen Lowry
9/23 Keith & Kirtina Carter
9/25 Lawrence & Gina Colliflower

Prayer Requests

Jeremy and Greg Markello; Carol Wolf; Carl and Helen Blanton; Michael Brady; Patty Steele; 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; Fred White; Vonnetta Shipman; Becky Goodwin; Caius Bell; Ray & Nelda Dotson; Kim Collins; Claudette Mejean; Ava Seaney; Demmie Long; Emma Bodine; Charles Hough; Sheltyn James Henry; Susan Rodgers; 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; Debbie Houser; Bob Callier; Larry Potts; Patricia Hodgson; Pamela Hart; June Watson; Maria Reis; Paul Davis; Kathy Kennedy; Roger Pethel; Jesse Newbold; Tina Klender; Paul Clinton; Duane Parker; Ruth Fiscus; Max & Debbie Tedford; Charlie & Janet Clark; Jan Riker; Alan & Joan Summers; Floyd Brinkman, Jr.; Kathy & Estell Keys; Karleigh Wampler; Carolyn Leggett; Dustin Ikemire; Sherill Oxford; Jim Krouse; Robin Bray; Louis Youngs; Jay Holtzhouser; Greg Faylor



Staff Parish would like to recognize Amy DeDoming as Employee of the Month for August and Mark DeDoming for the month of September!

September 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 6:00 pm - Education Meeting (Zoom)	3 4:00 pm - NOW Weekend Meal Bagging	4	5
6 9:00 am - Worship (Live Stream, YouTube and Radio) 11:00 am - Stephen Leaders (Zoom) 6:00 pm - Outdoor Worship	7 OFFICE CLOSED	8 6:30 pm - Invitations to Psalms (Zoom)	9 6:30 pm - Stephen Ministry Supervision (Zoom)	10 8:30 am - Invitations to Psalms (Zoom) 4:00 pm - NOW Weekend Meal Bagging	11	12
13 9:00 am - Worship (Live Stream, YouTube and Radio) 10:30 am - Adult Sunday School (Zoom) 6:00 pm - Outdoor Worship	14	15 6:30 pm - Invitations to Psalms (Zoom)	16 5:00 pm - FUMC Foundation Meeting 6:00 pm - Committee Meetings (Zoom) 7:00 pm - Church Council Meeting (Zoom)	17 8:30 am - Invitations to Psalms (Zoom) 4:00 pm - NOW Weekend Meal Bagging	18	19
20 9:00 am - Worship (Live Stream, YouTube and Radio) 10:30 am - Adult Sunday School (Zoom) 6:00 pm - Outdoor Worship	21	22 6:30 pm - Invitations to Psalms (Zoom)	23 6:30 pm - Stephen Ministry Supervision (Zoom)	24 8:30 am - Invitations to Psalms (Zoom) 4:00 pm - NOW Weekend Meal Bagging	25	26
27 9:00 am - Worship (Live Stream, YouTube and Radio) 10:30 am - Adult Sunday School (Zoom) 6:00 pm - Outdoor Worship	28	29 6:30 pm - Invitations to Psalms (Zoom)	30			

First United Methodist Church
201 West Walnut Street
PO Box 45
Robinson, IL 62454
firstumcrob@gmail.com
www.robinsonfumc.org
618-544-8016

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Robinson, IL
62454
Permit No. 3

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor: Jay Regennitter

robinsonfumcpastor@gmail.com

Office Manager: Kirbie Ackman

firstumcrob@gmail.com

Director of Christian Education: Nina Davis

nineah3@gmail.com

Communications Coordinator: Brennan Seth Tracy

brennansethtracy@gmail.com

Music Director: Antje Pippin

antje2959@hotmail.com

Organist/Pianist: Brenda Graham

doubleg@mediacombb.net

Custodians: Amy DeDoming, Mark DeDoming

Nursery Staff: Jennifer Boatman, Danielle Stuller,
Anita Cohoon