

# THE HERALD

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



*This month, we want to say “Thank You!” for your support of our congregation! But that doesn’t mean our work is done. Look inside for even more ways to get involved this fall at FUMC!*

# FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

July 1st marked the start of my 14th year of pastoral ministry, and my 23rd year of service to the church (before pastoral ministry, I was on staffs of churches for youth and music ministries). In the 13+ years I have served as a pastor, I've never had a congregation offer spiritual renewal leave to me before. You see, it's provided by the Book of Discipline to a pastor (one month every four years), but I had never sought it out, and no other church had offered the opportunity to me. I must admit, when the Staff Parish Relations Committee approached me about it in late spring, I was surprised - and I thought, frankly, that the idea was a bit ridiculous. There was (and is) so much going on at First UMC - how could I possibly take time away for rest and renewal?

The SPRC had observed that I was tired. I guess that's what happens when you love what you do - and when there are so many ministries happening in the church. I didn't even realize I was tired until the committee told me I was. I'm grateful for the time away. Although I came back September 2 renewed and rejuvenated, I'm not sure that I got too much rest. I spent time writing new liturgies and song texts, and new tunes for us to sing, as well as new pieces for the Glory Handbells. I spent time traveling, visiting my sister, sightseeing, and on a renewal retreat.

The best part of coming back was seeing you! By the last week of renewal leave, I was ready to come back and start doing ministry with you! And, as you know from looking at the calendar, it was easy to dive back into all that happens in this place - Kids' Club, Disciple Bible study, Sunday School, Refresh student breakfast and Bible study, NOW program, worship, and so much more.

All that is to say, thank you! Those are two words that are not used enough in today's society, and so I simply want to say it over and over again. Thank you! Thank you for holding me as your pastor in your daily prayers. Thank you for this time of spiritual renewal leave. Thank you for trusting me to lead you. Thank you for supporting this congregation with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Thank you!

Yet, words are not always adequate...so as another way to say "Thank you," I want to invite you to spend 2nd Wednesday Dinner with me. On October 11, we'll gather at the parsonage at 5:30 pm for dinner - hot dogs, chips, salads, beverages, and dessert. All you need to bring is a lawn chair and roasting sticks, and I'll provide the rest. It may be small, but it's a great way for us to gather and for me to say "thank you" in both word and deed.

I'm looking forward to being with you in worship!

**PASTOR JAY**



### **Just One**

As you know, we served over 250 students at this August's NOW Kids' Shopping Day. What was once an overflowing storage room is now depleted of some items - and we need your help in restocking. During the month of October, we would ask that you pick up "Just One" hairbrush at your favorite store, and drop it in the collection box outside the church office. Our goal for this year is to collect 250 of each item. Bring on the hairbrushes, and thank you for your support!

### **Lunch Buddies**

Did you know that First UMC coordinates the Lunch Buddy Program? We are looking for some buddies to serve at Lincoln and Washington Schools. All you have to do is develop a relationship with your assigned buddy and commit to going to lunch with your student every other week. Want more information or want to sign up? Contact coordinator Connie Calvert at [ccalvert5376@gmail.com](mailto:ccalvert5376@gmail.com) or 554-3611. We also have several long-time serving lunch buddies, and if you'd like to send them a note of thanks and encouragement, please let Connie know.

### **Charge Conference**

First UMC is part of a cluster charge conference on Sunday, October 8, at 2:00 pm at First UMC. All members of church council have voice and vote, and the congregation is welcome to attend. If you would be willing to provide cookies or fruit for the charge conference, please let the church office know. Let's enjoy a time together to celebrate what God is doing here at First UMC! Please note that there will also be a special charge conference on Wednesday, October 18, at 7:00 pm. The purpose of the additional charge conference is to vote on proposed changes to the FUMC Foundation Bylaws.

### **You're the Sweetest! Thanks!**

Our M&M containers for the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) cleaning kits were a great success. Thus far, we have put together 24 kits for the area office, and we have funds available to purchase more supplies. We are currently checking with DCFS to see how much funding would be needed so that they could have supplies for a year. Once we reach that amount, we will donate anything beyond it to UMCOR for hurricane cleaning kits. Thanks to all who donate so generously!



### **Building Security**

The Board of Trustees encourages everyone to be diligent in checking doors to the church. Over the course of the past year, we have had a wildlife animal in the facility, something taken from the garage, and a person in the building after hours. Please make sure, if you are part of a group or committee, that you have checked to make sure that doors are locked AND latched. And, even if you're not a part of a group or committee, please make sure that the door latches when you leave. Thank you for being attentive as we make sure that First UMC is both welcoming and safe!

### **Heath Harvest Festival**

*- 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 7 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 by Wednesday, October 4th. 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.

### **Spread the Word Program**

*- Robert Quick*

Hey Everyone! We've started another exciting year supporting the Fellowship of Christian Athletes by providing new members with a Sports Bible. So far this year, there have been around 35 freshmen that have joined and that doesn't include band members that might join once evening practices are done. We have delivered 20 Bibles since the start of the school year and more are needed. Please consider donating to the Spread the Word program so we can make sure everyone that joins receives one. For some students, this might be their first Bible. Let's plant the seeds and God will take care of the rest.

## UMCOR Bake Sale

On Sunday, October 8, our children's Sunday School classes are hosting a bake sale. In talking about recent natural disasters, they decided they wanted to help support UMCOR. If you are interested in donating baked goods, please let Gary Oxford know. And please, come next week with your appetites and checkbooks!



*- Jennifer Boatman*

Greetings and Happy October! Kirbie and I, Jennifer, are organizing Robinson FUMC's first Trunk-or-Treat. What is Trunk-or-Treat? It is a safe place for children and their families to trick or treat. We hold it in our Walnut street parking lot. Volunteers will decorate their vehicles in a theme that reflects the virtues of the church or a Bible story. It will be during Robinson's trick or treat hours on Halloween night.

How can you help? We will need at least 10 trunk volunteers, but more will be welcome! There will be a sign-up sheet on the welcome center. You can either sign up to decorate a trunk or just be an extra set of hands. If you want to do a trunk, but don't know how to decorate, Kirbie or I can help you with that! If you don't want to do hands-on volunteering, we will also accept candy donations! Prayers are also much appreciated!

Kirbie and I are very excited about this! We think this will be another way we can reach out to families in our community and bring them into our church family. We hope this will be the start of a great tradition!



## 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
- 10/12 Greg Markello
- 10/13 Leavone Johnson, Victoria McMillan
- 10/14 Allison Damron
- 10/16 Janey Branson, Jason Hartke
- 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 Berty, 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

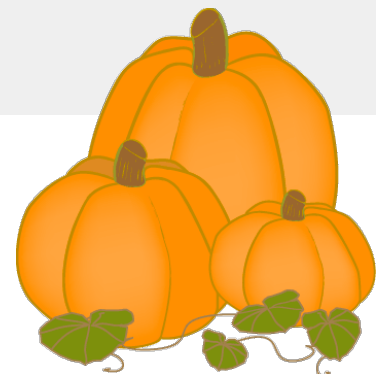


## PRAYER CONCERNS

Peg, John, Jeremy, and Greg Markello; Ken Martin; Carol Wolf; Lois McConnell; Carl and Helen Blanton; Judy Wilson Wall; Michael Brady; Gary Albin; Donna Reed; Patty Steele; Marty Attaway; Cathy Thomas; The women in the Crawford County jail; Judson Richardson; Jerry Adkins; Richard Youngs; Susan Polgar; Jay Holtzhouser; Janna Coonce; Jennifer Newlin; Kaye Parrott Weger; Jennifer Null; Julie Zhang; Bill Thompson; Bob Duzan; Janey Branson; Kate Dale; Shirley Treadway; Neema Mutayoba; Duke Thompson; Mary Kay Jurcin; Jon and Laurette Roales; Barb Myers; Michael Keene; John Poland; Dick Drake; John Larrabee; Myrtle Garrard; Larry Nichol; Floyd Brinkman Sr; Matt & Mindy Evans; Janet & Charley Clark; Bob Berty; Allen Summers; Nicole Young; Vicki Blankenbaker; Bev Turkal; Dorothy Youngs; Vicki Vinson Farris; Evan Prah; Sidney Iubelt; Ray Dotson; Bev Arrington Campbell; Mike Richards; Nancy Young; Evan Prah; Rick Koester and family; Linda Garrett and her family; Those affected by the hurricane; Margie Moore McNarmara; Richard Youngs; Violence in St Louis to end

# OCTOBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p><b>8 &amp; 11 am</b> Chancel Choir <b>9:00 am</b> Worship <b>10:00 am</b> Sunday School <b>2:30 pm</b> Heritage Health service <b>6:00 pm</b> Evening Worship</p>	2	<p>3</p> <p><b>6:00 pm</b> Disciple IV</p>	<p>4</p> <p><b>6:30 am</b> Refresh Wednesday <b>3:00 pm</b> Kids' Club <b>6:00 pm</b> Foundation Meeting</p>	<p>5</p> <p><b>9:30 am</b> Disciple IV <b>4:30 pm</b> NOW Bagging <b>6:00 pm</b> Jail Ministry <b>6:00 pm</b> Handbell Rehearsal</p>	6	<p>7</p> <p><b>8:00 am</b> Hospitality Table for the Heath Harvest Festival <b>1:00 pm</b> Water Bottles for Parade's End</p>
<p>8</p> <p><b>8 &amp; 11 am</b> Chancel Choir <b>9:00 am</b> Worship <b>10:00 am</b> Sunday School <b>2:00 pm</b> Charge Conference <b>2:30 pm</b> Heritage Health service <b>6:00 pm</b> Evening Worship</p>	9	<p>10</p> <p><b>6:00 pm</b> Disciple IV</p>	<p>11</p> <p><b>6:30 am</b> Refresh Wednesday <b>3:00 pm</b> Kids' Club <b>5:30 pm</b> 2nd Wednesday Dinner at the Parsonage</p>	<p>12</p> <p><b>9:30 pm</b> Disciple IV <b>4:00 pm</b> MATS <b>4:30 pm</b> NOW Bagging <b>6:00 pm</b> Jail Ministry <b>6:00 pm</b> Handbell Rehearsal</p>	13	14
<p>15</p> <p><b>8:00 am</b> Handbell Rehearsal <b>9:00 am</b> Worship <b>10:00 am</b> Sunday School <b>6:00 pm</b> Evening Worship</p>	<p>16</p> <p><b>4:30 pm</b> NOW Bagging</p>	<p>17</p> <p><b>6:00 pm</b> Disciple IV</p>	<p>18</p> <p><b>6:30 am</b> Refresh Wednesday <b>6:00 pm</b> Committee Meetings <b>7:00 pm</b> Church Council Meeting/Charge Conference</p>	<p>19</p> <p><b>9:30 am</b> Disciple IV <b>4:00 pm</b> MATS <b>6:00 pm</b> Jail Ministry <b>6:00 pm</b> Handbell Rehearsal</p>	20	<p>21</p> <p><b>7:00 pm</b> NOW Halloween Fundraiser at The Elk's</p>
<p>22</p> <p><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</p>	23	<p>24</p> <p><b>6:00 pm</b> Disciple IV</p>	<p>25</p> <p><b>6:30 am</b> Refresh Wednesday <b>3:00 pm</b> Kids' Club</p>	<p>26</p> <p><b>9:30 am</b> Disciple IV <b>4:00 pm</b> MATS <b>4:30 pm</b> NOW Bagging <b>6:00 pm</b> Jail Ministry <b>6:00 pm</b> Handbell Rehearsal</p>	27	28
<p>29</p> <p><b>9:00 am</b> Worship <b>10:00 am</b> Sunday School <b>11:00 am</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal <b>6:00 pm</b> Evening Worship</p>	30	<p>31</p> <p><b>5:00 pm</b> Trunk or Treat <b>6:00 pm</b> Disciple IV</p>				



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