

ROBINSON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH • JANUARY 2024

THE HERALD

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



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

All good stories start out with the phrase, “once upon a time”. Well, this story is not fiction, but the old standard phrase fits perfectly.

Once upon a time there was an immigrant from distant lands operating a small diner during the 1929 depression. This young immigrant and his spouse, a force to be reckoned with, were raising two young daughters when the financial crisis became to break the spirits of many. Millions were without work and the economy was showing no signs of recovery. But the man and his wife squeezed the purse strings and kept the diner open and ready to serve those in their community.

During those lean days, months, and years the diner had folks from all walks of life stop by for a meal. There were also those who were down on their luck who would also stop by the backdoor of the diner. That is where they would meet the friendly old immigrant and his family. The man in his broken English would say to them, “We don’t serve folks at the back door here. Go around to the front and find a seat.” This is when his spouse would stop whatever she was doing, and she would then take those misfortunate souls by the hand and guide them around to the front door of the diner.

As a seat was established at the counter they were met with a large bowl of “HOBO Soup”, some hard tack bread, and a bottomless cup of coffee free of charge. That is when the couple would pull up a couple of stools and sit down and visit with their chosen visitors. That would hear tales of great adventures, once powerful positions, and those proclaiming to be of royal lineage. Each time they were given a story of how caring for others and meeting folks where they were at in life also filled the air.

The couple who was struggling just like others felt the tug on their heartstrings when the depression hit. They agreed that the family would live in the backroom of the diner and anyone who needed to be fed would be fed until there was no more to share. The immigrant chef would save back the vegetables from the previous day’s trade and would add any type of available proteins that he could muster and place into the pot with tender care.

When the economy began to improve after about 8 years, and the frequency of the back door visitors had diminished the immigrant chef, and his family took a breath to realize what had happened. The couple raised not only two little girls but now also a son. They recognized that at no time did the family ever go hungry. Yes, those were lean years for everyone they would later recall as they shared the stories they had heard while perched on their stools. Then the no old, retired chef would give a little giggle and say, “But God never let that pot run out of Hobo Soup!”

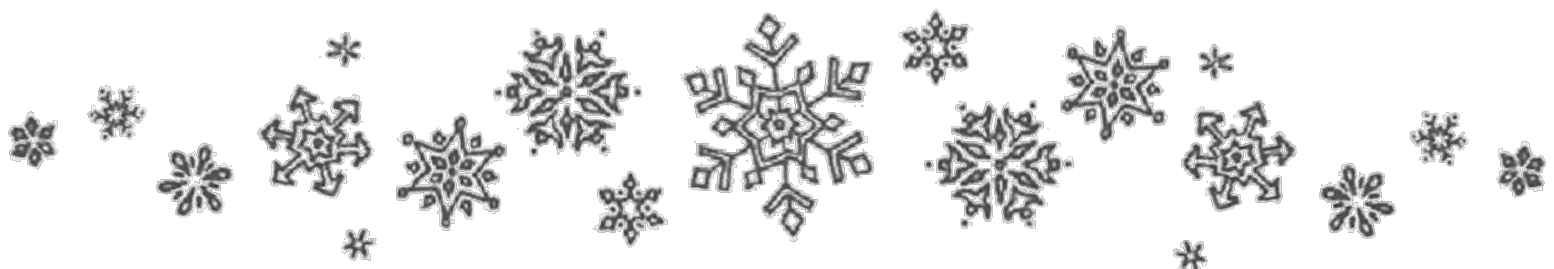
Years later after the old couple had gained their heavenly rewards a family member found their old record books. In the years from 1929 -1939 they earned a grand total of \$960 and served over 14,000 bowls of love to those who were rejected at the back door but welcomed at the counter as if they were cherished friends.

I share this story with you in the month of January for an important reason. The little girl from the story was my mother, and she was born in January 1929. Those couple from the story was my grandparents Arthur and Ruth Barron. Grandma and Grandpa left this world leaving no inheritance only a simple recipe for Hobo Soup. As my mother taught me how to make the soup as a young boy, she said that there is something that must go into every pot and I would quizzically ask, “What is that mom?” “She would smile and wink and say, “acceptance and love son, acceptance and love for everyone.”

Let us remember the words of Jesus contained within Matthew 25:37-40 NLT;
37 *“Then these righteous ones will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? 39 When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you? 40 “And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’*

Let us see all the people of this world,

Pastor Terry



NOW

The Just One Item for January will be one subject notebooks. If you would like to donate please drop the notebooks in the box outside the office.

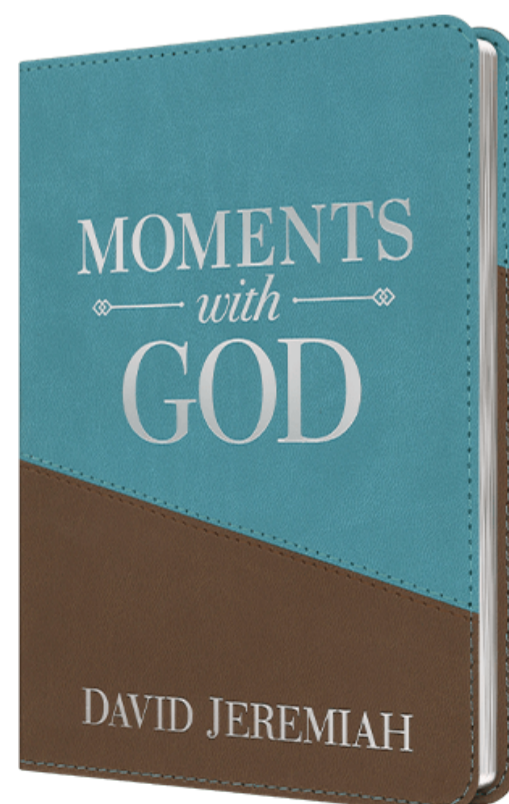
Second Wednesday Dinner

Happy New Year from the Nurture Team! We are starting out the new year with a fun Birthday Month carry-in on January 10th at 5:30 pm. Instead of sitting with your usual friends and family, you will get to sit and dine with new friends that share a birthday month with you! Please bring in your favorite casserole, soup, dessert, anything you want to share! No need to sign-up to attend, however, there will be a sign-up to decorate a table with a month theme. We will have a contest for People's Choice on best table decoration. The table that raises the most money will win a special prize, and all proceeds will benefit the Nurture Team for upcoming events, dinners, kitchen upkeep, etc. We look forward to this fun night; please sign up to decorate at the Welcome Center. See you there!

Christian Book Exchange

Greetings from the Book Exchange! Located next to the elevator in the narthex, our January highlights are devotionals!

We will have a variety of devotionals and we encourage people to bring in ones that you've already read and swap. Devotionals are easy to read and are useful for daily, intentional time with the Lord and in His word.



Stephen Ministry: *The Gift of Empathy*

Stephen Ministry Team is offering a Sunday School Class/
Study on empathy this coming spring:

Here's what you need to know:

1. The class will be April 7 through May 26.
2. The book and program study is brand new from Stephen Ministry and it is called *The Gift of Empathy*. Robinson FUMC Stephen Ministry has committed to piloting the program study. The Stephen Leaders will provide feedback to Stephen Ministry in St. Louis.
3. Robinson FUMC Stephen Ministry will pay to purchase the books. (\$14.95) If you would like to contribute to defray the cost, the donation would be deposited back into the Stephen Ministry account.
4. Sign-up from January 7-March 3
5. The Stephen Leaders will share with the Sunday School teachers educational materials on empathy. These materials are age appropriate for the varied classes.
6. Stay tuned for more information!

Thank you for your support of Stephen Ministry at
Robinson FUMC.

Wishing you peace and joy!



stephen
MINISTRY®

Are you or someone you know looking for Christian Care? If you are facing a life challenge, or know someone who is, and would like information about how Stephen Ministry can help, please contact Janelle Oxford at (618) 553-9598.



January Birthdays

- 1/6 Shelby Koester, Mya Wright,
Luke Emken
1/7 Pat Campbell
1/8 Larry Quick
1/10 Kaitlyn Kubiak
1/12 Katie Aydt
1/14 Karen Catt
1/15 Kaye Damron, Pastor Terry
1/17 Dustin McDonald
1/18 Sharon Freeland, Jesse Newbold
1/19 Daniel Boatman
1/22 Paul Roales
1/25 Lucas Aydt
1/26 Breann Quick
1/28 Susan Carver
1/29 Kurtis Goebel, Katelyn Murrell

January Anniversaries

- 1/2 Justin & Katie Aydt

Prayer Requests

Carol Wolf; Carl Blanton; Michael Brady;
Cathy Thomas; Judson Richardson; Julie
Zhang; Bill Thompson; Michael Keene; Lisa
Schaefer; Nicole Young; Evan Prah; Richard
Youngs; Kay Young; Vonnetta
Shipman; Thelma Gifford; Melinda Wehrle;
Blain Loll; Miranda Waddell; Ruth Fiscus; Ray
& Nelda Dotson; Margaret Beaman;
Alexander Forrey; Ninette Faith; Lou
Bonnell; Claudette Mejean; Laurie Vaugh;
Susan Rodgers; Adrian Hays; Rachel Tracy;
Randy Butcher; Stephen Ministers; Care
Receivers; Doug Finkbiner; Clem Aydt;
Annette Leighty; Spencer Meagher; KJ Reid,
Tricia Anderson; Jon & Joy Anderson; Alex
Townsend; Brad Harris; Andy Limper; Karen
Villalobos; Dason Douglas, Lora Simmons;
Mary Etta Whitmer; Rhonda Moade; Barbara
Bell; Jocelyn Ramsey; Leth and Jeff Stanford;
Becky & Donna Beabout; Roger Hamilton;
Bennett Smith; Breanna & Melissa Young;
Jimmy Vinson; Sarah Valdez; Rhea Hayden;
Kirtrina Carter; Sharon Miller; Stephenie
Townsend; Tim Aydt; Sue Trimble; Linda
Stewart; Clayton Avery; Debbie Goff; Glynn



JANUARY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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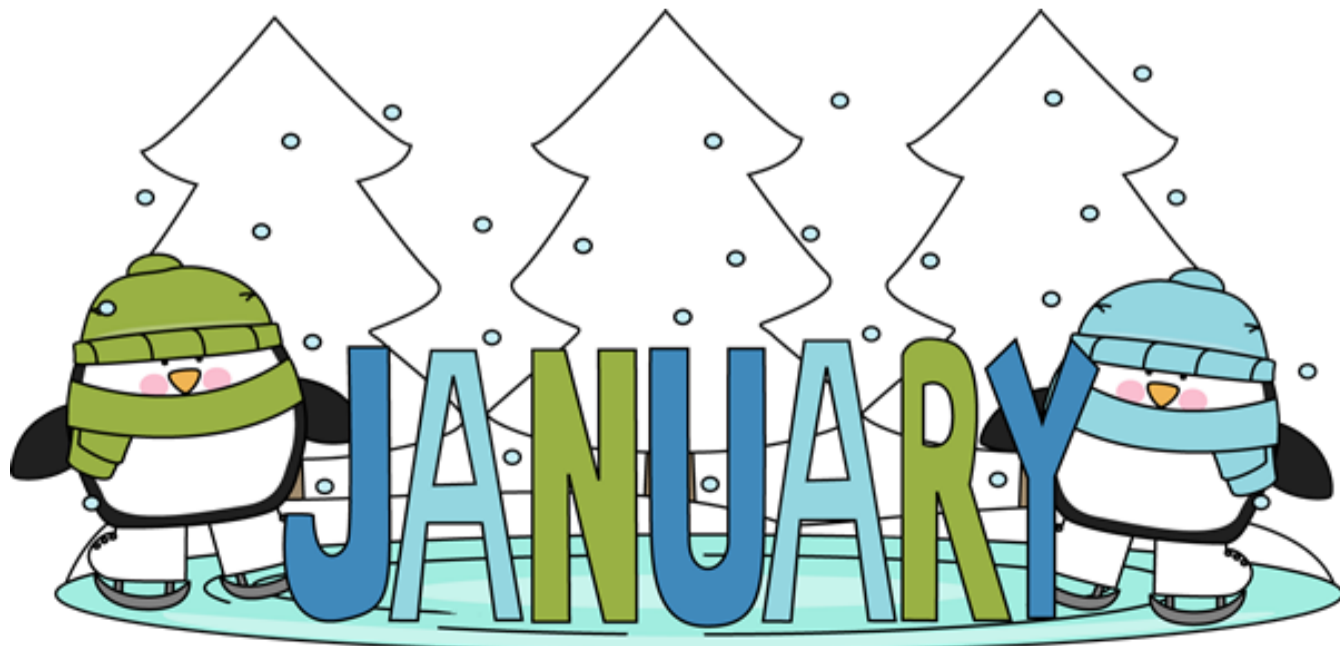
	1 OFFICE CLOSED	2	3	4 9:00 am - CHEW 4:00 pm - NOW Weekend Bagging	5 1:00 pm - OFFICE CLOSED	6
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7 9:00 am - Worship 10:15 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Unhanging of the Greens	8	9	10 4:00 pm - NOW Bagging 5:30 pm - Second Wednesday Dinner 6:30 pm - Stephen Ministry 7:00 pm - FCA	11 9:00 am - CHEW	12 1:00 pm - OFFICE CLOSED	13
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14 Human Relations Day 9:00 am - Worship 10:15 am - Sunday School	15 OFFICE CLOSED	16	17 6:00 pm - Committee Meetings 7:00 pm - Church Council Meeting	18 9:00 am - CHEW 4:00 pm - NOW Bagging	19	20
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21 9:00 am - Worship 10:15 am - Sunday School	22	23	24 6:30 pm - Stephen Ministry	25 9:00 am - CHEW 4:00 pm - NOW Bagging 6:00 pm - SPY	26	27
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28 9:00 am - Worship 10:15 am - Sunday School	29	30	31
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