

# THE HERALD

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



## The Pastor's Pen

The Raccoons have returned...

Many of you will remember a few months back I introduced you to some would be intruders who penetrated the perimeter of the parsonage. These slick masked assailants dismantled my grill and later sold it for parts on the black market. Well, these thugs have returned with malice in their hearts and plans to liquidate more items from my empire.



As I was deep in novena, an ancient form of rhythmic prayer, okay I was napping in my recliner I heard a faint little tap, tap on the windows looking out over the balcony. One of the masked scoundrels was tapping on the window with a small plant hand trowel that the queen of the palace had left in the plant that had long went home to plant heaven. As he tapped on the glass I believe I heard him say, "Do you have any snacks?" Which was alarming because I was dreaming about a snack in my deep prayers. I told the masked intruder that he has already gotten enough from me when him and his friends sold my grill on the black market. Then suddenly the would-be marauder waved at me and scurried of the deck carrying the small hand trowel.

I share this story with you for two reasons. The first being that our surroundings are ever changing and always evolving and sometimes we are unaware that they are happening. The second being that we should see the world around us for what it is and what it can be. For example, are world have many obstacles that we encounter for unknown reasons. The other is we see the world and God calls us to embrace the world so that we can be instrumental in changing the world.

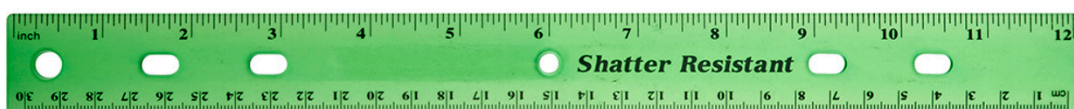
As we march forward into a month that professes Love let us understand that not all people experience love. In our community alone, we have those that have never been or seen the inside of a church. We have those that have been harmed by the church and professed to never return. We have those that have been cast out of a church because of sexuality, gender, race, or differing faith ideas. Yet, all these folks are still God's children and specifically who we are called to minister. Let us spend this month of love, truly inviting and welcoming all people to join us in our journey to holy obedience to God's call.

See you in church,

Pastor Terry

## NOW Program

The Just-One Item for February is a 12 inch ruler. If you would like to make a donation please drop it in the box outside the office.



# Lent 2025

As we approach this season of Lent for 2025, I have started to ponder the reasons why we love Jesus' teachings so much. I have found in the parables and the many stories Jesus uses to illustrate for us His instructions for our lives. This year I am introducing our theme for this upcoming season here at Robinson First United Methodist Church is "Inner Search, Outer Walk." This year we are challenging each other to see beyond our walls and witness to everyone we can the love of Jesus Christ. I encourage you to take this time during the next 40-day session and read Jesus' holy words found throughout the New Testament. Identify how being inwardly focused can guide us on our efforts to be outwardly reaching. We find some amazing instructions contained for us in Matthew 6. We learn about giving, praying, fasting, money and how we handle the constant problem of worry that invades our lives.

Lent is a time of contemplation and discipline. A time for repentance and to hope. We will experience Christ's journey and sacrifice on the cross, taking our sin, doubt, shame with Him to display His forgiveness and love for us. During Jesus' ministry here on earth He taught so many lessons on how to live our lives. In the Gospel according to Matthew, that our giving, our serving, and our spiritual discipline start with an inward journey that not only motivates us to self-examine but guides us to live a purer life.

As we reach for our "Outer Walk" allow the sheer joy of serving the Lord not be for selfish reasons but kingdom gains. May our journey to the cross and the glorious resurrection fuel our hearts, minds, and souls to reach the lost, hurt, unknowing, and seeking individuals that are seeking a relationship with the Lord of Lords, King of Kings, and the Great I am.

See you in Church,

Pastor Terry



## Alms for Palms

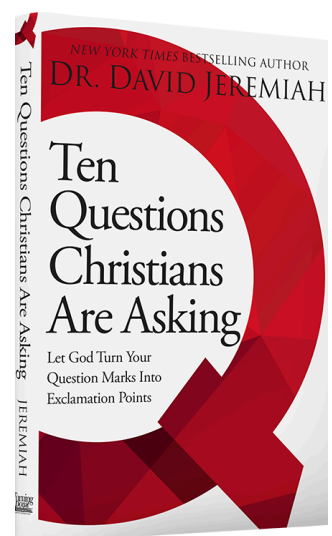
Lent is a time for us to prepare ourselves for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ. This year our focus for Lent is “Inner Search, Outer Walk”. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 5, we will have collection tubs available for individuals and/or families to take home with you. I encourage you to place the container in a place of awareness in your home, next to the coffee pot, the middle of the dinner table, next to where you lay your keys when you get home. The container is for you to place change or other currency for collection. Then on Palm Sunday you are encouraged to return the container to the church during the morning worship service. We will have a specified moment in the service where the containers will be brought forward and placed on the communion rail. The monies collected will then be utilized for the “Outer Walk” purpose of ministry and given to the NOW Program to assist in the purchasing of supplies for the summer meal program.

***But if someone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but refuses to help—how can the love of God dwell in a person like that?***

## Christian Book Exchange

Greetings from the Book Exchange! Located next to the elevator in the narthex, our February highlight is *Ten Questions Christians are Asking!*

From the casual to the crucial, Jesus used the grappling hook of questions to snag His hearers' interest, grasp their thoughts, reveal their motives, explore their needs, and clench their decisions. Questions are the inquiries of curious minds and the entreaties of wondering souls. Where there are question marks in our minds and spirits, we need the truths and promises of Scripture. God has the answers to the questions people are asking! Through his thoughtful examination of the Word of God on ten different topics, Dr. Jeremiah provides answers that will turn your questions marks into exclamation points of praise.



# Care News from Stephen Ministry

- *Let all that you do be done in love.* - 1 Corinthians 16:14

Have you read *Tuesdays with Morrie*? The 1997 memoir was written by Mitch Albom, and it shares a series of visits he had with his former Brandeis University professor, Dr. Morrie Schwartz. Dr. Schwartz was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), and over the course of several months, Albom detailed his former professor's thoughts and wisdom on 14 topics. Throughout the book, Mitch shared many quotes from his beloved professor; and because it is February here are some about love:

- *"People who live meaningless lives are too busy chasing the wrong things when what they should be chasing is love and relationships."*
- *"Death ends a life, not a relationship. All the love you created is still there. All the memories are still there. You live on-in the hearts of everyone you have touched and nurtured while you were here."*
- *"The most important thing in life is to learn how to give out love, and to let it come in."*
- *"Love is the only rational act."*
- *"Love is so supremely important. As our great poet Auden said, 'Love each other or perish'."*

During this month glittering red hearts, red roses, and pretty candy boxes, let's remember what Jesus told us in John 13: *"Love each other just as much as I have loved you."*

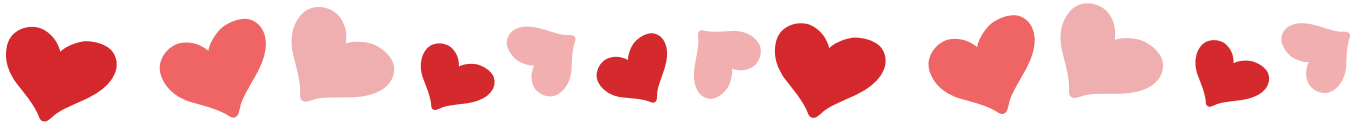
- *We love because he first loved us.* - 1 John 4:19

***If you are going through a difficult time and would like someone to talk with on a regular basis, please contact Janelle Oxford. (618 553-9598). Stephen Ministers are available to provide Christian Care.***



## Second Wednesday Dinner

Join us for Second Wednesday Dinner on February 12th at 5:30 pm. The youth are hosting as a fundrasier. Please sign up in the narthex so they know how many people to expect. Everyone is welcome!



### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

**2/1** Katie Hartke  
**2/2** Mary Jane Parker,  
Nicholas Ramos  
**2/5** Allie Oxford,  
Nadene Keene  
**2/7** Taya Harmon,  
Tomi Skaggs  
**2/8** Brenda Graham  
**2/9** Heidi Wright  
**2/10** Jack Frakes  
**2/11** Dalton Davis  
**2/12** Lori Treadway  
**2/14** Dorcas Sills,  
Bonnie Banks  
**2/15** Stacy Baize  
**2/17** Roseanne Hart  
**2/20** Katelin Veenstra  
**2/21** Ernie Roales  
**2/22** Greg Catt  
**2/24** Connie Carter  
**2/25** Laurie Kubiak  
**2/26** Trevor Carter  
Stephanie Townsend

### FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

**2/28** Stacy & Jim Baize  
**2/14** Stephanie Townsend &  
Alex Lornes

### PRAYER REQUESTS

Nancy Holley; Hazel  
DeDoming; Hannah Davis;  
Dottie Collar; Luke Campbell;  
Letha Stanford; Bonnie  
Smith; Nancy Conrad; Rick  
Garrard; Kent Tracy; Larry  
Quick; Michelle Hall; Leah  
Parker; Pat Campbell; Mary  
Kindt; Doreen Elmore; Mike  
Brady; Brenna Aydt; Hannah  
Davis; Les Thurston; Jeffery  
Roche; Mary Jane Parker; The  
Mueller Family; Madison  
Tracy; Rip York and Family;  
Erin & Chris Stifle; Brian Frost

***To add or remove someone  
to the Prayer List, please  
contact the church office.***

# FEBRUARY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9:00 am • Laundry Day
2 9:00 am • Worship 10:15 am • Sunday School	3 6:00 pm • <i>The Chosen</i> Study	4	5	6 9:00 am • CHEW 4:00 pm • NOW Bagging	7	8
9 9:00 am • Worship 10:15 am • Sunday School	10 6:00 pm • <i>The Chosen</i> Study	11	12 4:00 pm • NOW Bagging 5:30 pm • Second Wednesday Dinner 6:30 pm • Stephen Ministry	13 9:00 am • CHEW	14 	15
16 9:00 am • Worship 10:15 am • Sunday School	17 OFFICE CLOSED 6:00 pm • <i>The Chosen</i> Study	18 4:00 pm • Nurture Team Meeting	19 11:30 am • Circle of Love 6:00 pm • Team Meetings 7:00 pm • Church Council Meeting	20 9:00 am • CHEW 4:00 pm • NOW Bagging 6:00 pm • SPY	21	22
23 9:00 am • Worship 10:15 am • Sunday School	24 6:00 pm • <i>The Chosen</i> Study	25	26 6:30 pm • Stephen Ministry	27 9:00 am • CHEW 4:00 pm • NOW Bagging	28	



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## ROBINSON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Communications Coordinator: Brennan Seth Tracy  
Worship Leader: Daniel Boatman  
Accompanist: Kayla Holscher  
Custodians: Amy DeDoming, Mark DeDoming  
Nursery Staff: Marnie Inboden



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