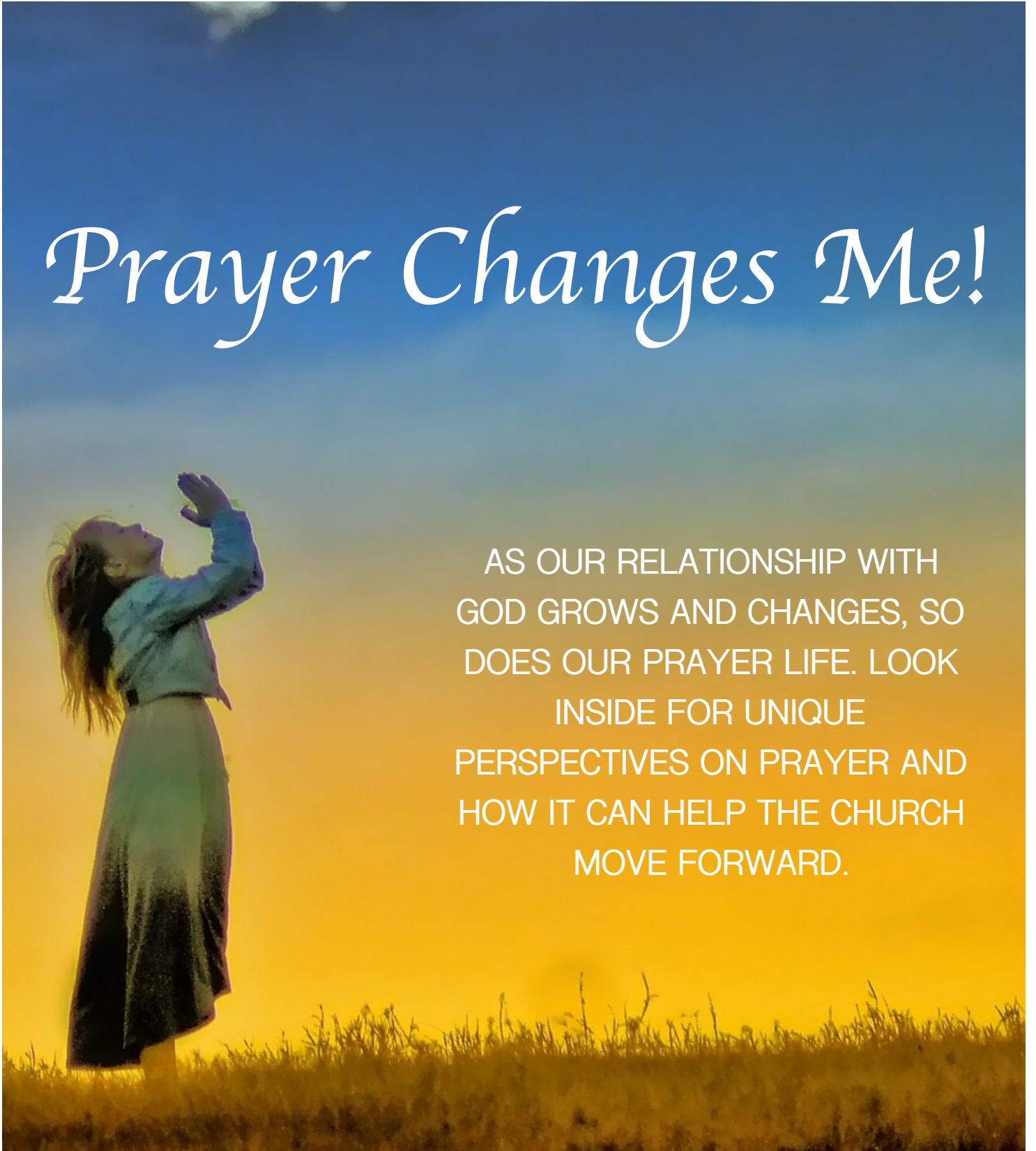


# THE HERALD

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

## *Prayer Changes Me!*

AS OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH  
GOD GROWS AND CHANGES, SO  
DOES OUR PRAYER LIFE. LOOK  
INSIDE FOR UNIQUE  
PERSPECTIVES ON PRAYER AND  
HOW IT CAN HELP THE CHURCH  
MOVE FORWARD.



# FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

A colleague recently mentioned to me that he wanted to spend some time talking with me about prayer. Specifically, we were talking about prayer and the preaching process (teaching, in his tradition). As I've spent some time thinking about prayer, I'm reminded that the process of preaching (for me) always begins with prayer. I am praying about our congregation months in advance, and praying for direction about what God wants us to hear. I'm praying as I read through Scripture. I'm praying as I think about sermon series and sermon titles. I'm seeking God's direction as I plan worship. By the time I actually sit down to "write" a sermon, what will be said has been prayed over and germinating for months. When you come to worship on Sunday morning or evening, I hope that you realize how much that service is bathed in prayer.

Of course, I do pray far beyond the development of worship and sermons. Part of my daily devotion time involves praying through Scripture and praying for others. I pray when prayer requests come across my desk, when I receive messages and e-mails about prayer needs, and at many other times. I pray at my desk, in the sanctuary, on the phone, when I'm driving (with my eyes open, of course), when I sing, when I play the piano or organ, while I'm teaching. I pray during focused times, and I say prayers when the need arises, or when the Spirit prompts me. I pray all the time.

Yet, I don't know that I'm really that great at prayer. I don't often pray for myself (when my morning devotions say "prayers for others", I think that's an excuse I use to not pray for myself); I feel often that my prayers are fleeting and unfocused. If I'm called upon to pray, though, I seem to be filled with the Spirit enough to not fumble over my words.

Here's what I do know: prayer is always evolving. As we go through life's circumstances, we find ourselves praying differently. I know that the simple act of prayer has caused my heart to soften at times when I needed it the most. I know that sometimes, in the silence, God still hears what's in the depth of my heart, even if words remain unspoken or unformed. God is constantly remolding and reshaping me each time I pray.

Prayer, for John Wesley, was an important work of piety - an act that engages us with God. You don't have to be a fantastic pray-er; you don't have to be a great speaker or an outstanding listener to pray. What you do have to do is have an open and willing heart. Prayer can help shape your life; it can help shape the life of our congregation and our denomination.

You'll gain some interesting perspectives on prayer in the pages of this newsletter. You'll find ministries and people to pray for. Will you do one thing for me this month, however? Will you commit to praying for our church, and for us to be faithful to carry out our mission? Just think what might happen if each of us prayed that prayer every day! Will you join me?

Grace and peace,

**PASTOR JAY**

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# THE POWER OF PRAYER

By Shirley Treadway

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During the lessons for confirmation there was a section on prayer, so I spent some time thinking about personal prayer and how I could help my student learn to pray. At the end of the session we were asked to write a prayer for each other and she did a beautiful job!! Then when we were interviewed, she commented that prayer had seemed important to me!

As a child my mother always had us say a bedtime prayer. We attended church regularly and my Sunday School teacher during high school stressed the importance of prayer. She just passed away at age 97 and in her Christmas card this year she still told me she was keeping me in her prayers! When I left for college a family friend gave me a book mark with the scripture that says "Lo, I am with you always". I put that in my Bible and prayed every night in college. So prayer had become a regular part of my life at an early age.

After our marriage and as our family grew, I seemed to always need the strength of prayer.

I became a teacher and as I grew in my profession I often found that there were times that I said a silent prayer in the classroom.

Sometimes when I needed to discipline a student I would ask for the ability to say and do the right thing. I had a principal who once told me that he knew his mother was praying for him each day and that was what helped him through the difficult times. As our sons left home I prayed daily for them and their families (and still do today).

As Wally and I have grown older we have experienced illnesses and family stresses, but we always knew we could get the strength we needed through prayer. When Wally was

diagnosed with an illness that the doctors thought would be terminal, we turned to prayer more than ever. But I remembered a lesson a dear old friend taught me - that we should pray that the doctors would have the wisdom to treat the illness successfully but if not, to give us the strength and courage we would need to cope successfully. After a very serious surgery, he recovered. We had lots of prayers, and we know these helped us through this difficult time. We are still both facing some medical problems and are relying on prayer, our faith and family support to help us through!

I have noticed is that praying for others is contagious. One of our sons and a grandson will often text asking that I pray for someone they are concerned about! One texted the other night and said "Grandma, if you have any prayers left, Max next door needs them badly!" So I immediately sent a request for our prayer chain to add Max to their prayers.

One day I dropped off some items for a rummage sale at church. Thelma Gifford, Jan Kelly, Jan Clark and I were visiting and talked about a prayer chain for our church. We worked with the pastor and came up with the beginnings of the prayer chain we have. As I have less energy to be involved in some of church ministries, this has been a most rewarding way to serve. I not only get prayer requests, but get numerous responses thanking us for the prayers and concerns! So sometimes my work with the prayer chain is its own reward. I believe so strongly in the power of prayer, not to just be answered as I want but as God wants knowing that he will give each of us the strength to see us through.

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# THE PRAYING CHURCH

By Lori Treadway

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We have recently been studying a book in the Outreach committee that caused me to take another look at prayer. It's called *Unbinding Your Heart*, by Martha Grace Reese. The book helps church members get a grip on evangelism. The second chapter is all about prayer. It features stories of three different churches and how they began to thrive because they shifted their emphasis from projects and policies to prayer. Once they deliberately and purposefully prayed for each other, committees, people who came to visit, and people outside of church who didn't know Jesus, things began to change. They found that they were guided by God to begin new ministries and help others find Christ in ways they'd never thought of before.

Here are two passages that pertain to this:

John 14:12, Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

Matthew 18:19-20 Again, I tell you truly that if two of you on the earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather together in my name, there I am with them.

In these two familiar passages Jesus is telling us that great things can be done for the Kingdom, if we will listen. In the first passage Jesus tells us that if the disciples will believe in Him and do the works He has been doing, they can do even greater things to glorify God. The Holy Spirit is an advisor, advocate, and comforter to help them on their way. In the second passage disciples are told that if

two on earth agree, it will be done by our Father in heaven.

It's easy to think of the disciples as the followers of Jesus from long ago, going to the towns and shaking the dust from their sandals if they were not well received. What I think is so exciting is that it wasn't just written for the disciples of long ago, it's written for all of us - here and now! WE are the disciples! WE can do great and wonderful things to glorify God and make the Earth more like the kingdom of heaven.

That's what prayer can do! Prayer is a very powerful thing. When I taught Sunday school, one student often asked why we don't have miracles today. I didn't have an answer to that question, except to say that miracles are likely all around us, but we may not notice them. I feel it is the same with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is with us, but we need to consciously ask for help, which is where prayer comes in. As Martha Reese said in her book, "Then we can ask God to guide us, step by step, to do whatever things we're each supposed to be doing." What this could look like in church, for example, is to spend time at the beginning of each committee meeting in prayer - not just an opening prayer to be checked off the agenda, but by taking time to really pray with and for each other, and for other church members, non-church members, and ministries. This may seem uncomfortable or odd, but it may be just what First UMC needs.

Shall we pray? Heavenly Father, we love and honor you, and pray that you will help us to know what you'd like for each of us to do to show your love to others. Amen

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# SPECIFIC WAYS TO PRAY

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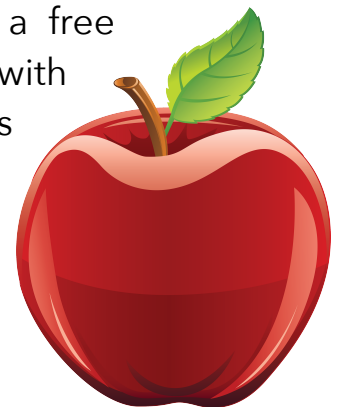
## **Vacation Bible School**

By the time you receive this newsletter, our 2017 VBS will have already begun. It's not too late, though, to pray for the students who will come and participate (preschool through 5th grade), as well as our volunteers. And, if you the Spirit prompts you to bring your children, you can still come and register at the city park each Wednesday in June, from 9-11 am.



## **NOW Program**

It's summertime, and Robinson students are no longer in school, which means that for those who need food assistance, they are not receiving a weekly bag of food from the NOW Program. Would you pray for these students who are involved in the NOW Program? Would you pray for them to come to the parks on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays in June and July to receive a free lunch? Would you pray about helping with lunches or with Kids' Shopping Days (August 7 & 8)? Contact the church office if you would like to help.



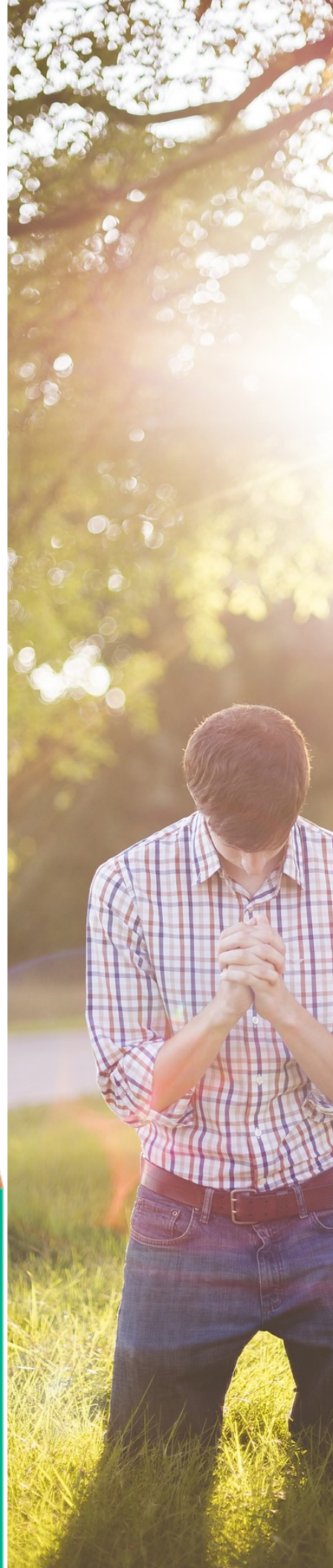
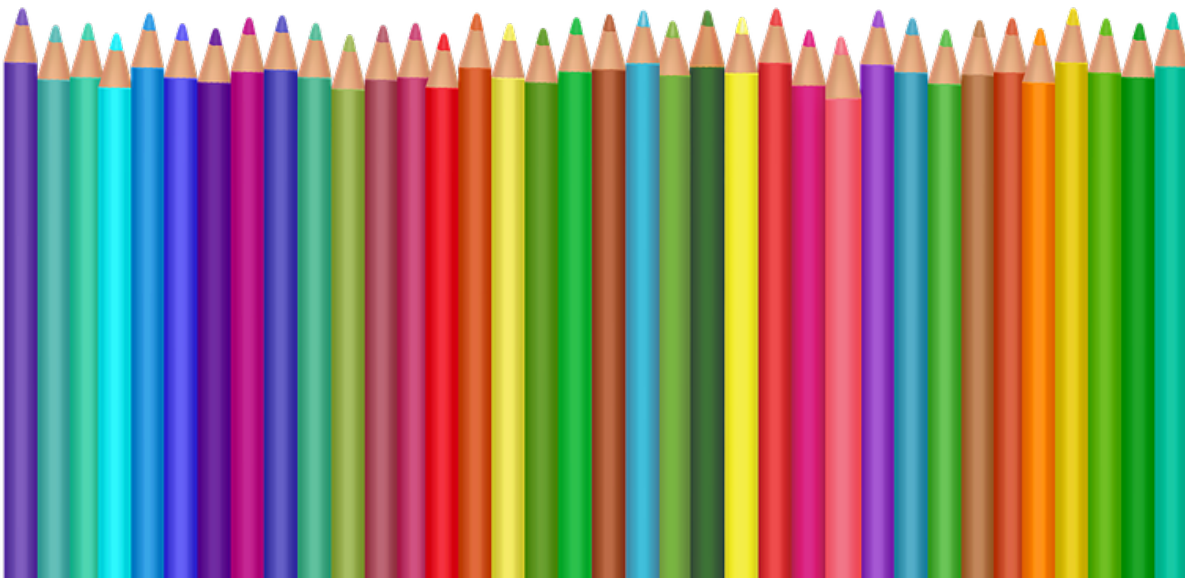
## Annual Conference

The Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference is June 8-10, in Peoria. Susan Inboden and Pastor Jay will be attending, representing our church, and Lori Treadway will be attending as an equalization delegate for our district. Please pray for our delegates, for them to have wisdom as they vote on issues and legislation that affects us. Specifically, our district has been asked to pray on Saturday afternoon, as delegates return home from the conference. We appreciate your prayers! website, [www.robinsonfumc.org](http://www.robinsonfumc.org). We are in need of people to help out with VBS, so please sign up at the welcome center to help for 1, 2 or even 5 weeks!



## Just One

We want to say thanks to those of you who faithfully donate to the "Just One" collection for the NOW Program. For the month of June, would you please consider purchasing one box of Crayola colored pencils? You can place them in the collection bin outside the church office. Can't donate? Please pray for students who receive these items, that when they go back to school, they will have the things they need to have a successful school year.



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# SECOND WEDNESDAY DINNER

By Audra Bell

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If you know me very well, then you know that one of my greatest passions in life is to help other women, especially those who have been abused or exploited. Recently, my family and I were watching an episode of Hawaii Five-0. The episode was about victims of sex trafficking, and at the end of the episode the cast came on and spoke about Ho'ola Na

Pua. Ho'ola Na Pua is a non-profit organization dedicated to the renewal of underaged sex trafficked girls through health, education, advocacy, and re-integration into their family/community.

Ho'ola Na Pua means "new life for our children". They are currently raising funds to open a residential treatment campus called Pearl Haven. They are set to open in 2018. The campus is situated on twelve acres of rural land in Hawaii that provides a sanctuary of hope and healing. It will be designed to meet the needs of thirty-two victims at a time ages 11-17. Pearl Haven is one of a kind as it is the first place like this to be built in the United States. They are partnered with a local university as well as The Peabody Research Institute of Vanderbilt University to ensure the success of the program. They will take in young women from all over the nation.

The Wednesday morning Refresh Chefs have kindly volunteered to make a delicious breakfast meal for the second Wednesday dinner in June. It will be a free will donation dinner, and all proceeds from the dinner will go to help Ho'ola Na Pua and these girls in need. Please sign up at the welcome center and join us on June 14, 2017 at 5:30 pm.

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 6/1 Peggy Dart
- 6/2 Debbie Goff
- 6/3 Jon Anderson
- 6/5 Sharon Miller
- 6/10 Brennan Seth Tracy
- 6/14 Doris Prier
- 6/15 Larry Bonnell
- 6/16 Susan Neely, Shirley Treadway, Pam Bell
- 6/17 Janis Daugherty
- 6/20 Don Taylor, Tyler Veenstra,  
Lillie McDonald
- 6/21 Steve Diel, Tahnee Dunlap,  
Dan Fearday, Benjamin Hays
- 6/23 Alice Taylor, Guy Treadway,  
Alice Holtzhouser, Rose Ellen Osborne
- 6/25 David McGahey, Kay Bonnell
- 6/28 Matthew Elliott
- 6/29 Edna Frakes

## JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 6/3 Tricia & Jay Anderson
- 6/6 Gary & Linda Null
- 6/13 Greg & Janis Daugherty
- 6/15 Greg & Jackie Still
- 6/21 Kirbie & Ben Ackman
- 6/25 Bob & Jeanette Berty
- 6/26 Elmer & Beverly Harness
- 6/27 Bob & Antje Pippin
- 6/28 Leonard & Debbie Goff

## PRAYER CONCERNS

Peg, John, Jeremy, and Greg Markello; Ken Martin; Carol Wolf; Lois McConnell; Carl and Helen Blanton; Judy Wilson Wall; Michael Brady; Elaine Siler; Gary Albin; Donna Reed; Charley Clark; Patty Steele; Jackson Barry; Marty Attaway; Cathy Thomas; The women in the Crawford County jail; Judson Richardson; Jerry Adkins; Richard Youngs; Susan Polgar; Shirley Allison; Jay Holtzhouser; Janna Coonce; Jennifer Newlin; Kaye Parrott Weger; Bob Laswell; Jennifer Null; Julie Zhang; Bill Thompson; Bob Duzan; Janey Branson; Kate Dale; Shirley Treadway; Chance & Brantley Moore & family; Hannah Dean; Bev Turkal; Maris Rogers; Bob Berty; Neema Mutayoba; Duke Thompson; our children's ministry; youth and their parents; Mary Kay Jurcin; Jon and Loretta Roales; Wally Treadway; Floyd Brinkman Sr; Larry Nickol; Barb Myers; the family of Marilyn Musgrave; Dale Servision; the family of Lexi Davis; the family of Ava Songer; Dale Regennitter



# JUNE 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <b>10:30 am</b> NOW Lunches in parks <b>6:00 pm</b> Jail Ministry	2	3
4 <b>8:00 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	5	6 <b>10:30 am</b> NOW Lunches in parks	7 <b>9:00 am</b> VBS <b>10:30 am</b> NOW Lunches in parks	8 <b>10:30 am</b> NOW Lunches in parks <b>6:00 pm</b> Jail Ministry	9 <b>11:00 am</b> NOW Fundraiser at FRSB	10
11 <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	12	13 <b>10:30 am</b> NOW Lunches in parks	14 <b>9:00 am</b> VBS <b>10:30 am</b> NOW Lunches in parks <b>5:30 pm</b> Second Wednesday Dinner	15 <b>10:30 am</b> NOW Lunches in parks <b>6:00 pm</b> Jail Ministry	16	17
18 <b>9:00 am</b> Worship <b>10:00 am</b> Sunday School <b>6:00 pm</b> Evening Worship	19	20 <b>10:30 am</b> NOW Lunches in parks <b>6:00 pm</b> FUMC Foundation	21 <b>9:00 am</b> VBS <b>10:30 am</b> NOW Lunches in parks <b>6:00 pm</b> All Committees Meet <b>7:00 pm</b> Church Council Meeting	22 <b>10:30 am</b> NOW Lunches in parks <b>6:00 pm</b> Jail Ministry	23	24
25 <b>9:00 am</b> Worship <b>10:00 am</b> Sunday School <b>12:00 pm</b> Youth Mission Trip departs <b>6:00 pm</b> Evening Worship	26	27 <b>10:45 am</b> NOW Lunches in Parks	28 <b>9:00 am</b> VBS <b>10:45 am</b> NOW Lunches in Parks	29 <b>10:30 am</b> NOW Lunches in parks <b>6:00 pm</b> Jail Ministry	30	

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