

ROBINSON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH • JULY 2020

# *The Herald*

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

## EVANGELIZATION

## Share The Good News!



# From the Pastor's Desk

I remember once walking up the quad at Duke University, on my way to the Divinity School. A man stood at the top of the stairs, just across the way from Duke Chapel, and next to the entrance (possibly unknowingly) to the seminary, shouting that we needed to repent, or we would go to hell - and while there were students of all sorts who walked by him, many of us were studying to become Christian ministers. While I'm sure there were things that I needed to repent of, I don't know that his particular way of evangelizing had his intended effect on me or on other students.

There's a word in "church" language that we tend to shy away from - evangelization. What comes to mind when you read that word? Both positive and negative images come to mind for me - Billy Graham is a positive image, while some televangelists are not. For me, Stephen Ministry is a positive image, but the man standing on the street corner telling me to repent rubs me the wrong way. Perhaps the images we associate with the word evangelism lead us to define it. However, I am reminded that the Greek word, when used in the New Testament (euangelion) means "good news." Christians are supposed to share the good news of Jesus, and to me, that sounds very different than the definitions we come up with based on the images we project on the word.

Our fourth spiritual muscle is evangelization. By our church's definition, we believe that means that disciples of Jesus Christ share their faith and that they meet real needs. Sometimes, I think, the easiest way to do this is to spend time listening, getting to know someone's story - and when appropriate, share how their story intersects God's story. I think it's important to be able to share about our faith with others. I try to do that when I preach and when I teach, but I also try to show that in action.

I'm amazed at what our congregation does to share faith. Our Stephen Ministry gives caregivers opportunities to provide quality Christian care with care receivers, and that includes helping care receivers see where their story and God's meet. For the past three months, we have fed essential workers on the front lines of COVID-19 in our city. We've fed 200 students each week for three months, and will begin sharing summer lunches through the NOW Program Monday through Friday during the month of July. We're gearing up for our NOW Kids' Shopping Day in August, meeting the real needs of students. We're meeting spiritual needs of several dozen kids throughout the country through our virtual VBS this month. We continue to share our faith each week through radio and livestream ministries, and will do so in outdoor worship this month as well.

Who might you share the good news of Jesus with this month? Our mission at First United Methodist Church reminds us that we "share the love of God in word and deed." The congregation as a whole is doing that - but I challenge each one of you, individually, to evangelize this month. Use your words and your actions to share God's transforming love with the people you encounter - and see what God can do!

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jay Regan". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a thin black rectangular border.

Pastor Jay

## NOW Program

The NOW Program has always met the need of the students in our community and this summer will be no different. On Wednesday July 1st we will begin our Summer Lunches. Lunches will be handed out at the north side of FirstUMC, 10:30 am - 11:30 am. This will run through the entire month of July. If you would like volunteer please visit, <https://signup.com/go/CEuuxyF>.

The Back to School Shopping Day will be Thursday, Aug 6th 10:00 am -4:00 pm & Friday, Aug 7th 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. Volunteers are still needed.

<https://signup.com/go/BHakQgo>.

## Care News from Stephen Ministry

What Stephen Ministry says about evangelism:

“Caring Evangelism is a natural, comfortable way to share God’s Good News. Caring Evangelism conveys respect and understanding for people, focuses on their needs, and gently communicates God’s love.” [stephenministries.org](http://stephenministries.org)

In June Stephen Ministry was engaged in fellowship and continuing education.. Stephen Leaders and Ministers contacted and talked with members of the church and met virtually together using Zoom for supervision and continuing education.

The leaders and ministers met on June 10 for a supervision session, and again on June 24 for supervision and continuing education. The goal of supervision is for the Stephen Ministers to work together to enable the best distinctively Christian care possible for their care receivers. Supervision sessions are confidential, and the care receivers are always the supervision group’s top concern. Confidentiality is maintained because the Stephen Ministers are in a covenant ministry. Trusting each other with private affairs is paramount.

Stephen Ministry is here for you! If you are struggling, going through a difficult time, experiencing a life transition, please let Pastor Jay know. He would be happy to talk with you about how Stephen Ministry works and how you can benefit from the care ministry of a Stephen Minister. How can congregation members receive a Stephen Minister as a Christian caregiver? Anyone 18 years or older can receive a Stephen Minister. If an individual desires a Stephen Minister to walk through any situation or time with them they need simply to ask a Stephen Leader. Then they will be referred to Pastor Jay as the Stephen Leader Referral Coordinator. He will talk to them and facilitate their assignment of a Stephen Minister. Congregation members may also refer other members. The best way to refer a hurting person is to say to them, “I’m going to refer you to Stephen Ministry,” then tell Pastor Jay. Many times if you just ask them, they will say no. You may be aware of a crisis if that is the cause or you may just notice they are not acting the same, or are not following through like they used to or usually do.

### July meetings:

July 8 - Supervision

July 22 - Supervision and continuing education: Caring for people before, during, and after hospitalization

Stephen Ministry looks forward to the month of July to share the love of God in word and deed.

Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name: make known among the nations what he has done.

Psalm 105: 1



## July Birthdays

7/1	Jeanette Berty, Pam Cooper
7/2	John Markello
7/3	Dave Freeland, Jeremy Markello, Sheri McGahey
7/5	Roy Schlosser
7/6	Jerry Devonshire
7/7	Hunter Murrell
7/10	Jay Regennitter, Ruth Boatman, Tom Cooper
7/11	Tricia Anderson
7/14	Izabella Hays
7/19	Lea Ann Alberda
7/20	Barbara Ross, Kollin Ramos
7/21	Lou Bonnell
7/24	Annika List
7/25	Cash Veteto
7/27	William Damron, Linda Null
7/29	Chris Freeland, Audra Bell
7/31	Jay Anderson, Ben Ackman

## July Anniversaries

7/4	Jack & Nina Davis Libbi & Dan Fearday
7/6	Jay & Alice Holtzhouser Valerie & Brian Weck
7/7	Gary & Janelle Oxford Dustin & Victoria McDonald
7/15	Jeff & Sherri Murrell
7/17	David & Sheri McGahey
7/21	Rich & Leavone Johnson
7/27	Jerry & Gloria Devonshire

## Prayer Requests

John, 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; Rick Richardson; Patricia Hodgson; Pamela Hart; June Watson; Maria Reis; Paul Davis; Kathy Kennedy; Roger Pethel; Jesse Newbold; Tina Klender; Paul Clinton; Duane Parker; Shay Berry; Ruth Fiscus; Max & Debbie Tedford; Charlie & Janet Clark; Jan Riker; Alan & Joan Summers; Floyd Brinkman, Jr.; Kathy & Estell Keys; Karleigh Wampler; Carolyn Leggett

## Employee of the Month

Staff Parish would like to recognize Jennifer Boatman as the Employee of the Month for July! Congratulations!



# July 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:30 am - NOW Summer Lunches 6:00 pm - Refresh (Zoom)	2 10:30 am - NOW Summer Lunches 7:00 pm - 30 Days of Spiritual Stamina (Zoom)	3 10:30 am - NOW Summer Lunches	4
5 9:00 am - Worship (Live Stream and Radio) 10:30 am - Faith & Friends and SPICE Class (Zoom) 11:30 am - Koinonia (Zoom) 1:30 pm - Stephen Leaders (Zoom) 6:00 pm - Outdoor Worship 6:30 pm - Older Elementary Sunday School (Zoom)	6 10:00 am - Online VBS 10:30 am - NOW Summer Lunches	7 10:00 am - Online VBS 10:30 am - NOW Summer Lunches	8 10:00 am - Online VBS 10:30 am - NOW Summer Lunches 6:00 pm - Refresh (Zoom) 6:30 pm - Stephen Ministry Supervision (Zoom)	9 10:00 am - Online VBS 10:30 am - NOW Summer Lunches 7:00 pm - 30 Days of Spiritual Stamina (Zoom)	10 10:00 am - Online VBS 10:30 am - NOW Summer Lunches	11
12 9:00 am - Worship (Live Stream and Radio) 10:30 am - Faith & Friends and SPICE Class (Zoom) 11:30 am - Koinonia (Zoom) 6:00 pm - Outdoor Worship 6:30 pm - Older Elementary Sunday School (Zoom)	13 10:30 am - NOW Summer Lunches 5:00 pm - Finance Meeting (Zoom)	14 10:30 am - NOW Summer Lunches 6:30 pm - Church Council (Zoom)	15 10:30 am - NOW Summer Lunches 6:00 pm - Refresh (Zoom)	16 10:30 am - NOW Summer Lunches 7:00 pm - 30 Days of Spiritual Stamina (Zoom)	17 10:30 am - NOW Summer Lunches	18
19 9:00 am - Worship (Live Stream and Radio) 10:30 am - Faith & Friends and SPICE Class (Zoom) 11:30 am - Koinonia (Zoom) 6:00 pm - Outdoor Worship	20 10:30 am - NOW Summer Lunches	21 10:30 am - NOW Summer Lunches	22 10:30 am - NOW Summer Lunches 6:00 pm - Refresh (Zoom) 6:30 pm - Stephen Ministry Supervision (Zoom)	23 10:30 am - NOW Summer Lunches 7:00 pm - 30 Days of Spiritual Stamina (Zoom)	24 9:00 am - NOW Dental Examination 10:30 am - NOW Summer Lunches	25
26 9:00 am - Worship (Live Stream and Radio) 10:30 am - Faith & Friends and SPICE Class (Zoom) 11:30 am - Koinonia (Zoom) 6:00 pm - Outdoor Worship	27 10:30 am - NOW Summer Lunches	28 10:30 am - NOW Summer Lunches	29 10:30 am - NOW Summer Lunches 6:00 pm - Refresh (Zoom)	30 10:30 am - NOW Summer Lunches	31 10:30 am - NOW Summer Lunches	

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