

THE HERALD

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

The Pastor's Pen

"Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." Luke 6:27 - 28

Have you ever had one of those moments that left you confused and wondering, what just happened?

I was once appointed to a church that was navigating through some turbulent waters. Now when I say turbulent, I do not mean little ripples in the pond when you toss a pebble. I mean these were category 4 hurricane waves and the dark clouds were building on the horizon waters. Something that I would have loved to have known about prior to my arrival.

On my first Sunday of worship, I was ready; I had studied and prepared a somewhat spectacular manna message, one that in my mind the Bishop would be calling wanting to borrow, I had pulled my favorite tie and vest out of the closet, trimmed up the beard, and was ready to meet the folks of my new congregation. I was fearless for I was confident that the folks would laugh at all my jokes, they would sing with voices raised that would rattle the rafters, the children would gather around me like the paintings of Jesus and the children as they hung on my every word. In my feeble little mind, I would picture myself ending the message and the congregation would start clapping, waiting on an encore that would intimidate the great Taylor Swift (your welcome Kirbie). All of that would have been great except these words were said to me just before I walked into the pulpit; "these folks will hate you, the District Superintendent, and the Bishop, try not to stink the place up!" Well, I shower regularly and am a friend of the deodorant.

Wow, just what everyone wants to hear; “Don’t Stink!” But in mind I was Billy Graham preaching to the arena filled with people hungry for God’s word, just don’t stink. WWJD (what would Jesus do), FROG (fully rely on God), PUSH (pray until something happens) never equipped me too, Don’t Stink!

I learned something very powerful from that one sentence: sometimes we must pay for the mistakes of others. No matter who I was, or what I said on that morning, I was never going to make a difference in the thoughts of the congregation. During the next several months, I did the most pastoral thing I could ever do - listen and not try to fix immediately. Those who were upset needed someone to listen to their complaints and their pleas without forcing a quick fix. Over time our relationship grew from a new guy who was sent to a pastor who came to care, love, and nurture. My thoughts were on being “sent” was negative to folks who were already negative and well on their way to being hostile.

I look at our current times and the struggles we face not only with race relations, human sexuality, denominational struggles and the answer is simple: listen to what is really being said, and by whom. Folks, we are afforded with an amazing opportunity now as the church, stay and listen to those who know the struggles, those who have experienced the pain, those who have shed the tears. We do not need to apply quick fix band-aids to the wounds. We need to allow the voices to be heard throughout our nation and churches and pray for God to provide us with the true answer.

The important thing to remember, church, “Don’t Stink” - this is our one opportunity to do the right thing. We need to hear, weep, and help those who are being treated inferior just because of the pigment of their skin. We need to hear, weep, and help those who are being judged and mistreated for their gender, race, or sexuality. We need to hear, weep, and help those who are facing struggles of all kinds. Folks, we are a struggling people worldwide and the church should never be the ones drawing proverbial lines in the sand.

I learned something very simple as a child and I feel rings even louder today; Give them Jesus and pray.

Fresh smelling and in your service,

Pastor Terry

2nd Wednesday Dinner

We will be celebrating "Friendsgiving" on November 12th at 5:30 PM. The Nurture team will be providing the turkey, and you will be providing the sides! Please sign up at the Connection Table, and let everyone know what you will be bringing! Come fellowship with your church family, and share how God has blessed your life this past year!

Daniel's cranberry relish will also be available for purchase that night. All proceeds will be going to our growing youth program. Cranberry relish will be \$8 per pint.



Help Our Neighbors Affected by SNAP Benefit Delays

Many local families are struggling right now due to ongoing delays in SNAP (food stamp) benefits. These delays are making it difficult for households to put food on the table and meet basic grocery needs.

To help ease this burden, we are collecting donations to purchase Ruler Foods gift cards. Every dollar you give will go directly toward providing groceries for families in need.

How You Can Help:

- Donate funds to help us purchase Ruler Foods gift cards.
- Drop off gift cards directly if you prefer to buy them yourself.

Together, we can make sure no family in our community goes hungry while they wait for their SNAP benefits to arrive. Every little bit helps — thank you for your kindness and support! ❤️



We Need Volunteers

To continue making Sunday morning go smoothly,
WE NEED YOUR HELP! We are in need worship
volunteers, liturgists, Welcome Center attendants,
ushers, greeter and communion servers!!

SIGN UP TODAY!



NOW PROGRAM - 201 W WALNUT ROBINSON IL 62454



BRING YOUR GIFTS AND NOW WILL WRAP THEM!

We will have a limited supplies of wrapping paper that you can pick from or you can bring your own paper!

Freewill donations to The NOW Program

NOW Christmas Bags

The NOW Christmas bags will be available to pick up on Monday, November 24th. They need to be returned Monday, December 15th. Each string bag will have a label attached to it with the gender and age of a student, there will also be a list of suggested items. Everyone deserves a Merry Christmas so please help make one for our NOW students!

Christmas Music

What is your favorite Christmas song for church? I know that we all have a favorite that we wait all year long to sing. The problem is that Advent and Christmas are only four weeks plus Christmas Eve. Now if my math is correct that is only twenty select songs per season. Sadly, some of the old favorites may be missed but not intentionally.

This year we are asking you to partner with your worship team and now we are not going to make you come forward and sing or liturgically dance out your favorite song. We have placed slips of paper on the connectional table for you to write down your favorite or favorites (please use separate slips of paper for each song.) Then simply drop the papers into the basket located on the table. We will then tally the songs and utilize the top ones throughout Advent and Christmas Eve services. Thank you for your help. And for those who may be confused, "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer" and "Grandma Got Run Over by A Reindeer" are not really church songs.



Hanging of the Greens

Hanging of the Greens will be on Sunday, November 23rd this year, following morning worship. Please stay and join us in making our church festive and even more beautiful for the upcoming Advent season. We also encourage Sunday School classes to decorate your classroom's Christmas tree. Many hands make light work! Following the decorating, we will have fellowship in Asbury with a carry-in lunch. Please sign up at the Connection Table for soup, sandwiches, or desserts!

Remember to dress comfortably, as some of us will be climbing ladders, and many of us will be getting dusty and sparkly!

Care News from Stephen Ministry

Gratitude

*"Give thanks to the Lord because he is good,
because his faithful love lasts forever!"
- Psalm 107: 1*

Do you remember celebrating Thanksgiving when you were in grade school? Do you have fond memories of the fun-filled activities such as sampling homemade applesauce and wearing a construction paper crown that may or may not have resembled turkey legs? Do you remember the special school lunch prepared by the kind and hard-working lunch ladies? Aren't you grateful for the warm memories they invoke?

Gratitude! Gratitude is a noun. Gratitude is the quality of being thankful. It is the readiness to show appreciation for and return kindness. But when you are going through a rough time, gratitude may be difficult to acknowledge and express. It is during those times you want to remember gratitude has its benefits:

- Improved mental health
- Better physical health
- Improved sleep quality
- Increased quality and quantity of relationships
- Increased optimism, and resilience
- More energy
- Higher levels of self-esteem

Let's profess "Gratitude - always!"

*Rejoice always. Pray continually.
Give thanks in every situation
because this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
- 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-1*

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) or Marcia Schmidlin, (618 553-2710). Stephen Ministers are available to provide Christian Care.



ROBINSON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT



FRIDAY | **6 PM**
NOVEMBER 14

IN ASBURY FELLOWSHIP HALL

FREE FOOD & DRINKS!

Hot Dogs
Popcorn & Candy
Iced Tea & Lemonade



DRESS CODE

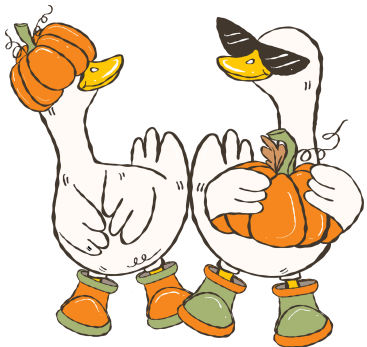
Wear your favorite Christmas
Pajamas!

Can you guess the movie?!

HOSTED BY THE NURTURE TEAM!
ALL ARE WELCOME! INVITE YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS!

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/1 JAXON ACKMAN,
ELSIE QUICK
11/3 DIANE CRAMPTON
11/5 GARY RODGERS
11/7 DEBBIE TEDFORD;
LIAM MIDGETT,
VIVIENNE MIDGETT
11/8 STEPHANIE SCHMIDLIN
11/9 PHIL INBODEN
11/10 MEGAN HABER
11/15 KATHY HARBISON
11/17 MACY DAVIS
11/18 ELMER HARNESS,
BETTY JEAN MALCOLM,
MAX TEDFORD
11/20 LAINEY AYDT,
BRENN A AYDT,
LAURA DHOM
11/22 BOB BELL
11/24 CHRIS MIDGETT
11/26 CHRIS EMKEN
11/28 GRETA LOWRY
11/30 LEONARD GOFF



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

11/4 STACIE & PAT MCMILLAN
11/7 BAILEY & DENNY KNIGHT

PRAYER REQUESTS

Nancy Holley; Hazel DeDoming; Luke Campbell; Letha Stanford; Bonnie Smith; Michelle Hall; Mary Kindt; Doreen Elmore; Mike Brady; Les Thurston; Jeffery Roche; Brian Frost; Brad Salhani; Shelby Kirchoff; Brody Keesling; Donna Beabout; Joe Ferris; Ivy Lee Murray; Tonya Hornback; Cora Childers; Ron Legg; Trevor Seed; Mike Tracy; Kent Tracy; Miranda Bedwell; Art Hall; Brenna Aydt; Jon Anderson; Sarah Valdez; Louie Ferguson; Rita Dallmier; Charlie Shupe; Johnny Berry; Addie Hastings; Mary Ann Kidwell; Amy Kennedy; Clem Aydt; Keegan Pigati; Family of Tyler McCillis; Crystal Werhle; Joe Davis; The Quick Family

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

November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 All Saints' Day 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 OFFICE CLOSED	12 5:30 pm • Second Wednesday Dinner 6:00 pm • Stephen Ministry	13 9:00 am • CHEW 4:00 pm • NOW Bagging	14 7:00 pm • Family Movie Night	15
16 9:00 am • Worship 10:15 am • Sunday School	17 6:00 pm • <i>The Chosen</i> Study • SPRC Meeting	18 5:00 pm • Nurture 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	21	22
23 9:00 am • Worship 10:15 am • Hanging of the Greens 11:15 am • Hanging of the Greens Lunch	24 6:00 pm • <i>The Chosen</i> Study	25 4:00 pm • NOW Bagging	26 6:00 pm • Stephen Ministry	27 OFFICE CLOSED - Happy Thanksgiving! 	28 OFFICE CLOSED -	29
30 9:00 am • Worship 10:15 am • Sunday School						

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