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www.robinsonfumc.org

Information in this field guide is subject to change. Please refer to the website, monthly newsletter, and weekly eNews for the most updated information. To subscribe to our newsletter and eNews, please contact the church office. Thank you!

OUR STAFF

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W O R S H I P

Sunday morning worship begins at 9:00 am in the Sanctuary, live on 101.7 WTYE FM or live streamed at robinsonfumc.org/livestream. Sunday evenings worship service begins at 6:00 pm in the Chapel. The building is handicapped accessible. A staffed nursery is available for families with children during all services.

April 7, 2019

Theme: *Messiah: When it Stings*

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

April 14, 2019 (Palm Sunday)

Theme: *Messiah: King of Glory*

Scripture: Psalm 24:1-10

April 18, 2019 (Maundy Thursday)

Theme: *Messiah: Dashed in Pieces*

Scripture: Psalm 2:1-12

April 21, 2019 (Easter)

Theme: *Messiah: King and Lord*

Scripture: Revelation 19:1-10

April 28, 2019

Theme: *Mission Possible: Go!*

Scripture: Matthew 28:16-20

May 5, 2019

Theme: *Mission Possible: Speak!*

Scripture: Acts 8:26-40

May 12, 2019

Theme: *Mission Possible: Act!*

Scripture: Acts 3:1-10

May 19, 2019

Theme: *Hospitality 101: Welcome*

Scripture: Ruth 1:1-22

May 26, 2019

Theme: *Hospitality 101: Plentiful Harvests*

Scripture: Ruth 2:1-23

June 2, 2019

Theme: *Hospitality 101: Generosity*

Scripture: Ruth 3:1-18

June 9, 2019

Theme: *Hospitality 101: Paying it Forward*

Scripture: Ruth 4: 1-22

June 16, 2019

Theme: *Light and Love: The Gift of Life*

Scripture: 1 John 1:1-10

June 23, 2019

Theme: *Light and Love: A New Commandment*

Scripture: 1 John 2:1-29

June 30, 2019

Theme: *Light and Love: Children Will Abide*

Scripture: 1 John 3:1-24

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday Mornings from 10:15 - 11:00

Faith & Friends

Leader: Janelle Oxford - (618) 544-7857

Faith and Friends is an intergenerational Sunday School group who enjoys studying God's word together and also joining in fellowship and missions. For Lent, we will be studying *Simon Peter: Flawed by Faithful Disciple* by Adam Hamilton. This study will help us to a greater understanding on Simon Peter, the man Jesus called to be the "Rock" on which he built his church. Adam Hamilton's study will take a closer look at Simon Peter while help us apply what we study from Scripture to our personal lives. After our Lenten study, we will be diving into the following two studies: *Unafraid* by Adam Hamilton, which deals living in hope and courage in uncertain times and *Threshold of Discovery: A Field Guide to Spirituality in Midlife* by L. Rogers Owen who explores the spirituality of midlife by facilitating readers' personal journeys through questions of faith, purpose, and relationships. This class enjoys taking turns leading our weekly Bible discussions, supporting each other through life, and reaching out to those who need encouragement through our card ministry.

From time to time, we sneak in some fellowship outside of class and enjoy sharing meals together at various area eateries. Please join us! We have a new location at the top of the stairwell on the 2nd floor across from Nina's office and the elevator. Everyone from any age is welcome to join us! Feel free to contact any of us who belong to Faith and Friends if you would like to learn more or just come join us for Sunday School: Pam and Mike Bell, Tom and Pam Cooper, Robin Davis, Laura and Christopher Dohm, Kathy Harbison, Sheri and David McGahey, Janelle Oxford, Marcia Schmidlin, and Lori Treadway.

Koinonia

Leader: Janis Daugherty

(618) 586-5779

Study: *Faith Connections*

S.P.I.C.E.

(Self-Paced in Christian Education)

Leader: Nina Davis - (618) 421-2156

Study: *#Struggles: Following Jesus in a Selfie-Centered World* by Craig Greeschel

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Kid's Club

Leader: Jay Regennitter - (309) 235-2697

Kids' Club meets Wednesday after school during the school year. We gather in age groups and rotate through chapel, snacks, art, music, and recreation each week. Our activities usually begin by 3:00 pm and end at 5:00 pm. Our last meeting of the school year will be May 8!

Registration Forms:

<https://www.robinsonfumc.org/children>

Refresh

Refresh Student Ministries meets Wednesday mornings during the school year. A group of gentlemen cook breakfast every week, which is available from 6:30-7:00 am. Middle school students then go to Bible study with Janelle Oxford, Brennan Tracy, and Nina Davis. High school students go to Bible study with Pastor Jay. Studies conclude by 7:30 am, and rides are available for students to get to school on time. We invite fifth graders and their parents to come and experience Refresh on Wednesday, May 1. Our last meeting will be Wednesday, May 8.

Registration Forms:

<https://www.robinsonfumc.org/youth>

Sunday School

Kindergarten - 2nd Grade

Leader: Sue Roales - (618) 544-9072

Study: *Deep Blue Connects* - weekly scripture, story and craft

3rd - 5th Grade

Leader: Gary Oxford (618) 544-7857

Study: Discussion and activities are based on the weekly scripture reading in worship service. They also regularly make cards for shut-ins.

Jr. and Sr. High

Leaders: Jay Regennitter - (309) 235-2697;

Janelle Oxford; Amy Hartke

Study: *Embracing the Life of a Christ-Follower*

M.A.T.S. (Moms and Tots Sing)

Birth-PreK

Tuesdays 11am

Antje Pippin - 618-544-2228

Class time includes interactive songs, instrument discovery, take-home activities and snack. Last meeting before summer break will be a picnic in the park on May 7!

N O W P R O G R A M

The NOW Program began in 2013 as a response to a growing population of at-risk children in the Robinson School district. Our three pronged approach allows students to receive meals on weekends through the school year, lunches three times a week in the summer and head back to school with confidence with our back to school shopping day. Please contact Kirbie, firstumcrob@gmail.com, if you would like to volunteer.

NOW Weekend Meal Bagging Dates:

Thursday, April 4 at 4:00 pm
Thursday, April 11 at 4:00 pm
Wednesday, April 17 at 4:00 pm
Thursday, April 25 at 4:00 pm
Thursday, May 2 at 4:00 pm
Thursday, May 9 at 4:00 pm
Thursday, May 16 at 4:00 pm

Food Order Pick-up

We will meet at FUMC at 10:00 am and, as a caravan, head over to Ruler Foods, pick up the order, then we head back to the church and unload it. Those dates are Wednesday, April 3rd and Wednesday, May 8th.

Just One Items

NOW collects one item every month that we give to our students at the Back to School Shopping days.

April: Black & Blue pens and Pencils (Not Dixon brand)

May: Two pocket folder

June: Crayola 10 pack of markers

Summer Lunches

Please use this link if you would like to sign up for any of our summer lunches, every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 10:30 -11:30 am during the summer! They start Tuesday, May 28.

Signup Link: <http://signup.com/go/rcYGAjB>

On Thursday, May 23rd at 4:00 pm
we will be bagging 1,000 summer lunches.

Summer Lunch dates:

May 28th, 29th, 30th

June 4th, 5th, 6th, 11th 12th, 13th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 25th, 26th, 27th

Back to School Shopping Days

The Back to School Shopping days will be here before we know it. We are always collecting school supplies, basic toiletry items, and clothes (4T-Adult XXL). Please keep in mind that these shopping days exist to prepare students to return to school, so all the clothes must be school appropriate.

O U T R E A C H

Women's Jail Ministry

Did you know the women's jail ministry team has been visiting women in the Crawford County Jail since July 2015? We have met many women, some of whom we meet only once and others who have become an important part of our lives to this day. No matter how many women decide to attend "church" for the week, we always have a meaningful time learning more about Jesus and how a closer relationship with God can help us with difficult times in our lives. We typically go in teams of two women: one prepares a Bible devotion lesson, the other leads a discussion with the women on their stories, situations, updates, and prayer requests. We sometimes sing hymns and always end with the Lord's prayer. We also witness and share the love of Jesus with the jailers on duty each week. One evening, one of the women jailers even decided to join us for part of our worship. Each women who attends worship received a Bible from FUMC.

Did you know that the women's jail ministry involves more than just visiting women in jail? This ministry also has a dedicated group of women who make prayer shawls for women released from jail? We have duffel bags prepared with a prayer shawl, a change of clothes, toiletries, information about area agencies, and gift cards to Subway and Walmart. Many of the women need assistance with a change of clothes and toiletries before returning home or heading to rehab facilities. We have felt blessed with the help of our FUMC family through financial support we have been able to continue to provide Bibles for the women we meet, both when we visit and through mailing one to them if they serve time at prison, as well as providing our bags filled with prayer items and daily need items. Walking beside our sisters in Christ has been a blessing for the seven of us who serve in this ministry. If you feel called to introduce Jesus Christ to women needing to know Jesus more personally, then you may be called to serve in our women's jail ministry. We would love to have you join us. We promise, God will change your heart! Contact Pastor Jay, Kirbie, Jennifer Emken, Thelma Gifford, Shannon Goebel, Brenda Graham, Linda Null, Janelle Oxford, Becky Veenstra if you want to learn more! If you are interested in making prayer shawls, please contact Pastor Jay. We thank our congregation for all the prayers and financial support.

Movie Nights

The Outreach Committee is excited to announce the return of our summertime family movie nights. We will enjoy a movie appropriate for all ages outside of the church on the grassy lawn. Additionally, we will serve popcorn and drinks. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets to join us for these heartwarming flicks and fellowship. Mark your calendars for the following Wednesdays: June 12, July 10, and August 14, 2019. More information will be announced as we approach these dates. Hope to see you there! Bring a friend!

Heritage Health

Each 2nd Sunday of the month at 2:30 pm, our church is responsible for providing a worship service for the residents & their families at the Heritage Health Nursing Home in Robinson. It is a time when we pray, worship, sing hymns together, read poetry, scripture, & share communion with one another. Please come & join in this valuable outreach ministry of our church. For more information, please contact the church office.

Lunch Buddy

The Lunch Buddy Program is a program in which adults volunteer their time at WES or LGS, and have lunch with a student that is in need of a positive role model. This program allows for our students to form a meaningful relationship with an adult and studies have shown that even one positive relationship in these children's' lives can do a world of difference. We ask that you please consider donating your time to one of these students by being a buddy!

We will be finishing up the remainder of this school year and will be starting again in August! Please contact Kirbie, firstumcrob@gmail.com, if you would like to get started being a buddy for the 2019-2020 school year! If you don't have the time in your schedule, but want to help out, lunch buddy is always accepting free will donations to help pay for the lunches and the background checks.

Radio Broadcast

One of our most enduring outreach programs is our Sunday morning airing of our church service from our local radio station, WTYE 101.7 FM at 9:00 am. The cost of the broadcast is \$100. Broadcasts can dedicate a broadcast in someone's honor or memory, for a birthday, anniversary, etc. To sign up, call the church office.

Stephen Ministry

As this Field Guide is going to print, Stephen Ministry is gearing up to host the March Second Wednesday Baked Potato Bar with all the fixins. The Second Wednesday meal will be a free-will donation that will serve as a fundraiser to help send our Stephen Leaders to training June 9-15 in Orlando, Florida, and for Stephen Ministry resources. Pastor Jay, Janis Daugherty, Linda Null, Janelle Oxford, and Marcia Schmidlin will be attending this Stephen Leaders Training in June. Our five Stephen Leaders will be trained how to train our own Stephen Ministers and how to develop, organize, and lead a fruitful Stephen Ministry at our church that will provide care ministry to our own members and people within the community. When our Stephen Leaders return in June from their intensive training, they will organize training for our Stephen Ministers. Each Stephen Minister will participate in 50 hours of training before they are ready to provide one-on-one care ministry to others going through a variety of difficult times. Be looking for more information regarding Stephen Minister training.

Our Stephen Ministry has been busy offering care and support in a variety of ways already even before training. Each Sunday, members of Stephen Ministry gather in the chapel at 8:45AM and pray for our worship participants and worship service. After worship, one or more Stephen Ministry members are available in the chapel for personal prayer with those who would like someone to pray with them.

In addition to prayer, Stephen Ministry members have begun reaching out to those who have lost loved ones in the last year. Grief Book sets have been sent to members of our church and friends in the community. As well, we are praying and checking in with those who have lost loved ones. Please feel free to contact Pastor Jay or Kirbie, if you know someone or are someone who has lost a loved one that could benefit from Stephen Ministry Care.

Be looking for those of us with an "Ask Me About Stephen Ministry" pins or check out our table in the Narthex! We are here to help you learn more about Stephen Ministry or begin connecting you or those you know with the prayer and grief support we are prepared to provide at this time. Many have asked, why is this called Stephen Ministry? In the book of Acts, Stephen was chosen to provide caring ministry to those in need. Since the time of the Apostles, caring ministry has been considered a hallmark of the Christian faith community. Here are some of the blessings of Stephen Ministry: Congregations receive a practical and powerful way to respond to Christ's commandment: "Love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12 RSV). Pastors have a team of gifted, trained, and committed lay caregivers ready to minister to hurting people. Laypeople nurture and use their gifts in meaningful ministry, growing spiritually as they serve others. People who are hurting have a compassionate companion—a caring Christian friend who provides emotional and spiritual support. Please contact Pastor Jay or Janelle Oxford if you feel called to serve and join ministry team. All are welcome and all can serve in a variety of ways! We hope you will prayerfully consider how to be a part of Stephen Ministry.

S P R C

The next Staff Parish Relations Committee meeting dates are April 19, May 15, and June 19. The committee is participating in the Illinois Great River Conference church assignment program. We will be starting our March meeting by starting a video series about the Pastor and Parish Committee and our duties. This will take the next several months. We will also be announcing the employee of the month each month.

This ministry is focused on strong relationships between the Staff and Congregation and between the congregation and the district superintendent/ It is our duty to keep all informed of the happening in the church and to keep a watchful eye over all staff, congregation and all ministries.

S P E C I A L E V E N T S

Maundy Thursday

First United Methodist will host Otterbein United Methodist for the Maundy Thursday service April 18, at 7:00pm. The service will begin in Asbury Hall. Asbury is the fellowship hall on the education side of the church building. Enter through the glass doors by the church office. After beginning in Asbury, the service will continue in the sanctuary. This service helps us to remember the last supper of Jesus, and communion will be offered.

F I N A N C E

Finance Fun Facts

At First UMC, we are blessed with a congregation of generous givers, who seriously and prayerfully answer the call to support the church and its ministries. And we thank you for that! In return, the Finance Committee wants to make sure we share the various ways your generosity benefits the church, our ministries, and our community! Our first highlight will be two unique areas of giving: the foundation and the capital campaign.

The foundation is an investment fund church members can give to at any time, although typically the funds come from gifts written in to someone's will. There is a committee that helps oversee this investment fund, and each year they disperse interest from the fund to the church, to be used for education and worship activities.

This past year, the church was given \$7,094 from the foundation, which will be used for tablets and Bible apps for all youth ministries, Stephen ministry training and materials, new choir robes, and a fence for the west lot to ensure children's safety. The foundation is a unique way to give, that allows your gift to continue growing and benefiting our ministries that make disciples of Jesus!

As many of you know, the capital campaign has been an ongoing three-year campaign aiming to raise \$465,000 in order to accomplish three goals. The first goal of the campaign was to purchase/demolish the building next to us, which has been accomplished! The second goal was to pay off the loan our church acquired when rebuilding the sanctuary. The loan balance started at \$250,000, but only has \$46,000 remaining! That is an amazing example of your generosity. The last goal of the campaign is to repair the parking lots, which is a goal I have no doubt we will achieve. Though the capital campaign is a long process, it is an area of generosity that sets us up to expand as God calls our church forward to continue reaching members of our community.

O N L I N E G I V I N G

Chip-In

Chip-In is a product created by our company, Beyond.

<https://www.getbeyond.com/chip-in>

There are two sides to our Chip-In technology -- "Donate" and "Buy". We propose using Chip-In to create a simple donation page which can be used across all channels -- on our website, in newsletters, on Facebook, or by texting -- to allow donors to use their credit or debit cards to give to the church. This same link also can be set up to sell tickets to special events, or collect donations of designated gifts, such as Youth, Missions, Capital Campaign, etc. Additionally, we provide "virtual terminal" credentials which allows the church office to take a credit card donation or payment over the phone. I've attached a document which shows several special event ticketing pages for other nonprofits we work with.

The "Buy" side of Chip-In creates a new revenue stream when members purchase from our network of merchants who give back to the community. This technology includes a mobile app the donor downloads to their smart phone. The supporter would select First UMC as their favorite charity, then securely link their credit or debit card and use that card to buy from businesses. This program is just launching in our area, but it will be a great way to buy local while raising money for our mission. Here's a link to an explanatory video. You can find the app in your phone's app store by searching for "Beyond Chip-In".

There is no cost to sign up for the program or any of the special features. The only cost is for processing the actual donation payment. Our fee is a flat 2.25% + \$0.10/transaction, with no other monthly charges. Additionally, we prompt the donor to cover the cost of processing, which they frequently do.

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