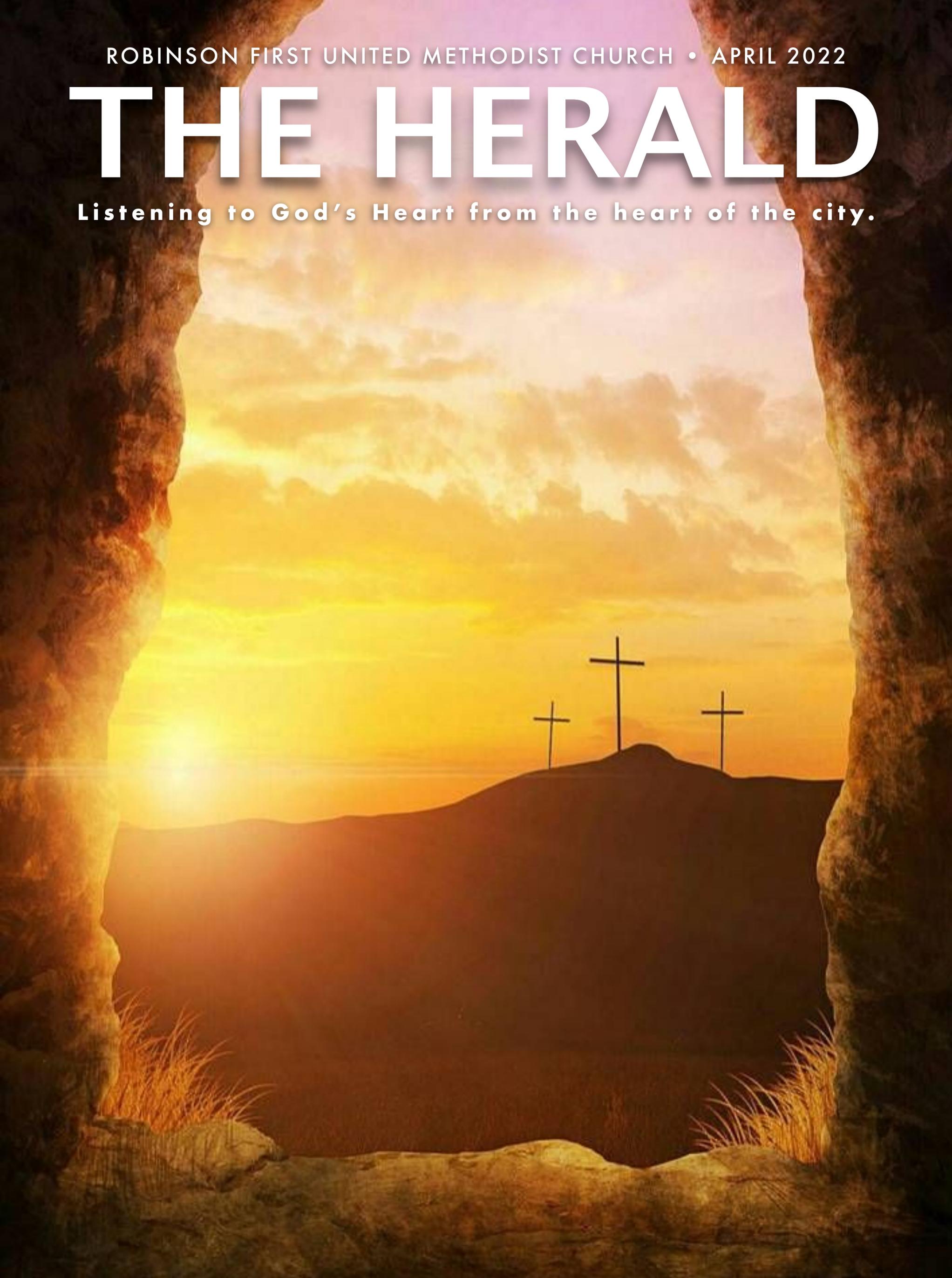


ROBINSON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH • APRIL 2022

THE HERALD

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



From the Pastor's Desk

I hope you are all having a blessed Lent! This time of introspection can certainly help each one of us on our faith journey. I have heard several positive comments about the daily devotions we are using, as well as the Lenten healing services conducted by Stephen Ministry.

The journey continues this month! Easter falls late this year (April 17), but our Holy Week services will give you an opportunity for further reflection, particularly on the last days of Jesus' life. Our worship committee has planned two services to help you experience this part of the journey. There will be an interactive worship service on Thursday, April 14, at 7:00 pm (masks recommended) and will include communion, music, and prayer. Friday, April 15, at 7:00 pm (masks recommended) will be a service of the word and movement from light to darkness as we think about Christ's passion and death. I hope you will join us on this part of the journey.

Easter Sunday also promises to be glorious (more on masking updates can be found elsewhere in this edition of The Herald), with festive services at both 9:00 and 10:30 am. There will be no Sunday school classes meeting that day, so that families can worship together and then spend their day together as well. You'll want to join us for this festive time as we celebrate Christ's victory over death!

I hope to see you in worship (in person, online, or over the radio) soon!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Regan", enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Pastor Jay

Letter from Church Council

Hello Everyone,

I wanted to take a moment to relay to you your Church Council's recent review of the mask policy. Starting on April 17th, Easter Sunday, both services will be masks recommended. Beginning the following Sunday, April 24th, and going forward, there will only be one service at 9AM with masks recommended. For other church activities, masks are recommended. For church activities involving children, we will be following the Robinson school district's requirements. The church will provide N95 masks for anyone that would like one and there will be a section in the front on the right for those that would feel safer socially distancing that way.

We spent multiple meetings discussing the mask issue in detail. Everyone was allowed time to give their opinion as well as share any comments heard from our fellow congregation members, content from letters received was shared, and multiple ideas were discussed and debated. I want everyone to know that your voices were heard.

These are extraordinary times and your church council is working diligently to set policies that will allow worship to be as inclusive as possible. Never before in our history have we had as many different opportunities for participating in our worship services, Sunday school, Bible study, or even committee meetings. I hope and pray that any policies we make are guided by God's hand and will lead to His glory.

Lastly, I want to remind everyone that Kirbie is on the front lines, but neither she nor the staff make the policies. If you are unhappy or feel that your voice is not being heard, please direct your concerns towards the church council. I would ask that when you do so, please, do it with compassion and patience. These are times when we must build each other up, not tear each other down. Everyone at the meetings reviewed the policies from a place of love for each other and for you.

With Love,

Robert Quick, Church Council Chairperson

Sunday School Bake Sale

Current events can lay heavily on our minds as well as in the minds of our youth. Last week when we were taking turns praying at the end of our Sunday School class, I was quite touched that well over half our students mentioned Ukrainians in their prayers. Since it is on their minds, we have some thoughts to show our support of the citizens of Ukraine. This week we will be making sunflowers, the national flower of Ukraine, and hanging them by doorways throughout the church. On April 3, we will sponsor a bake sale between services to raise money to send to UMCOR of which one half will go to international efforts and the other half to assist in our national response to crises. It will be a free will donation. If anyone would like to make baked goods for us to sell, please contact Gary Oxford at 618-553-5267.

Finance Fun Facts

Our giving is down from last year but the finance committee is feeling very optimistic that we are going to get through this! Most of the time we always think that it's the designated fund and we forget that the general fund is what takes care of the church's basic needs.

Utilities are going up all over and Robinson FUMC is no exception. We are inviting and encouraging everyone to help keep the church a safe place for our congregation. By giving to the general fund you are helping the finance committee make sure that the utilities are covered so that we can continue to keep FUMC hosting and providing all the ministries that we all know and love.

Schedule for Chancel Choir and Glory Handbells:

Chancel Choir will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 3rd, to rehearse and record music for March. Glory Handbells will meet at 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 10th and February 24th. Anyone interested in joining choir or bells is encouraged to join our crew!

Second Wednesday Dinner

The Couple's Small Group is hosting this month's Second Wednesday Dinner on March 13th! This event will be a fundraiser to help fund the new playground. The menu will be ham, glazed carrots, green beans, mashed potatoes, rolls, and carrot cake. It will be a free-will donation with options to carry out or dine in the church. Please sign up in advance so we know how much food to prepare:

<https://forms.gle/FAgHhDfkYBFXKTRQA>

Care News from Stephen Ministry

“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” - John 13: 34-35

Jesus Christ gave this commandment to his disciples hours before his crucifixion. Jesus reveals what love is through his life, death, and resurrection. We follow his command to “love one another” when we are present for someone going through a challenging time.

However, we may sometimes wonder how to provide care. We might worry about how to say the “right things”. Because providing a listening ear and kind words is a struggle for all, your Stephen Ministers meet monthly for continuing education. These sessions have been recorded and are available for anyone and everyone to view by accessing the church’s youtube playlist.

Some of the Stephen Ministry continuing education topics include:

- Caring for Caregivers
- Caring for the Grieving
- Caring for Those with an Empty Nest
- Caring for Military and Their Families
- Family Systems Theory and Stephen Ministry
- Healing Services: March 6, 13, 20, 27 and April 3



Link to Robinson FUMC Playlist: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzfaMTu7HKuU5J71TZEaYjQcludC6yz>

**“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice.”
- Ephesians 5:1**

*If you or someone you know is in need of compassionate Christian care, please contact Pastor Jay. Stephen Ministers are available to provide Christian care.

NOW

NOW Weekend Meal Bagging is back in full swing! We bag, most weeks, on Thursdays at 4:00 pm. We would love to have you volunteer!



The Just-One Item for March will be blue or black ink pens! If you would like to donate please drop off your donation in the box right outside the church office!

April Birthdays

4/4	Doug Finkbiner
4/13	Valerie Wright
4/15	George Hays
4/17	Janet Miller
4/18	Fiona Knight
4/19	Alisa Lowry
4/22	Lucas Bell, Connie Calvert; Michele Elliott
4/23	Melinda Harmon
4/24	Hayden Treadway
4/26	Amy McGahey, Becky Veenstra
4/27	Dennis Inboden, Jennifer Emken
4/30	Elizabeth Nolan

April Anniversaries

4/4	Steve & Rita Diel
4/9	Ken & Nancy Mattsey
4/29	Floyd & Sabra Adams

Prayer Requests

Jeremy Markello; Carol Wolf; Carl Blanton; Michael Brady; Cathy Thomas; Judson Richardson; Julie Zhang; Bill Thompson; Michael Keene; John Larrabee; Nicole Young; Evan Prah; Richard Youngs; Kay Young; Vonnetta Shipman; Becky Goodwin; Caius Bell; Ray & Nelda Dotson; Kim Collins; Claudette Mejean; Demmie Long; Emma Bodine; Charles Hough; Sheltyn James Henry; Rick Pritchard; Laurie Vaughn; Wally Leggit; Judy Eckert; Lisa Schaefer; Matthew Williams; Larry Potts; Patricia Hodgson; Pamela Hart; Paul Davis; Kathy Kennedy; Tina Klender; Duane Parker; Ruth Fiscus; Jan Riker; Dustin Ikemire; Robin Bray; Greg Faylor; Susan Rodgers; Melinda Ashby; Brad Smith; Leah Buser; Kamillah Rollins; Donna Ferry; Janice Woods; Carl Janney; Lou Bonnell; Cathy Devalle; Heather Karbach; Dan Davis; Nay Owens; Hart Odom; Jennifer Newlin; Marsha Strader; Janet Clark; Bernie Limper, Dick Mitchell; Mark Killian; Anna Marie Miller; Thelma Gifford; Jon Anderson; Melinda Wehrle; Ashley Reed; Nita Stone; Diane Crampton; Pam Hill; Margaret Zeleny; Dale Kamplain; Raymond Kidwell; Rhea Hayden; The Lankston Family; Lesley Albert; Dave Freeland; Gina Colliflower; Janette Routien; Melissa Cupp; Joann Musgrave, Donetia Holmes, Cindy Weger; Doug Mammoser; Blain Loll



APRIL 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
KEY:						
IP - In-Person						
Z - Zoom						
HY - Hybrid; both in-person and Zoom						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7:30 am - Koinonia Class (Z)		6:30 pm - Lenten Study (HY)	6:30 am - Refresh (IP)	9:30 am - Lenten Study (HY)		10:00 am - United Way Chili Cook-off
9:00 am - Worship (IP - Masks Required, Livestream, YouTube and Radio)			3:00 pm - Kids Club (IP)	4:00 pm - NOW Weekend Meal Bagging (IP)		
10:00 am - Bake Sale - Older Elementary Sunday school class (IP)			6:30 pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal (IP)	6:00 pm - Glory Handbell Rehearsal (IP)		
10:30 am - Worship (IP, Masks Optional) - Sunday school (HY)						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Palm Sunday		6:30 pm - Lenten Study (HY)	6:30 am - Refresh (IP)	Maundy Thursday	Good Friday	
7:30 am - Koinonia Class (Z)			3:00 pm - Kids Club (IP)	9:30 am - Lenten Study (HY)	Office Closed	
9:00 am - Worship (IP with Masks, Livestream, YouTube and Radio)			4:30 pm - NOW Weekend Meal Bagging (IP)	7:00 pm - Maundy Thursday Service (IP - Masks Recommended, Livestream, and YouTube)	7:00 pm - Good Friday Service (IP - Masks Recommended, Livestream, and YouTube)	
10:30 am - Worship (IP, Mask Optional) - Sunday school (HY)			5:00 pm - Second Wednesday Dinner (IP and Drive-Thru)			
4:30 pm - Stephen Leaders			6:30 pm - Stephen Ministry (IP)			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Easter Sunday			6:30 am - Refresh (IP)	9:30 am - MATS (IP)		
9:00 am - Worship (IP - Masks Required, Livestream, YouTube and Radio)			3:00 pm - Kids Club (IP)	4:00 pm - NOW Weekend Meal Bagging (IP)		
10:30 am - Worship (IP - Masks Optional)			6:00 pm - Committee Meetings (HY)			
			7:00 pm - Church Council (HY)			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
7:30 am - Koinonia Class (Z)			6:30 am - Refresh (IP)	9:30 am - MATS (IP)		
9:00 am - Worship (IP - Masks Recommended, Livestream, YouTube and Radio)			3:00 pm - Kids Club (IP)	4:00 pm - NOW Weekend Meal Bagging (IP)		
10:15 am - Sunday school (HY)						

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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Director of Christian Education: Nina Davis

Communications Coordinator: Brennan Seth Tracy

Music Director: Antje Pippin

Organist/Pianist: Brenda Graham

Custodians: Amy DeDoming, Mark DeDoming

Nursery Staff: Anita Cohoon, Marnie Inboden

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