

Robinson FUMC

THE HERALD

April 2026

THE PASTOR'S PEN: Change Directions

The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living. It's our handle on what we can't see. The act of faith is what distinguished our ancestors, set them above the crowd.

Hebrews 11:1-2 MSG



One day recently I was helping a person utilize the elevator at the church. As we were on the third floor and needing to reach the 1st floor. I pushed the button for the elevator and the doors opened. When they did, I noticed a person standing inside the elevator smiling at me and my travel partner. They stated, "well this is not the floor I wanted." I asked, "where are you trying to go?" and the reply was simple, "the floor by the sanctuary." Hmm, I thought we haven't been having any problems, but I know our elevator and anything is possible. So, the three of us boarded the elevator and I pushed the button for the sanctuary floor and the 1st floor.

As we reached the sanctuary level my travel partner was still facing the door from the 2nd floor. As the sanctuary floor was reached the door opened as it should but, the person was facing the wrong direction and didn't realize that they needed to change their perspective to reach their intended location. I feel that this may be the same struggle that is plaguing the church worldwide. We are facing the wrong direction when the door opens, and we are so lost in our routines and thoughts that we don't acknowledge the door opening behind us. In the past several months God has been directing the church in a new and exciting direction. God is opening doors in

communities that were often thought to be sealed shut. God has opened communities of believers that are just needing to be invited in. The issue at hand though is those magic words that every church struggles with, "we have always done it this way." God is simply asking us to change our perspectives on the directions that we should be approaching ministry in this ever-changing world.

God is instructing the church to not only see the people but to be a part of those same people. We all have an abundance of ideas, goals, and purposes but once we acknowledge that there is a new way to reach the people we can see where God is asking us to simply turn around and enjoy the ride.

You never know about our elevator ride, but it is always an adventure,

See you in Church!

Pastor Terry

CONTACT PASTOR TERRY AT ROBINSONFUMCPASTOR@GMAIL.COM

www.robinsonefumc.org • 201 W. Walnut St. Robinson, IL • (618) 544-8016

What's Happening at Robinson FUMC?

Second Wednesday Dinner

April Second Wednesday Dinner is a fundraiser for VBS. Fazoli's is catering! Serving spaghetti with meat sauce or marinara, Fettuccine alfredo, salad and dessert! Sign up at the Care & Connection table or call the office by April 6th.

VBS 2026

It may be March, but our Outreach Committee is already planning our VBS this summer! Once again, this event for EVERYONE. The theme this year is Rainforest Falls. It will be June 7-11 from 5:30-8:00 pm.

Sign up to help!
If you have any questions, contact Brandon at 618.553.0767 or fumcrobyouth@gmail.com


Robinson FUMC

Laundry Day

Want to get involved?
Contact the Outreach Committee!



at Country Washtub
1310 West Main Street, Robinson, IL



NOW Program's Just - One Item for April: Pencil Box

Donations can be made in the church office!



Second Wednesday Dinner

April 8th at 5:30 pm

FAZOLI'S CATERING



A DONATION OF \$10 IS SUGGESTED TO COVER COSTS, BUT PLEASE GIVE WHAT YOU CAN TO SUPPORT FUMC'S VBS!
SIGN UP AT THE CARE & CONNECTIONS TABLE!

SOMETHING TO ADD NEXT MONTH? EMAIL FIRSTUMCROB.COMMS@GMAIL.COM

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A Note From CREW:

March was another active month for CREW! For starters, we added the high school age into the mix with regular every other week meetings. The first meeting had around 15 kids involved and we all had a great evening together discussing the future of the group and what they would like to gain from the experience. Afterward, we all spent the evening eating ice cream and playing Spoons. A gathering that I expected to be around an hour ended up being two and a half hours. They were having so much fun that they didn't want to leave, which is an amazing accomplishment with a bunch of high schoolers. I look forward to seeing how this group develops and grows!

Another great thing that happened in March was our 2nd lock-in with the 3rd through 8th grade group. We had 32 kids show up at the beginning, a couple left because they had early plans the next morning, but we had an amazing turnout and a great group of kids. I took a picture of my office before everything really got going. It showed many, many blankets and pillows all set out into spots where about half of the girls wanted to sleep. It showed my table pushed out of the way, my table chairs piled upon each other and my desk, and it showed the excitement in which everything was placed. I put two posts out on Facebook about that evening, and instead of rewriting what I already put together, I thought it might be best just to copy what I had already articulated in the moments:

Here is the first post, right after I had gone shopping for the food and snacks:

Here's the haul for the lock in tomorrow..... Someone called me crazy this evening for having CREW Wednesday, Thursday, and then an overnight on Friday. I must say that I can agree with that statement a little, but it's hard for me to tell kids no. At least 2 new kids tonight, at least 2 more tomorrow, and the numbers grow all the time. Some nights we don't have a lot of kids, some nights we have enough that I could use 3 more helpers. Getting kids in front of the Lord, in front of adults who truly care, in an environment that they feel safe, and just being there for them. That's what it's all about for me, and for everyone who helps in the program. I can't thank those who have helped and offered support enough. I truly can't do it alone. If you want to donate your time for a quick lesson with the kids, offer to come play games, or even help pay for some of the goodies that help keep them coming, please let me know. For example, this haul from tonight was \$120, plus probably about \$120 worth of pizza tomorrow evening. This will continue to nourish not only the bodies of our youth, but keeps them coming for nourishment of their souls. Thank you for everyone's support

Here is the second post, after the lock-in was over, and after knowing the much bigger turn-out:

Here is a small portion of the coordinated chaos at it's initial and early inception..... Before the actual activities began, the tables had to be pushed out of the way, chairs stacked up and out of the way, resting spots reserved, etc. This is all in my office, which was claimed by an amazing group of girls, and I was willing to let them have it for the night. All of this was to make room for the fun, games, snacks, singing, dancing, "sleeping", and overall character building, soul saving fellowship that took place last night. There was one AMAZING PROBLEM.... We had DOUBLE the amount of youth that we expected to show. We had to go and get double the pizza and breadsticks. We had to figure out the logistics for more than double the kids we had in January. We had youth who have been coming to our regular CREW meetings, but never to a lock in, show up. We had youth who have never even been to a regular CREW meeting yet, show up. When I asked them if they would become regulars, they stated that they thought that they would. At pick up time I had a mother walk straight up to me specifically to shake my hand and give a true thank you for allowing her child to be involved. This was their first involvement with CREW and FUMC and I can assure you that it won't be their last. Much needed bonds were formed and they appreciated the efforts put forth for the program. On my desk is a plaque that reads "Chaos Coordinator". Some days I feel this heavily but the rewards are outweighing costs!

Once again, thank you to everyone for their support!

-Brandon Harmon

WANT TO GET INVOLVED WITH CREW? CONTACT BRANDON TODAY!

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Care News from Stephen Ministry



Laughter is good medicine! Have fun this April! Be silly!

Doing something silly will make you laugh, and laughing is very good medicine. Laughing lowers stress, helps with anxiety, aids the immune system, improves mood, and enhances overall well being. Here are some silly suggestions for you to try:

- Draw a self-portrait with your non-dominant hand. Embrace the hilarity of your artwork.
- Watch silly videos. Have you seen the ones where folks scare their cats?
- Make a gratitude list using only emojis.
- Talk to yourself in a funny voice or accent. If you answer yourself, use a different accent.
- Have a solo dance party in your living room. Disco away like John Travolta.
- Bake cookies. And, please share them with your friends.
- Create a necklace out of clover flowers just like you did as a child.
- Learn a random skill on YouTube: how to fold a fancy napkin or make an origami swan.
- Make a list of your five favorite smells.
- If you are daring, wear two different socks. Two different shoes might be uncomfortable.
- Eat a scoop of Superman ice cream so that your tongue is stained blue.
- Sing to your plants. If you don't sing to them, tell them a story. They'll love the attention.
- Do anything that will make you laugh, because laughter is the best medicine.

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.

LOTS OF THINGS HAPPENING AT FUMC! GET INVOLVED!

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News from the Nurture Committee

March was a busy time for the Nurture Team. Our Life 101 gathering with Sour Dough Basics was an evening of fun as Annetta taught the entire process from making a starter to feeding, shaping, baking and tasting! Is there anything you've been wanting to learn to do but didn't know where to start? Let us know as we plan and coordinate for other Life 101 events!

Later in the summer we will offer Preserving Produce when the community garden is in full swing. Plans are also in the works for a Cake and Cookie Decorating Class with a VERY special guest teacher! More on that later. We are SO excited to offer these opportunities to learn from each other, but more importantly, to spend time getting to know one another outside of Sunday mornings!

The Palm Sunday Brunch was a HUGE hit along with the Easter Egg Hunt for the kids! The Nurture Team appreciated all the support with the candy and treats for the kiddos! We had a surprise guest join us Sunday morning, our District Superintendent, Rev. Sarah Isabel. Pastor Terry is very happy to report that she was amazed at the warm welcomes she received and truly enjoyed worshipping with us and the brunch. We are excited for more opportunities to gather and fellowship with our church family.

In the works for May - a dinner to recognize ALL of the women in our church. In June we will appreciate our men with an Ice Cream Party!

Lastly, if YOU have an idea for an event or gathering, OR you just want to be part of the fun in planning and executing, PLEASE reach out to someone on the Nurture Team and join us! Or just come to one of our monthly meetings - they are posted on the church calendar and in the weekly bulletins!



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK! WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ROBINSONFUMC

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Odds & Ends

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 4/4** Doug Finkbiner,
Ben Midgett, Sam Midgett
4/13 Valerie Wright
4/15 George Hays
4/17 Janet Miller
4/18 Fiona Knight
4/19 Alisa Lowry
4/20 Nathaniel Lornes
4/22 Lucas Bell,
Connie Calvert
4/23 Melinda Harmon
4/24 Hayden Treadway
4/26 Amy Allen,
Becky Veenstra
4/27 Jennifer Emken,
Annetta Evans

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

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

PRAYER REQUESTS

Nancy Holley; Hazel DeDoming;
Luke Campbell; Letha Stanford;
Bonnie Smith; Michelle Hall;
Doreen Elmore; Mike Brady;
Les Thurston; Jeffery Roche;
Brian Frost; Brad Salhani;
Brody Keesling; Donna
Beabout; Ivy Lee Murray; Ron
Legg; Trevor Seed; Kent Tracy;
Miranda Bedwell; Brenna Aydt;
Jon Anderson; Louie Ferguson;
Charlie Shupe; Addie Hastings;
Mary Ann Kidwell; Keegan
Pigati; Crystal Werhle; Anne
Tarran; Tanya Gullet; Tyler
Wortheam; Raymond Reynolds;
Art Hall; Brenda Graham; Aric
White; Adam MacKendrick;
Tracy Jones; Mary Kindt;
Stephanie Batman; David
Kluender; Mattie Davis; Dawn
Keeton; Judy Rice; College
students traveling; Mallory
Tague & Family; Otie Tuttle;
Rachel Tracy; The family of
Berenice Kibler; Melinda
Wehrle; Connie Carter; Ben
Ackman



WE ARE ALWAYS NEEDING VOLUNTEERS! CONTACT KIRBIE TO GET INVOLVED!

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April 2026 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:00 pm • Outreach Meeting	2 9:00 am • CHEW 6:00 pm • CREW (K-8) 7:00 pm • Holy Thursday Service	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4 9:00 am • Laundry Day
5 <i>Easter Sunday</i> 9:00 am • Worship 10:15 am • Sunday School	6 6:00 pm • Lay Leadership Meeting	7	8 5:30 pm • Second Wednesday Dinner 6:00 pm • Stephen Ministry • CREW (K-8) 7:30 pm • CREW (HS)	9 9:00 am • CHEW 4:00 pm • NOW Bagging 6:00 pm • CREW (K-8)	10	11
12 9:00 am • Worship 10:15 am • Sunday School	13 6:00 pm • SPRC	14 5:00 pm • Nurture Meeting	15 11:30 am • Circle of Love 6:00 pm • Education & Trustees Meetings 7:00 pm • Church Council	16 9:00 am • CHEW 4:00 pm • NOW Bagging 6:00 pm • CREW (K-8)	17	18
19 9:00 am • Worship 10:15 am • Sunday School	20 6:00 pm • Finance Meeting	21	22 6:00 pm • CREW • Stephen Ministry 6:00 pm • CREW (K-8) 7:30 pm • CREW (HS)	23 9:00 am • CHEW 4:00 pm • NOW Bagging 6:00 pm • CREW (K-8)	24	25
26 9:00 am • Worship 10:15 am • Sunday School	27	28	29	30 9:00 am • CHEW 4:00 pm • NOW Bagging 6:00 pm • CREW (K-8)		

WANT TO SCHEDULE AN EVENT AT THE CHURCH? CONTACT THE OFFICE.

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ROBINSON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor: Terry Evans
Office Manager: Kirbie Ackman
Director of Youth and Family Engagement: Brandon Harmon
Communications Coordinator: Brennan Seth Tracy
Worship Leader: Daniel Boatman
Accompanist: Kayla Holscher
Custodians: Amy DeDoming, Mark DeDoming



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