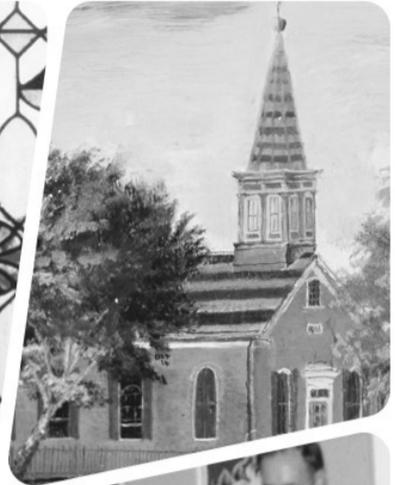


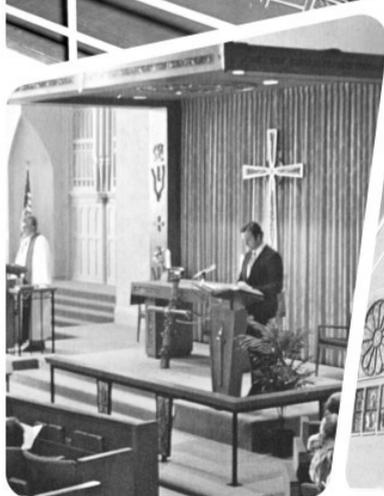
ROBINSON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH • JUNE 2021

# THE HERALD

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



**175th Anniversary  
1846 - 2021**



## FIRST MISSION

Our congregation has always sought to make disciples of Jesus Christ. This month, we look back at how we have fulfilled the mission Jesus gave to his disciples, the church.

## From the Pastor's Desk

On Ascension Sunday (May 16), I reminded us that Jesus gave his disciples commissions - directives for missions - and we looked at the commissions in the Synoptic gospels. These commissions remind us that the church has always had a mission. In Luke's gospel, Jesus beckons the disciples to proclaim repentance and forgiveness; Mark's gospel compels the disciples to share the good news with all creation. Matthew's gospel sends the disciples to the world to make disciples of Jesus Christ, baptizing and spreading his teachings.

That's what the church is supposed to do! We have a story, as the hymn says, "to tell to the nations..." In our more recent past, First United Methodist Church revisited what our mission is, and felt that we could express it this way: *Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ and share the love of God in word and deed.* This church has a rich history of doing that through revivals, lay witness missions, worship, Sunday school, Walnut Street Kids, jail ministry, Stephen Ministry, and more. We've supported missionaries and sent students out to repair damage to homes affected by natural disasters. We've fed the hungry and clothed the naked.

No church that's alive and well ever stops doing their mission. We should not rest on our laurels and accomplishments over the last 175 years. Until Jesus returns, we have work to do. And, as it has been for the last 175 years, it will continue to be: the methods of delivery may change, but the message will not. Let's continue to live out our mission in ministry together, brothers and sisters!

I will see you in worship (every week - read further about reopening)!



Pastor Jay

## Reopening: Next Phase

After 15 months of this pandemic, one thing seems certain: we struggle to see the whole picture beyond our own experience. The reality is that our congregation has had many different experiences with COVID, and people are all over the map about re-opening. We want you to know that we have received and heard people's feedback, but also to remind everyone that your feedback comes from your own perspective, and every perspective is but one lens through which to view the situation. When we began reopening in April, we assured you that the plan was for a season, and asked you to be flexible in your understanding; we are thankful for those that showed such flexibility. That season passed as the state of Illinois moved into the bridge phase, and we increased attendance capacity for the last cycle of worship attendance in May. And now, as we enter into June, we want to share the next phase of re-opening with you.

Beginning Sunday, June 6, you will see several changes. First, we will be moving the 6:00 pm service to 10:30 am. Each Sunday, we will now hold services at 9:00 am and 10:30 am. The 9:00 am service will be in-person and digital (livestream and radio) and the 10:30 am service will be in person. You should plan to attend one of the services EACH week, but **you will need to sign up to attend**, as you have been doing. Each service will have a maximum capacity of 75 persons for the month of June. We will offer a staffed nursery for ages birth to 5 only; we will not be offering children's church. If metrics remain low, we will increase capacity at the services each month. *At the 9:00 am service, masks will be required*, because we want to make space for those who have health concerns or approach a return to worship cautiously. *At the 10:30 am service, masks will be optional*, because we want to make space for those who do not wish to wear a mask or are fully vaccinated and want to take advantage of the new CDC guidelines. When you arrive, you'll need to check in at the welcome center and have your temperature checked. We will continue to monitor metrics and guidance on mask-wearing and temperature-taking, and will adjust accordingly in upcoming months.

Again, as we look at the big picture, we recognize that we have people ready to return to in-person classes and meetings, and others who are not ready to do so. You'll note that Lori Treadway's June prayer class will be meeting in a hybrid format (in-person and online, for those that need that option), and that our July VBS will be held in a similar fashion. We are able to do those things currently because we have two spaces equipped to do so. We are currently working on the infrastructure to have all of our 2nd floor and 1st floor classrooms in the education wing set up for hybrid meetings. When we have things in place, we will begin to have church meetings in this hybrid format, and we will also be able to have Sunday school in the hybrid format. Until we have the equipment in place to do so, Sunday school and committee meetings will continue to be held via Zoom.

Friends, we are turning the corner. Please continue to hold one another in high regard and care. Do not shame people who feel differently than you about masks, vaccinations, and reopening. We will each do well if we remember the great commandment: to love God, and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

- FUMC Church Council



## **Peace with Justice Sunday**

When you support Peace with Justice Sunday, your gift becomes a voice for advocacy around the world. Together we strengthen God's family with ministries that challenge structures of inequality and empower people and communities through systemic change.

Peace with Justice Sunday was Sunday May 30th. If you would like to donate please return the offering envelope, that is included in your newsletter, to the church office.

## **NOW**

The Just-One item for June will be socks! We are collecting size 4T through all adult sizes. If you would like to make a donation please drop it off in the box outside the church office.

## **Stephen Ministry Second Wednesday Dinner**

On Wednesday, June 9th, Stephen Ministry will be hosting a drive through cookout! They will be serving pork burgers and hotdogs from 4:00 - 6:00 pm. Please use the alley entrance between FUMC and Hello Gorgeous, Franklin St entrance. Our volunteers will get your name and bring your meal to your car for a freewill donation. Place your order by using the following link or by calling the church office.

<https://forms.gle/sFgeDuEUYfuJU8VX6>

## **Plans to Celebrate the 175th Anniversary: Requests from the Worship Committee**

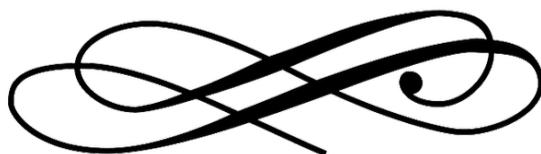
Please help the Worship Committee make our 175th Anniversary more memorable. We are seeking mementos for a timeline display. Items of interest would be old bulletins, church directories, attendance pins, items from the ladies' circles, and especially photos. Start digging through your treasures to help us share memories. Please label and mark any items you would like to display. We will set up a collection spot and promise to keep them safe until their return to you after our October celebration. Time to start digging and reminiscing!

## **Summer Offerings from the Arts**

If you or a family member would like to present a poem, reading or musical offering during worship this summer, please contact Antje to schedule. Remember, there are two Sunday morning services now and we would appreciate your help with both services. Dates are available in June, July and August. Call (618-562-0859) or email [antje2959@hotmail.com](mailto:antje2959@hotmail.com) if you would like to help with worship. You can also go to the link on the church website to sign up. Can't wait to see you and hear you!!

## **VBS Volunteers**

VBS will July 12-16, and we will soon need volunteers. VBS will be held in person but also on Zoom. The times will be 9:00 - 10:30 am and 1:00 - 2:30 pm. Registration will be available soon. We need volunteers to lead art, games, and Bible stories. If you are interested in helping, please contact the church office.



## Care News from Stephen Ministry

*United Methodists are disciples of Jesus Christ who continue to heed the lessons John Wesley taught his followers: to live lovingly and justly as servants of Christ by healing the sick, feeding the hungry, caring for the stranger, freeing the oppressed; being a compassionate presence, and working to develop social structures that are consistent with the gospel. <https://www.umc.org/en/how-we-serve/we-are-disciples>*

Did you know the word “disciple” appears in the New Testament 261 times in the gospels and the book of Acts? This is a fact according to Dr. Robert L. Foster, lecturer in religion at the University of Georgia. In his article for the Society for Biblical Literature, “Discipleship in the New Testament”, Dr. Foster addresses what it meant to be a disciple. “In the ancient Hellenistic world a disciple was a pupil or learner of a great teacher.” We know the great teacher in the gospels is Jesus.

Stephen Ministry follows Jesus’s example of discipleship by loving and connecting with others. Stephen Ministers are firm in God’s word; they meet in fellowship with other believers; they are dedicated and steadfast while investing in this church’s mission.

### Upcoming in June for Stephen Ministry:

**June 9** - Cookout for Second Wednesday Dinner

(For more details, look on the previous page of this newsletter.)

**June 23** - Stephen Ministry continuing education, “How to Care for a Caregiver” and supervision

### You are invited!

The Stephen Ministry team is dedicated to learning more about better providing care for care receivers. On June 23, Linda Null will facilitate the continuing education session about how to best provide care for those who are caregivers. This will be open to anyone who would like to learn more. Watch for more information about how to attend in the eNews.

**By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.**

**- John 13:35**



## 175th Anniversary T-Shirt Design Contest

The Education Committee is extending the deadline for the t-shirt design contest and opening to anyone who wants to participate. The design must say "Robinson First United Methodist Church" and "175th Year Celebration." The deadline for the design is July 1st and entries must be turned into church office.

## June Birthdays

- 6/1 Peggy Dart
- 6/2 Debbie Goff
- 6/3 Jon Anderson
- 6/5 Sharon Miller
- 6/6 Max Schaefer
- 6/9 Chloe Kubiak
- 6/10 Brennan Tracy
- 6/15 Larry Bonnell
- 6/16 Susan Neely, Shirley Treadway, Pam Bell
- 6/17 Janis Daugherty
- 6/18 Madilyn Schaefer
- 6/20 Tyler Veenstra, Lillie McDonald
- 6/21 Steve Diel, Dan Fearday,
- 6/23 Alice Taylor, Guy Treadway, Alice Holtzhouser,  
Rose Ellen Osborne
- 6/25 David McGahey, Kay Bonnell
- 6/28 Matthew Elliott
- 6/29 Edna Frakes

## June Anniversaries

- 6/3 Tricia & Jay Anderson,  
Allison & Rusty Reinoehl  
Heidi & Andy Wright
- 6/6 Gary & Linda Null
- 6/13 Greg & Janis Daugherty
- 6/15 Rev. Louis & Dorothy Youngs
- 6/20 Chris & Emily Midgett
- 6/21 Kirbie & Ben Ackman
- 6/26 Lenzi & Nicholas Ippolito
- 6/27 Bob & Antje Pippin
- 6/28 Leonard & Debbie Goff

## Prayer Requests

Jeremy and Greg Markello; Carol Wolf; Carl Blanton; Michael Brady; 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; Vonnetta Shipman; Becky Goodwin; Caius Bell; Ray & Nelda Dotson; Kim Collins; Claudette Mejean; Ava Seaney; Demmie Long; Emma Bodine; Charles Hough; Sheltyn James Henry; Rick Pritchard; Laurie Vaughn; Kay Bonnell; Wally Leggit; Joe Schmidlin; Cathy Frakes, Judy Eckert; Lisa Schaefer; Matthew Williams; Bob Callier; Larry Potts; Patricia Hodgson; Pamela Hart; June Watson; Paul Davis; Kathy Kennedy; Tina Klender; Paul Clinton; Duane Parker; Ruth Fiscus; Charlie & Janet Clark; Jan Riker; Alan & Joan Summers; Carolyn Leggett; Dustin Ikemire; Robin Bray; Greg Faylor; Susan Rodgers; Mary Etta Whitmer; Melinda Ashby; Elwin Falor; Brad Smith; Floyd Brinkman; Leah Buser; Kamillah Rollins; Cuma Barnett; Donna Ferry; Rachel Tracy; Janice Woods; Carl Janney; Garnet Van Horn; Lou Bonnell; Cathy Devalle; John Youngs; Laddie Storckman; Heather Karbach; Steve Diel; Ford Bond; Mike Bell; Dan Davis; Max Schaefer; Gary Null; Dion Wright; Nay Owens; Teagan Eastridge; Hart Odom

## Employee of the Month

SPRC has named Mark DeDeming to be the Employee of the Month for June. Congratulations, Mark!



# June 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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6 <b>7:30 am</b> - Grand Sweep class (Zoom) <b>9:00 am</b> - Worship (In-Person, Livestream, YouTube and Radio) <b>10:30 am</b> - Worship In-Person - Sunday school (Zoom) <b>4:30 pm</b> - Stephen Leaders (Zoom)	7	8	9 <b>4:00 pm</b> - Second Wednesday Drive Through Cookout <b>6:30 pm</b> - Stephen Ministry Meeting (Zoom)	10 - Youth Mission Day Trip	11	12
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13 <b>7:30 am</b> - Grand Sweep class (Zoom) <b>9:00 am</b> - Worship (In-Person, Livestream, YouTube and Radio) <b>10:30 am</b> - Worship In-Person - Sunday school (Zoom)	14	15	16 <b>6:00 pm</b> - Committee Meetings (Zoom) <b>7:00 pm</b> - Church Council Meeting (Zoom)	17	18	19
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20 <b>7:30 am</b> - Grand Sweep class (Zoom) <b>9:00 am</b> - Worship (In-Person, Livestream, YouTube and Radio) <b>10:30 am</b> - Worship In-Person - Sunday school (Zoom)	21	22 <b>6:30 pm</b> - Holy Fire Study	23 <b>6:30 pm</b> - Stephen Ministry Meeting (Zoom) <b>4:00 pm</b> - NOW Summer Lunch Bagging	24	25	26
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27 <b>7:30 am</b> - Grand Sweep class (Zoom) <b>9:00 am</b> - Worship (In-Person, Livestream, YouTube and Radio) <b>10:30 am</b> - Worship In-Person - Sunday school (Zoom)	28	29 <b>6:30 pm</b> - Holy Fire Study	30			
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Anita Cohoon