

THE HERALD

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

The Pastor's Pen

The past few months I have been stuck in ponder mode. I have really been focused on communion. I am not talking about the physical elements but the communing with others. Our faith, by design calls us to live and grow in a communal life. Now before you break out the old sandals and beads, we are not called to rush to a commune and pitch our tents and acoustic guitars and begin talking about “the man”. To be a Christian means to embrace the simple notion that all of creation knitted together forms the body of Christ, the church. Looking around we can see how each person is uniquely created and gifted with many qualities. These unique blessings by design are essential to one another.

When we are fully embodied and rooted in the trust that God is doing something through us, we become the Body of Christ. Paul talked about this in his letter to the community in Corinth. In a community where everyone was trying to isolate themselves, creating hierarchies and tensions around gifts, Paul reminds them that they are all equally precious as diverse representations of God's sacred image.

Through my pondering I placed focus on those that chose to isolate themselves by placing focus only upon those who are just like them, in looks, actions, language, and lifestyle. Through this isolation some will miss the opportunity to embrace differing cultures, mindsets, language, and lifestyle of others in God's vast creation. Truly this is normal behavior throughout creation and history, and I believe that we do this out of comfort. Let's be honest no one like change and stepping across those lines we will have the opportunity to possibly experience something new, yet different than the norm.

Honestly, it is certainly more comfortable to be with folks who match the image in the mirror. When we ponder the broader community where our comforts are stretched and our ingrained biases are challenged – especially in a season where there seems to be lines drawn in the sand everywhere and polarization is quickly becoming the new normal of our society. Ironically, we can see and hear headlines about the increasing tendency towards anxiety, depression, and loneliness across all age categories.

Let us focus our future pondering on the teachings of Paul whose wisdom is essential for us to learn from. In a culture that seems to categorize people by their affiliations – political, academic, industrial, or age – we may find a deeper health in honoring the diversity of affiliations in the expansive community that we call “The Church.” As a church, we are called to stand in tension with the norms of our cultural moment, reminding one another that we have inherent value – and that the differences between us only help us to grow in our relationship with the creator of the universe. A truth that I want to embrace as we move towards the changing of the season and move quickly towards Advent and Christmas preparations. Each of every person in creation is created in the image and likeness of God the Creator. When we lose sight of that – living in direct competition with one another. We struggle with arguments of right and wrong, who is better or worse, who is financially successful and who is struggling, which political party is correct, and which one is wrong, we are simply dividing God’s grand design for our own satisfactions. Ours is a communal life designed around faith, love, hope, and grace. To be Christian means to honor the lives of the people around us as though Christ may be represented in them.

Pondering is an art form,

Pastor Terry



2nd Wednesday Dinner

2nd Wednesday Dinner this month will be on September 10th, and will be hosted by Jennifer and Daniel Boatman. They will be preparing a tasty build your own pasta bar with various sauces, proteins and pastas. Salad and garlic bread will also be included!

Jennifer and Daniel will be raising funds for our annual Trick or Treat event. This is our 7th annual Trick or Treat, and it expands every year! Last year Trick or Treat night brought over 600 trick or treaters and their families into the church, where they were met with kindness, love, and the Word of God. Please join us for dinner and help support this outreach event! Please sign up at the Connection Table in the Narthex.

Trick or Treat

Trick or Treat is officially less than two months away, and we have already begun planning! Sounds like we are getting an early start, but we are right on time! There is a lot of work and love that goes into that one night, so we need time to prepare! Keep an eye out for sign-ups in the Narthex. And we will also begin taking candy donations! Last year we had over 600 trick or treaters, so we need all the candy we can get! There will be lots of opportunities to join in the fun, from food prep and serving, kids activities, booths, floating, valet parking, and more! If you would like to join in the planning, Daniel and Jennifer are forming a planning group. Please call Jennifer for more information!



CHEW

Have you been looking for something more to connect you with others? Have you found that you have some extra time on your hands on Thursday mornings at 9:00 AM? Do you love amazing homemade snacks that you don't have to prepare yourself? Have you ever thought about strengthening your biblical knowledge? Here is some amazing news, your search is over, and you have won the golden ticket, and we have a place reserved for you.

CHEW is enlightening.

CHEW is open to all who are seeking something more.

CHEW is full of laughter, grace, love, and knowledge.

CHEW is full of the most amazing treats located in Crawford County on Thursday mornings.

CHEW is adult Bible study from basic understanding to those who have been studying for a while.

CHEW is currently studying the book of Psalms.



NOW Program's
Just - One
Item for
September:

Markers

Donations can be made in the church office!

Movie Night

Join us for Family Movie Night on Friday, September 12 at 6 p.m. Invite your friends and neighbors for hotdogs, popcorn, candy, iced tea/lemonade and a GREAT movie! Wear your favorite baseball gear- MLB or your favorite Little Leaguer and show some support. (Can YOU guess the movie??) Let's pack Asbury Hall! See you there!

ROBINSON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT



FRIDAY | **6 PM**
SEPTEMBER 12

IN ASBURY FELLOWSHIP HALL

FREE FOOD & DRINKS!
Hot Dogs
Popcorn & Candy
Iced Tea & Lemonade



DRESS CODE
Wear your favorite baseball gear: MLB, Little League, etc!
Can you guess the movie?!

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



HEATH HAREST FEST PARADE

Outreach is looking for volunteers:
Donate water Bottles!
Pass out water bottles at the end of the parade!

SATURDAY

04 October 2025



1:00 pm



Meet at the bell tower!

A poster for the Heath Harvest Festival Hospitality Table. The background is a dark teal color, framed by a decorative border of orange and yellow autumn leaves and berries. The text is centered and reads:

HEATH HARVEST FESTIVAL HOSPITALITY TABLE

Every year, we open our church during the Heath Harvest Festival so people can use the restroom. We also have a hospitality table. We need help running it! If you are willing and able, please sign up so we can continue this tradition! The sign up is here at the The Care & Connections Table!



Care News from Stephen Ministry

Robinson First United Methodist Church will Commission Stephen Ministers

On Sunday, September 14, 2025 during our church service, we will commission seven new Stephen Ministers. They are: Bonnie Banks, Kayla Holscher, Sarah Kennedy, Karen Laflin, Mick Laflin, Diana Woodworth, and Stephanie Townsend.

These seven people have been through 50 hours of specialized training in Christian caregiving and join a team of Stephen Ministers at Robinson First United Methodist Church. Stephen Ministers provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to people experiencing a crisis or going through a difficult time. Stephen Ministers meet weekly with their care receiver for around an hour to listen, care, encourage, pray, and provide emotional and spiritual support for the person. Caring relationships last for as long as the person's need persists.

The training sessions were taught by our Stephen Leaders: Linda Null, Janelle Oxford, and Marcia Schmidlin. Our church's Stephen Ministers also participated and contributed to the training sessions. Our current Stephen Ministers are: Kaye Albin, Gary Oxford, Antje Pippin, and Lois Ulrey.

Please lift up our new Stephen Ministers in your prayers, asking that God bless their ministry and work through them to bring hope and healing to those they will serve. Pray also for the continued ministry of Robinson First United Methodist Church's other Stephen Ministers.

Our congregation is one of more than 13,000 worldwide, representing 160 Christian denominations, that use the Stephen Series system of lay caring ministry developed by Stephen Ministries in St. Louis.



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). Stephen Ministers are available to provide Christian Care.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/1 ALLISON REINOEHL
9/2 VALERIE WECK
9/3 ALEXIS INBODEN
9/4 MADISON UTTERBACK,
KAREN VILLALOBOS
9/7 MARK DEDOMING
9/9 JACK DAVIS,
PYKE NETHERY
9/10 SAMANTHA DAVIS
9/15 LORA SIMONS,
SARAH KENNEDY-
POETTKER
9/17 JERRY CONNER,
9/22 JEFF MURRELL;
ROBIN DAVIS
9/26 RYAN KUBIAK
9/27 JUDITH ADAMS,
GLORIA DEVONSHIRE
9/29 EMILY MIDGETT

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

9/1 MAX & DEBBIE TEDFORD
9/4 BRENT & JOYCE OWEN
CHRIS & LAURA DHOM
9/7 RON & BECKY VEENSTRA
9/10 LARRY & PHUONG QUICK
9/11 DIANE & DAROLD
CRAMPTON
9/12 TYLER & KRISTY VEENSTRA
9/15 SARAH & ZETH POETTKER
9/18 DAVID & SANDY
ANDERSON
9/28 GREG & KATHY HARBISON
9/20 GRETA & ALLEN LOWRY
9/23 KEITH & KIRTINA CARTER

PRAYER REQUESTS

Nancy Holley; Hazel
DeDoming; Luke Campbell;
Letha Stanford; Bonnie
Smith; Nancy Conrad;
Michelle Hall; Mary Kindt;
Doreen Elmore; Mike
Brady; Les Thurston; Jeffery
Roche; The Mueller Family;
Madison Tracy; Brian Frost;
Brad Salhani; Carolene
Chapman; Cole & Maddie
Myer; Shelby Kirchoff; Gary
& Gayla Templeman; 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; Ron Veenstra;
Krescene Holscher; Brenna
Ayd; Jon Anderson; Sandy
Davis; Marge Banning;
Sarah Valdez; Louie
Ferguson; Robin Davis &
Family; Dennis Garcia; Rita
Dallmier; Charlie Shupe;
Johnny Berry; Addie
Hastings; Mary Ann Kidwell;
Amy Kennedy; Clem Ayd; Lori
Treadway

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

SEPTEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 OFFICE CLOSED	2	3	4 9:00 am • CHEW 4:00 pm • NOW Bagging	5	6 9:00 am • Laundry Day
7 9:00 am • Worship 10:15 am • Sunday School	8 6:00 pm • <i>The Chosen</i> Study	9	10 5:30 pm • Second Wednesday Dinner 6:00 pm • Stephen Ministry	11 9:00 am • CHEW 4:00 pm • NOW Bagging	12 6:00 pm • Movie Night	13
14 9:00 am • Worship 10:15 am • Sunday School	15 6:00 pm • <i>The Chosen</i> Study • SPRC Meeting	16 5:00 pm • Nurture Meeting	17 11:30 am • Circle of Love 6:00 pm • Committee Meetings 7:00 pm • Church Council Meeting	18 9:00 am • CHEW 4:00 pm • NOW Bagging	19	20
21 9:00 am • Worship 10:15 am • Sunday School	22 6:00 pm • <i>The Chosen</i> Study	23	24 6:00 pm • Stephen Ministry	25 9:00 am • CHEW 4:00 pm • NOW Bagging	26	27
28 9:00 am • Worship 10:15 am • Sunday School	29 6:00 pm • <i>The Chosen</i> Study	30				

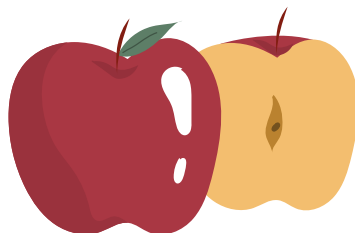


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Director of Christian Education: Nina Davis
Communications Coordinator: Brennan Seth Tracy
Worship Leader: Daniel Boatman
Accompanist: Kayla Holscher
Custodians: Amy DeDoming, Mark DeDoming
Nursery Staff: Marnie Inboden



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