

THE HERALD

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

We're All Connected

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MUCH LIKE HOW MAPS CONNECT
LOCATIONS, THE CHURCH ALSO
INTERSECTS AT MANY DIFFERENT POINTS.
THIS MONTH, TAKE A LOOK INSIDE TO
READ ABOUT HOW WE'RE ALL CONNECTED!

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

In these days of cell phones and GPS, it's so easy for us to have lost the ability to read maps. Many years ago, before our cell phones became the end-all, be-all of information, we could print driving directions from MapQuest. Even before that, we used atlases and maps to find our way. I still like looking at maps, seeing different ways of traveling to a destination.

Maps are webs, and we find intersections depicted on them constantly. It's a reminder that we are all connected in multiple ways. It's a joy to be a part of a denomination that is connectional. I'm reminded, each time I go to annual conference, that Robinson First UMC is part of something much greater than itself. When we work with other churches, we can do more than we can do on our own. Recently, I observed this lesson in intersections in another way. I'm part of a group of United Methodist pastors on Facebook, and a colleague from another state had parishoners who were visiting family in another state. One of the parishoners was having a medical issue, and the pastor was able to find someone in the town the family was visiting who went to the hospital to check on the parishoners. Isn't that amazing?

In this issue, our lay delegate to annual conference, Susan Inboden, and our equalization delegate, Lori Treadway, will share about their experiences at the annual conference session, which was held in Peoria. I think you'll find it interesting as they share how they see our church as part of the larger church, and how we are intersecting each other.

Finally, I want to share a piece of information with you. The Staff Parish Relations Committee has invited me to take the month of August for spiritual renewal leave. I'll be off making connections with other churches as I worship with them, writing some new hymn tunes and texts, and enjoying some opportunities of rest and sabbath. While I'm gone, you'll be able to hear different voices on Sunday morning and evening - from laypersons, from pastors related to our church, and even from the Rev. Lori Bultimeier, who is coming to share with us from The Baby Fold, one of our conference benevolence agencies. Other pastors will provide pastoral care as needed (funerals, hospital calls, etc). Throughout that time, I hope you experience the power of what it means to be connected in ministry, and all the ways that First UMC intersects ministry beyond our walls.

Grace and peace,

PASTOR JAY

ILLINOIS GREAT RIVERS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

By Susan Inboden

As the Lay Member of our church, I recently had the privilege of attending annual conference. The theme this year was "Let's Get Fired Up" & the scripture that we claimed was Acts 2:1-3.

After listening to Bishop Frank Beard preach & getting to observe him as he presided over the general sessions & the ordination service, I believe I have a better understanding of the importance of apportionments. I pray that we as a congregation will be good stewards & continue to strive to meet our annual apportionments to the church conference. By doing so, we are being full partners in the larger mission of the church. Our apportionment dollars are touching the lives of many souls & we are blessed to be a blessing. Please visit the conference website @ www.igrc.org or contact me if you would like to learn more about apportionments & how they are being used in various ministries.

I am happy to report to you that next year, 1st Robinson UMC will be receiving \$3,000.00 from IGRC to help fund the NOW program. This is an increase of \$1,000.00 from 2017. It is encouraging to know that the leaders of our conference support & believe in this ministry of our local church. It is also wonderful to know that they support many other ministries throughout the state of Illinois, our nation, & the world!

In closing, I want to share with you something that I learned at a conference workshop. One of our Methodist forefathers, John Wesley, expected the church to do seven things for children. He believed we are to teach them intentionally, to know them personally, to pray for them intensely, to mentor families meaningfully, to challenge ourselves continually, to shape our ministries appropriately, & to care for them practically. If you & I do our best to do these seven things for children---and adults---Robinson 1st UMC will be fired up for the Lord! I look forward to returning to annual conference next year to share with others there that Robinson 1st UMC is alive & well & faithfully serving the Lord.

OUR CONFERENCE, OUR KIDS

By Lori Treadway

Recently I was fortunate enough to attend the Illinois Great Rivers Conference Annual Conference. I was sent as an Equalization Delegate, which was made possible by FUMC's apportionment being paid. The apportionment is each church's portion that is paid in to help support the broader agencies and ministries of the United Methodist Church, including our NOW program and the ones listed in this article.

The three days at conference were filled with worship, education, and voting. We met in a large meeting hall in the Peoria Civic Center with over 800 others from around our conference. There were clergy and their families, lay members, and guests. The theme this year was "Let's Get Fired Up for Kids," and Bishop Frank J. Beard presided.

This theme was determined during the 2016 annual conference. As a result of the lack of a state budget, the IGRC Child Welfare Agencies have suffered payment delays. These delays have created serious budgetary problems, and have caused cutbacks. The five agencies are The Baby Fold, Chaddock, Cunningham Children's Home, Lessie Bates Neighborhood House, and Spero Family Services (formerly the United Methodist Children's Home). These agencies service 74 of the 102 counties, including Crawford. In an article by Rev. Lori Bultemeier, chaplain at the Baby Fold, that was printed in the Our Conference, Our Kids informational pamphlet, she states, "The five child welfare agencies

within the IGRC provide for the whole child, and the whole family -body, soul, and spirit. We meet their basic needs for safety, food, and shelter- and teach them to be as self-sufficient as possible." This includes pastoral care for children and families to help them put Christ at the center of their lives.

During the 2017 conference the Our Conference, Our Kids campaign was kicked off. This three-year campaign challenges all of us to raise \$2.5 million dollars as an endowment for the spiritual life programs for all five agencies. These funds will be invested, with the income from them being used to finance spiritual care of children and families well into the future.

If you are moved to contribute to this endowment, you may make a contribution through your offering. Please mark it "Advance 6960."

I would encourage you to contribute. As I listened to Lori Bultemeier give a speech at the conference dinner, I could see the faces of the children I've known who've desperately needed the help that can be received through our agencies. Most of them have gone through heartbreaking circumstances. This is one way you can help children who need it the most find the hope and love of Jesus Christ.



Just One

Want to see how far your \$ can go? In these next few weeks, stores will be having sales on Crayola brand products - please pick up a package of Crayola markers (just under \$1 now at Walmart) and place it in the "Just One" bin this month. You'll never know how much your \$1 or "just one" item will reach and make an impact far beyond First UMC!

Our VBS kids know this firsthand, as they collected scissors, one-subject notebooks, and folders for the NOW Program's Kids' Shopping Days. Every donation helps!

Second Wednesday Dinner

Our July 2nd Wednesday dinner is July 12 at 5:30 pm. This month, ham and fried chicken will be provided, and we are asking individuals or families to bring a side dish to share.

Please sign up at the welcome center so that we can provide enough meat and table service.

Praisefest Update

Praisefest is quickly approaching. Please put Saturday, August 19th on your calendar. We are excited to be bringing in *Guys on a Bus* as our headliner group this year. More information will be coming as we get closer to the event. Volunteers will be needed. We are still short of our budget goal, despite community support so far from First Robinson Savings Bank, First National Bank of Olney, Casey State Bank, and State Farm Insurance. Help us make Praisefest 2017 even better. Invite your friends, your enemies, your family, and at least 1 stranger!

JULY BIRTHDAYS

7/1 Jeanette Berty
7/2 John Markello
7/3 Katie Murphy, Dave Freeland,
Jeremy Markello, Sheri McGahey
7/6 Jerry Devonshire
7/7 Jessica Hargan, Hunter Murrell
7/10 Jay Regennitter
7/11 Tricia Anderson
7/13 Karen Gordy
7/14 Izabella Hays
7/19 Lea Ann Alberda, Cody Dart
7/20 Barbara Ross
7/21 Lou Bonnell
7/24 Jon Roales, Annika List
7/25 Cash Veteto
7/27 William Damron, Linda Null
7/28 Caroline Vermilya
7/29 Chris Freeland, Candance Markello,
Audra Bell
7/30 Doug Cassady
7/31 Jay Anderson

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

7/4 Jack & Nina Davis
7/6 Jay & Alice Hotzhouser
Doug & Cindy Cassady
7/7 Gary & Janelle Oxford
Dustin & Victoria McDonald
7/17 David & Sheri McGahey
7/19 Tony & Michelle Graham
7/21 Rich & Leavone Johnson
7/27 Jerry & Gloria Devonshire

PRAYER CONCERNS

Peg, John, Jeremy, and Greg
Markello; Ken Martin; Carol Wolf;
Lois McConnell; Carl and Helen
Blanton; Judy Wilson Wall; Michael
Brady; Elaine Siler; Donna Reed;
Charley Clark; Patty Steele; Jackson
Barry; Marty Attaway; Cathy
Thomas; The women in the
Crawford County jail; Judson
Richardson; Jerry Adkins; Richard
Youngs; Susan Polgar; Shirley
Allison; Jay Holtzhouser; Janna
Coonce; Jennifer Newlin; Kaye
Parrott Weger; Jennifer Null; Julie
Zhang; Bill Thompson; Bob Duzan;
Janey Branson; Kate Dale; Shirley
Treadway; Bev Turkal; Bob Berty;
Neema Mutayoba; Duke
Thompson; our children's ministry;
youth and their parents; Mary Kay
Jurcin; Jon and Laurette Roales;
Floyd Brinkman Sr; Larry Nickol;
Barb Myers; Dan Hatfield; The
Sandschafer family; Michael Keene;
Beth Davis; Strength and peace for
all who are going through cancer
treatments; John Poland; Jessica
Daugherty Collins; Myrtle Garrard

JULY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 6:00 pm Evening Worship	3	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5 10:30 am NOW Lunches in parks	6 10:30 am NOW Lunches in parks 6:00 pm Jail Ministry	7	8
9 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 2:30 pm Heritage Health service 6:00 pm Evening Worship	10	11 10:30 am NOW Lunches in parks	12 10:30 am NOW Lunches in parks 5:30 pm Second Wednesday Dinner	13 10:30 am NOW Lunches in parks 6:00 pm Jail Ministry	14	15
16 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 6:00 pm Evening Worship	17	18 10:30 am NOW Lunches in parks	19 10:30 am NOW Lunches in parks 6:00 pm Committee Meetings 7:00 pm Church Council	20 10:30 am NOW Lunches in parks 6:00 pm Jail Ministry	21	22
23 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 6:00 pm Evening Worship	24	25 10:45 am NOW Lunch at Parks	26 10:45 am NOW Lunch at Parks	27 10:30 am NOW Lunches in parks 6:00 pm Jail Ministry	28	29 10:00 am Chapel Wedding
30 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 3:00 pm Youth stockholders meeting 6:00 pm Evening Worship	31					

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Custodian: Becky Guyer

Nursery Staff: Jennifer Boatman, Danielle Stuller