

THE HERALD

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

The Pastor's Pen

Dear Friends,

We are in the middle of some very exciting times here at Robinson First United Methodist Church. Upon my arrival we were feeling the pains of transition. First from the changing of pastoral leadership, the lasting effects of the pandemic lockdown, and denominational changes. All caused times of uncertainty and fear. Yet, our church remained true to our call from God, and we maintained the course.

Over a period, our weekly attendance began to grow and flourish. I am excited to report that we are up approximately 44% in weekly attendance. Ministries that were somewhat dormant have been rejuvenated and are on a steady projection to finish strong for the year. Amazing new opportunities to connect, outreach, and nurture our congregation and guests have me excited for the future of Robinson First.

Recently, we as a body of believers stepped out in faith and hired a new Youth and Family Engagement Minister. Trust me, the plans that they have are forward thinking and exciting for the future growth and development of the church. I want to say thank you for your loyalty to the church, the mission that God has placed upon our hearts, and your commitment to be the change for Crawford County.

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Being transparent we need your help. Your volunteerism is not going unnoticed in many areas and “thank you” cannot be expressed enough. We know that our economy is not the strongest, but we have faith that will also begin to improve. Currently our giving is barely meeting the minimums of our church expenses. Funds that are being placed in designated and restricted accounts are limiting the “general fund” and at times resulting in moving funds from savings to cover weekly expenses. Please prayerfully consider all donations to be “non-designated” trusting that the leadership of the church will allocate funds to the proper areas needed.

As I stated currently, we are only meeting the basics and will possibly finish the year short of our budget goals. Please prayerfully consider your tithe as a partnership with God and the exciting ministries for the future of Robinson First United Methodist Church.

In the Carpenter’s Grip,

Pastor Terry



**NOW Program's
Just - One
Item for October:
Shampoo**

Donations can made in the church office!

Introducing.... Brandon Harmon!



My name is Brandon Harmon and I have recently accepted the Director of Youth and Family Engagement position at First United Methodist Church in Robinson, IL. My family moved to Robinson when I was in second grade, and besides when I went to college, I've been here since. I have a beautiful family that I am more proud of than they could ever comprehend. My wife, Melinda, is a teacher at NMS. She cares for her students as if they were her own and puts her heart and soul into her teaching. My oldest daughter, Sydney, is currently in college at SIUE in their pharmacy program. She is absolutely crushing it and it warms my heart to see her so happy. My youngest daughter, Taya, is a senior at RHS. She is such an amazing person and I look forward to finding out what life has in store for her. My in-laws are Garrett and Brenda Graham. They have been members of FUMC for around 50 years and are both still active with the church family. Brenda was the organist for most of their tenure at the church.

I started coming to FUMC while dating Melinda in high school, about 28 years ago. It's my home church, the place where I know I can go to find refuge with others in Faith. I have strived to live my life putting others first and treating people with respect and kindness. My family sometimes laughs at me when I strike up a conversation with people I've never met, just so I can try and spread kindness into the world. I've never been the type to wear my faith on my chest as much as I should, but that is something I am working on. I have always felt the draw to help guide and nurture our youth. Some of my greatest memories have come from coaching teams of youth throughout my life. One young lady specifically mentioned in her senior night announcement that she not only appreciated the coaching, but really appreciated the lessons off the field as well. Hearing that I was at least a small part of guiding her to become the person she has become was definitely a highlight for me.

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I may not look like, or even possibly always act like, a person taking on the role of essentially a youth minister type position. My wife and I own Sparks and Sons, which is a motorcycle and ATV shop. So most of the time you'll find me covered in dirt, oil, and grease. I have a beard and I am wearing a ball cap most of the time. I strongly believe that it doesn't matter how you look, but the faith and kindness in your heart that defines a person. When this position started being discussed I felt a draw to it almost immediately. One particular church service Pastor Terry was discussing how we all have gifts from God, but not everyone is utilizing them. He then looked at me and specifically discussed my interactions with the youth of the church. He mentioned how they feel comfortable with me, and I with them. I remember talking with Melinda after that service, and that it felt like God was trying to tell me that I needed to do something. It was after that service that I decided to discuss taking the position.

The duties that this role entails are not for one person alone. I will need a ton of help from our church family. I will look upon our members for volunteers, for guidance, and sometimes for simple encouragement. I appreciate the faith that has been put in me for this role. I will strive to continuously develop myself in the Lord's teachings and examples. I will pass along God's word and life lessons to our youth to help them develop into their best selves. I pray that the Lord will guide me to become the leader he is calling me to be. I look forward to building the program and working with our youth and families. God Bless!



Trick or Treat

Trick or Treat is right around the corner, on October 31st, 5:30-7:30. We have a planning and decorating team this year, so we have a few new things up our sleeves! As always we will need as many volunteers as we can get. From floaters, counters, booth spaces (we can even decorate for you!), to food prep and crowd control. Please consider joining us this year! Last year we had about 650 trick or treaters, and we expect more this year. If you can not join us on Trick or Treat night, we are also accepting candy donations and funding! You don't want to miss out on this night! It truly is a blessing to get to see that many children of our community walk through our doors to join our Halloween themed Jesus party!



JOIN US FOR A FUNDRAISING DINNER FOR

TRICK OR TREAT AT FUMC

CHILI BAR,
CHILI CHEESE DOGS,
NACHOS,
& SPOOKY SWEETS!
DINE IN OR CARRY OUT!

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8TH | 5:30 - 7:00 PM
201 W WALNUT
ROBINSON IL 62454

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF YUMMY FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP, WITH ALL DONATIONS GOING TOWARD STOCKING UP FOR OUR TRICK-OR-TREAT NIGHT. LET'S MAKE SURE EVERY LITTLE GHOST AND GOBLIN LEAVES WITH A SMILE (AND A FULL BUCKET)!

Questions: Call Kirbie 618-544-8016

What's Growing On?

Your Guide to the NOW Community Garden

It's been a good growing season for the NOW Community Garden. We hope you've had a chance to enjoy some of the produce that the Lord has provided. Frost will just be around the corner, so if you see something that's ripe, please pick it! Also, a big thank you to the volunteer gardeners that have worked and tended the garden! We'll be starting to pull plants in preparation to put the garden to bed for the winter.

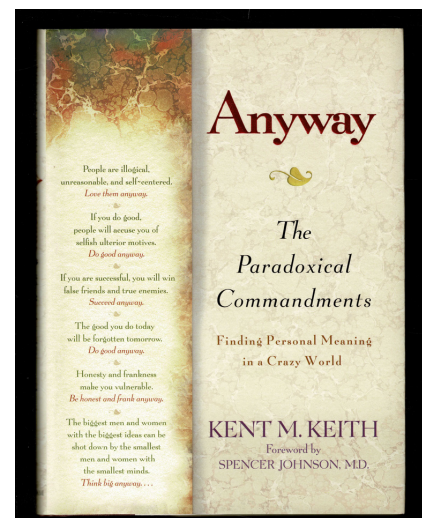
If you're new to gardening or an experienced green thumb, we'd love to have you join us. The community garden is an informal group of volunteer gardeners that plant a garden so anyone can harvest, and in this act, we fellowship with each other and spread the love of Jesus with the community. If you're interested in serving with the community garden volunteers, please contact Kirbie and we'll get you connected.

Christian Book Exchange

Greetings from the Book Exchange! Located next to the elevator in the narthex, our October highlight is ***Anyway: The Paradoxical Commandments***.

A guide to finding personal meaning and integrity in a chaotic, often discouraging world. Drawing from the "Paradoxical Commandments" Kent M. Keith first wrote as a Harvard student in the 1960s—principles later embraced globally, even displayed by Mother Teresa—the book urges readers to live with compassion, honesty, and courage, even when such actions may be misunderstood, unappreciated, or opposed.

Keith reframes success not as wealth, power, or fame, but as the deeper fulfillment that comes from loving others, doing good, thinking big, helping the vulnerable, and giving your best regardless of the outcome. Through stories, reflections, and practical wisdom, he shows how to "face the worst in the world with the best in yourself," turning life's contradictions into opportunities for purpose and joy.



Care News from Stephen Ministry

Love

Who do we love? What do we love? We love God, and we love our families, friends, church, homes, dogs, cats, Christmas, Halloween, Easter, Thanksgiving, snow days, comfortable clothes, delicious food, brilliant sunsets, Bible studies, full moons, 2nd Wednesday desserts, fountain drinks, vacations, and so much more... and we definitely love chocolate.

In English, we use the word “love” to identify all kinds of love. Other languages are more diverse having numerous words for “love”. The Greek language has seven words, and the Spanish and Hebrew have several as well. The big winner with a long “love” list is Sanskrit. According to Elyse Poppers’ book, *The Little Love Book: 267 Words for Love in Sanskrit*, the list of 267 is extensive and varied. That’s an impressive number; but perhaps how and why we love are more important.

How do we share our love at Robinson FUMC? Hasn’t Pastor Terry been challenging us to do this very thing? John Wesley stated, *“Love cannot be hid any more than light; and least of all when it shines forth in action, when ye exercise yourselves in the labour of love, in beneficence of every kind. As well may men think to hide a city as to hide a Christian.”* Wesley reminds us that love shines forth in action when our church radiates love in all that we say and do.

You are the light of the world. A city on top of a hill can’t be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they put it on top of a lampstand, and it shines on all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do and praise your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5: 14-16

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.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/1 KA SU KELLY
10/4 SABRA ADAMS, MAEZIE
FEARDAY
10/6 ROBERT QUICK
10/7 RICH JOHNSON
10/8 ANA VEENSTRA
10/10 EVELYN SALHANI
10/11 DAVID ANDERSON
10/13 LEAVONE JOHNSON,
VICTORIA MCMILLAN
10/16 JASON HARTKE, ALLYSA
SIBLEY
10/18 OLIVIA BRINKMAN
10/19 COLBY MCGAHEY, CALVIN
TURNER
10/21 ALLEN LOWRY, LINDY
EVANS
10/27 SYDNEY HARMON
10/30 JULIE WILSON,
DONOVAN TOWNSEND

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

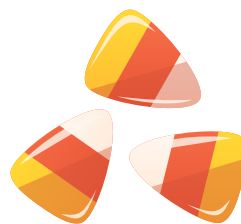
10/2 GARY & SUSAN RODGERS
10/7 BILL & KAYE DAMRON,
10/10 RYAN & KAITLYN KUBIAK
DANIEL & JENNIFER BOATMAN
10/21 JACK & EDNA FRAKES
10/27 JOHN & MARCIA
SCHMIDLIN



PRAYER REQUESTS

Nancy Holley; Hazel
DeDoming; Luke Campbell;
Letha Stanford; Bonnie
Smith; Michelle Hall; Mary
Kindt; Doreen Elmore; Mike
Brady; Les Thurston; Jeffery
Roche; Brian Frost; Brad
Salhani; Shelby Kirchoff;
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; Brenna
Ayd; Jon Anderson; Sarah
Valdez; Louie Ferguson;
Rita Dallmier; Charlie
Shupe; Johnny Berry; Addie
Hastings; Mary Ann Kidwell;
Amy Kennedy; Clem Ayd;
Keegan Pigati; Family of
Roger Hamilton; Family of
Tyler McCillis; Crystal
Werhle

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





OCTOBER 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 9:00 am • CHEW 4:00 pm • NOW Bagging	3	4 8:00 am • NOW Program 5K Your Way 9:00 am • Heath Harvest Hospitality Table 1:00 pm • Heath Harvest Parade
5 9:00 am • Worship 10:15 am • Sunday School	6 6:00 pm • <i>The Chosen</i> Study	7	8 5:30 pm • Second Wednesday Dinner 6:00 pm • Stephen Ministry	9 9:00 am • CHEW 4:00 pm • NOW Bagging	10	11
12 9:00 am • Worship 10:15 am • Sunday School 2:00 pm • Charge Conference	13 OFFICE CLOSED 6:00 pm • <i>The Chosen</i> Study • SPRC Meeting	14 5:00 pm • Nurture Meeting	15 11:30 am • Circle of Love 6:00 pm • Committee Meetings 7:00 pm • Church Council Meeting	16 9:00 am • CHEW 4:00 pm • NOW Bagging	17	18
19 9:00 am • Worship 10:15 am • Sunday School	20 6:00 pm • <i>The Chosen</i> Study	21	22 6:00 pm • Stephen Ministry	23 9:00 am • CHEW 4:00 pm • NOW Bagging • Trick or Treat at the Trail	24	25
26 9:00 am • Worship 10:15 am • Sunday School	27 6:00 pm • <i>The Chosen</i> Study	28 4:00 pm • NOW Bagging	29	30 9:00 am • CHEW	31 5:00 pm • Trick or Treat	

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Worship Leader: Daniel Boatman
Accompanist: Kayla Holscher
Custodians: Amy DeDoming, Mark DeDoming



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