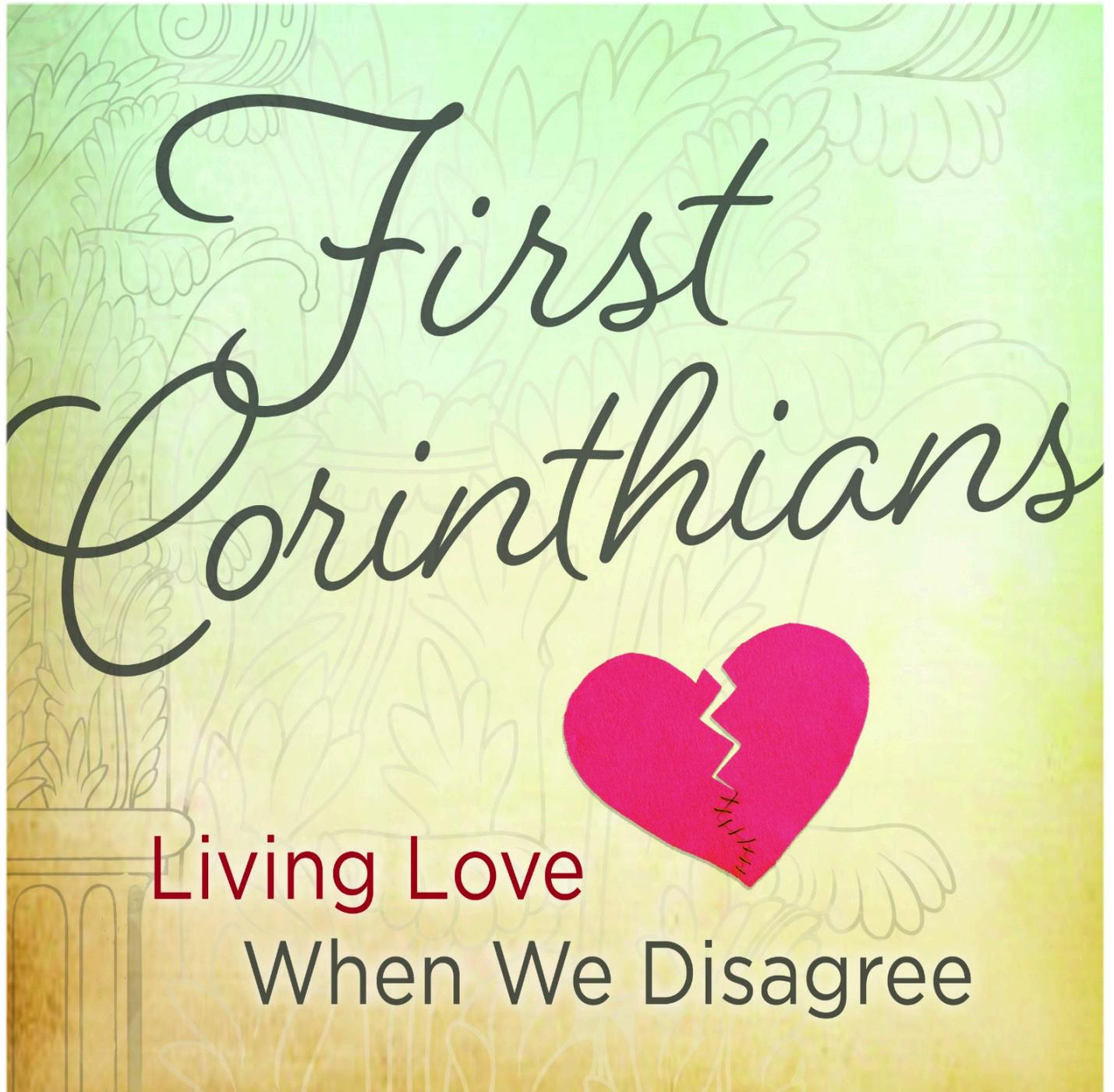


THE HERALD

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



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

You've probably noticed that the newsletter attempts to have a theme every month - and most of the time, we succeed in developing all of our articles around a particular theme. Sometimes, though, it's difficult to hone and adapt articles to fit a theme, and we simply end up with an edition full of news - which is what you're getting for February 2018. You'll find out some member updates, some information from the safety and security committee, opportunities to grow in your faith, and places to serve.

February 2018 is an odd month, if for no other reason than the sacred and secular collide. February 14 is known to many of us as Valentine's Day. It's a day that is quite secular in nature, because we focus on romantic love, or expressions of love - even though it is (in the sacred arena) the feast day of Saint Valentine. To top it all off, February 14, 2018 is also Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten season. It's ironic, and yet, this clash is where we find our lives frequently - sacred and secular colliding.

During Lent, I'll be offering a study on Sunday nights from 4:30-5:30 pm that can be sure to help us navigate this collision; often, it's the clash of sacred and secular that creates conflict in our lives, in the church and in the world. Our study is based on First Corinthians, and is called "Living Love When We Disagree." If you're interested in joining that study, please sign up at the welcome center soon - we want to have materials (\$12) in hand for you so that you're ready for the first class. Childcare will be provided.

If you need an example of the clash of sacred and secular, you'll find it in the United Methodist Church right now. For decades, the UMC has been in disagreement over issues of human sexuality. The 2016 General Conference authorized a commission (The Commission on a Way Forward) to provide recommendations to the Council of Bishops on how we can best move forward as a denomination.

You can read more about the commission and its latest work here: <http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/way-forward-fleshing-out-3-possible-futures> That said, myself and our lay delegates to annual conference (Susan Inboden and Lori Treadway) will be attending a conversation in Mattoon on February 10 regarding these issues. As part of our conversations we will use a portion of our time together to reflect on four questions that the Council of Bishops has crafted for our denomination.

These questions, and our collective responses, will help us to interact with the Council of Bishops and the Commission on a Way Forward. We will also have a brief update and discussion of the current models proposed by the Commission. Here are the four questions:

- In our diverse and global existence, what is the shared mission/purpose of the Church?
- Is there a proactive way for us to live together in our differences that doesn't presume that we will resolve our differences? What would it be?
- What might be a form of unity that would empower us living together?
- What is our witness and what can be our witness to the world in relation to our differences?

Needless to say, the denomination, our annual conference, and even our congregation has people who feel differently about this and many other issues, all across the spectrum. How do we love when we disagree?

Finally, I want to encourage you to explore one avenue of this topic with me, even if you're not able to participate in the Lenten Bible study: forgiveness. Each and every one of us knows someone that we need to forgive, and someone from whom we need forgiveness. In worship, we will explore this topic during the Sundays of Lent, and see if we can together, find a way forward that brings healing and wholeness to our relationships. In all things, let us love well, and forgive much, just as God has forgiven us through Jesus Christ.

I will see you in worship!

Pastor Jay

SAFETY & SECURITY UPDATE

First UMC now has a safety and security committee, as formed by the action of the church council. Jack Davis and Brandon Harmon are co-chairing the committee, and the other members are Greg Daugherty, Dan Fearday, Dennis Inboden, Janelle Oxford, and John Schmidlin. The committee is working on a comprehensive look at safety and security for our church.

As a first measure, the kitchen door (south entry of the education wing) will be permanently locked from the outside throughout the week (you can still exit the building through that door). On Sunday mornings, the bell tower entrance, the southeast entrance, and the education wing entrance will be locked at 9:00 am.

Latecomers will need to enter through the narthex. These changes will occur on February 1.

The safety and security committee will continue to work on a variety of measures, including evacuation plans, building needs, and other issues, and will provide recommendations to appropriate committees and the church council. Above all, the committee wants to be transparent and keep the congregation informed about their work, so please continue to look for updates.

SECOND WEDNESDAY DINNER

As Pastor Jay eluded to in his article, there's a clash this month, which means we are doing something slightly different for 2nd Wednesday Dinner! 2nd Wednesday Dinner falls on February 14, which is Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday. We have an awesome deal for you! Gary Oxford and Pastor Jay will be cooking a gourmet meal for you! For the suggested donation of \$20, you'll have your choice (which you will sign up for at the welcome center ahead of time) of salad, entree, and dessert. These meals will be plated, and will be served by our youth (tips encouraged). We encourage you to sign up ahead of time, plan to eat with your sweetheart or a group of friends, and support the youth as they prepare for this summer's mission trip.

JUST ONE

Our "Just One" item for February is toothpaste! Please pick up a full-sized tube (both regular and kids' kinds are acceptable) and place it in the bin outside the church office. Last year, we served over 250 students, so your donations are needed and appreciated!



SPIRITUAL GIFTS

During the Sundays of Lent, Connie Carter and Antje Pippin will be leading a Sunday School class on spiritual gifts. The class will be held in the parlor. Please sign up at the welcome center if you want to participate, so we can have plenty of materials available. If you're relatively new to First UMC, or have been thinking about checking out Sunday school, consider signing up! Knowing your spiritual gifts can be a great first step to becoming actively engaged in our congregation and serving our community.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please take some time this week to review the prayer requests that are located on the list in the newsletter or in your Sunday worship bulletin. Some of those listed may have received healing or had circumstances changed and no longer need to be listed. If you see someone whose name can be removed, please contact the church office.

NEW AED

For some time, the trustees have been discussing the need for an additional AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) for use in the new building. Thanks to the work of Jerry Devonshire, the United Way purchased AED units for several churches in Crawford County, including First UMC. The new unit is currently located in the welcome center until we determine where it will be best accessible. Crawford Memorial Hospital will be providing a training for those who wish to learn how to use the unit at a later date.

SHOUT OUT!

We're excited about a little initiative for First UMC, begun by our staff. During the month of January, we have begun to make a weekly "Shout-Out" post on social media (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram), highlighting a volunteer's ministry in the church. We know that several of you are not on social media, so we wanted you to know that we've given a "Shout-Out" in January to Larry Bonnell, who covered custodial duties when Amy was out on medical leave; the "guys" who make breakfast each week for Refresh Student Ministry (Larry Bonnell, Dennis Inboden, Gary Oxford, and Ron Veenstra); and Steve Diel, who drives the church bus each week to pick up students for Kids' Club at Washington Elementary School and Lincoln Elementary School. Want to find out each week's "Shout-Out" as it happens? Like Robinson First United Methodist Church on Facebook, or follow us on Twitter and Instagram!

NOW FUNDRAISING SOUP SUPPER

On Wednesday, February 28th at 6:00 pm NOW will be hosting a soup supper that is free will donation. All funds raised will go towards the NOW Program's expenses. There will be a sign up sheet at the welcome for anyone that would like to donate a soup, dessert, crackers, etc. Please come out, eat and support NOW!

2017 FUMC BOY SCOUTING IN REVIEW

- Pack 901 (1-5th grade)
 - 50 Scouts Not Counting Adults
- Troop 901 (6th grade to 18 yrs old)
 - 22 Scouts Not Counting Adults
 - 79 Merit Badges Earned
 - 17 Rank Advancements, Including 2 Eagle Scouts
 - Over 509 Service Hours Logged
- Venturing Crew 901 (Co-ed ages 14-21)
 - Just Started in December of 2017
 - 5 Ladies Plus Adult Advisors
 - Equipment Needs – Starting From Scratch
 - \$250 for Crew Flag, Pole, Stand, and Topper
 - \$500 for 4-5 Tents
 - \$100 for 10 Mess Kits
 - \$300 for Program Materials
- Upcoming Dates
 - Fundraiser Brunch on February 11th, Scout Sunday (10 – 11:30AM)
 - Philmont Trek, Jul. 29-Aug. 10 (Cimarron, New Mexico)
- Additional Fun Facts
 - 8 Scout Adults Are FUMC Members or Attend Regularly
 - 9 Scout Youth Are FUMC Members or Attend Regularly
- Donations Can Be Sent To:
Boy Scout Troop 901/Pack 901/Crew 901
c/o First United Methodist Church
PO Box 45
Robinson, IL. 62454

NEW ADDRESS

John Poland
6901 SanVicente Ave. NE
APT 2213
Albuquerque NM 87109
Room phone number: 505-445-9200



CARD SHOWER

Guy and Shirley Treadway will be celebrating their 55th wedding anniversary on February 16, 2018. A card shower is requested for them. Their address is 1609 W. Walnut St., Robinson, IL 62454.

February Anniversaries

2/1 Walt & Margaret Conner

2/14 David & Mary Correll

2/16 Guy & Shirley Treadway

2/28 Larry & Kay Bonnell

February Birthdays

- 2/1 Tabitha Seaney, Katie Hartke
- 2/2 Tyler Mefford, Mary Jane Parker
- 2/5 Allie Oxford, Nadene Keene
- 2/7 Taya Harmon
- 2/8 Brenda Graham
- 2/9 Krystal Damron
- 2/10 Jack Frakes
- 2/11 Rodney Frakes, Dalton Davis
- 2/12 Dan Inboden, Lori Treadway
- 2/14 Dorcas Sills, Martin Williamson
- 2/15 Linda Hutchens
- 2/16 Ruth Parrott
- 2/18 Walt Conner
- 2/20 Katelin Veenstra
- 2/22 Greg Catt
- 2/24 Connie Carter
- 2/25 Jane Elliott
- 2/26 Trevor Carter

Prayer Requests

John, Jeremy, and Greg Markello;
Ken Martin; Carol Wolf; Lois
McConnell; Carl and Helen Blanton;
Judy Wilson Wall; Michael Brady;
Gary Albin; Patty Steele; Cathy
Thomas; Judson Richardson; Jerry
Adkins; Susan Polgar; Janna Coonce;
Jennifer Newlin; Jennifer Null; Julie
Zhang; Bill Thompson; Bob Duzan;
Janey Branson; Shirley Treadway;
Neema Mutayoba; Mary Kay Jurcin;
Barb Myers; Michael Keene; Dick
Drake; John Larrabee; Myrtle
Garrard; Larry Nichol; Floyd Brinkman
Sr; Janet & Charley Clark; Allen
Summers; Nicole Young; Bev Turkal;
Vicki Vinson Farris; Evan Prah; Ray
Dotson; Bev Arrington Campbell;
Mike Richards; Rick Koester; Margie
Moore McNamara; Richard Youngs;
Kay Blanchard; Kay Young; John
Poland; Bob Berty; Joan Fulling;
Nancy Young; Doris Prier;
Unchanging Grace; Jackson Barry;
John Mosher; Lisa Schaefer; Sidney
Iubelt; Alisha & Marsha Wright and
family; Tim Roth; Fred White; Kip
Davis; Julia Roberson; Charles
Salesman; Gloria Saad; Jenny
Stanley; Emily Harp; Family of Shane
Langley; Family of Lucille Dallmier;
Jason Chronic

FEBRUARY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:30 am Disciple IV 4:00 pm NOW Bagging 6:00 pm Jail Ministry 6:00 pm Glory Handbell Rehearsal	2	3
4 8 & 11 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 6:00 pm Evening Worship	5 6:30 pm Safety & Security	6 10:30 am MATS 6:00 pm Disciple IV	7 6:30 am Refresh Wednesday 3:00 pm Kids' Club	8 9:30 am Disciple IV 4:00 pm NOW Bagging 6:00 pm Jail Ministry 6:00 pm Glory Handbell Rehearsal	9	10
11 8 & 11 am Chancel Choir 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Boy Scout Brunch 2:30 pm Heritage Health Service 6:00 pm Evening Worship	12	13 10:30 am MATS 6:00 pm Disciple IV	14 6:30 am Refresh Wednesday 3:00 pm Kids' Club 4:00 pm NOW Bagging 5:15 pm Valentine's Dinner 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service	15 9:30 am Disciple IV 6:00 pm Jail Ministry 6:00 pm Glory Handbell Rehearsal	16	17
18 8 & 11 am Chancel Choir 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 4:30 pm Bible Study 6:00 pm Evening Worship	19	20 10:30 am MATS 6:00 pm Disciple IV	21 6:30 am Refresh Wednesday 3:00 pm Kids' Club 6:00 pm Committee Meetings 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting	22 9:30 am Disciple IV 4:00 pm NOW Bagging 6:00 pm Jail Ministry 6:00 pm Glory Handbell Rehearsal	23	24
25 8 & 11 am Chancel Choir 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 6:00 pm Evening Worship	26	27 10:30 am MATS 6:00 pm Disciple IV	28 6:30 am Refresh Wednesday 3:00 pm Kids' Club 6:00 pm NOW Soup Supper Fundraiser			

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618-544-8016

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U.S. Postage
Robinson, IL
62454
Permit No. 3

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor: Jay Regennitter

fumc@frontier.com

Office Manager: Kirbie Ackman

fumcrob@frontier.com

Communications Coordinator: Brennan Seth Tracy

brennansethtracy@gmail.com

Music Director: Antje Pippin

antje2959@hotmail.com

Organist/Pianist: Brenda Graham

doubleg@mediacombb.net

Custodian: Amy DeDoming

Nursery Staff: Jennifer Boatman, Danielle Stuller,
Tiffany Beard