

ROBINSON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH • FEBRUARY 2019

The Herald

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

Our mission is to
make disciples of
Jesus Christ
and share the
love of God in
word and deed.

From the Pastor's Desk

As you probably know, one of the primary tasks of the church council is to set the direction of the church. First UMC's church council spent a lot of time in 2018 gathering input from you in the "What's Next?" gatherings, poring over pages and pages of responses, and discussing the results. An earlier newsletter shared some of the common themes we discovered in those responses.

However, the church council also determined that as a congregation, we needed to focus our work. Many of the specific actions indicated by the responses painted a widespread canvas, one that would likely create an impression of the church, but not one with clear focus and vision. Thus, the church council has been working on honing our mission - why First United Methodist Church exists.

We spent quite a bit of time looking at our church mission statement, that has been in place for about 20 years (Jim Barnett was pastor when the current statement was developed). Our discussion determined that the current mission statement had good content, but needed some revision to help us remember it and live it out. At the January 2019 church council meeting, the following mission statement was adopted for our congregation:

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ and share the love of God in word and deed.

"Making disciples of Jesus Christ" is the commission given by Jesus to his disciples (Matthew 28); "Share the love of God in word and deed" points us to the great commandment (to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves). Our church exists to for these purposes. Over the next few months, you'll be hearing from ministry areas about how they are carrying out this mission. We'll explore these themes in worship, and we want this mission to become the very heartbeat of First UMC.

The church council will use this mission in several ways. First, it will help us determine the direction God wants First UMC to go. Second, it will help us evaluate our current ministries, because we need to align our current ministries so that they carry out this mission. Lastly, we will use this mission to determine future ministries so that we can be good stewards of the resources God has given us. We are one church with one mission - and I hope you will join me in living out this mission!

As you read this month's newsletter, our various committees will be sharing how some of their upcoming ministries will help us put our mission into practice. We hope that these ministries will help you be a better follower of Jesus Christ, guide you to share God's love through your speech and our actions, and will invite others to do the same!

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jay Regan", enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Pastor Jay

Lunch Buddy

The Lunch Buddy Program is a program in which adults volunteer their time at WES or LGS and have lunch with a student that is in need of a positive role model. This program allows for our students to form a meaningful relationship with an adult.

Studies have shown that even one positive relationship in these children's lives can do a world of difference. We ask that you please consider donating your time to one of these students by becoming a buddy! If you don't have the time right now in your schedule, lunch buddy is always accepting free will donations to help pay for the lunches and the background checks. Help spread God's love by being a positive influence on a student's life!

Youth Mission Trip

The youth mission trip dates have been set! We will be serving at the UMCOR Sager Brown Depot in Baldwin, LA from August 3 through August 10. All students who have completed 6th grade by the time of the trip are welcome to go. Students and chaperones must be signed up by February 19th. A \$50 deposit is required up front, but we intend to fundraise the rest of the cost of the trip. If you have any questions, please contact Nina Davis. Please continue to keep this upcoming trip in your prayers as we set out to share God's love by helping UMCOR prepare for disaster relief.

NOW Program

On Wednesday, February 27, NOW will once again be hosting a soup supper from 6:00 to 8:00 pm to raise funds. Scherrie Chamblin will also be at this event selling Pampered Chef as another fundraising effort for NOW. If you would like to donate a soup, dessert, or additional items for this super, there is a sign-up sheet in the welcome center. Please come out, eat some delicious food and support this amazing program!

The NOW Program will be collecting toothbrushes for its February "Just One" item. Please, PLEASE, Please make sure that you are purchasing individually packaged toothbrushes. The collection bin is outside the church office, and we appreciate your donations as we share the love of God in deed to our students!

Youth Lock-In

We will be having a Youth Lock-In for middle and high school students at the church on February 17 from 7:00 pm until 9:00 am on February 18. There will be a Bible study and a movie marathon as well as a Nerf gun war. Pizza and snacks will be provided. Feel free to bring blankets, pillows, Nerf guns, and games. Sign ups for both students and chaperones will be in the welcome center. If you have any questions, please contact Nina Davis.

Care News
from Stephen Ministry
- Janelle Oxford

New Prayer and Grief Support is now available from Stephen Ministry.

Join us each Sunday at 8:45AM in the chapel to pray for our worship service and participants. All are welcome! If you or someone you know is in need of additional prayer, please feel free to join one or two of us from Stephen Ministry in the chapel at 10AM after Sunday worship. We would love to pray with you. Anyone needing someone to pray with them can also contact Pastor Jay.

Stephen Ministry will also be starting a general grief support outreach until we all complete our official training and can offer more personal grief support. Members would like to reach out to those needing grief support. Please feel free to let Kirbie or Pastor Jay know if you are in need of support or know someone who could benefit from this type of outreach.

If you feel called to participate in Stephen Ministry, we would love to have you join us on this journey to offer care and comfort ministries to our congregation and community. Please contact one of our Stephen Leaders: Pastor Jay, Janelle Oxford, Marcia Schmidlin, or Linda Null or the church office. There are lots of ways to be involved. All are welcome!

Second
Wednesday Dinner

Join us for Second Wednesday Dinner on February 13 at 5:30 pm for an evening of fun, food and music to celebrate Valentine's Day! Our menu includes spaghetti with (or without) meatballs, salad, bread, anti-pasto, desserts and drinks. A photo opportunity, music and a special surprise will also add to your evening! Your free will donation will be used to share God's love to Jim Barnett and his family to help defray his medical costs.

Online Giving

On Sunday, February 24, immediately following Worship, Pam Cooper will be giving a presentation about online giving. The Finance Committee asks that everyone please join us in Asbury Hall for this quick presentation. We all want to be generous, but sometimes life happens and we do not have time to write out a check. Pam will be showing everyone how they can free up time by using this fast and easy way to give.

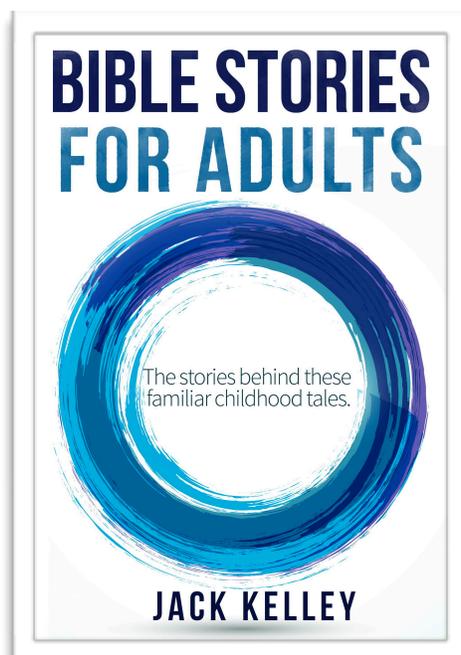


New in the Church Library

- Robert Quick

The church library is offering *Bible Stories For Adults: The Stories Behind These Familiar Childhood Tales* to supplement Pastor Jay's childhood Bible stories sermon series. Amazon describes this book: "These stories are often a child's first glimpse of God, and the simple way they're told is great for little minds. But since we never hear the rest of the story, they are soon relegated to the status of fairy tales and fables. Yet they are not only logical and rational, they are actual events that recount God's earliest revelation of Himself to man. Here's the rest of the story, complete with all the details and references necessary to gain the full understanding of these remarkable events. For example: - Why do Jewish days begin at sunset? - Why did Samson lose his strength when Delilah cut his hair? - Why did David pick up five stones when one was enough to defeat Goliath? Find the answers to these and many other questions as you read the adult version of the Bible's Children's Stories."

It will be available at the welcome center, first come, first served. When done, please return to the desk in the library.



February Birthdays

- 2/1 Tabitha Seaney, Katie Hartke
2/2 Mary Jane Parker,
Nicholas Ramos
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

February Anniversaries

- 2/1 Walt & Margaret Conner
2/14 David & Mary Correll
2/16 Guy & Shirley Treadway
2/28 Larry & Kay Bonnell

Prayer Requests

John, Jeremy, and Greg Markello; Carol Wolf; Carl and Helen Blanton; Michael Brady; Patty Steele; Cathy Thomas; Judson Richardson; Jennifer Newlin; Jennifer Null; Julie Zhang; Bill Thompson; Michael Keene; John Larrabee; Nicole Young; Evan Prah; Ray Dotson; Bev Arrington Campbell; Margie Moore McNamara; Richard Youngs; Kay Young; John Poland; Joan Fulling; Nancy Young; Tim Roth; Fred White; Vonnetta Shipman; Becky Goodwin; Caius Bell; Nelda Dotson; Kim Collins; Bill Hubbard; Ashley Griffith; Claudette Mejean; Ava Seaney; Demmie Long; Jaycie Hoagland; Emma Bodine; Charles Hough; Tonja Bradford; Charley Clark; Sheltyn James Henry; Coleen Roach; Layton Roy; Victims of hurricane Michael; Susan Rodgers; Norris Adams; Rick Pritchard; Dana Bishop; Carl Tarwater; Helen Larrabee; Diane Crampton; Jim Barnett; Earl Maxwell

February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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3 8:00 am Glory Handbell Rehearsal 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Confirmation Class 6:00 pm Evening Worship	4	5 11:00 am MATS 6:00 pm Jesus and the Gospels	6 6:30 am Refresh Breakfast & Bible Study 3:00 pm Kids' Club	7 9:30 am Jesus and the Gospels 4:00 pm NOW Bagging 6:00 pm Jail Ministry 6:00 pm Couples Small Group 6:30 pm Glory Handbell Rehearsal	8 5:15 pm Confirmation Trip Departs	9
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10 8: & 11 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Scout Sunday Brunch 2:30 pm Heritage Health Service 6:00 pm Evening Worship	11	12 11:00 am MATS 6:00 pm Jesus and the Gospels	13 6:30 am Refresh Breakfast & Bible Study 3:00 pm Kids' Club 4:00 pm NOW Bagging 5:30 pm Second Wednesday Dinner 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Meeting	14 9:30 am Jesus and the Gospels 6:00 pm Couples Small Group 6:00 pm Jail Ministry 6:30 pm Glory Handbell Rehearsal	15	16
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17 8 & 11 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Confirmation Class 6:00 pm Evening Worship 7:00 pm Youth Lock-In	18	19 11:00 am MATS 6:00 pm Jesus and the Gospels	20 6:30 am Refresh Breakfast & Bible Study 3:00 pm Kids' Club 6:00 pm Committee Meetings 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting	21 9:30 am Jesus and the Gospels 4:00 pm NOW Bagging 6:00 pm Couples Small Group 6:00 pm Jail Ministry 6:30 pm Glory Handbell Choir	22	23
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24 8 & 11 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Pam Cooper Online Giving Presentation 10:30 am Sunday School 6:00 pm Evening Worship	25	26 11:00 am MATS 6:00 pm Jesus and the Gospels	27 6:30 am Refresh Breakfast & Bible Study 3:00 pm Kids' Club 6:00 pm NOW Soup Supper	28 9:30 am Jesus and the Gospels 4:00 pm NOW Bagging 6:00 pm Couples Small Group 6:00 pm Jail Ministry 6:30 pm Glory Handbell Choir		
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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nineah3@gmail.com

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brennansethtracy@gmail.com

Music Director: Antje Pippin

antje2959@hotmail.com

Organist/Pianist: Brenda Graham

doubleg@mediacombb.net

Custodians: Amy DeDoming, Mark DeDoming

Nursery Staff: Jennifer Boatman, Danielle Stuller,
Tiffany Beard