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

Robinson FUMC

THE HERALD

November 2026

THE PASTOR'S PEN:
Better Together

"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched- they must be felt with the heart"
-Helen Keller

Friends, these powerful words were spoken by a person who became blind at 19 months old and later became deaf. Yes, Helen Keller did eventually learn to speak with her own voice, and she spoke these powerful words. The best and most beautiful things area not visible with the eye or even touched by human hands.

When I look back on our recent merger with our dear friends from the Otterbein United Methodist Church, I see the things that are seen without eyes and are unable to touch with our human hands. I see how God has guided His congregation for over 130 years. God has been the center of the church in ministry, programs, activities, times of celebrations and times of grief. Through it all God was establishing the present.



The memories that were etched into the hearts of the varied congregations through the years are from multiple viewpoints and felt differently by each person and are lasting.

Through the process of merging there are going to be those individuals who will say that one church was failing or that one church was taking over the other. These are not correct thoughts or statements that should ever be shared. Through the merger of two congregations, we must embrace that God is doing something extra special for the community of Robinson and Crawford County.

God is equipping two very dynamic ministries to aid in the process of sharing His message to those who are not touching the aspect of Gospel message, "love for one another".

I am excited for the various tomorrows of ministry. The opportunities where God is calling two or more in His name to be the equipping hands and feet in this world. I am excited for the growth of the United Methodist in Crawford County. Because there are those who say that our denomination is failing and walking away from God. The simple truth is that they are not seeing the beautiful aspect of how God is utilizing these two amazing groups of people to welcome others to not only hear the message of the gospel but also embrace the energy that is being developed.

In His Service and yours,

Pastor Terry



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What's Happening at Robinson FUMC?

STEWARDSHIP
Bible Verse of the Month

Deuteronomy 16:17-
"Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you."

Moses relayed this message from God in his final covenant address to the nation of Israel before they entered the Promised Land. In Moses' address, he relays that God requires all males in Israel to appear before the Lord three times a year at the designated place of worship, not empty-handed, bringing a gift proportional to the blessings they have received.

In a modern interpretation of this verse, we are all asked to determine the amount of our donations of time, talent, and treasure to God's work in proportion to the blessings and resources that He has given to us.

Thank you for all you do!!
Finance Team





Prayer Chain

We are currently in the process of updating and revamping our prayer chain list, including making sure we have current email addresses.

If you would like to receive urgent prayer notifications, please reach out to Kirbie in the church office. All you need to do is send a quick email letting us know that you would like to be included.



SOMETHING TO ADD NEXT MONTH? EMAIL FIRSTUMCROB.COMMS@GMAIL.COM

News from the Nurture Committee

1. Nurture Team will be hosting the **November 2nd Wednesday Dinner** on November 11. Dinner will be provided by the church and served at 5:30. Bring your family and a friend or two to share in fellowship and a fabulous turkey dinner just like Grandma used to fix! There will be PLENTY for everyone!

2. Need a great family picture captured for your Christmas cards? The Nurture Team is planning a **photo opp corner!** The area will be decorated and available throughout Advent, so bring Grandma, Grandpa, - even the WHOLE clan to snap some pix and make memories with your family!

3. The **Hanging of the Greens** and Brunch will be Sunday, November 22nd. Join your church family in decking the halls of Robinson First UMC immediately following the Youth Sunday service! The Nurture Team is hosting the carry-in brunch. Be sure to check out the sign-up table for your dish category and stay for one of the most fun events of the year! We encourage ANYONE and EVERYONE to stick around and get the spirit of Advent!

4. Share the joy of the season with your church family with our **Card Exchange!** The Nurture Elves are sponsoring the 2nd Annual Robinson FUMC Christmas Card exchange. In the next few weeks we will have a current list of our church friends and family. Bring your cards to exchange, the Nurture Elves will sort cards by family and bundle for pick-up! If anyone needs cards, we will have a basket available at the Welcome Center. Just help yourself!!



Recipie from the Nurture Committee

Blueberry Bread Pudding

Prep: 20 minutes | Bake: 50 minutes | Serves: 6

Ingredients

- 12 oz. day-old French bread, baguette, boule, or other crusty country-style bread, cut into ¾-inch cubes (about 6 cups)
- 1½ cups milk
- ¼ cup butter
- 5 eggs
- 1¼ cups white sugar
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract
- ½ tsp. cinnamon
- ½ tsp. salt
- 2 cups fresh blueberries (chopped rhubarb or peaches, or other berries, work too)
- 1 Tbsp. coarse decorating sugar
- Sweetened whipped cream and/or pure maple syrup, for serving

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 325°F.
2. Arrange bread cubes in a buttered 2-quart ceramic baking dish. Heat milk and butter, stirring occasionally, in a saucepan over medium-high heat until butter melts and mixture just comes to a boil. Pour over bread; let stand 15 minutes.
3. Whisk together eggs, white sugar, vanilla, cinnamon, and salt in a bowl. Stir in blueberries. Pour over bread, then stir gently to combine evenly. Sprinkle with coarse sugar.
4. Bake until golden brown and a knife inserted in the center comes out clean, about 45–50 minutes. Let stand 10 minutes. Serve with whipped cream and/or maple syrup.

Enjoy!



CREW Corner

The Importance of Self Care

The last couple of months brought moments that allowed for some self care both for some of the youth, and also for myself. They also saw the CREW members returning to school and getting back into routines. The subject of self care has come up frequently with the youth lately, and I have had some self reflection myself. I have taught many lessons and have spoken with many kids about the importance of self care, being comfortable with oneself, and learning that no one is perfect. Sometimes self care involves taking a step back from things that aren't bringing out your better self. This could be certain activities, certain people, or simply certain actions that you do yourself. I have had many one on one conversations with youth about friends, disagreements, and how it makes them feel. On several occasions I have had the person I was talking to do a little self reflection to see if some of their actions might have fed into the disagreement. Most of the time it's a two way street and both parties need to stop focusing on the little things and put forth effort where it counts. For the sake of not over rambling, I digress and will do a separate write up on that topic later.

Getting back to the importance of self care. Sometimes it takes getting further involved in something, anything that makes you happy. Sometimes it is completing a project that you have wanted to get done for quite awhile. One big item on my to do was to complete my office. I hadn't put it anywhere near the top of my list because I was focused on getting the CREW program up and going. While I was starting the program it seemed selfish or menial to worry about a space for myself. However, I had reached a point where I needed to take time to focus on my office and create the space I was looking to build, both for the youth, and for myself. I painted the walls. I finished up getting the furniture and even got a few decorations. I still need to decorate the walls, but the bulk of the hard stuff is done. While it is "my" office, I believe there are kids in the space a lot more than I'm in there. They all know where my "secret" stash of candy is located. Anyone who has needed them knows where the first aid kit, bandaids, and personal care items are on my shelves. The space has become a sort of reflection of myself, or at least how I try to portray myself with the youth. It's a safe place, a welcoming place, and a place where the kids can feel free to be themselves without harsh judgements. I have a few kids tell me it looks like a living space, a place that feels like home, and a comfortable place. There are some kids out there that don't have all of those things in their own homes, and I am truly blessed to be able to provide a space they can believe is there for them.



CREW Corner - Continued...

If you make your way to my office, you will see lessons strewn about, random pens in weird places, and probably candy wrappers on the floor. Additionally you will find drawings from several different kids, a painting of the church from another, and trivial games written on my yellow pad trying to trick me up. Sometimes when I walk into my office I love to see the hand written notes from the kids who have visited my desk. There is a yellow pad sitting on my desk that the kids have written to me about how much they appreciate me and what is happening at our church. These little gestures make the late nights, early mornings, and the countless hours watching various sports events worth every minute.

To close I want to dictate a recent random conversation I had one of my littles start with me:

Little: How long have you been doing “Thursday Church?”
Me: It is getting close to a year now.
Little: Why did you start doing it in the first place?
Me: Do you enjoy it?
Little: Of course! I want to have it every night!
Me: That’s all the reason I need to have it!

That conversation happened during a time that she could use just a little extra attention, and I was extremely grateful that I could be there when needed. I actually have several more stories like that. Some I will save for another time, and some no one will ever hear simply because the youth feel like they can confide in me. God has put me in their lives for a purpose. Sometimes you have to look harder than others to see the difference being made, but sometimes it reaches up and slaps you in the face. Either way, I appreciate the time that I have with the kids, and the feeling that I have when I know I have been able to help and support the youth.



As always, God Bless,
and thank you all for your support!

Brandon Harmon

Care News from Stephen Ministry

Decades of Care Through Stephen Ministry

Relieving stress can be fun! Here are a few suggestions:

- **Spend time with a four-legged friend.** It is not a secret - pets make us happy! If you don't have a pet of your own, you might consider volunteering at an animal shelter or pet-sitting for a friend.
- **Crack open a book.** Reading is a good way to wind down by losing yourself in the moment and forgetting about the things that stress you.
- **Massage your earlobes.** The pressure points in your earlobes help to calm and relax you. If you do this for a few minutes, you will start to feel some relief. Try it!
- **Dance!** Grooving to your favorite song is therapeutic, and you will get some exercise.
- **Take a deep breath.** Deep breathing helps reduce your bodie's response to perceived threats. Breathe in through your nose for five seconds, hold your breath for two seconds, and then breathe out through your mouth for five seconds.

And..... Thank you!!!
Thank you for your support of our church's Stephen Ministry. Thanks to our wonderful church family, our October Second Wednesday Dinner was a resounding success: an abundant and varied selection of delicious foods, festive fall table decor, eleven tables of happy diners, ten lucky door prize winners, and lots of conversation and laughter. We appreciate all of you who pitched in by providing delicious dishes as well as everyone who assisted with cleaning up. We also appreciate your monetary donations which provide the needed funds to purchase Stephen Ministry materials including the grief books. Again - thank you!!!

If you would like to learn more about Stephen Ministry, request a Stephen Minister, or want to just have a chat, please contact Marcia Schmidlin, (618 553-2710). Your Stephen Ministers are here for you when you need kind and compassionate care.

Odds & Ends

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/1 Jaxon Ackman, Elsie Quick
11/3 Diane Crampton
11/5 Gary Rodgers
11/7 Debbie Tedford; Liam Midgett, Vivienne Midgett
11/8 Stephanie Schmidlin
11/9 Phil Inboden
11/10 Megan Haber
11/15 Kathy Harbison
11/18 Elmer Harness,Max Tedford
11/20 Lainey Aydt, noBrenna Aydt,
11/22 Bob Bell
11/24 Chris Midgett
11/26 Chris Emken
11/28 Greta Lowry
11/30 Leonard Goff

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

11/4 Stacie & Pat McMillan
11/7 Bailey & Denny Knight

PRAYER REQUESTS

Hazel DeDoming; Nancy Holley; Miranda Bedwell; Brenna Aydt; Jon Anderson; Mary Kindt; Jack Frakes; Pat Campbell; Tyler Wortham; David Anderson; Floyd Brinkman; Charlie Ferguson; Kevin Bradbury; Roxann Hermanson, Larry Quick, Ivy Lee; Margo Rager; Cindy Wease; Ebony Williams; Art Hall; Colton Allen; Jackie McDonald; Nancy Mattsey; Amy Kennedy; JJ Reed; Family of Gene Robert Oliver; Bruce and Peggy Jefferies

To add or remove anyone from the Prayer List or Birthday/Anniversary lists, please contact the church office.



November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 am • Worship 10:15 am • Sunday School 6:00 pm • Teen Alliance	2 6:00 pm • Finance Meeting	3 	4 6:00 pm • Outreach Meeting	5 9:00 am • CHEW 4:00 pm • NOW Bagging	6	7
8 9:00 am • Worship 10:15 am • Sunday School 12:00 pm • Otterbein Dinner	9	10	11 5:30 pm • Second Wednesday Dinner 6:15 pm • Stephen Ministry 	12 9:00 am • CHEW 4:00 pm • NOW Bagging	13	14
15 9:00 am • Worship 10:15 am • Sunday School 6:00 pm • Teen Alliance	16	17 5:00 pm • Nurture Meeting	18 11:00 am • Circle of Love 6:00 pm • Trustees Meetings 7:00 pm • Church Council Meeting	19 9:00 am • CHEW 4:00 pm • NOW Bagging	20	21
22 9:00 am • Worship 10:15 am • Hanging of the Greens 11:30 am • Brunch	23 4:00 pm • NOW Bagging	24	25 	26 OFFICE CLOSED 	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28
29 9:00 am • Worship 10:15 am • Sunday School	30					