

THE PASTOR'S PEN: Church Membership

In my younger years I would walk each week with my mother to Mass. Along our travels we would discuss the message that we had heard. Our discussions often lead to how do you see God in the various aspects. In all honesty, I got more out of church in those walks home than I did during the service. Although I was physically present, I wasn't spiritually present.

I attended with my mother all the way through the time that I left to join the Army. Again, with honesty, my church attendance was not on my primary focus list and church membership wasn't even on the radar at all.

Then God, who has this unique ability, placed something far more important in my life than myself, my wife and family. I began to understand that being a parent one of my jobs was to supply a good spiritual foundation in the lives of my family. And it started with my commitment to the church. Again, with the honesty, the process was not established overnight in some great spiritual awakening.

As I focused upon the church we were attending, I began to focus on the people that made up the congregation. They were from all walks of life and ages and varied biblical knowledges. I realized that these people were more



than just fellow attenders of the church, they were friends who were traveling with me and my family. On times when my attendance was sparse it was the family who checked on me and encouraged me from time to time. Over time my attendance became increasingly regular but again I was physically attending but wasn't to be spiritually connected to what was going beyond the 10x13 casserole dishes that periodically appeared.

Then one day I was asked to be a mentor to a young man going through confirmation. What was this kid thinking, me as a spiritual role model for his growing faith. As I sat through the many confirmation classes I began to study on myself and my actions towards church membership. I noticed

that I was present on Sunday mornings. I was willing to help whenever the need arises but didn't want to be on no Dag gone committee with the old guys of the church. That is when I realized that membership didn't mean that I had to serve it meant that I had the connection to the church beyond just occupying a seat and a place in line at the potluck dinner.

1. Membership helped me when I began to spiritually drift.

When we use the analogy of a boat without an anchor. We can easily see how we are able to drift across the various waters of life without something to keep us moored to the teachings of Jesus. Yes, we get this partially from mere attendance, but membership is an outward sign of being anchored to the local church and faith.

2. Our faith was never intended to be an independent endeavor.

The very nature of Christianity calls for us to be a relational people. For example, Holy Communion, this is where Christ calls believers to the table that He has laid before us. When receiving communion, we are not doing this in a private setting but a public one displaying to others our commitment to the church and Christ's teachings.

(Continued on next page)

What's Happening at Robinson FUMC?

The Pastor's Pen (Continued)

3. *What resources make the church stronger: your gifts, talents, and personal commitment*

In the body of Christ- we are woven together such as a jigsaw puzzle. Each piece interlocks with the next to create a beautiful picture. Each of us brings something special to the picture in our spiritual gifts as explained in Romans 12:4-7, Ephesians 4:11-12, 1 Cor 12:4-11. When you read these passages, I stress to you to notice that nowhere does it describe the success of the church comes from "Lone Rangers".

We can see that the modern church is often filled with many "Lone Rangers", who are amazing people that are serving. But God is asking us to go beyond simple attendance to membership and true commitment to His ministry in the local church. For we are the body of Christ in this world each with an important place in the grand picture that God is painting. Please focus upon your membership vows or lack of, to the local church. Contact Pastor Terry about answering the call to church membership.



-Pastor Terry

OFFICE CLOSURE

Kirbie will be out of the office Tuesday, March 24 - Friday, March 27 for Ben's shoulder surgery. The office will be closed and Pastor Terry will have limited hours. Please keep this in mind if you are planning on coming by the church.

Robinson FUMC

Laundry Day

Want to get involved? Contact the Outreach Committee!

Saturday, March 11th
7:00 - 11:00 AM

at Country Washtub
1310 West Main Street, Robinson, IL

NOW Program's Just - One Item for March: White Out Tape

Donations can made in the church office!

NOW FUNDRAISING SOUP SUPPER

MARCH 11TH

5:30 - 7:30 pm

CARRY OUT AVAILABLE!

ALL FUNDS RAISED GO TO THE SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

FUMC - 201 W WALNUT, ROBINSON
QUESTIONS: CALL KIRBIE 618-544-8016

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

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What's Happening at Robinson FUMC?

Circle of Love

Many folks have asked "What is Circle of Love?". I hope to shed some light on this query. It was started by our own Kay Albin as a time of fellowship once a month. We come together for Christian love and support bringing our sack lunches with us. We are open to anyone, church affiliated or otherwise, to join our hour long "luncheon". We generally meet in the parlor where there is access to a microwave. Sometimes when there are many attending we resort to Asbury Hall. There is a microwave in the kitchen there, too. We also have access to the ice machine and cups for water or your own beverage. Some bring sack meals from local restaurants while others bring a sack lunch from home. Sometimes we bring enough goodies to share. Whatever works for you. Come join us this month! We are always ready to listen, pray, and encourage. No gossip!

~ Bonnie Banks

C is for Cookie

If you attend Sunday morning services, you might have noticed that we get cookies on the second Sunday of every month! These cookies are a gift brought to you by the Deep Dive Sunday School class. If you are interested in helping out with this ministry and supply cookies, contact Connie Carter! Connie would also like to remind you that "Jesus loves you, and so do I!"

NOU Program
Free Prom Shopping Experience



FREE to all Crawford County High School Students
Saturday, March 21st - 9:00 am - 11:00 am
FUMC - 201 W Walnut, Robinson
Shop for dresses, shoes and jewelry.

First Come First Serve.
Limited Supplies.
Student must be present.
Questions: 618-544-8016



VBS 2026

It may be March, but our Outreach Committee is already planning our VBS this summer! Once again, this event for EVERYONE. The theme this year is Rainforest Falls. It will be

Look out for more details and ways to help out!

To get involved, contact Brandon at 618.553.0767 or fumcrobyouth@gmail.com

WATCH PAST SERVICES ON YOUTUBE: WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/@ROBINSONFUMC

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Care News from Stephen Ministry



It's coming! Spring will arrive on March 20! Now is great time of year to address a few things that will help you usher in a new season.

1. Schedule your wellness exam

If you have put off scheduling your yearly exam, make an appointment this month.

2. Take a time out

You are not in trouble if you take time out. It's OK to give yourself permission to take a break. Down time is good for your mind and body.

3. Stay active

Exercise is good for your whole health. It helps with weight management, keeps your bones strong, and benefits your heart and lungs. Regular physical activity also increases endorphins, which are the feel-good hormones that boost mood. Call a friend and go for a walk.

4. Eat a balanced diet

Eating a balanced diet is vital for mind and body wellness. Fill your diet with a variety of nutrient-rich foods from all food groups so your body gets the nutrients it needs to thrive. To fuel your body and your mind, eat regularly and limit foods that are high in fat, sugar, and salt.

5. Socialize

People tend to isolate themselves when they feel overwhelmed or stressed, but connecting with others can improve your mindset and how you handle your stress. Call a friend, join a church class, attend 2nd Wednesday dinners, volunteer, or take a class.

6. Get 7-9 hours of sleep a night

Sleep is part of your body's recovery process. If you're not getting enough rest, your body can't fully repair itself from the day's activities.

7. Drink water

Dehydration zaps your energy and makes you hungry. Drink water throughout the day to stay hydrated and healthy.

8. Practice gratitude

Practicing gratitude changes your brain, improving how you think and feel about yourself and the world around you.

9. Find time for things you love

Call a friend for a chat, plan for spring plantings, listen to music, try something new.... What makes you smile?

10. Talk with a Stephen Minister

Our Stephen Ministers are always available to talk and/or meet with you. Reach out to one of them.

<https://www.obgynnebraska.com/blog/10-tips-for-mind-and-body-wellness>

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.

LOTS OF THINGS HAPPENING AT FUMC! GET INVOLVED!

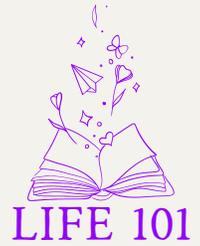
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News from the Nurture Committee

Hello Everyone!

The Nurture Team is gearing up for lots of exciting opportunities in the coming months!

LIFE101 is a new program that will feature topics that maybe you've always wanted to learn but don't know where to start. Kicking off in March, Annetta Evans will be sharing Secrets of Sour Dough, from creating your "mother" starter to baking and beyond! The date will be Friday, March 20th at 6:00 pm! Bring a friend and have some fun! If YOU have an idea for a topic, let us know! If you have any questions, contact Annetta: 813.760.5545 - text or voice mail message, or arevans427@aol.com. Thanks so much!!



Prayer Blankets - The Nurture Team is starting a Prayer Blanket Ministry! We will be collecting fleece-blankets to prayed over for those experiencing a difficult time to let them know we care. A card will be included extending our love and prayers in their time of need. Just reach out to a Nurture Team member or let Pastor Terry know and we will place a blanket on the altar for prayer for that person. The congregation will be invited prior to the service closing to pray over the blanket.

Fifth Sunday Brunch - March 29 is Palm Sunday and also a "fifth" Sunday. The Nurture Team is hosting a carry-in brunch on those fifth Sundays! Sunday School will not meet on that day and we invite everyone to stay for some yummy brunch dishes and fellowship. If your last name begins with A-F bring a main course, G-L bring fruit, M-Q bring salads, R-Z bring desserts. (Note, these will be rotated each fifth Sunday to give everyone a chance to bring various items). Drinks will be provided by the church. The Easter Egg Hunt will also be held after brunch. If you would like to donate candy, trinkets or plastic eggs, we will have a box set up in the Narthax.

Casseroles of Comfort - Nurture is planning a work day soon to make up freezer meals for those who need to have a little extra care. Watch for details to be coming out later.

The Nurture Team is excited for all the new opportunities and ideas coming your way! Let's draw together and "nurture" each other in spirit. If you have ideas that you would like to see implemented - please SHARE!



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Odds & Ends

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3/1 Pat McMillan
3/4 Allison White, Patty Lycan
3/10 Marcia Schmidlin, Edy Treadway
3/11 Bernice Kibler
3/13 Bill Damron, Zeth Poettker
3/15 Thelma Gifford
3/22 Jonathon Murray
3/23 Joann Stram
3/25 Nathan Devonshire, Barbara Bell
3/29 Nina Davis; Greg Daugherty
3/30 Tammy Jones, Luke Anderson



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

3/14 Terry and Annetta Evans
3/15 Jeff & Sherri Murrell

PRAYER REQUESTS

Nancy Holley; Hazel DeDoming; Luke Campbell; Letha Stanford; Bonnie Smith; Michelle Hall; Doreen Elmore; Mike Brady; Les Thurston; Jeffery Roche; Brian Frost; Brad Salhani; Brody Keesling; Donna Beabout; Ivy Lee Murray; Tonya Hornback; Cora Childers; Ron Legg; Trevor Seed; Mike Tracy; Kent Tracy; Miranda Bedwell; Brenna Ayd; Jon Anderson; Louie Ferguson; Charlie Shupe; Johnny Berry; Addie Hastings; Mary Ann Kidwell; Amy Kennedy; Keegan Pigati; Crystal Werhle; Joe Davis; Bob Bell; Anne Tarran; Tanya Gullet; Tyler Wortheam; Raymond Reynolds; Jamey Drummond; Art Hall; Rita Dallimer; Karen Meeks; Pete Stubbs; Frank Bender; Brenda Graham; Aric White; Adam MacKendrick; Tracy Jones; Mya Wright; Carol Ann Spore; Bobbie Murray; Mary Kindt; Stephanie Batman; Bill Thomas



MEETING TIME CHANGES

We are making some changes to our normal team meeting schedules to make the meetings more accessible for various members. These changes will go into effect in the month of March.

Finance will meet every other month on 3rd Monday night @ 6:00

Trustees will remain monthly on 3rd Wednesday's at 6:00 PM

PPR will meet quarterly on determined dates

Nurture will meet monthly on 2nd Tuesday's @ 6:00 PM

Outreach will meet monthly on 1st Tuesday's @ 6:00 PM

Education will meet quarterly on 3rd Wednesday's @ 6:00 PM

Nominations will meet monthly the 1st Monday @ 6:00 PM

Ad Council will meet as regularly scheduled

*****All teams will meet in the month of August to prepare for 2027 budgets *****



WE ARE ALWAYS NEEDING VOLUNTEERS! CONTACT KIRBIE TO GET INVOLVED!

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March 2026 Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 am • Worship 10:15 am • Sunday School 6:00 pm • Comedy Show	2 6:00 pm • Lay Leadership Meeting	3 6:00 pm • Outreach Meeting	4	5 9:00 am • CHEW 4:00 pm • NOW Bagging 6:00 pm • CREW	6	7 9:00 am • Laundry Day
8 9:00 am • Worship 10:15 am • Sunday School 	9	10 6:00 pm • Nurture Meeting	11 5:30 pm • NOW SOUP SUPPER 6:00 pm • CREW • Stephen Ministry	12 9:00 am • CHEW 4:00 pm • NOW Bagging 6:00 pm • CREW	13	14
15 9:00 am • Worship 10:15 am • Sunday School	16 OFFICE CLOSED	17 5:00 pm  • Nurture Meeting 6:00 pm • Team Meetings 7:00 pm • Church Council	18 11:30 am • Circle of Love 6:00 pm • Trustees Meeting 7:00 pm • Church Council	19 9:00 am • CHEW 4:00 pm • NOW Bagging	20	21 9:00 am • NOW Prom Shopping
22 9:00 am • Worship 10:15 am • Sunday School	23	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25 OFFICE CLOSED 4:00 pm • NOW Bagging 6:00 pm • CREW • Stephen Ministry	26 OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 am • CHEW 4:00 pm • NOW Bagging 6:00 pm • CREW	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28
29 PALM SUNDAY 9:00 am • Worship 10:15 am • Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt	30 4:00 pm • NOW Bagging					

WANT TO SCHEDULE AN EVENT AT THE CHURCH? CONTACT THE OFFICE.

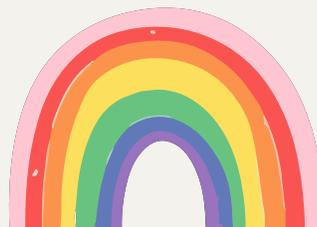
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62454
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ROBINSON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor: Terry Evans
Office Manager: Kirbie Ackman
Director of Youth and Family Engagement: Brandon Harmon
Communications Coordinator: Brennan Seth Tracy
Worship Leader: Daniel Boatman
Accompanist: Kayla Holscher
Custodians: Amy DeDoming, Mark DeDoming



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