

ROBINSON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH • OCTOBER 2019

The Herald

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



**MAKE
AN
IMPACT!**

From the Pastor's Desk

First United Methodist Church is the place to be! Every week, we're seeing more and more people attending worship (and with greater regularity). Our facility is utilized every day of the week for our growing ministries and for the wider community. Hundreds of people walk through the doors every week. I have had several people tell me that they sense the Spirit and peace when they come to First UMC. Our ministries are making a profound impact on the people in our congregation, as well as the community!

We want to continue to make that profound impact for Jesus throughout the rest of 2019, for 2020, and years to come! You know that we've had our stewardship campaign, Cultivating Generosity, during the month of August, and we have received commitments into September. We take those commitments, average three years' worth of Easter offerings, Christmas offerings, and loose plate (cash) offerings, as well as those of non-pledging but identifiable givers. To date, our projected income is \$272,168. Our budget requests total \$355,434 - which means that we anticipate an almost \$80,000 deficit.

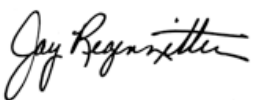
What does that mean for us? Well, it means that our leaders are having some conversations about ministry priorities. It means that we may have to "press pause" on some of our ministries or scale them back. It may mean some building repairs or updates are delayed. While it's too soon to know the types of things that need to be determined, what we do know is this: if every household giving unit would consider doing one of two things, we could continue our forward trajectory as a congregation.

First, we know that our three-year capital campaign, which launched in 2017, concludes December 31, 2019. Many of you have made gifts to this campaign in a variety of ways. If you've been someone who has given weekly or monthly, would you consider continuing to give that gift in 2020, but give it to the general church's ministries? Carrying out that action would allow us to close the gap by at least \$22,000.

The second way that you can help our church is by thinking about proportional giving. I've done quite a bit of demographic study for our area as part of my doctoral research, and I can confidently say that a small percentage of our congregation (roughly 10-15%) actually tithe to the church, and the majority give less than 2% of their income. The church council would like to challenge you to make a step toward giving 2-3% of your income, if you're not already doing so. We believe that if every giving unit gave at that percentage, we would end up with a surplus of money, allowing our congregation to start new and expand existing ministries.

I know most of us don't like to talk about money, but we want to be clear about where we are as we finish out 2019 and head into 2020. In this edition of The Herald, you'll read about some of the ways that your giving is making a great impact. Please join me in praying for our church and its future, so that we can live out our mission and into the vision God has for us.

Grace and Peace,



Pastor Jay

Facilities Update

The trustees don't update First UMC often on their work, but we do want you to know how your giving makes an impact. Please think about these current and future projects, and how they are funded.

The capital campaign began in 2017 and concludes at the end of December. We set a goal of \$514,000 (now reduced to \$464,000 due to lower-than-anticipated costs) to accomplish three projects. First, we wanted to purchase and demolish the apartment building to the west of the church (which we did in 2017). Second, we wanted to eliminate the \$249,000 debt the church incurred in purchasing property and rebuilding following the fire (that debt was paid in full in July 2019). Our last project was to redo and expand parking. If everyone who has pledged pays their gifts in full, we will have about \$30,000 toward parking.

Thanks to the generosity of an estate gift, the trustees will begin excavation work on the southwest corner of the church property, digging up the basement of old properties. The ground will be leveled, and the concrete behind the church garage will also be dug up, new concrete will be poured, and the garage will be moved back. With this estate gift, in combination with the balance of the capital campaign, we will be able to construct a new parking lot south of the church on half of the grass lot. The other half will be fenced as a play area for our children's ministries, thanks to a gift from the First UMC Foundation.

This estate gift, along with other gifts, has allowed the trustees to renovate the parsonage kitchen, with new flooring, cabinets, floorplan, and some new appliances. The estate gift also allowed the church to redo the education entryway and work on the bell tower leak.

A recent estate gift will help the trustees do some other maintenance projects, like installing handicapped-accessible restrooms in the basement, finishing the rest of the basement walls and ceiling, and installing a new sign. We encourage you to think of the church in your estate planning, because these gifts allow the trustees to undertake projects not included in the church budget.

Speaking of the church budget, we hope that you are aware of how your weekly gifts help the trustees do its ministry. Some building maintenance and parsonage maintenance are paid through the general fund. Custodial supplies, security maintenance, elevator maintenance, and equipment maintenance are possible through your gifts. Having a climate where most of us stay cool or warm (in season) also makes a difference to each of us. We appreciate that your gifts help us put our best foot forward in making our facilities a warm, welcoming environment.

Our Ministries Reach the Community!

Did you know that the NOW Program receives no support from the general fund? We rely solely on the donations of people in the church and community. During October, we will be collecting full-size tubes of toothpaste (both children and adult). You can place your donations in the NOW Program bin outside the church office.

First UMC hosts Trick or Treat at FUMC on Thursday, October 31. We hope to have volunteers plan a table theme and decorate tables throughout Asbury Hall, where children can come in a safe environment. There will be movies playing, and free hot dogs. While we ask for donations of candy, the general fund does help us with the purchase of supplies that aren't donated, so know that you make a difference by giving in multiple ways.

Our general fund supports many outreach ministries. Our general church apportionments come through outreach, and we've discovered in recent years how our church benefits from those apportionments through the intern program, academic scholarships, NOW Program benevolences and Sunday school materials. Our part of the budget also pays for the radio broadcast on weeks when it isn't sponsored, supports the women's jail ministry, Lunch Buddies in Crawford County schools, the student mission trip, as well as advertising, our website, and our texting app. We hope you know that we appreciate your support of these ministries, as well as the new ways we want to reach our community with the love of Jesus!

Your Giving Impact on Worship

When we think of worship at First UMC, there are obvious things that our giving impacts - we have staff musicians, a pastor, and technical staff, as well as technology that must be kept up to date. However, did you know that the Chancel Choir anthems that have been used in worship recently were all purchased as a result of our worship staff attending a continuing education event together? Your gifts help us purchase banners for the sanctuary (remember the banners we made together in January - you'll see them soon!), and soon we will have kneeling cushions for the communion railings. There are also things we don't see, but impact worship all the time, like copyright licenses, as well as our livestreaming. Your giving makes it possible for us to have communion together, beautiful altars, and all of the other things that help make worship meaningful to each of us - and we're grateful!

2nd Wednesday Dinner

As a way to thank you for your giving, Pastor Jay invites you to come to the Parsonage (804 North Scott Drive) in October (October 9, 5:30 pm) for 2nd Wednesday Dinner. All of the food will be provided - just bring a roasting stick and a lawn chair, and everything else will be there for you! This is your opportunity to see the new kitchen and the rest of the parsonage, enjoy some fellowship, and eat good food! Please sign up at the nametag area if you plan to come, so we can have enough food.

Care News From Stephen Ministry

Since the training began with a retreat on August 28, the first five training modules have been completed by the Stephen Leaders and Ministers. The group has studied, discussed, discerned, and prayed during their meetings. The next two training modules will be presented by Pastor Jay:

October 9- 6:30-9:00 pm

Module 6A - Assertiveness: Relating Gently & Firmly
(Training at the parsonage following 2nd Wednesday dinner)

October 23 - 6:30-9:00 pm

Module 6B- Assertiveness: Relating Gently & Firmly
(Training in the parlor at FUMC)

Stephen Ministry has additional resources located on a bookshelf in the church library. The additional books cover a wide variety of topics. The Stephen Leaders will add additional materials as subjects and needs are identified.

Thank you for your continued support through your prayers and offerings. How blessed and grateful we are for all God does through our ministries at FUMC!



October Birthdays

10/1	Ka Su Kelly, Julie Pfeiffer, Julia Roberson
10/3	Emily Holtzhouser
10/4	Sabra Adams, Maezie Fearday
10/6	Robert Quick
10/7	Rich Johnson
10/10	Evelyn Blanchard
10/12	Greg Markello
10/13	Leavone Johnson, Victoria McMillan
10/14	Allison Damron
10/16	Jason Hartke
10/19	Ann York, Colby McGahey, Calvin Turner
10/21	Allen Lowry
10/23	Ethan Dhom
10/25	Shirley Wakefield
10/27	Sydney Harmon
10/30	Julie Wilson

October Anniversaries

10/2	Gary & Susan Rodgers
10/7	Bill & Kaye Damron, Lance & Tabitha Seaney
10/16	Janet & Charley Clark, Billy & Connie Calvert
10/21	Jack & Edna Frakes
10/27	John & Marcia Schmidlin

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 Prahl; Margie Moore McNamara; Richard Youngs; Kay Young; Joan Fulling; Nancy & Charlie Young; Tim Roth; Fred White; Vonnetta Shipman; Becky Goodwin; Caius Bell; Ray & Nelda Dotson; Kim Collins; Claudette Mejean; Ava Seaney; Demmie Long; Jaycie Hoagland; Emma Bodine; Charles Hough; Charley Clark; Sheltyn James Henry; Coleen Roach; Layton Roy; Susan Rodgers; Norris Adams; Rick Pritchard; Helen Larrabee; Diane Crampton; Chris Blair; Laurie Vaughn; Bill Jones; McKenzie Fields; Larry & Kay Bonnell; Rhonda Murphy; Wally Leggit; Joe Schmidlin; Cathy Frakes, Brent Owen, Maxine Rodgers; Tambryn LaCorte; Landen Lamb; The family of Sherri Malicoat; Tim & Ann Wade, Debbie Nichols; Judy Eckert; Bernice Kibler; Wally Treadway; Lisa Schaefer, The family of Shirley Muston

OCTOBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 11:00 am MATS 6:00 pm Christian Believer	2 6:30 am Refresh Breakfast & Bible Study 3:00 pm Kids' Club	3 9:30 am Christian Believer 4:00 pm NOW Weekend Bagging 6:00 pm Jail Ministry 6:30 pm Glory Handbell Rehearsal	4	5 8:00 am Heath Harvest Hospitality Table 1:00 pm Outreach Water Bottle Handout
6 8:00 am Glory Handbell Rehearsal 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm Evening Worship	7 5:30 pm Couples Small Group	8 11:00 am MATS 6:00 pm Christian Believer	9 6:30 am Refresh Breakfast & Bible Study 3:00 pm Kids' Club 5:30 pm Second Wednesday Dinner 6:30 pm Stephen Ministry Training	10 9:30 am Christian Believer 4:00 pm NOW Weekend Bagging 6:00 pm Jail Ministry 6:30 pm Glory Handbell Rehearsal	11	12
13 8 & 11 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 2:30 pm Heritage Health Service 6:00 pm Evening Worship	14 5:30 pm Couples Small Group	15 11:00 am MATS 6:00 pm Christian Believer 4:00 pm NOW Weekend Bagging	16 6:30 am Refresh Breakfast & Bible Study 6:00 pm Committee Meetings 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting	17 9:30 am Christian Believer 6:00 pm Jail Ministry	18	19
20 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 6:00 pm Evening Worship	21 5:30 pm Couples Small Group	22 10:30 am MATS 6:00 pm Christian Believer	23 6:30 am Refresh Breakfast & Bible Study 3:00 pm Kids' Club 6:30 pm Stephen Ministry Training	24 9:30 am Christian Believer 4:00 pm NOW Weekend Bagging 6:00 pm Jail Ministry 6:00 pm Glory Handbell Rehearsal	25	26
27 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 2:00 pm Charge Conference 6:00 pm Evening Worship	28 OFFICE CLOSED 5:30 pm Couples Small Group	29 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 am MATS 6:00 pm Christian Believer	30 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 am Refresh Breakfast & Bible Study 3:00 pm Kids' Club 4:00 pm NOW Weekend Bagging	31 OFFICE CLOSED 9:30 am Christian Believer 5:30 pm Trick or Treat at FUMC 6:00 pm Jail Ministry		

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