

ROBINSON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH • MARCH 2020

The Herald

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



EXERCISE YOUR SPIRITUAL MUSCLES!

**This month, we
will begin
discussing our
five spiritual
muscles. Look
inside for more
information and
how to begin
exercising them!**

From the Pastor's Desk

At our annual charge conference in October, our district superintendent, Charliam Renner, challenged local churches to define “disciple” and to discuss five spiritual muscles that disciples of Jesus exercised regularly. The five spiritual muscles were worship, ministry, fellowship, evangelism, and stewardship. The church council received the task of defining those spiritual muscles for our congregation, and they did so at their January meeting. Here are our five statements:

- Worship: A disciple is regularly engaged in a worshipping community.
- Ministry: A disciple uses their spiritual gifts for mission and ministry.
- Fellowship: A disciple practices intentional hospitality to everyone.
- Evangelism: A disciple shares their faith and meets people’s real needs.
- Stewardship: A disciple is extravagantly generous in sharing their resources, talents, and gifts.

Based on those working definitions, how are you doing as a disciple? This season of Lent is a great opportunity for us to engage in self-examination regarding these “spiritual muscles” - and those muscles, like our physical muscles, need exercise in order to function well. Of course, the church council has left some of these definitions open-ended, but still, you can ask questions like these of yourself:

- How do I define regular worship attendance - weekly, twice per month, four times per year? Am I meeting my own definition? If not, what can I do to increase my worship attendance?
- Do I know my spiritual gifts? If not, why not? If I do, am I putting them into use?
- Do I make space for new people in worship? Am I willing to sit somewhere else than my usual seat or row in order for someone new to feel welcome? Have I greeted someone new in the past month?
- What’s my faith story? Have I told it to anyone recently? Have I heard someone speak of a need, and have I responded to meet it?
- How have I shared God’s gifts with others recently? Have I wisely used the resources God has given me?

Use these questions (or some you come up with on your own) to help you reflect on your own path of discipleship during Lent. In the coming months, we’ll be sharing about these practices (as the church council continues its work on developing a disciple formation system) and ways that you can exercise particular spiritual muscles. I look forward to getting stronger with you!

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jay Regan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. It is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Pastor Jay

Care News From Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry was very active during the month of February. The Stephen Ministry team hosted the second Wednesday dinner on February 12. A great time was had by all as we met in fellowship, enjoyed a hearty meal of pasta, and indulged in delicious desserts. Many kudos and thank-yous to all who helped make the dinner a success. The donations received will be used for training materials, the April retreat, grief books, and more. After the meal Janis Daugherty taught Module 13: Depression: Stephen Ministry's Role. Stephen Ministry met again on February 26 for training of Module 14: Helping Suicidal Persons presented by Marcia Schmidlin. All of our training is helping us prepare to help people heal spiritually after going through difficult life situations. "Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come." 1 Timothy 4:8

Thank you to the Worship Committee, who invited Stephen Ministry to take a leadership role during the worship services on Sunday, February 16, and Sunday, February 23. The Stephen Ministry team led prayers and presented testimonials of how Stephen Ministry is working their lives.

Stephen Ministry has a display in the narthex. Please check it periodically for up-to-date information on this ministry. Also, the Stephen Ministry team is available to pray with, for and beside anyone requesting prayer. Please contact us personally or fill out a prayer card at the display if you would like prayers. You may also join us for prayer each Sunday at 10:00AM, immediately following the Sunday morning service in the chapel just inside the northwest entrance. Stephen Ministry is active at FUMC, and we are available for everyone.

As we move toward commissioning our Stephen Ministers on Easter Sunday, please know that Stephen Ministry is here for you! If you are struggling, going through a difficult time, experiencing a life transition, please let Pastor Jay know. He would be happy to talk with you about how Stephen Ministry works and how you can benefit from the care ministry of a Stephen Minister. How can congregation members receive a Stephen Minister as a Christian caregiver? Anyone 18 years or older can receive a Stephen Minister. If an individual desires a Stephen Minister to walk through any situation or time with them they need simply to ask a Stephen Leader. Then they will be referred to Pastor Jay as the Stephen Leader Referral Coordinator. He will talk to them and facilitate their assignment of a Stephen Minister. Congregation members may also refer other members. The best way to refer a hurting person is to say to them, "I'm going to get you a Stephen Minister." Then tell Pastor Jay. Many times if you just ask them, they will say no. You may be aware of a crisis if that is the cause or you may just notice they are not acting the same, or are not following through like they used to or usually do.

March Training Modules:

March 11: Module 15 - Close of Care Relationship presented by Jay Regennitter

March 25: Module 16 - Supervision as the Key to Quality presented by Janelle Oxford

Stephen Ministry looks forward to the month of March when we will work on building our spiritual muscles by drawing strength from God. Ephesians 6: 10 tells us to "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power."



Ark of the Covenant

As you're reflecting on your spiritual muscles this month, please know that the Ark of the Covenant soup kitchen will help you with your ministry and evangelism muscles! Our soup kitchen needs 2-3 servers and 2-3 drivers (for home delivery). Shifts are from 3-6pm for servers and 3-5 pm for drivers on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. Ark of the Covenant soup kitchen is located at 503 E. Hazel Street in Robinson. You can park on the west side of the building and enter through the west entrance.

Second Wednesday Dinner

We invite you to come and join your church family for dinner on Wednesday, March 11! It has been some time since we've shared our favorite dishes with one another, so you are encouraged to flex your culinary muscles! Bring a side dish or dessert, and we'll provide fried chicken and beverages! In order to have enough chicken, please make sure that you sign up at the nametag table in the narthex. We'll see you at 5:30 pm on March 11!

March Birthdays

3/1	Pat McMillan
3/4	Allison McGaheyPatty Lycan
3/7	Susan Rodgers
3/10	Marcia Schmidlin Edy Treadway
3/11	Bernice Kibler, Sandy Roberson, Christopher Dhom
3/12	Lane Utterback
3/13	Bill Damron
3/14	Landry Weck
3/15	Thelma Gifford
3/19	Dorothy Fasig
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

3/15 Jeff & Sherri Murrell
3/23 Charles & Nancy Young

Prayer Requests

John, Jeremy, and Greg Markello; Carol Wolf; Carl and Helen Blanton; Michael Brady; Patty Steele; Cathy Thomas; Judson Richardson; Julie Zhang; Bill Thompson; Michael Keene; John Larrabee; Nicole Young; Evan Prah; Margie Moore McNamara; Richard Youngs; Kay Young;; Nancy & Charlie Young; 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; Susan Rodgers; Norris Adams; Rick Pritchard; Helen Larrabee; Laurie Vaughn; Bill Jones; Kay Bonnell; Wally Leggit; Joe Schmidlin; Cathy Frakes, Maxine Rodgers; Judy Eckert; Bernice Kibler; Lisa Schaefer; Shirley Wakefield; Matthew Williams; Debbie Summerfield; Kasey Harbin; Madelyn Storckman; Rhea Hayden; Bob Callier; Jessica Collins; Larry Potts; Eloise Jewell Hoagland; Rick Richardson; Patricia Hodgson; Pamela Hart; Sue Goebel; June Watson; Maria Reis; Paul Davis; Marlene Bowen Benson; Myrtle Garrard; Mary Etta Whitmer; Tonja Bradford; Kathy Kennedy; Roger Pethel; Jesse Newbold; Laurette Roales; Bill McMillen

Employee of the Month

The SPRC would like to recognize Antje Pippin as Employee of the Month for March,



MARCH 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:15 am - Praise Kids Rehearsal 9:00 am - Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 - Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm - Evening Worship	2 6:00 pm - Parenting Small Group	3 11:00 am - MATS 6:00 pm - Christian Believer	4 6:30 am - Refresh Breakfast & Bible Study 3:00 pm - Kids' Club 6:00 pm - NOW Fundraising Soup Supper	6 9:30 am - Christian Believer 4:00 pm - NOW Weekend Bagging 6:00 pm - Jail Ministry - Glory Handbell Rehearsal	6	7
8 8:15 am - Glory Handbell Rehearsal 9:00 am - Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 - Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm - Evening Worship	9 6:00 pm - Parenting Small Group	10 5:00 pm - Finance Committee Meeting 6:00 pm - Christian Believer	11 6:30 am - Refresh Breakfast & Bible Study 3:00 pm - Kids' Club 5:30 pm - Second Wednesday Dinner 6:30 pm - Stephen Ministry Training	12 9:30 am - Christian Believer 4:00 pm - NOW Weekend Bagging 6:00 pm - Jail Ministry - Glory Handbell Rehearsal	13	14
15 8 & 11 am - Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am - Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 6:00 pm - Evening Worship	16 OFFICE CLOSED 6:00 pm - Parenting Small Group	17 OFFICE CLOSED 11:00 am - MATS 6:00 pm - Christian Believer	18 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 am - Refresh Breakfast & Bible Study 3:00 pm - Kids' Club 6:00 pm - Committee Meeting 7:00 pm - Church Council	19 OFFICE CLOSED 9:30 am - Christian Believer 4:00 pm NOW Weekend Bagging 6:00 pm - Jail Ministry	20 OFFICE CLOSED	21
22 8 & 11 am - Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am - Worship 10:00 am - Sunday School 6:00 pm - Evening Worship	23 6:00 pm - Parenting Small Group	24 11:00 am - MATS 6:00 pm - Christian Believer	25 6:30 am - Refresh Breakfast & Bible Study 3:00 pm - Kids' Club 6:30 pm - Stephen Ministry Training	26 9:30 am - Christian Believer 4:00 pm - NOW Weekend Bagging 6:00 pm - Jail Ministry - Glory Handbell Rehearsal	27	28
29 9:00 am - Worship 10:00 am - Sunday School 6:00 pm - Evening Worship	30 6:00 pm - Parenting Small Group	31 11:00 am - MATS 6:00 pm - Christian Believer				

Office Closed

The office will be closed March 16th - 20th, and possibly March 23rd - 27th. Please make arrangements with Kirbie if you are going to need anything during those two weeks: key to the building, something ordered or printed, etc.

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Nursery Staff: Jennifer Boatman, Danielle Stuller,
Tiffany Beard, Anita Cohoon