

Robinson FUMC

THE HERALD

July 2026

THE PASTOR'S PEN: THE QUEST

Many moons ago, my brothers and cousins all went to stay with my grandmother out in the country for an extended period. My grandmother was a lady who raised fourteen children on her own and truly understood what it meant to keep children busy. Grandma invited all of us one morning to join her on the front porch for a quest.



As the crew of misfits gathered on the porch Grandma pulled out this ratty looking old piece of cloth. The ends had been singed, and the material was tattered in various places. On the cloth itself there was something that had been drawn that resembled some sort of a map. In the middle of the drawing was a red "X" that symbolized something or the end of a destination.

Grandma began to explain to my fellow seekers what this important document was that she was holding in her hand. She said that when she was a little girl,

the outlaws of Frank and Jesse James, would escape out of Missouri and come and hide at what was her Daddy's farm, The very farm that we were at right now! She said that the outlaws would always slip away after dinner and go off in the woods for an extended period of time. That was many years ago and everyone who was in the know was long resting with Jesus. Then one day she and my grandfather found this cloth tucked up in the barn loft that all of us kids were sleeping in for the summer.

She said for many years she and grandpa had searched and searched for what they suspected was buried treasure. She then told us that it was our job to go find the treasure and we would split the gold once it was found. As we dashed off in the woods with our tattered map in hand, we thought that we were destined to be Gazillionaires!

Just like those treasure-fevered kids, every one of us is on a quest to find treasures and the most important is the spiritual treasure that we locate in our relationship with God. You may be a person who starts at a young age, middle age, or a more advanced age the quest has the same destination or "X" on the map. We will encounter twists and turns, obstacles and pitfalls, high points and low ones and yet, our destination remains the same - Heaven.

CONTACT PASTOR TERRY AT ROBINSONFUMCPASTOR@GMAIL.COM
www.robinsonfumc.org • 201 W. Walnut St. Robinson, IL • (618) 544-8016

What's Happening at Robinson FUMC?

THE QUEST (CONTINUED)

C.S. Lewis once said, "One road leads home and a thousand roads lead into the wilderness." We want to help you get home. So, here at Robinson First, we have created a road map to show us all how we progress to our goal of living and loving like Jesus. We have come up with clear action steps and clear mile markers:

X Marker 1 is a time of discovery.
X Marker 2 is a time of learning.
X Marker 3 is a time of belonging.
X Marker 4 is a time of watching lives change.

Well, as you can suspect by the more-than wealthy lifestyle, the "gazillionaire's" dream was never reached. The treasure hiding in the woods was never ever located after all these years and many summers were spent searching. But what we did discover was a love of family and working towards a common goal. Let us join as a family and work together helping others along the "Quest" to find the riches of a relationship with God and his misfits at Robinson First UMC. A place where imperfect people in an imperfect church meet the perfect Creator.

See you in church,

Pastor T.



Birthday Open House:

Please help us celebrate Shirley Treadway's 85th birthday by joining us at the church for a on July 4th from 10:00 am to Noon! She'd love to see you!

Stewardship: Bible Verse of the Month

The verse for June is:
Proverbs 11:25

"A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."

In this verse and others, God promises to reward those who generously share the resources of time, talents, and treasure that He has given to them. By sharing your resources and by giving encouragement to others, you invite blessings and fulfillment into your own life.

Thank you for all you do!!

Finance Team

What's Growing On? Your Guide to the NOW Community Garden

It's been a good growing season so far for the NOW Community Garden. We hope you've had a chance to enjoy some of the produce that the Lord has provided. If there's any lettuce left, please help yourself. We'll be transitioning that bed over to zucchini. Also, we'll try to keep the cilantro going as long into summer as we can. Between that, the tomatoes, the peppers, and maybe green onions, you could potentially make your own salsa! Also, look for cucumbers, bush beans and pole beans, and vining rampicante, which I'm told can be cooked just like a zucchini. As always, a big thank you to the volunteer gardeners that are working and tending the garden!

If you're new to gardening or an experienced green thumb, we'd love to have you join us. The community garden is an informal group of volunteer gardeners that plant a garden so anyone can harvest, and in this act, we fellowship with each other and spread the love of Jesus with the community. If you're interested in serving with the community garden volunteers, please contact Kirbie and we'll get you connected.

A Few Notes from the Nurture Team:

The Nurture Team would like to extend a HUGE "thank you" to everyone who helped out with Vacation Bible School meals! We couldn't have done it without your support! We averaged around 75-80 kids, adults and volunteers each night! Definitely a huge success!

Second Wednesday:

I scream! You scream! We all scream for ICE CREAM!! July's 2nd Wednesday Dinner is July 8. We're mixing it up a bit and having an Ice Cream Social - serving starts at 5:30! Hope to see you all there!

Life101:

What topic would you like to explore or learn?? We have a few things in the planning stages, but could always use new ideas! Do you know someone who would be a great teacher or who has a talent they would like to share? Let someone on the Nurture Team know so we can connect! Keep a close watch for the next events to be announced!

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

www.robinsonfumc.org • 201 W. Walnut St. Robinson, IL • (618) 544-8016

CREW Corner

Reaching Further with VBS



The month of June marked the first VBS with me at the helm with my position. I love this picture as it speaks volumes and shows some of the “behind the scenes” of running VBS. This was the last night and the last closing for the week. The youth were all very into the singing and the dancing and I couldn’t help but stop and take a picture. This was a culminating moment for me and I wanted to take it in. It could not have possibly happened without the help of so many volunteers. I want to take this moment to give my sincere thanks to everyone involved. I stopped many of them to simply say, “I appreciate you,” and I do. So much planning, so many decorations, so many texts back and forth trying to ensure that everything would run smoothly for the week. I am proud to say that everything seemed to run very well. It takes so many people being involved for this to be accomplished. There were volunteers who were putting on the skits, singing the songs with the kids,

and running the booth for the opening and the closing every night. There were volunteers who came in almost every night the weeks before setting up the decorations, moving tables and chairs, and rearranging rooms to ensure the kids would have an experience that is a little out of the norm. There were room leaders who took their time and put so much thought into their rooms and activities. There were so many that spent hours planning, cooking, and cleaning up for the meals that we had every night. There were group leaders that volunteered to corral the kids and bring them around to the various stations set up throughout the church. In short, there were countless volunteers throughout the week offering the community youth a safe place to hear about our Lord Jesus Christ.

I have been asked about numbers for the week, and honestly, I haven’t taken the time to specifically count every individual person who came through the door. Every night was different. Some nights we had more older kids, some nights we had more younger kids, and some nights more or less adults were able to make it to the adult class. I know we had families who are members of our church, we had some that aren’t members, and we had some families that were looking for a new church to call home. I walked across the street to one of the neighboring houses to invite their kids over. The neighbor kids will come out and join our CREW when we are playing outside. The kids asked their parents if they could come over for VBS, and then were able to make it several nights of the week. There were some kids that couldn’t make it every night because of their ball games, but then there were at least a couple that would come in their uniforms and leave early, just so they could be there as much as possible. The youth were excited to be there, and disappointed when they missed. That sounds like an absolute win in my book.



CREW Corner

Reaching Further with VBS (*Continued*)

Every night I had the youth do their “homework,” which was to write down where they had seen God that day or week. Some needed help to write it down or even to explain what that meant, but all were able to come up with answers. Many put the church, VBS, parents, and family. Many just put things that they had done that were fun, like jumping in a bouncy house. All of these things show the Love of Christ. Kids may still be learning the ways of the Lord, but they know when they are happy and when others around them are happy. To them, feeling safe and loved is how they see and feel our Lord. I even made the adults do the homework as well. Sometimes we could all use a minute to stop and thank the Lord for what He has given us. I have saved all of the cards from the week with the answers everyone put down. If anyone wants a good read, let me know and I'll show them to you.



This picture is one that I was caught taking in the first one. It gives a better view of the action, the excitement, and some of the results that came from the week of VBS. Yes it took some time and some effort, cost a little money, and put a little more wear on the church building. However, it's hard to argue that it isn't worth it when you look at the faces of the kids as they dance and sing, when you see new faces coming to church every Sunday, and when you read the cards saying that the church is a safe place where they see the Lord.

Thank you all once again for your support, and your volunteering efforts!

Brandon

Care News from Stephen Ministry



Christ caring for people through people

**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

***Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.
-Galatians 6:2***

The Blessings of Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry multiplies blessings throughout the church and community.

- Congregations carry out Christ's commandment to "Love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12 RSV) in a powerful and practical way.
- Pastors have a team of gifted, trained, and committed lay caregivers ready to minister to hurting people.
- Laypeople nurture and use their gifts in meaningful ministry, growing spiritually as they serve others.
- People who are hurting have a caring Christian presence to provide emotional and spiritual support.

In short, Stephen Ministry helps carry out the mission of the church.

YOUR CONGREGATION'S MISSION

Mission-Focused Actions That Are Central to Your Stephen Ministry



- Equipping People to Use Their Gifts in Ministry
- Helping People Grow in Their Faith
- Providing Care and Support for Hurting People
- Building Up the Congregation as a Caring Community
- Reaching Unchurched People with the Love of Jesus

*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.



The NOW Program Back to School Shopping Day is next month and we want to help them get ready! The entire month of July we will be collecting underwear for the students registered! NOW put together a list of all the sizes that are needed but anything that you can donate will be so appreciated! Bring them on Sunday morning or throughout the week and we will place your donation in the narthex!



ROBINSON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Mission Trip Opportunity



Friday, July 10th

**Midwest Mission Distribution Center
Pawnee, IL**

The bus will leave the church parking lot at 8:00 a.m. and stop for lunch. We will serve at Midwest Mission from 12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. and return home after.

Must be at least 11 years old to serve.

Sign up in the Narthex by June 28th!

Questions? Reach out to the Outreach Team!

Sandy Anderson, Libbi Fearday, Kathy Harbison, Kayla Holscher, Mick Laflin, Lora Simons, Mackenzie Weger

Odds & Ends

JULY BIRTHDAYS

7/1 Jeanette Berty
7/3 Sheri McGahey
7/5 Roy Schlosser
7/7 Hunter Murrell
7/10 Ruth Boatman
7/11 Tricia Anderson
7/16 Brandon Harmon
7/17 Madison Tracy
7/19 Roxanne Boatman
7/20 Barbara Ross
Kollin Ramos
7/21 Sandy Anderson
7/24 Annika List
7/26 Jack Wright
7/27 William Damron
Linda Null
7/29 Chris Freeland
Audra Bell
7/31 Jay Anderson
Ben Ackman

PRAYER REQUESTS

Nancy Holley; Hazel DeDoming; Luke Campbell; Letha Stanford; Bonnie Smith; Michelle Hall; Mike Brady; Les Thurston; Jeffery Roche; Brian Frost; Brad Salhani; Donna Beabout; Ivy Lee Murray; Ron Legg; Miranda Bedwell; Brenna Aydt; Jon Anderson; Louie Ferguson; Addie Hastings; Mary Ann Kidwell; Keegan Pigati; Anne Tarran; Tanya Gullett; Tyler Wortheam; Raymond Reynolds; Art Hall; Adam White; Tracy Jones; Mary Kindt; Stephanie Batman; Dawn Keeton; Judy Rice; Otie Tuttle; Rachel Tracy; Melinda Wehrle; Connie Carter; Cooper Loll; Dewey Thurman; Barb Ross; Amy DeDoming; Dorcas Sills; Kate Taylor and Family; Olivia Brinkman; Sherell Oxford; Brynn Stubbs; Gabriela Garten; Kay Albin; Brad Albin; Luke Anderson; Paul Sizemore; Mike Kelshimer

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

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

7/4 Jack & Nina Davis
7/7 Gary & Janelle Oxford
3/15 Jeff & Sherri Murrell
7/17 David & Sheri McGahey
7/21 Rich & Leavone Johnson



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

www.robinsonfumc.org • 201 W. Walnut St. Robinson, IL • (618) 544-8016

July 2026 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:30 am • NOW Summer Lunches 6:00 pm • Outreach Meeting	2 9:00 am • CHEW 10:30 am • NOW Summer Lunches	3 OFFICE CLOSED 4:00 pm • NOW Summer Lunch Bagging	4 
5 9:00 am • Worship 10:15 am • Sunday School	6 6:00 pm • Lay Leadership Meeting	7 10:30 am • NOW Summer Lunches	8 10:30 am • NOW Summer Lunches 5:30 pm • 2nd Wednesday Dinner 6:00 pm • Stephen Ministry	9 9:00 am • CHEW 10:30 am • NOW Summer Lunches	10 Outreach Mission Trip	11 9:00 am • Laundry Day
12 9:00 am • Worship 10:15 am • Sunday School	13 6:00 pm • SPRC Meeting	14 10:30 am • NOW Summer Lunches 5:00 pm • Nurture Meeting	15 10:30 am • NOW Summer Lunches 11:30 am • Circle of Love 6:00 pm • Education & Trustees Meetings 7:00 pm • Church Council	16 9:00 am • CHEW 10:30 am • NOW Summer Lunches	17	18
19 9:00 am • Worship 10:15 am • Sunday School	20	21 10:30 am • NOW Summer Lunches	22 10:30 am • NOW Summer Lunches 6:00 pm • Stephen Ministry	23 9:00 am • CHEW 10:30 am • NOW Summer Lunches	24	25
26 9:00 am • Worship 10:15 am • Sunday School	27	28 10:30 am • NOW Summer Lunches	29 10:30 am • NOW Summer Lunches	30 9:00 am • CHEW 10:30 am • NOW Summer Lunches	31	