

THE HERALD

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



**WHAT'S
NEXT**

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Five years ago, we were in the aftermath of a devastating fire. A study committee had been formed, and reported to the congregation in June 2013. Since it's been five years, I went back to look at the study committee's report, and here's what the congregation said (almost unanimously):

- Desire to have a contemporary service
- A desire for Bible studies, offered at various times and places to meet all needs
- Someone to lead youth - an activity director
- Communication with ourselves and with the community - Facebook, webpage, advertisements
- A shuttle service for people for Sundays and activities
- Childcare for any and all events
- More children and youth in the service
- Video service as well as audio
- Daycare/after school program
- A need for better leadership among our members

I look at this list, and I think we've made significant progress. We've added a worship service, which is definitely not like our 9:00 am service, and our 9:00 am worship service looks different than it did five years ago - so even though we have no true "contemporary" worship, we have made great strides toward doing things differently. We have more Bible studies and Sunday school classes than we used to, and plans are in the works to add more opportunities this year. By the time you receive this newsletter, we hope to have completed interviews (and perhaps have hired) a Christian Education Director. We've added a staff position and have increased our efforts at communication with each other and the community. We are providing shuttle service for our Wednesday student and children's ministries, and someday, may be able to expand into Sunday morning. We have expanded childcare staff and offer childcare when it is requested for our events. We've added youth Sundays to worship, and hopefully you are aware of how much our children and students are participating in worship leadership. We're working diligently to begin livestreaming our worship services from our website each week (in fact, this starts on Easter)!. I believe we are training and developing our leaders more thoroughly than before. There's not much left on this list!

We also provided an opportunity for you to give feedback when we started our capital campaign study in 2016 (in the form of a survey), and the church council is reviewing those findings, as well as the study report as a way to look back and look forward. We're asking the question "What's Next?" in worship and in the congregation as we see how far we've come, and try to discern where God is leading us next. You'll find some immediate and long-term answers to that question in this month's edition of *The Herald*. It's an exciting time to be a part of First UMC, and I'm grateful to be on the journey with you!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jay

JUST ONE

It was just five years ago that the NOW Program began, and think how it's grown. We're averaging serving 140 students each week this school year in Robinson, and we're getting ready for our summer lunches at the parks and Kids' Shopping Day. This ministry succeeds because of YOU - your monetary donations, your time to serve, and especially your monthly donations. During the month of April, please bring children's scissors (we need both blunt-tip and sharp tip) and place them in the donation bin outside the church office. As always, we appreciate your giving toward our goal of 250 pair!

2nd WEDNESDAY DINNER

Take April 11th off from the stress of doing your taxes! We'll be having a catered meal at 5:30 pm, to include pork loin, mashed potatoes, vegetable medley, lettuce salad, yeast rolls, and cheesecake! Cost is \$8 for adults and \$3 for children; please make sure you sign up at the welcome center by April 9 so that we have an accurate headcount.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Five years ago, the study committee gathered input from the congregation as we sought to rebuild. Five years later, the church council, knowing what we've accomplished in the last five years, plans to continue to move forward with those common themes, but we also feel it's important to get your feedback. Be watching your e-news, social media, and the welcome center for some upcoming opportunities to gather with members of the church council and provide your input on what's next for First UMC.

OUTREACH VISITS

For some time, the FUMC Outreach Committee, with assistance from Kirbie, has been sending volunteers out to call people who have come to check out the church. Each visit includes a FUMC backpack filled with information and some gifts including some homemade treats supplied by the church members are going out to meet the people. As the number of visitors have grown, it is stretching our volunteers. We are looking for a few new volunteers to be willing to go out and visit one or two times a year to deliver bags to families and individuals that are new to our church. If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about this ministry, contact Daniel Boatman at 618.843.5152 or visit Kirbie in the church office.

2018 VBS: ARTS AND BUILDING CAMP!

Planning has already begun on Vacation Bible School this year. We need YOU to be a part of the planning or be a volunteer for the program; contact Nina Davis (our new Christian Education Director), and she will get you signed up. Even if you are not sure, let us know you might be interested. This year's VBS will be held at Robinson FUMC, July 9-15, 9am to 1:30pm. Some areas where help will be needed include, but not limited to:

- Games
- Meal and Snack Preparation
- Crafts

We can use everyone with any talents or just a willingness to serve. Volunteers will include women and men of all ages and youth 6th grade and above.



April Birthdays

4/1 Addison Peraino

4/2 Ken Martin

4/3 Karen Stram

4/4 Doug Finkbiner

4/13 Joel Wise, Valerie Wright

4/15 George Hays

4/17 Janet Miller, Tim Veenstra

4/19 Alisa Lowry

4/20 Lori Crozier

4/22 DJ Kelly, Lucas Bell, Connie Calvert

4/23 Melinda Harmon

4/24 Hayden Treadway

4/26 Ann Foote, Amy McGahey, Becky Veenstra

4/27 Dennis Inboden

4/29 Tancy Finkbiner

4/30 Elizabeth Nolan

April Anniversaries

4/4 Steve & Rita Diel

4/9 Ken & Nancy Mattsey

4/29 Floyd & Sabra Adams

PRAYER REQUESTS

John, Jeremy, and Greg Markello; Ken Martin; Carol Wolf; Lois McConnell; Carl and Helen Blanton; Judy Wilson Wall; Michael Brady; Gary Albin; Patty Steele; Cathy Thomas; Judson Richardson; Jerry Adkins; Susan Polgar; Jennifer Newlin; Jennifer Null; Julie Zhang; Bill Thompson; Bob Duzan; Janey Branson; Mary Kay Jurcin; Michael Keene; John Larrabee; Larry Nichol; Janet & Charley Clark; Allen Summers; Nicole Young; Bev Turkal; Evan Prah; Ray Dotson; Bev Arrington Campbell; Mike Richards; Rick Koester; Margie Moore McNamara; Richard Youngs; Kay Young; John Poland; Bob Berty; Joan Fulling; Nancy Young; Jackson Barry; John Mosher; Lisa Schaefer; Sidney Iubelt; Tim Roth; Fred White; Kip Davis; Jenny Stanley; Emily Harp; Jason Chronic; Taylor Barry; Vonnetta Shipman; Nash Drake; Carolyn Leggitt; Jandi Cravens; Rodney Denoux; Becky Goodwin; Daniel Midgett & the 5th Group; Caius Bell; Tommy Tompkins; Laurette Roales & Family; Karen Rickermann and Family; Nelda Dotson; Jan Foulk; Kirtina & the Carter Family



APRIL 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>8:00 am Chancel Choir</p> <p>9:00 am Worship</p> <p>10:00 am Easter Egg Hunt & Cookies</p> <p>6:00 pm Evening Worship</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:30 pm Safety & Security</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:30 am MATS</p> <p>6:00 pm Disciple IV</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:30 am Refresh Breakfast & Bible Study</p> <p>3:00 pm Kids' Club</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:30 am Disciple IV</p> <p>4:00 pm NOW Bagging</p> <p>6:00 pm Jail Ministry</p> <p>6:30 pm Glory Handbell Rehearsal</p>	6	7
<p>8</p> <p>8 & 11 am Chancel Choir</p> <p>9:00 am Worship</p> <p>10:00 am Sunday School</p> <p>2:30 pm Heritage Health Service</p> <p>6:00 pm Evening Worship</p>	9	<p>10</p> <p>10:30 am MATS</p> <p>6:00 pm Disciple IV</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:30 am Refresh Breakfast & Bible Study</p> <p>3:00 pm Kids' Club</p> <p>5:30 pm Second Wednesday Dinner</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:30 am Disciple IV</p> <p>4:00 pm NOW Bagging</p> <p>6:00 pm Jail Ministry</p> <p>6:30 pm Glory Handbell Rehearsal</p>	13	14
<p>15</p> <p>8 & 11 am Chancel Choir</p> <p>9:00 am Worship</p> <p>10:00 am Sunday School</p> <p>6:00 pm Evening Worship</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6:30 pm Safety & Security</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10:30 am MATS</p> <p>6:00 pm Disciple IV</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:30 am Refresh Wednesday</p> <p>3:00 pm Kids' Club</p> <p>6:00 pm Committee Meetings</p> <p>7:00 pm Church Council Meeting</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:30 am Disciple IV</p> <p>4:00 pm NOW Bagging</p> <p>6:00 pm Jail Ministry</p> <p>6:30 pm Glory Handbell Rehearsal</p>	20	21
<p>22</p> <p>8 & 11 am Chancel Choir</p> <p>9:00 am Worship</p> <p>10:00 am Sunday School</p> <p>4:30 pm Bible Study</p> <p>6:00 pm Evening Worship</p>	23	<p>24</p> <p>10:30 am MATS</p> <p>6:00 pm Disciple IV</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:30 am Refresh Wednesday</p> <p>3:00 pm Kids' Club</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:30 am Disciple IV</p> <p>4:00 pm NOW Bagging</p> <p>6:00 pm Jail Ministry</p> <p>6:30 pm Glory Handbell Rehearsal</p>	27	28
<p>29</p> <p>9:00 am Worship</p> <p>10:00 am Sunday School</p> <p>6:00 pm Evening Worship</p>	30					

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Music Director: Antje Pippin

antje2959@hotmail.com

Organist/Pianist: Brenda Graham

doubleg@mediacommbb.net

Custodian: Amy DeDoming

Nursery Staff: Jennifer Boatman, Danielle Stuller,
Tiffany Beard