

ROBINSON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE HERALD

LISTENING TO GOD'S HEART FROM THE HEART OF THE CITY

JANUARY 2017



A NEW YEAR IS A GOOD TIME

TO LOOK FOR NEW WAYS TO

FULFILL THE CHURCH'S MISSION

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Amazing, isn't it? Here we are finishing out 2016 and about to turn the page on the calendar. Many of us will be making resolutions for 2017 related to exercise, diet, or having more white squares on your calendar. A new year gives us time to both look back at where we have been, and look forward to where we are going.

Sometimes, I think the church needs to have that time of reflection and a time to think forward. One of the ways we do that is by remembering our mission and vision. Take just a few moments to read through those now:

Our Mission:

Our mission is to witness by word and deed to the church, community, and the world around us the love of God as seen through Jesus Christ.

Our Vision:

First United Methodist Church will be a congregation seeking after the very heartbeat of God. Our physical location has placed us at the center of Crawford County and the city of Robinson. We will be God's heartbeat in the center of the city. All of our ministries will be focused on knowing the heartbeat of God, helping people follow Jesus Christ, and listening for the Holy Spirit as we minister to the least and the lost.

Think back over this past year regarding the ways that we've ministered through word and deed to introduce people to the love of God through Jesus Christ - Bibles for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes; Praise Fest; food for Ark of the Covenant; feeding and clothing children through the NOW Program; sending a large contingent of youth and adults to work with UMCOR; a growing Kids' Club and youth breakfast/Bible study. That's only the tip of the iceberg!

Now pray your way forward. God, what are you calling me to do this year? How can I help accomplish your mission and vision for our church? What can I do to help someone follow Jesus Christ? How can I minister to the least and the lost? Need some ideas and direction? Read through the pages of this newsletter, where you'll hear from leaders in our congregation about how God is calling them to carry out the mission and vision. You'll also discover numerous opportunities that you can be a part of what God will do here at First United Methodist Church in 2017!

Grace and peace,

PASTOR JAY

CALLED TO DISCIPLESHIP

By Janelle Oxford, lay leader

When I think back to that first Sunday Gary, Allie, and I attended First UMC almost 17 years ago, I clearly remember the liturgist having us read the church mission at the beginning of the service and it moving me. Every time we read those words out loud reminds me that God calls us each Sunday to worship Him, to have our hearts renewed in our commitment to Him, and to remind ourselves of the Great Commission Jesus gave to his disciples in Matthew 28. If we are true disciples, that commission applies to us always. As we venture into 2017, let us pray we each can hear God's call for our own participation in ways we can share the good news and love of Jesus in ministries such as the NOW program, Kids Club, Wednesday morning youth breakfast and Bible study, Lunch Buddies, monthly church service at Heritage Health, the jail ministry, volunteering in the nursery or with Children's Church, or assisting with the youth mission trip. Most, if not all, of these ministries started with one or more hearing God's still small voice and stepping out in faith to share the good news with someone who might not otherwise know Jesus. These ministries only touch the surface of God's plan for First UMC. I encourage each of us to learn more about our spiritual gifts and spend more time in prayer for where God is guiding us to minister here in Robinson and the world. Several weeks ago, we came together and Pastor Jay asked us to list possible future ministries for First UMC. That list would be a great place to focus our prayers. God is calling each of us daily to minister in ways that only we can minister. Let's invite the Holy Spirit into our hearts to help us as a church family to step out in faith for ways we are called to share Jesus with the least and lost around us.

OUR MISSION AND VISION

By Garrett Graham, church council chair

To me, our mission statement, if we believe what we have stated, means that every moment of every day, we do our absolute best to share our love for God and our Savior, Jesus Christ by not being afraid to let people know that we believe in the Almighty. To be open and share this love at each opportunity that arises by word of mouth. And, as the old saying goes, "actions speak louder than words". In how we live our lives and interact with people, we should demonstrate our love for God and Jesus. Even though we will fail at times, and we will fail, we know that God will forgive us and stand beside us at all times. And, for his love for us, we are obligated, if we truly love Him, to live in a manner that will bring joy to Him.

Our Vision - Being in the location that the church, congregation and building, are located, the First United Methodist Church is extremely visible. We are the only church building in Robinson that can be seen directly from Main Street. We are the closest church to the county courthouse and downtown Robinson. To me, even though location should not matter, this places an additional obligation and opportunity and responsibility that God has given us. We are in this location for a reason. It is not by chance or accident. With this added opportunity, it is our obligation to reach into every heartbeat of our "community" (and by community I mean not only Robinson and Crawford County, but wherever we are) to touch, help, and when possible better the lives of those around us as directed by God and instructed by Jesus Christ.



FULFILLING THE MISSION OF ROBINSON FUMC

2nd Wednesday Dinner: Our youth will be sponsoring the 2nd Wednesday Dinner on January 11 as a fundraiser for their mission trip this summer. Dinner will be at 5:30 pm, and includes chili, potato cheese soup, vegetables, corn bread & crackers, desserts, and beverages. Please sign up at the welcome center and support our youth as they go out to serve the least and the lost.

Senior Party: The Robinson Chamber of Commerce is having their annual party for senior citizens on Saturday, January 7 at 2:00 pm. The chamber is asking that you consider donating a few dozen cookies for refreshments. Cookies can be brought to the Community Center on Friday, January 6 between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm. If you have questions, please contact Lori Crozier at 544-8877. Since our senior population is often lacking in attention, your gift can help us fulfill our mission.

Just One: We're serving an average of 130 children in the Robinson School District each week through the NOW Program. Each month, we offer you the opportunity to provide "just one" item for our students, which we give out annually at our Kids' Shopping Day (our goal is 200 items). During the month of January, we will be collecting deodorant. Please pick up a stick of men's or women's deodorant and place it in the bin outside the church office. Our encounters with our students tell us that these donations are much needed.

Lunch Buddies: First UMC coordinates the lunch buddy program for Washington Elementary and Lincoln Grade schools. Adults are paired with a child who could use some extra attention and mentoring. If you would be interested in serving one of these young students, please contact Connie Calvert at 544-8404.

Invite Someone to Worship: We all encounter people throughout our community that don't have a church home or who don't know Jesus. Even if you don't feel comfortable talking about your faith, you can invite them to worship with First UMC, where they'll hear the story for themselves. Bring them with you to 9:00 am worship, or this month, bring them on January 8 to our 6:00 pm service in the chapel.

Clean-Up: All of us have enjoyed the beauty of the Advent and Christmas decorations around the church. These decorations have enhanced worship and helped us to tell our story as we witness to the community. On Sunday, January 8, following worship, we will be needing people to stay after Sunday School and put all of these fantastic decorations away for another year. Please let the church office know if you can help.

Nursery Painting: You may not have a gift leadership, but some of you have the gift of decorating and painting. Our nursery staff plans some enhancements for the nursery so that we can be more welcoming for the youngest children among us, and the trustees plan to the walls of the nursery on Saturday, January 28, beginning at 9:00 am. Please sign up at the welcome center if you plan to help. Many hands make light work!

Prayer Chain: We have an active prayer chain here at First UMC. You may notice that names are placed on the bulletin's prayer list each week; however, the e-mail prayer chain receives new requests throughout the week so that they can pray for those needs immediately. If you would like to be included in the prayer chain so that you can pray for others and listen to the Holy Spirit, please contact Shirley Treadway at gwtsea@hotmail.com.

Jail Ministry: We have a group of six women who form teams to go to the Crawford County Jail, leading Bible study for the female inmates. You could help in several ways - pray for those who go (Janelle Oxford, Brenda Graham, Becky Veenstra, Linda Null, Shannon Goebel, and Thelma Gifford), and those who are incarcerated; consider joining the team; write notes of encouragement to inmates; or, if you would be interested in forming a men's team, please let the office know, and we'll get you particulars about how you can serve these lost ones.

Youth Mission Trip: The youth will be going on their annual mission trip June 25-July 1, 2017, and will be traveling to the Quad Cities. We will leave after worship on the 25th and return on Saturday, the 1st. We will be working with area United Methodist churches to help with their Vacation Bible Schools, as well as several local agencies. If your youth (completed 6th grade through 12th grade) would like to go, or you are interested in serving as a chaperone, please let Pastor Jay know by February 1.

Lent Devotions: You have an opportunity to grow in your own discipleship and help others follow in the footsteps of Jesus through writing for our Lent devotional. Stop by the welcome center to sign up for a day - a Scripture reference is provided. Simply write a paragraph or two about the Scripture and a short prayer. Devotions should be submitted to the church office by February 3.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/6 Shelby Koester
1/7 Pat Campbell, Bill Thomas
1/8 Larry Quick
1/10 John Rankin, Mary St. John
1/13 Willie Legg
1/14 Karen Catt
1/15 Kaye Damron, Sallay Jones
1/16 Fred Finkbiner
1/17 Dustin McDonald
1/18 Sharon Freeland, Jesse Newbold
1/22 Paul Roales
1/24 Penni Murray, Kristin Wallace
1/25 Cindy Crawford
1/29 Kurtis Goebel
1/30 Barbara Bradt

PRAYER CONCERNS

Peg, John, Jeremy, and Greg Markello; Ken Martin; Carol Wolf; Lois McConnell; Carl and Helen Blanton; Judy Wilson Wall; Marilyn Musgrave; Michael Brady; Elaine Siler; Nancy Young; Gary Albin; Donna Reed; Mike Richards; Charley Clark; Neema Mutayoba; Patty Steele; Darrell Barry; Rich Morris; Mike Richards; Marty Attaway; Cathy Thomas; The women in the Crawford County jail; Judson Richardson; Jackson Barry; Jerry Adkins; Richard Youngs; Kay Albin; Susan Polgar; Shirley Allison; Lisa Graham Miller; Jay Holtzhouser; Janna Coonce; Carolyn Vanway; Jennifer Newlin; Phillip Salesman; Jean Arrington; Jerry & Mary Correll; Raymond Hays; Christine Alspach; Karen Marchand; Tom Cravens; Kaye Parrott Weger; Dale Regennitter; Bob & Eleanor Laswell; Jennifer Null; Shirley Treadway; Julie Zhang; Bill Thompson; Bob Duzan; Sean & Shara Keen; Madelyn Storckman; Janey Branson

DEAR PASTOR JAY AND FUMC,
THANK YOU SO MUCH TO YOUR
SUPPORT, MINISTRY, AND
ENCOURAGEMENT DURING THIS
DIFFICULT TIME. YOUR MESSAGE
OF HOPE, FAITH AND KINDNESS
WAS A COMFORT TO ALL WHO
ATTENDED. WE HAVE HAD FAMILY,
FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS SHARE
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL SERVICE IT
WAS. IT GAVE US PEACE AND
COMFORT TO HAVE BOTH THE
VISITATION AND THE FUNERAL
SERVICES AT THE CHURCH. I WANT
TO THANK ALL THE MEN AND
WOMEN WHO PREPARED AND
SERVED THE FOOD AND DRINKS
AFTER THE FUNERAL SERVICE.
IT WAS A FABULOUS MEAL.
I WANT TO THANK EVERYONE FOR
YOUR PRAYERS.

SINCERELY,

ELMER HARNESS AND FAMILY

JANUARY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Chancel Choir rehearsal	2	3	4 6:30 am Youth Breakfast/ Bible Study 3:00 pm Kids' Club	5 4:30 pm NOW bagging 6:00 pm Jail Ministry 7:00 pm Handbell rehearsal	6	7
8 8 & 11 am Chancel Choir rehearsal 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Confirmation Session 11:00 am Taking Down Decorations 2:30 pm Heritage Health Service 6:00 pm Evening Service	9	10 4:00 pm Youth Food Prep 6:00 pm Disciple III	11 6:30 am Youth Breakfast/ Bible Study 3:00 pm Kids' Club 5:30 pm 2nd Wednesday Dinner	12 9:30 am Disciple III 4:30 pm NOW Bagging 6:00 pm Jail Ministry 7:00 pm Handbell rehearsal	13	14
15 8 & 11 am Chancel Choir rehearsal 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School	16	17 6:00 pm Disciple III	18 6:30 am Youth Breakfast/ Bible Study 3:00 pm Kids' Club 4:30 pm NOW bagging 6:00 pm All committees meetings 7:00 pm Church Council meeting	19 9:30 am Disciple III 6:00 pm Jail Ministry 7:00 pm Handbell rehearsal	20	21
22 8:15 am Praise Kids rehearsal 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Confirmation Session 11:00 am Chancel Choir rehearsal	23	24 6:00 pm Disciple III	25 6:30 am Youth Breakfast/ Bible Study 3:00 pm Kids' Club	26 9:30 am Disciple III 4:30 pm NOW Bagging 6:00 pm Jail Ministry 7:00 pm Handbell rehearsal	27	28 9:00 am Nursery Painting
29 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Chancel Choir rehearsal	30	31				

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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brennansethtracy@gmail.com

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antje2959@hotmail.com

Organist/Pianist: Brenda Graham

doubleg@mediacombb.net

Custodian: Harold Guyer

Nursery Staff: Jennifer Boatman, Danielle Stuller