

# THE PASTOR'S PEN: Be The Light

Recently I found myself preparing for living in the Midwest and the spring storm season. As I went about the task of searching for the various illumination devices that we have accumulated over the years I noticed something that I find strange.



The first being that I do these same tasks every year. I am reminded that I was never a true Boy Scout, but I do embrace the concept of always being prepared. Each year I place the various illumination devices in their appropriate place so that I can reach them in a moment's notice in the dark. Here lies the problem, if I placed these illumination devices in the same spot year after year, how do they find their way to different locations? Do they grow special legs at night or when they are not being used and relocate themselves to the most obscure places in the house? Certainly, no one from my family would willfully upset my disaster plans that I had put so much effort.

The second issue is that I made certain that my illumination devices would be equipped with the best batteries available. I mean no one wants to rely on the cheapest power source available when you are standing in the dark. I found my particular favorite illumination device that I carried for many years in a former career. As I pushed the button to activate the light nothing happened. Here is where I implemented my illumination repair technology, I smacked the side real hard and that gave it a shake. I figured that would fix it. I was wrong. Step two, shake it really hard and then smack the other side. Surprisingly, that didn't work either.

Time to dig deeper I unscrewed the end of the illumination device and discovered a real mess. Those high dollar batteries from the previous season failed. And if failing to work wasn't enough they decided to leak battery acid all over the inside of the illumination device and the pair developed a major crust to penetrate. As I worked cleaning and cleaning some more, I thought about how I had placed the illumination device in a secure, warm place and ready to be called into service. The problem is that batteries don't particularly need a warm safe place to rest until time to work. They are designed to be turned on from time to time – to be used and appreciated.

It's the same with us. We weren't created to be warm, safe, and comfortable. You and I were made to be "Turned on" – to put our love to work, to apply our patience in difficult, trying situations – to let our light shine

*(Continued on next page.)*

# What's Happening at Robinson FUMC?

## The Pastor's Pen (Continued)

Matthew 5:14-15 CEB: *You are the light of the world. A city on top of a hill can't be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they put it on top of a lampstand, and it shines on all who are in the house.*

God has called each of us to be a service in his kingdom. This is a great honor that comes with major responsibilities just as the flashlight has a great task during times of darkness. God needs us to be lights in our communities.

We face darkness every day, but God's light illuminates the way for us. Those that live in the despair of darkness are carrying corroded batteries. They are flashlights without the power source. Our job is to light the path and help shake out the negative energy. We cannot illuminate the path, only God can accomplish that we just need to clear the way so that he can enter in. My prayers are that your batteries are not starting to corrode and that your light is shining bright for those around you. For me I am going to ponder on how these illumination devices find ways of traveling from their appointed spots.

Illuminating the way,

Pastor Terry



## Stewardship:

Bible Verse of the Month

At First UMC, we are blessed with a congregation of generous sharing and caring people. And we are very grateful for that! Your commitment to sharing your resources of time, talents, and money is answering God's call to support and hopefully, to expand His Kingdom in our community and in the world. To emphasize God's call for us to be good stewards of the resources we are given and the rewards we are promised in return, we are initiating a "Stewardship Bible Verse of the Month" in our monthly letter.

The verse for May is 2 Corinthians 9:7:

*Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

Thank you for all you do!!

Finance Team



## Nurture Committee:

Nurture Team is hosting a **Women's Appreciation Dinner** to honor ALL women of the church on Thursday, May 21 at 6:00 pm! Sign up sheet will be in the narthex. While not every woman may be a mother, we have appreciated those who have stepped in when we have needed support and encouragement and we want to lift them up. We will also have a program featuring Quilts - The Perfect Hug. We invite attendees to bring a favorite quilt and story to share if they would like. Please sign up soon so we know how many to plan for!

**Prayer Blanket Ministry** is well under way and those who received a blanket have very much appreciated your prayers! If you know of someone in need of prayers and care, let Pastor Terry or someone from Nurture know and we will place a blanket on the altar rail during the service. If you would like to donate a blanket, bring one in!

Hey Everyone!

Just a **friendly announcement** from your Nurture Team - you don't have to wait until 9:01 to come to church each Sunday! Coffee and donuts are out by 8:00 am EVERY Sunday. Why not come early and meet some new people or visit with old friends? The conversation corner is a great place for those little chats. You never know what great things might come up! If you would like to serve as "Host/Hostess" for a Sunday, let the Nurture Team know!

Save the Date for May 31 - our next **Fifth Sunday Brunch!** The sign up sheet will be in the Narthex prior with dish designations by last name.

SOMETHING TO ADD NEXT MONTH? EMAIL [FIRSTUMCROB.COMMS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:FIRSTUMCROB.COMMS@GMAIL.COM)

[www.robinsenfumc.org](http://www.robinsenfumc.org) • 201 W. Walnut St. Robinson, IL • (618) 544-8016

# Odds & Ends

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## MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 5/2** Gary Oxford Jr,  
Henry Treadway
- 5/10** Garrett Graham,  
Susan Sills
- 5/11** Leah Harbison
- 5/12** John Schmidlin
- 5/14** Avery DeDoming,  
Deanna Watson
- 5/15** Ron Veenstra
- 5/19** Amy DeDoming,  
Floyd Brinkman
- 5/23** Mary Correll, Sue Roales
- 5/25** Joe Hartke
- 5/26** Keith Carter,  
Lynn McCord,  
Vincent Boatman
- 5/27** Wesley Emken
- 5/28** Jennifer Boatman
- 5/29** David Foote

## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 5/25** Bob & Barbara Bell
- 5/29** Garrett & Brenda Graham  
Robert & Breann Quick
- 5/31** Ernie & Sue Roales



## PRAYER REQUESTS

Nancy Holley; Hazel DeDoming;  
Luke Campbell; Letha Stanford;  
Bonnie Smith; Michelle Hall;  
Doreen Elmore; 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 Gullet; Tyler  
Wortheam; Raymond Reynolds;  
Art Hall; Adam White; Tracy  
Jones; Mary Kindt; Stephanie  
Batman; Mattie Davis; Dawn  
Keeton; Judy Rice; Otie Tuttle;  
Rachel Tracy; Melinda Wehrle;  
Connie Carter; Ben Ackman;  
Cooper Loll; Dewey Thurman;  
Marcia Schmidlin; Barb Ross;  
Amy DeDoming

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

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# May 2026 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 9:00 am • Laundry Day
3 9:00 am • Worship 10:15 am • Sunday School	4 6:00 pm • Lay Leadership Meeting 	5 	6 6:00 pm • Outreach Meeting	7 9:00 am • CHEW 4:00 pm • NOW Bagging	8	9
10 9:00 am • Worship 10:15 am • Sunday School	11	12 6:00 pm • Nurture Meeting	13 5:30 pm • Second Wednesday Dinner 6:00 pm • Stephen Ministry	14 9:00 am • CHEW 4:00 pm • NOW Bagging	15	16
17 9:00 am • Worship 10:15 am • Sunday School	18	19	20 11:30 am • Circle of Love 6:00 pm • Trustees Meeting 7:00 pm • Church Council	21 9:00 am • CHEW 4:00 pm • NOW Bagging 6:00 pm • Women's Empowerment Dinner	22	23
24 9:00 am • Worship 10:15 am • Sunday School	25 OFFICE CLOSED 	26	27 6:00 pm • Stephen Ministry	28 9:00 am • CHEW	29 4:00 pm • NOW Summer Bagging	30 8:00 am • United Way Agency Faire
31 9:00 am • Worship 10:15 am • Fifth Sunday Brunch						