

ROBINSON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH • APRIL 2021

THE HERALD

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



175th Anniversary
1846 - 2021

FIRST PRAISE

As we look toward Easter, we are thinking about the ways that our congregation has celebrated and worshiped together for the past 175 years.

From the Pastor's Desk

As you receive this edition of The Herald, we will be in the midst of Holy Week. Holy Week is one of the busiest times of the church year, with many highs and lows. We will have already celebrated Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, with our palm branches and voices carrying out our praise. We will remember the Passover meal and Jesus' last night gathered with his disciples. We will walk through the events of betrayal, arrest, trial and crucifixion. We will triumphantly proclaim Christ's victory over death.

As a congregation, we have a somewhat limited view of worship. Over the course of the past year, I have heard people in our congregation say that it's not worship if we're not physically in the sanctuary at 201 W. Walnut Street. Others have said that worship only happens on Sunday morning at 9:00 am. In reality, though, we worship all the time! We have, for some years now, offered worship at the start and close of the day each Sunday. Each time the church gathers in Sunday school, where we study the Scriptures and pray together, we worship. Every Bible study gives us another chance to worship. Those daily devotions that came to you during Advent and Lent have been an opportunity for you to worship wherever you are. The worship of God only finds its limits in the constraints we put upon it.

Our church has a long history of corporate worship. It's the thing that churches do, no matter what. I look out at other United Methodist churches across our Illinois Great Rivers Conference, and no matter the size - thousands or six - congregations gather for worship. Our smallest congregations may not hold Bible studies, have paid staff, or be engaged in outreach, but they still gather for worship. Worship is the heartbeat of the church, and if we limit ourselves to an hour's worship once a week, we will die.

As you read these pages, you'll find out more about the history of worship in our church. You'll also find information about our services during Holy Week, plans for Easter, and some steps toward reopening. I encourage you to approach what you read with an open mind and an open heart, because God is making a way for us to gather (in many ways) and offer praise and thanksgiving. God is good all the time, my brothers and sisters!

I will see you in worship! (I've been waiting to say that for over a year now!)



Pastor Jay



Maundy Thursday worship: We will have a livestreamed service at 7:00 pm that will also be broadcast on WTYE 101.7 FM. The service will feature hymns, liturgy, Scripture, a message, and communion. If you are in need of communion elements to participate, please stop by the church during office hours. Communion is available in the education building entryway.

Good Friday worship: We will have a livestreamed service at 7:00 pm that will also be broadcast on WTYE 101.7 FM. The service features hymns, the handbell quartet, and Scripture readings as we journey through the final hours of Jesus' life. This tenebrae service (a service of darkness) will remind us of Jesus' sacrifice for us.

Easter Sunday worship: We will have three options for worship on Easter Sunday! There will be a livestreamed (and radio broadcast) service at 9:00 am. At 10:30 am, we will be having a drive-in service in our parking lot. At 6:00 pm, we will have an in-person spoken-word service in the sanctuary. As you might imagine, parking will be limited for the 10:30 am service, but you can sign up using this link: <https://forms.gle/m99TZReK8JXoZnSF6>. It will be helpful to us if you register by April 1, so that we can make sure that we have enough packets of bulletins and communion available.

We hope you'll join us for these unique opportunities as we journey together out of the wilderness of Lent and into the joy of Easter.

Methodists Gather for Worship

When First UMC organized in 1846, the congregation didn't have a building in which to worship (it was twenty years before the first facility was built), so preaching services took place in either the schoolhouse or the courthouse. These early decades of the congregation life had a number of revivals and evangelistic meetings. However, because the church was on a circuit with other Methodist churches (up to six), worship only occurred every other week.

Music has long been an important part of the worship life of our congregation. The first choir was organized in 1885 with 19 members. Records indicate that the church had some type of organ at this time, but the first pipe organ was installed between 1911 and 1914 (in the 1899 building). We have had long-tenured music staff, with Clinton James serving as choir director for 25 years, A. L. Akers serving as organist for nearly 30 years, and Brenda Graham having served as organist for 47 years. Children's and youth music, as well as handbell choirs (begun by Mary Dean Correll), have also been a staple of worship.

We have held a variety of worship services - traditional and contemporary, gospel and contemplative - and at different times throughout the years. For the last fifty-plus years, we have also delivered worship in different ways - both live and on the radio. In the past three years, we have begun to livestream our worship service - and just this month, residents at Timber Creek will be able to watch weekly. Orders of worship have changed, along with style, but the substance of worship has not changed. Our history shows us the importance of worship for the life of our community, and the value we place on it.



In-Person Worship Update

On Thursday, March 11, the IGRC Cabinet released updated COVID-19 guidelines. With those updates, we will be able to gather indoors for worship again, but with restrictions. Beginning April 11, we will be having in-person worship at 9:00 am and 6:00 pm. Because of restrictions, which require a minimum amount of spacing between worship leaders and congregation (25 feet), and between households (ten feet), each service will be limited to 32 persons. However, all in attendance will be able to participate fully in worship, with singing and congregational responses.

In order to attend, you must register ahead of time, either by calling the church office by Friday before 5:00 pm, or by registering through the links provided online. Because of the restriction in the number of persons who can be present, you will be able to attend either the morning or evening service twice per month. While we recognize that a number of persons in the congregation prefer to worship at 9:00 am, we request that, for this season, you are flexible with the time of worship, so that we can worship face-to-face more often. As you register, please consider the volunteer opportunities to serve as a host, usher, or sanitizer.

The wearing of well-fitting masks will be required while you are in the building. You may park in either the north or south parking lots, and the narthex doors will be open for entrance 15 minutes prior to the service. Please come to the welcome center to register your attendance and for a temperature check. When you are inside the building, please enter and exit through open doors, which will reduce the amount of sanitizing required. At this time, all parts of worship will be projected, so there will not be hymnals, Bibles, or bulletins in the pews. There will be no childcare available, so parents will need to keep their children with them.

If you still feel unsafe being in a crowd, please do not worry - we will still continue to livestream and radio broadcast the 9:00 am service; the only difference you will likely experience is that worship leaders will also be masked. If you have a temperature or experience any symptoms, we encourage you to stay home. We hope you will join us in celebrating this step forward as we gather for worship together.



NOW

Please join us for NOW Weekend Meal Bagging! It is a fun and easy way to get involved! Use the link to sign up, <https://signup.com/go/QFTppWB>.

The Just-One item in April will be safety scissors! If you would like to donate please drop it off in the box outside the church office!

Native American Sunday

Native American Ministries Sunday, April 18th, nurtures mission with Native Americans and provides scholarships for United Methodist Native American seminarians.

If you would like to donate please send a check to the church office and include in the memo of your check "Native American Sunday".

Outreach Update

- Jennifer Boatman, Outreach Chairperson

With this year marking Robinson FUMC's 175th anniversary, the outreach committee has a couple ideas of reaching out to our community and to families in need. We need your participation to make them happen!

First, we are wanting to sponsor 175 flocks of chicks through Heifer International in honor of our 175th anniversary. By donating these chickens we will help families to have a sustainable livelihood, increasing their access to things many of us have each day: medicine, school, food. Keep an eye out when we return to church for the Heifer International display for more information and to track our progress!

Secondly, to celebrate our 175th, we want to hear from you! Is there a ministry here at Robinson FUMC that has impacted your faith? How do you see God at work at FUMC? What makes you proud to be a part of the FUMC family? We would love to know and share your testimony on social media to let everyone else know why they should join us! If you would like to share, please contact the church office to find out how.

Care News from Stephen Ministry

***Our church stepped out in faith,
and because of that faith became a Stephen Ministry Church.***

For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them. - Matthew 18:20

The Mission: The mission of Stephen Ministries St. Louis is summed up in the Apostle Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

*"To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ."
- Ephesians 4:12-13*

Worshipping together in Stephen Ministry:

- **Pray:** Stephen Ministers pray daily for their care receivers and seek to worship God always. They reveal the love of God to those who most need to see it. Care Receivers pray with and for their Stephen Ministers. Stephen Leaders pray for Stephen Ministers and Care Receivers.
- **Sharing of Scripture:** Scripture is also part of the foundation. Stephen Ministers share scripture and biblical stories with their care receivers. Stephen Ministers and Stephen Leaders share scripture and devotions during supervision sessions.
- **How the Congregation Supports the Stephen Minister and Care Receiver:** The prayers of the congregation keep God's presence foremost in the caring relationship. It is important for the Stephen Ministers and their Care Receivers to know that the congregation is lifting them up in prayer.

*This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.
No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friend.
- John 15: 12-13*



April Birthdays

4/4	Doug Finkbiner
4/13	Valerie Wright
4/15	George Hays
4/17	Janet Miller
4/19	Alisa Lowry
4/22	Lucas Bell, Connie Calvert; Michele Elliott
4/23	Melinda Harmon
4/24	Hayden Treadway
4/26	Amy McGahey, Becky Veenstra
4/27	Dennis Inboden
4/30	Elizabeth Nolan

April Anniversaries

4/4	Steve & Rita Diel
4/9	Ken & Nancy Mattsey
4/29	Floyd & Sabra Adams



Prayer Requests

Jeremy and Greg Markello; Carol Wolf; Carl Blanton; Michael Brady; 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; Vonnetta Shipman; Becky Goodwin; Caius Bell; Ray & Nelda Dotson; Kim Collins; Claudette Mejean; Ava Seaney; Demmie Long; Emma Bodine; Charles Hough; Sheltyn James Henry; Norris Adams; Rick Pritchard; Laurie Vaughn; Bill Jones; Kay Bonnell; Wally Leggit; Joe Schmidlin; Cathy Frakes, Judy Eckert; Lisa Schaefer; Matthew Williams; Bob Callier; Larry Potts; Patricia Hodgson; Pamela Hart; June Watson; Maria Reis; Paul Davis; Kathy Kennedy; Tina Klender; Paul Clinton; Duane Parker; Ruth Fiscus; Charlie & Janet Clark; Jan Riker; Alan & Joan Summers; Carolyn Leggett; Dustin Ikemire; Robin Bray; Greg Faylor; Susan Rodgers; Mary Etta Whitmer; Melinda Ashby; Elwin Falor; Brad Smith; Floyd Brinkman; Barb Coffey; Leah Buser; Kamillah Rollins; Cuma Barnett; Matt Schmidlin; Donna Ferry; Gloria Devonshire; Rachel Tracy; Janice Woods; Dion Wright; Olivia Brinkman; Carl Janney; Garnet Van Horn; Cole Loughery; Lou Bonnell; Cathy Devalle; John Youngs; Laddie Storckman; Cassady family

April 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:45 am - Middle School Refresh 7:00 pm - Maundy Thursday Service (Livestream, YouTube and Radio)	2 7:00 pm - Good Friday Service (Livestream, YouTube and Radio)	3
4 EASTER 9:00 am - Worship (Livestream, YouTube and Radio) 10:30 am - Drive-In Service (North Parking Lot) 6:00 pm - Evening Worship	5	6 6:45 am - High School Refresh	7	8 6:45 am - Middle School Refresh 4:00 pm - NOW Weekend Bagging	9	10
11 9:00 am - Worship (Sanctuary, Livestream, YouTube and Radio) 10:30 am - Sunday School (Zoom) 4:30 pm - Stephen Leaders (Zoom) 6:00 pm - Evening Worship	12	13 6:45 am - High School Refresh	14 6:30 pm - Stephen Ministry Supervision (Zoom)	15 6:45 am - Middle School Refresh 4:00 pm - NOW Weekend Bagging	16	17
18 Native American Ministries Sunday 9:00 am - Worship (In-person, Livestream, YouTube and Radio) 10:30 am - Sunday School (Zoom) 6:00 pm - Evening Worship	19	20 6:45 am - High School Refresh	21 6:00 pm - Committee Meetings (Zoom) 7:00 pm - Church Council Meeting (Zoom)	22 6:45 am - Middle School Refresh 4:00 pm - NOW Weekend Bagging	23	24
25 9:00 am - Worship (In-person, Livestream, YouTube and Radio) 10:30 am - Sunday School (Zoom) 6:00 pm - Evening Worship	26	27 6:45 am - High School Refresh	28 6:30 pm - Stephen Ministry Supervision (Zoom)	29 6:45 am - Middle School Refresh 4:00 pm - NOW Weekend Bagging	30	



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