

ROBINSON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2017

THE HERALD

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



As we begin preparations for the holiday season, we should also actively look for ways to get ready in our Christian life. Look inside for examples of how to practice and prepare for the journey God has in mind for you!

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

A song runs through my head from time to time, and it's found in the musical version of *The Lion King*. The refrain is simple: "BE PREPARED." November is a month of preparation for me. We prepare to remember the saints on the first Sunday in November. Festivals will begin to get us in the holiday spirit. Families will plan meals for Thanksgiving. We will prepare the church with hanging of the greens. It's truly a time of preparation.

Think about it this way: preparation is like a rehearsal. On Sunday morning, the Chancel Choir or the Glory Handbells don't just get up and sight-read their music that day. It takes weeks (sometimes months) of practice in order for a piece of music to be ready to offer to God. When Lincoln Trail College Theater kicks off *Annie* this month, they didn't just walk on stage for opening night and begin to sing, dance, and act; they have been rehearsing for months.

The Christian life requires preparation, practice, and rehearsal. We grow deeper in our relationship with God when we practice spiritual disciplines - prayer, reading Scripture, worship, partaking in sacraments, being in Sunday school or Bible study, feeding the hungry or visiting the sick. We find ourselves in trouble when we haven't prepared for Christian life and suddenly dive in (it's like saying that we want to read the whole Bible, beginning with Genesis, and we give up by the time we reach Leviticus, mostly because we haven't practiced reading Scripture). Preparation gives us endurance, and makes it possible for us to live out our faith in ways that give us life.

I want to encourage you to join me in practice and preparation this month. As the clock turns back, as the seasonal gatherings commence, take some time to prepare and practice. Maybe for the season of Advent (which for us, we will begin observing on November 26), consider taking part in a Sunday school class for those four weeks, or helping with NOW bagging, or singing carols at an area nursing home. Of course, this month's edition of the Herald offers you many opportunities to help First UMC be prepared for all that is to come, so read with an eye to participate, and see what God does to prepare you for what lies ahead.

I will see you in worship!

Grace and peace,

PASTOR JAY



NOVEMBER NOW

For the month of November, would you please consider donating a bar of soap to the NOW Program? Even now, we are preparing for next year's Kids' Shopping Days, and our goal is to have 250 bars of soap by the end of the month. If you can make a donation, please drop it off in the bin marked "Just One" outside the church office.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Our annual Hanging of the Greens will take place on Sunday, November 19 after Sunday School classes are dismissed. We'll gather for a light lunch (please sign up at the welcome center to bring soup, sandwiches, or desserts) at 11:30 am in Asbury Hall, followed by a time to decorate the church for Advent and Christmas. Sunday School classes will have the opportunity to decorate during their classes that day, and the chapel will be decorated following the 6:00 pm service that evening. We hope you'll come help us get ready for this holy season!

SECOND WEDNESDAY DINNER

Our November 2nd Wednesday Dinner is always an opportunity to gather, to give thanks, and look forward to the future. We'll gather on November 8 at 5:30 pm. Turkey, ham, and beverages will be provided.

Please sign up at the welcome center to bring your favorite Thanksgiving sides!



OUR CONFERENCE, OUR KIDS

Included in this edition of *The Beacon* is a brochure regarding a fundraising initiative for the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. The 2016 annual conference session voted to undergo an endowment campaign for our conference children/youth benevolence agencies, with the goal of underwriting the spiritual life programs at The Baby Fold (Normal), Chaddock (Quincy), Cunningham Children's Home (Urbana), Spero Family Services (Mt. Vernon) and Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House (East St. Louis). A three year campaign is now underway, and we encourage each of you to consider how you might help these agencies, who work with some of our most at-risk youth, prepare for the future. If you would like to make a gift, you are welcome to do so through the church, and the church will submit it to the conference.

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

The trustees still have a few stained glass windows (from the 1899 building) available for purchase. Please contact Walt Conner at 554-2598 or wconner5@frontier.com if you are interested in looking at windows or submitting a bid.

FALL BACK

As you're preparing for this Sunday's worship service, please remember that Daylight Savings Time ends on Saturday, November 4. Make sure that you set your clocks back an hour on Saturday night, and come to worship energized and enthusiastic, since you'll have had an extra hour of sleep!

PIES...PIES...THANKSGIVING PIES! **(an Ode to John Schmidlin)**

Our students are planning ahead for their 2018 mission trip, and are planning on making and selling pies for your Thanksgiving meals! An order form is available at the welcome center (apple, pecan, or pumpkin pies). Orders will need to be placed by November 16.

Students will be preparing and baking pies on Saturday, November 18, and pies will be ready for pickup on Sunday, November 19. Cost of each pie is \$20. As you're doing your meal planning, please let the students help you!



CHRISTMAS MAGIC FESTIVAL

The next community event First United Methodist church will be taking part in is the Bringing Back the Christmas Magic festival on Friday, November 17. We will have a booth where children may come and decorate cupcakes. There is no charge for this activity. We will be needing unfrosted cupcakes and tubs of icing by Friday, November 17. Workers in the booth are also needed.

On Saturday, November 18, we will be walking in the parade and handing out candy canes and information about the church services and ministries. The parade will step off from the city park and end at the square that evening.

Sign up sheets for both events are at the welcome center, or you may call the church office at 544-3411.

ARK OF THE COVENANT

We have been doing food drives for the Ark of the Covenant soup kitchen twice each year. This year, they have asked us if we would move up our December food drive to November, because they are expecting to serve over 600 dinners for Thanksgiving. Please pick up #10 cans (commercial-sized) of vegetables or fruit (you can get them at Walmart in the bulk foods aisle, or ask at County Market), and place them in the narthex. Let's help Ark of the Covenant's preparation for Thanksgiving go smoothly this year!

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/1 Jaxon Ackman
11/2 Erin Thompson, Claire Wise
11/3 Diane Crampton
11/5 Gary Rodgers, Zachery Hays
11/7 Debbie Tedford
11/8 Stephanie Schmidlin
11/9 James McGahey
11/10 Megan Haber
11/13 Laura Wise
11/14 Danielle Thompson
11/18 Elmer Harness, Betty Jean Malcolm,
Max Tedford
11/20 Jennifer Murray, Bob Bell
11/23 Peggy Markello
11/27 Bob Hutchens
11/28 Greta Lowry

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

11/4 Stacie & Pat McMillan
11/10 Kenton & Susan Carver

Pastoral Care: If you are hospitalized, please make sure that you or a loved one lets the church office know. Hospitals do not release that information to the church, so we have to rely upon you to share that information with us. Pastor Jay is happy to visit, but he does need to know that you're ill and in need of pastoral care! Thank you for helping with the sharing of information.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Peg, John, Jeremy, and Greg
Markello; Ken Martin; Carol Wolf; Lois McConnell; Carl and Helen Blanton;
Judy Wilson Wall; Michael Brady;
Gary Albin; Patty Steele; Marty
Attaway; Cathy Thomas; The women
in the Crawford County jail; Judson
Richardson; Jerry Adkins; Susan
Polgar; Jay Holtzhouser; Janna
Coonce; Jennifer Newlin; Kaye Parrott
Weger; Jennifer Null; Julie Zhang; Bill
Thompson; Bob Duzan; Janey
Branson; Kate Dale; Shirley Treadway;
Neema Mutayoba; Duke Thompson;
Mary Kay Jurcin; Barb Myers; Michael
Keene; Dick Drake; John Larrabee;
Myrtle Garrard; Larry Nichol; Floyd
Brinkman Sr; Janet & Charley Clark;
Allen Summers; Nicole Young; Bev
Turkal; Vicki Vinson Farris; Evan Prahll;
Sidney Iubelt; Ray Dotson; Bev
Arrington Campbell; Mike Richards;
Nancy Young; Rick Koester and
family; Margie Moore McNarmara;
Richard Youngs; Kay Blanchard;
Jackson Barry; Kay Young; John
Poland; Bob Berty; John Poland; Joan
Fulling; Those affected by natural
disasters; Nancy Young; Doris Prier;
Dorothy Fasig

NOVEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30 am Refresh Wednesday 3:00 pm Kids' Club	2 9:30 am Disciple IV 4:00 pm NOW Bagging 6:00 pm Jail Ministry 6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal	3	4
5 8 & 11 am Chancel Choir 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 6:00 pm Evening Worship	6 6:00 pm MATS	7 6:00 pm Disciple IV	8 6:30 am Refresh Wednesday 3:00 pm Kids' Club 5:30 pm 2nd Wednesday Dinner	9 9:30 am Disciple IV 10:30 am MATS 4:00 pm NOW Bagging 6:00 pm Jail Ministry 6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal	10	11
12 8:00 am Handbell Rehearsal 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 pm Chancel Choir 2:30 pm Heritage Health Service 6:00 pm Evening Worship	13 6:00 pm MATS	14 6:00 pm Disciple IV	15 6:30 am Refresh Wednesday 3:00 pm Kids' Club 4:00 pm NOW Bagging 6:00 pm Committee Meetings 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting	16 9:30 am Disciple IV 10:30 am MATS 6:00 pm Jail Ministry 6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal	17 4:00 pm Christmas Magic Festival Booth Set Up 5:30 pm Christmas Magic Festival	18 7:00 pm Youth Pie Baking 6:00 pm Christmas Magic Parade
19 8 & 11 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:30 am Hanging of the Greens 6:00 pm Evening Worship	20 6:00 pm MATS	21	22 6:30 am Refresh Wednesday	23 OFFICE CLOSED Thanksgiving Day	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25
26 8 & 11 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 6:00 pm Evening Worship	27 6:00 pm MATS	28 6:00 pm Disciple IV	29 6:30 am Refresh Wednesday 3:00 pm Kids' Club	30 9:30 am Disciple IV 10:30 am MATS 4:00 pm NOW Bagging 6:00 pm Jail Ministry 6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal		

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Permit No. 3

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor: Jay Regennitter

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brennansethtracy@gmail.com

Music Director: Antje Pippin

antje2959@hotmail.com

Organist/Pianist: Brenda Graham

doubleg@mediacombb.net

Custodian: Amy DeDoming

Nursery Staff: Jennifer Boatman, Danielle Stuller,
Tiffany Beard