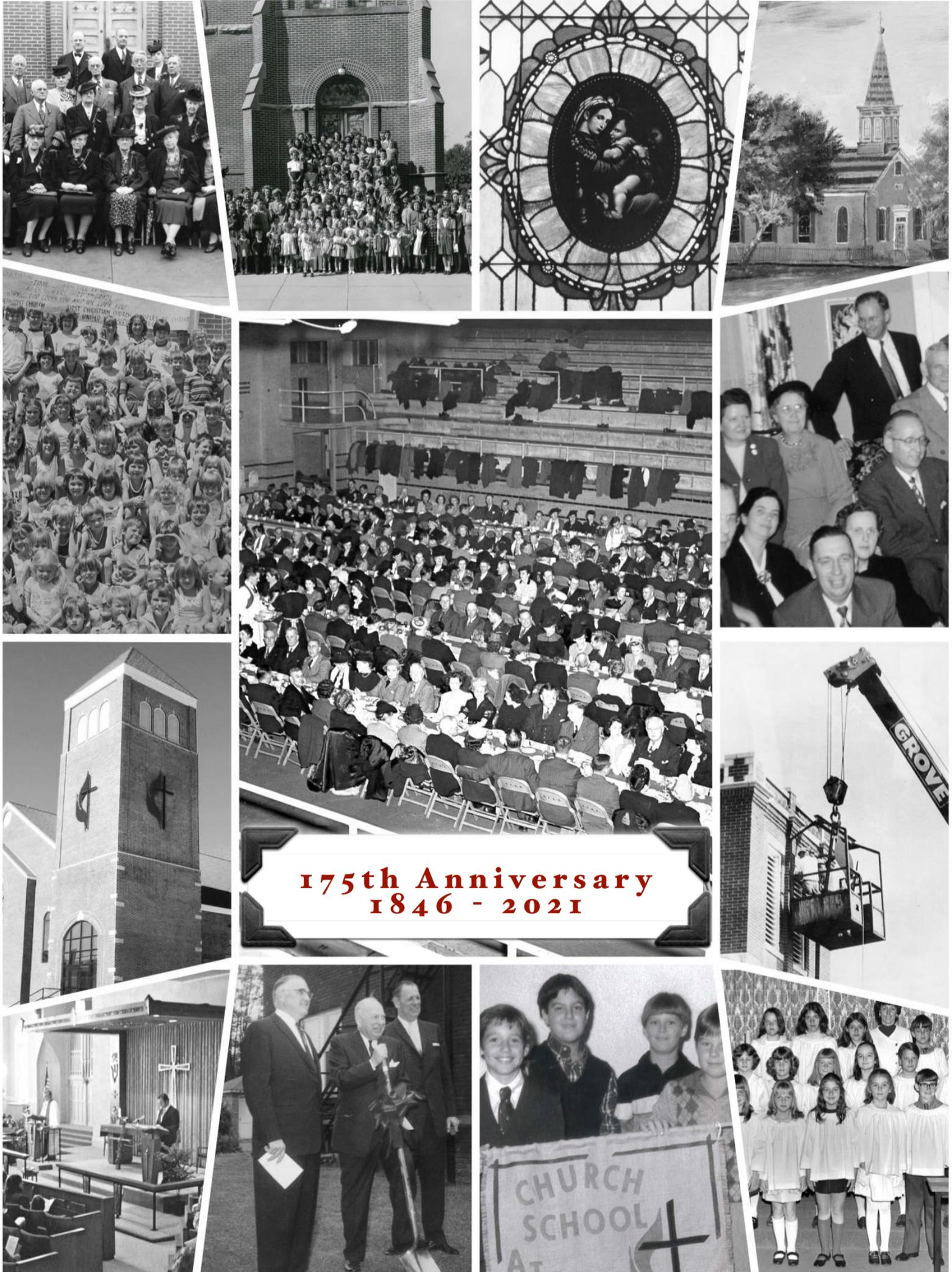


ROBINSON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH • AUGUST 2021

# THE HERALD

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



**175th Anniversary  
1846 - 2021**

## FIRST FRUITS

First UMC has a long legacy of generosity that has allowed us to share generously with each other and with the community.

# From the Pastor's Desk

In the past few weeks, I completed my annual paperwork for consultation with the district superintendent. I was asked how I have grown in stewardship this past year, and how I've led the congregation in that area. I want to share with you that I try to be generous with my financial resources, both with the church and other causes that matter to me, as well as saving for the future. I try to be generous with my time, to serve our congregation and community. One of the areas I've tried to grow in stewardship is care of my body and soul - to take a break and leave for lunch, to go home and eat dinner before evening meetings, and to try to embrace Sabbath on Friday and Saturday (hint, hint - you can help me embrace that!).

It was a good exercise for me to think back over the past 16 months in our congregation. 2020 was the first year (in a long time, if ever) that we finished financially in the black - by a large amount. We worked hard to steward the congregation's resources, but you were also exceedingly generous - beyond the budget.

- Every employee was paid throughout the pandemic.
- We provided gift cards to every care home worker in Robinson.
- We provided care packages for every care home resident.
- We provided food for our hospital workers and first responders once a week for several months.
- We cared for those in our congregation who lost their jobs, providing weekly meals.
- We provided coffee bars for each school and its employees in our school district.
- People (hopefully) had increased contact from the church through cards, gifts, and phone calls/text messages.
- We successfully completed our first capital campaign in many years, accomplishing all of the campaign goals (we have no debt, a new digital sign, additional property, and new/expanded parking) and exceeding them (the basement is getting completed right now, including restrooms).
- People are hungry to use their gifts and skills to serve our congregation. Think of the number of people you've heard from who have shared their gifts in the arts during worship; the number of people who have led classes and Bible studies; the people who come to bag or distribute food for the NOW Program.

I rejoice in the generosity and stewardship of First UMC! As we plan for the future, continue to reopen, and look toward 2022, I hope you will join me in continuing to be generous - because our God is good, all the time!

See you in worship - no really, I mean it!



Pastor Jay

## **175 Years of Generosity**

Ministry takes funds, and it takes people. It took the generosity of people to build the first facility in 1866, twenty years after our congregation was founded. In 1898, the Ladies' Aid Society formed, and supported a number of projects at the church, including the Good Shepherd Window, and once, paying the power bill. A number of persons served as Church School Superintendents over the decades, including J.S. Abbott and Fred I. Mills. Supporting missionaries, refugees, and the hungry has required time, talent, and treasure. First United Methodist Church has a long and storied history of generosity, and the congregation will build on that history as it moves into the future with hope.

## **Stewarding Us Back Together**

Thanks to the generosity of the estate of Margaret DeMent, we are going to be gathering back together in more ways! Starting August 1, our Sunday School will move to a hybrid format! For those of you still at home (or traveling, etc.), you will still be able to join via the Zoom link. We now have every Sunday school classroom set up for hybrid classes. So, you can join us in-person at 10:15 am each week, or continue to meet with us online. Our new equipment will give those of you still at home the opportunity for a 360-degree view of each classroom, and the camera swivels to whomever is talking - so you feel like you're right there!

Our committee meetings will also move to a hybrid format, beginning in August. We'll offer the Zoom link for every committee to participate, so if you still need to be at home, or you're on the road for work, you can still fully participate. If you're needing to meet in-person, we can do that too. Childcare will also be available for those that need it.

Committees will meet in the following rooms on August 18:

SPRC - Parlor

Trustees - Library

Finance - 2101

Outreach - 2102

Worship - 2103

Education - 2104

Lay Leadership - Asbury Hall

We are thankful for the gracious gift that has made our gathering together possible. This technology not only helps us move forward from the pandemic, but it also will enable more people to participate in new and exciting ways!

## Feed Generously

We have been asked by Ark of the Covenant to hold a canned food drive for the soup kitchen. When you're out and about this month, please pick up a #10 (commercial-sized) can of your favorite fruit or vegetable - you can find them in the bulk-foods section of Walmart, at Sam's Club, or in larger grocery stores. We'll be collecting these items in the narthex throughout the month of August. Thank you for your generosity in feeding our neighbors!

## Grow in Generosity

Our August church-wide focus is on generosity, as you can tell from The Herald's theme. Our worship services will focus on treasure, and what's really important for our lives from a Biblical perspective. Our regular adult Sunday school classes will focus on this topic more in-depth (please contact Nina if you need the Zoom link to join), and we will also have daily devotion books available for pick-up outside the church office. A \$5 donation is requested to offset the cost of the books, but they are yours to keep!

## Discovering Generosity

Did you know that if you really want to understand stewardship and generosity, you have to go back to the very beginning of the Scriptures? Join Pastor Jay this fall in his study "Invitation to Genesis." Classes will begin on Tuesday, September 7 (6:30-8:00 pm) or Thursday, September 9 (9:30-11:00 am). Classes will run for ten weeks. You can register using the following link, including letting us know whether or not you need childcare: <https://forms.gle/UNVSCnT9bfv2LKaV6>

Books for the class are on sale at Cokesbury - you can follow this link to purchase your book: <https://www.cokesbury.com/Invitation-to-Genesis-Participant-Book?refq=invitation%20to%20genesis>

## A Generous Gift

In celebration of First United Methodist Church's 175th Anniversary, Kay Albin has written a poem to mark the occasion. Many of us have been touched by Kay's poetry, as she has written poems for a number of devotions, including the 2020 Advent devotional. She has a way with words, and uses her talents for ministry - a generous gift. Her poem is called "The Bell."

One Sunday morning recently  
Much to my surprise  
The ringing of our church bell  
Brought tears into my eyes.

You see this bell's ben with us  
A hundred years and more  
And even fire could not destroy  
What God had in store.

It's ringing Sunday morning  
Tells the world to come inside  
And hear the "Good News" story  
That will surely save their lives.

When the sermon's over  
And all the prayers are spoken  
It's time to leave this church and go  
Into a world that's broken.

The bell will ring again and say  
"Get ready everyone.  
These are God's people and they bring  
Jesus Christ...His Son!"

The bell is ever faithful  
Always ringing when it should  
Reminding us God has a plan  
And it is always good.

So maybe on a Sunday  
As you sit here in a pew  
The bell will reach your heart and say  
"God has a job for YOU!"

# Care News from Stephen Ministry

*As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life. 1 Timothy 6:17-19*

As United Methodists, "we give to minister in Jesus' name.". We are blessed at Robinson First United Methodist Church with many lay people ministering to others. Stephen Ministry is one of our church's ministries that shares the good news of Jesus Christ. Stephen Ministers are committed and generous with their gifts and time when they bring Christ's love and care to people during a time of need.

Your Stephen Ministry Team meets bimonthly for continuing education and supervision. Linda Null recently provided a valuable continuing education lesson for the Stephen Ministry Team. You may watch and learn from Linda by accessing the session at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bn2bhV0JMwc>

In addition to providing one-to-one Christian care, Stephen Ministry has sent sets of the *Journeying through Grief* books to congregational members, friends, and families. The set of four books is shared during the first year after the loss of a loved one. Over 90 sets/360 books have been mailed with a personal note included with each. The *Journey through Grief* is a simple, powerful way to care for people who are grieving.

**Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.**

**- Galatians 6:2**



## August Birthdays

8/3 Jay Holtzhouser  
8/4 Mike Parker  
8/6 Liz Dhom  
8/7 Tyler Carter, Nancy Mattsey  
8/8 Brian Wilson  
8/10 Phuong Quick  
8/12 Matthew Schmidlin  
8/13 Kirbie Ackman  
8/15 Janet Clark; Emerson Reinoehl; Gracen Elliott  
8/16 Dorothy Youngs  
8/17 Emmanuel Regennitter  
8/19 Paula Summers  
8/22 Joyce Owen, Janelle Oxford  
8/26 Doris Stanley  
8/27 Brent Owen  
8/28 Mike Bell  
8/29 Antje Pippin  
8/30 Justin Aydt, Amy Hartke  
8/31 Walker Odom

## Prayer Requests

Jeremy Markello; Carol Wolf; Carl Blanton; Michael Brady; Cathy Thomas; Judson Richardson; Julie Zhang; Bill Thompson; Michael Keene; John Larrabee; Nicole Young; Evan Prah; 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; Rick Pritchard; Laurie Vaughn; Kay Bonnell; Wally Leggit; Judy Eckert; Lisa Schaefer; Matthew Williams; Bob Callier; Larry Potts; Patricia Hodgson; Pamela Hart; June Watson; Paul Davis; Kathy Kennedy; Tina Klender; Paul Clinton; Duane Parker; Ruth Fiscus; Jan Riker; Dustin Ikemire; Robin Bray; Greg Faylor; Susan Rodgers; Melinda Ashby; Brad Smith; Floyd Brinkman; Leah Buser; Kamillah Rollins; Cuma Barnett; Donna Ferry; Rachel Tracy; Janice Woods; Carl Janney; Garnet Van Horn; Lou Bonnell; Cathy Devalle; John Youngs; Heather Karbach; Steve Diel; Ford Bond; Mike Bell; Dan Davis; Gary Null; Dion Wright; Nay Owens; Hart Odom; Jennifer Newlin; Stacy & Eathan Baize; Marsha Strader; Kirtina Carter; Andrea Tully; Janet Clark; Kay Weger; Scott Storckman

## August Anniversaries

8/3 Brandon & Melinda Harmon  
8/4 Jim & Suzanna Wallace  
8/14 Jason & Amy Hartke  
8/15 Brian & Julie Wilson

  
❖ August ❖



# August 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p><b>7:30 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Grand Sweep Class (Zoom)</li> </ul> <p><b>9:00 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Worship (In-Person with Masks, Livestream, YouTube and Radio)</li> </ul> <p><b>10:30 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Worship (In-Person, Mask Optional)</li> <li>- Sunday school (Zoom)</li> </ul>	<p>2</p> <p><b>10:30 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NOW Summer Lunches</li> </ul>	<p>3</p> <p><b>10:30 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NOW Summer Lunches</li> </ul>	<p>4</p> <p><b>Student Mission Trip</b></p> <p><b>10:30 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NOW Summer Lunches</li> </ul>	<p>5</p> <p><b>10:30 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NOW Summer Lunches</li> </ul>	<p>6</p> <p><b>10:30 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NOW Summer Lunches</li> </ul>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p><b>7:30 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Grand Sweep Class (Zoom)</li> </ul> <p><b>9:00 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Worship (In-Person with Masks, Livestream, YouTube and Radio)</li> </ul> <p><b>10:30 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Worship (In-Person, Mask Optional)</li> <li>- Sunday school (Zoom)</li> </ul>	<p>9</p> <p><b>10:30 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NOW Summer Lunches</li> </ul>	<p>10</p> <p><b>10:30 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NOW Summer Lunches</li> </ul> <p><b>6:30 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Holy Fire Study</li> </ul>	<p>11</p> <p><b>10:30 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NOW Summer Lunches</li> </ul> <p><b>5:30 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Second Wednesday Dinner</li> </ul> <p><b>6:30 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stephen Ministry Meeting</li> </ul>	<p>12</p> <p><b>8:00 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NOW Back to School Shopping Day Set Up</li> </ul> <p><b>10:30 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NOW Summer Lunches</li> </ul>	<p>13</p> <p><b>8:00 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NOW Back to School Shopping Day</li> </ul>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p><b>7:30 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Grand Sweep Class (Zoom)</li> </ul> <p><b>9:00 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Worship (In-Person with Masks, Livestream, YouTube and Radio)</li> </ul> <p><b>10:30 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Worship (In-Person, Mask Optional)</li> <li>- Sunday School (Zoom)</li> </ul>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p><b>6:00 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Committee Meetings (Zoom)</li> </ul> <p><b>7:00 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Church Council Meeting (Zoom)</li> </ul>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p><b>7:30 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Grand Sweep Class (Zoom)</li> </ul> <p><b>9:00 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Worship (In-Person with Masks, Livestream, YouTube and Radio)</li> </ul> <p><b>10:30 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Worship (In-Person, Mask Optional)</li> <li>- Sunday School (Zoom)</li> </ul>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p><b>4:00 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NOW Weekend Meal Bagging</li> </ul>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p><b>7:30 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Grand Sweep class (Zoom)</li> </ul> <p><b>9:00 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Worship (In-Person with Masks, Livestream, YouTube and Radio)</li> </ul> <p><b>10:30 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Worship (In-Person, Mask Optional)</li> <li>- Sunday School (Zoom)</li> </ul>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>				

First United Methodist Church  
201 West Walnut Street  
PO Box 45  
Robinson, IL 62454  
[firstumcrob@gmail.com](mailto:firstumcrob@gmail.com)  
[www.robinsonfumc.org](http://www.robinsonfumc.org)  
618-544-8016

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
Robinson, IL  
62454  
Permit No. 3

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor: Jay Regennitter

Office Manager: Kirbie Ackman

Director of Christian Education: Nina Davis

Communications Coordinator: Brennan Seth Tracy

Music Director: Antje Pippin

Organist/Pianist: Brenda Graham

Custodians: Amy DeDoming, Mark DeDoming

Nursery Staff: Jennifer Boatman, Anita Cohoon,

Marnie Inboden, Jordyn Weger

[robinsonfumcpastor@gmail.com](mailto:robinsonfumcpastor@gmail.com)

[firstumcrob@gmail.com](mailto:firstumcrob@gmail.com)

[nineah3@gmail.com](mailto:nineah3@gmail.com)

[brennansethtracy@gmail.com](mailto:brennansethtracy@gmail.com)

[antje2959@hotmail.com](mailto:antje2959@hotmail.com)

[doubleg@mediacombb.net](mailto:doubleg@mediacombb.net)