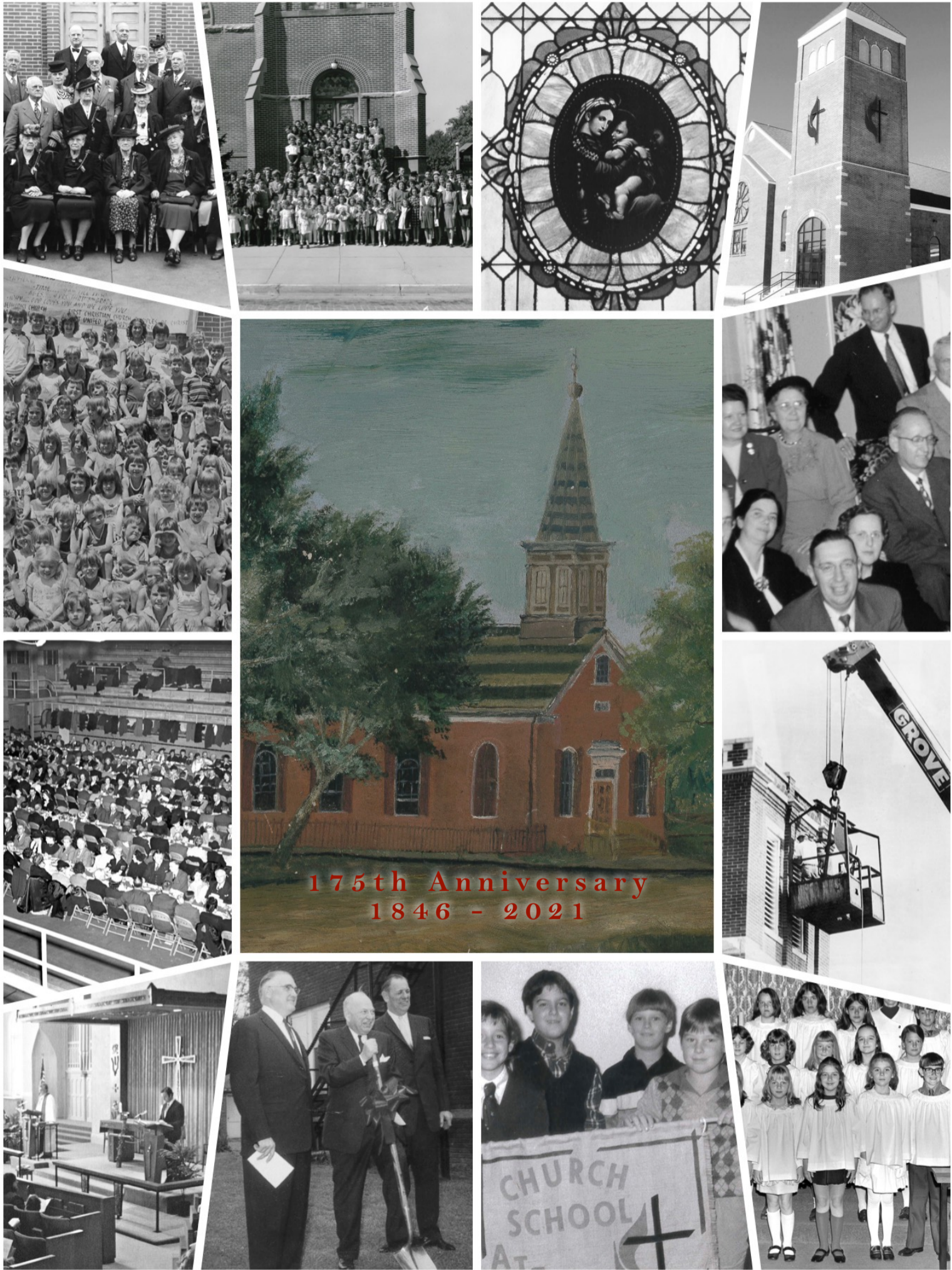


ROBINSON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH • JANUARY 2021

THE HERALD

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



175th Anniversary
1846 - 2021

FIRST BEGINNINGS

FUMC celebrates its 175th Anniversary in 2021! We are going to use the newsletters this year to help us celebrate. This month, we are learning about the founding of our congregation in 1846 and how that developed a firm foundation for where the church's ministry is now.



From the Pastor's Desk

Here we are...finally...2021. While we're still dealing with a pandemic, I want us to know that the future looks bright for First UMC. Prior to the pandemic, the church council was beginning to do some strategic planning, and part of that centered around this fact: First UMC turns 175 years old in 2021. Isn't that exciting?

Each month in 2021, we're going to be utilizing The Herald to learn more about our congregational history, as well as look toward the future. In this month's edition, we're looking at "First Beginnings." You'll be reading some about how present ministries got started, and what we're up to now. You'll also read some about how First UMC got its start.

2021 is a year full of hope and promise. We're going to be doing a variety of things as a congregation this year to mark 175 years of ministry together. I hope you'll join us in those things as we put the pandemic behind us and look toward the future. God has great things in store!

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jay Regan Ritter". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Pastor Jay

First Beginnings

True to our United Methodist heritage, First UMC started as a class meeting in 1846, and its first members met in private homes. Worship services took place in the school house or courthouse. Eventually, class meetings followed worship services. Classes were historically small - 10 to 12 persons - and it took time before membership grew to over two dozen people. The first revival (three weeks long!) took place in 1849, and was successful in a town of no more than 250 people. It took another revival in 1866 to build a facility. The facility was the first church building in Robinson. The first church building (made of brick) stood on the site of our present education building, and measured 60 x 34 x 17 feet and cost \$5,565.00. This facility served the church for almost 34 years.

In the early days, the church charged seat rental until the facility was paid for - \$5-\$20 annually. From its early days, the congregation was ecumenically minded. The Presbyterians donated funds for the building construction, and were given free use of the facility when not in use by the Methodists. Early pastors were part of a circuit of six churches, so worship services were held every other Sunday.



Stephen Ministry Timeline

January 2018

Stephen Ministry idea shared by Janelle Oxford with Pastor Jay and Outreach Committee

February 2018

Interested people begin exploring Stephen Ministry

April 2018

Four members attend SM Introductory Workshop in Urbana

April 2018

SM Informational Meeting for congregation

May 2018-Present

Planning and ongoing development of FUMC Stephen Ministry including prayer after worship, grief books and care outreach, congregational awareness and fundraising

September 2018

FUMC enrolled as Stephen Ministry Congregation

June 2019

Pastor Jay, Janis, Marcia, and Janelle attend Stephen Ministry Leaders Training Course in Orlando (train the trainers workshop)

July 2019

Stephen Minister Recruitment Process

August 2019

Four Stephen Leaders Commissioned during worship

August 2019-April 2020

First Stephen Ministry Training Class for 13 Stephen Ministers

February 2020-Easter Sunday 2020

13 Stephen Ministers Commissioned during worship

April 2020

Supervision schedules created and tasks assigned

May 2020

First Stephen Ministry Supervision and Continuing Education begins on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays

May 2020

First Care Receiver referred to a Stephen Ministry Caregiver

August 2020

Stephen Leader Retreat to extend vision and planning for Awareness and Referrals

May through December 2020

Continuing Supervision and Care Giving

All of this activity was begun when the Holy Spirit laid on Janelle Oxford's heart the need for Stephen Ministry at First United Methodist Church. The Holy Spirit continues to move to expand this ministry and ignite our hearts to offer care to augment the care of Pastor Jay and to assure that no one walks alone through the challenges of life. The ministry will continue to incarnate Jesus here at FUMC, Robinson.



NOW

The NOW Program began in January 2013 as a response to a growing population of at-risk children in the Robinson School District. Our three-pronged approach allows students (who are identified by school staff) to receive meals on weekends throughout the school year, lunches three times per week in the summer, and a strong start to the school year with our Back-to-School Shopping Days.

We are always looking for new volunteers to help us bag! Please use the link below if you would like to join us!

<https://signup.com/go/QFTppWB>

Lenten Devotional

We are looking for people that would like to be part of our 2021 Lenten Devotional. If you would like to write one or more devotions for the devotional, please use the link below. Devotions need to be returned to the church office by Feb 4th.

<https://forms.gle/pwHGKNcYi6DJzFht7>



January Birthdays

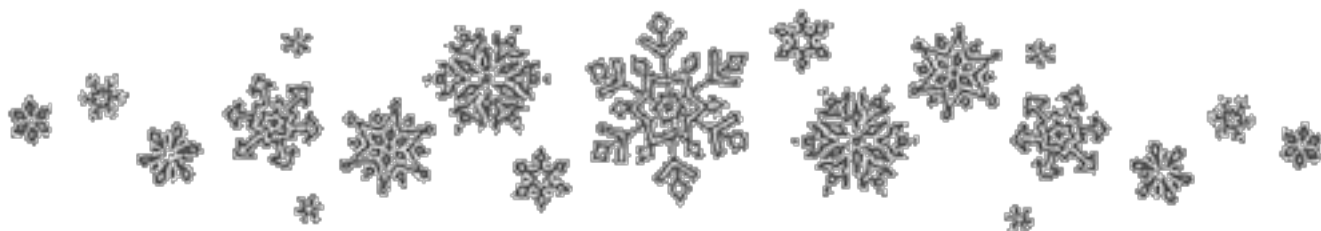
1/6 Shelby Koester
1/7 Pat Campbell
1/8 Larry Quick
1/9 Luke Emken
1/10 Kaitlyn Kubiak
1/12 Katie Aydt
1/14 Karen Catt
1/15 Kaye Damron
1/17 Dustin McDonald
1/18 Sharon Freeland, Jesse Newbold
1/22 Paul Roales
1/25 Lucas Aydt
1/29 Kurtis Goebel, Katelyn Murrell;
Rev. Louis Youngs

January Anniversaries

1/20 Justin & Katie Aydt

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; Fred White; 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; Bernice Kibler; Lisa Schaefer; Shirley Wakefield; Matthew Williams; Debbie Houser; Bob Callier; Larry Potts; Patricia Hodgson; Pamela Hart; June Watson; Maria Reis; Paul Davis; Kathy Kennedy; Roger Pethel; Tina Klender; Paul Clinton; Duane Parker; Ruth Fiscus; Max & Debbie Tedford; Charlie & Janet Clark; Jan Riker; Alan & Joan Summers; Kathy & Estell Keys; Carolyn Leggett; Dustin Ikemire; Robin Bray; Greg Faylor; Susan Rodgers; Mary Etta Whitmer; Melinda Ashby; Elwin Falor; Dr. Sikorski; Brad Smith; Floyd Brinkman; Barb Coffey; Leah Buser; JR Manning; Kamillah Rollins; Sue Roales; Cuma Barnett; Matt Schmidlin



January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 OFFICE CLOSED	2
3 9:00 am - Worship (Live Stream, YouTube and Radio) 10:30 am - Sunday School (Zoom)	4	5 OFFICE CLOSED	6 OFFICE CLOSED	7 4:00 pm - NOW Weekend Meal Bagging	8 OFFICE CLOSED	9
10 9:00 am - Worship (Live Stream, YouTube and Radio) 10:30 am - Sunday School (Zoom) 1:00 pm - Stephen Ministry (Zoom)	11	12 OFFICE CLOSED	13 4:00 pm - NOW Weekend Meal Bagging 6:30 pm - Stephen Ministry (Zoom)	14 OFFICE CLOSED	15 OFFICE CLOSED	16
17 9:00 am - Worship (Live Stream, YouTube and Radio) 10:30 am - Sunday School (Zoom)	18	19 OFFICE CLOSED	20 6:00 pm - Committee Meetings (Zoom) 7:00 pm - Church Council Meeting (Zoom)	21 4:00 pm - NOW Weekend Meal Bagging	22 OFFICE CLOSED	23
24 9:00 am - Worship (Live Stream, YouTube and Radio) 10:30 am - Sunday School (Zoom)	25	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 pm - Stephen Ministry (Zoom)	28 4:00 pm - NOW Weekend Meal Bagging	29 OFFICE CLOSED	30
31 9:00 am - Worship (Live Stream, YouTube and Radio) 10:30 am - Sunday School (Zoom)						

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antje2959@hotmail.com

Organist/Pianist: Brenda Graham

doubleg@mediacombb.net

Custodians: Amy DeDoming, Mark DeDoming

Nursery Staff: Jennifer Boatman, Danielle Stuller,
Anita Cohoon