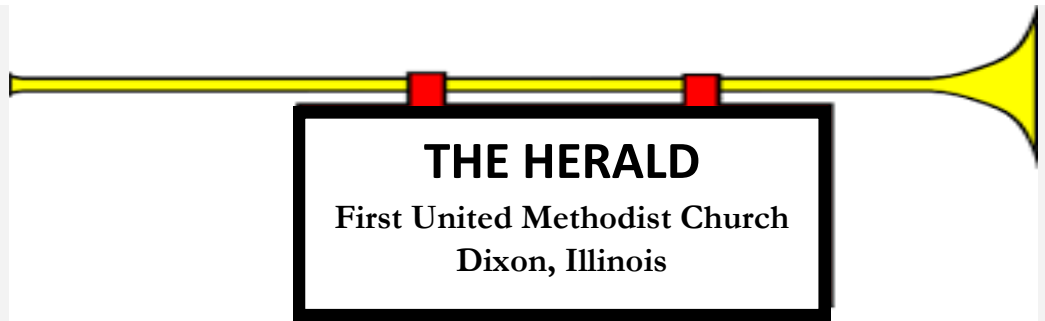


April 2020



*Upcoming Events:*

- April 1-30 202 Prayer
- April 1, Weekly Update
- April 3, Online Praise & Prayer
- April 5, Worship FB
- April 6, Online Devotion
- April 8, Weekly Update
- April 10, **GOOD FRIDAY**  
Online Praise & Prayer
- April 12, **EASTER**  
Worship FB
- April 14, **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**
- April 15, Weekly Update
- April 17, Online Praise & Prayer
- April 19, Worship FB
- April 20, Online Devotion
- April 22, Weekly Update
- April 24, Online Praise & Prayer
- April 26, Worship FB
- April 27, Online Devotion
- April 29, Weekly Update



**Worship Services:**

- Saturdays:  
5:00 pm in the Chapel
- Sundays:  
10:00 am in the Sanctuary  
2nd Sunday of month, family day  
8:30 Bible Study, Ruth Room  
8:30 Adult Sunday School  
9:45 Powerhouse Kids  
(Except 1st Sunday of month)  
2:00 AGAPE Youth

Greetings to the faithful of Dixon First UMC,

What a whirlwind of change in our lives we have had since our last Herald! I am reminded of **Hebrews 13:8** *“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”* with all the radical change of daily living caused by the COVID 5<sup>3</sup> virus, Jesus remains the same. That is something as they say, “We can take to the bank!” It is times of struggle and change that remind us how important our faith in Jesus Christ is to our daily living. It is a reminder of where our strength to face the unknown without fear comes from.

Also, I am reminded of Matthew 7:24-27 *“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”*

In the telling of this story, Jesus is reminding us how important it is to have our relationship with God through Jesus in place before the storms of life hit. I am so grateful for two things that we have done so far in 2020 to help us fortify our faith before the COVID 19 virus arrived.

The first was to seek God’s vision for our church and our own lives at the beginning of 2020. It might sound a little ridiculous to be talking about our long-range vision when we are struggling to get to the next day healthy, happy and whole. But when I take time to reflect on the vision process we started what it did for us was to focus our future on God and God’s will for our church and our own lives. We were looking forward to the future trusting in God with an anticipation of a bright future. That is exactly what is needed in this dark and unsure time of the COVID 19 pandemic. The visioning process helped us to connect and reconnect into the rock of Christ Jesus. We found ourselves on solid ground when the storm came.

The second important event that happened was choosing to focus on communicating with God during our time of Lent. We asked God to Open the Flood gates in our church and our lives through utilizing the five Breakthrough Prayer Practices presented in the book “Ultimate Reliance” by Sue Nilson Kibbey. We learned about:

**1. Upsurge BTP** *“Lead me to a rock that is higher than I.” Psalm 61:2*

**2. Do Not Be Afraid BTP** *“Be Not Afraid, for I am with you.” Isaiah 41:10*

**3. Let There Be Light BTP** *“Let there be light.” Genesis 1:3-4*

**4. Holy Surrender BTP** *“Thy will be done.” Matthew 6:10*

**5. Pick-axe BTP** *“Keep asking, Keep seeking and Keep knocking.” Matthew 7:7*

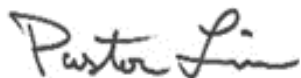
Prayer is essential to the life of a maturing disciple. Prayer is how we communicate with God. We have a God who loves us to the uttermost and is madly in love with us. We live in a fallen disease filled world that God is redeeming one person at a time by inviting them to accept his Son Jesus as their Lord and Savior. When we accept Jesus into our lives the indwelling of the Holy Spirit connects us to God through Jesus. Our prayer life becomes the lifeblood for knowing God and being formed into the image of his Son. During this time of Sheltering in place, I am praying that you take your extra time and spent a good portion of it with God through utilizing these five Breakthrough Prayers. Through constant prayer, we are drilling our footings deep into the rock of our salvation found in our relationship with Jesus.

### Updates

1. The President has issued a statement that we shelter in place until the end of April. This means we will continue to only offer worship, bible study, and G2 Groups by online means.
  - a. **Facebook**– This is our primary means of communicating with the largest group of people in our congregation and community. We will post on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. There are two ways to get to the church’s Facebook page.
    - i. Our Facebook address: [www.facebook.com/FUMCDixon](http://www.facebook.com/FUMCDixon)
    - ii. Through our Website: [fumcdixon.org](http://fumcdixon.org) Click on the Facebook tab in the scrolling announcements on the home page.
  - b. **Website: [fumcdixon.org](http://fumcdixon.org)**– This is where you will find the most complete information about our church. The church calendar, the prayer request page and material for our messages
2. **Wednesday email blast:** I will be sending out an email blast each week with the latest information on the COVID 10 pandemic that affects the life of our church.
3. **ZOOM meetings:** To comply with the State and National mandates to shelter in place Pastor Heewon and I are urging our leadership chairs and G2 group members to download ZOOM go to meeting on your computers or cellphones (you don’t have to have video, you can participate by audio only). To **download** and **Zoom** Application: Go to <https://zoom.us/download> and from the **Download** center, click on the **Download** button under **“Zoom Client for Meetings”**. This application will automatically **download** when you start your first **Zoom** Meeting.

As I bring my letter to a close I want you to know that God will bring us through this dark and trying time. We have been fortunate in Dixon and Lee County so far with no confirmed cases of Coronavirus. Continue to pray, pray, pray. Stay connected by using Facebook, email and our website. Don’t forget to call someone and share time together. Call someone from our church and someone who isn’t. Share the love of God! As someone posted on Facebook: The church is not a building and it is not empty. It is deployed!!!!

Blessings Pastor Tim



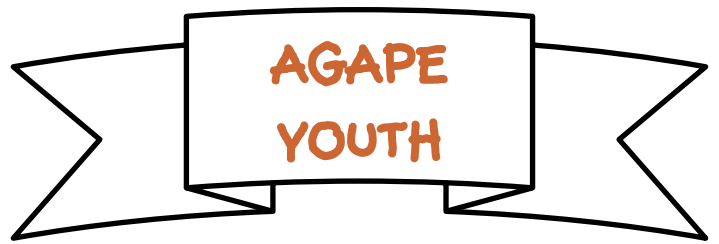
P.S. As I have been praying about not being able to meet in person on Easter I have been reminded that as Christians every day is Easter day! Also, God has laid on my heart the idea of having Resurrection Day, The Day of New Beginning on our first Sunday back in our Sanctuary. Pray with me!



### Power House Kids

(2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th Sunday of the Month at 9:45 am.  
Nursery: Infant-Age 3. PHK: Age 3-5th Grade.

**Cancelled due to  
COVID 19**



### **\*CONNECT \*GROW \*SERVE \*SHARE**

Youth in 6<sup>th</sup> grade-college age are invited to join us for lesson, games and snacks. 11:30-1:30

**Cancelled due to  
COVID 19**

#### **JOY CAMP JUNE 2020** Contact Pastor Tim for more details

- Camp is \$495 this year
- Thanks to our generous church family and 52 club donors our youth only need to pay \$50 of that amount.
- There will be a clean up day at Camp Reynolds, so the youth may earn the \$50.

#### **SPRING RUMMAGE SALE**

- It was put on hold. We plan on doing something soon, then we will need volunteers to take items to a donation center to clean the room for VBS

#### **MISSION TRIP 2020**

- Cost \$250 to Franks, KY Henderson Settlement.
- Applications are available on line, mail to Laura Anderson, 214 W 14th Ave, Coal Valley, IL 61240
- I am waiting to hear if it is okay to postpone the 50% down that was due on April 1st. I also need to know how many boys and girls will be attending as we are staying in a dorm. Check it out here: <https://hendersonsettlement.com/>

#### **VBS JUNE 9-12th 9am-noon**

- We are always looking for more volunteers. Contact Laura at 815-421-3279
- **NO PLANS TO RESCHEDULE AS OF NOW.**

#### **VBS MEETINGS**

- Monday, April 6th, 6-7:00pm, if the church is closed we will Zoom the meeting. Please like the Power House Kids Dixon Facebook page to stay tuned. (White Elephant Room, ground floor, there will be signs up)
- Monday, May 4th, 6-7:00pm, Noah Room, ground floor (painted like space)
- Sunday, June 7th, decorating after church. We will meet in the Agape Room for a quick lunch. Please let me know if you are coming so there is enough food for all.

## Green Notes:

Leviticus 25:23b- (God said)...because the land is mine and you are but aliens and my tenants.

Most landlords appreciate tenants who take care of the property they are renting.

How much more must God appreciate His followers caring for His earth. April is creation core month. Creation care involves taking care of our planet. While going about your daily tasks, please use as many eco-friendly practices as possible. Collect rainwater to water your gardens. Compost food scraps and lawn clippings. Make sure lawnmowers are in good working order. Use rechargeable batteries. Recycle everything recyclable. Work in natural sunlight whenever possible. Walk or ride a bicycle instead of driving. Combine tasks into one trip. Use eco-friendly products. Invest in socially responsible companies. These are just a few examples of how we can protect our planet.

Remember: The world is in our hands, GO GREEN!!

Green tip of the month: Bring your own paper, plastic, or canvas bags when shopping.

FEBRUARY INCOME	\$ 24,837.55
FEBRUARY EXPENSES	<u>\$ 42,128.12</u>
FEBRUARY DEFICIT	\$(17,290.57)
2019 CARRYOVER	\$ 15,549.28
BAL IN GENERAL FUND AS OF 2/29/2020	\$ 4,998.30



## Financial Notes for FEB 2020

YTD Income is -\$2,597.34 (-3.7%) LESS than 2019. YTD expenses are +\$9,831.65 (+14.3%) HIGHER than 2019.

FEBRUARY apportionments were paid.

## Prayer Team Ministries

The First United Methodist Church Prayer Team continues to provide prayer opportunities. With our current situation with COVID-19 prayer is our most powerful weapon. Breakthrough Prayer Practices can lead the way along with our 202 Prayer.

Practice #1 "Upsurge"           Lead Me to the Rock that is higher than I Psalm 61:2  
Practice #2 "Be Not Afraid"    Be Not Afraid Isaiah 41:10  
Practice #3 "Let There Be Light" Let There Be Light Genesis 1:3-4  
Practice #4 "Holy Surrender"   Thy Will Be Done Matthew 6:10  
Practice #5 "Pickaxe"          Keep Asking, Seeking, Knocking Matthew 7:7

Please continue to provide the Pastors with your prayer requests for the Prayer Chain and they will pass them along to the Prayer Team to our Prayer Chain. And continue the Bible reading plan with scripture reading as part of your prayer life.

The Prayer Team members are Dodie Fetterolf, Sue Stach, JoAnn Sanford, Phyllis Doan, Jeannie Lewis and Susan Mattes. Please feel free to contact any of the prayer team members with your requests or prayer ideas.

Blessings and Prayers  
FUMC Prayer Team

"Devote yourselves to prayer being watchful and thankful..." Colossians 4:2



*Join us for Easter Service:*

*Church Service 10:00 am on Facebook Live*





Greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord!

In front of the COVID-19, the whole world is frightened and attacked in many ways: The United States, European, and Asian countries. In the meantime, we are grateful to those who are tirelessly working in hospitals and medical areas, taking the risk of being contaminated to provide support and care to people infected by the virus. Around this Coronavirus, some people try to find why God allowed this pandemic outbreak. Is it God's punishment toward us or certain people? Well, instead of finding answers of the cause from God, to me, we have already many things in which we can see not the answers 'Why' but ways in which we can grow our faith and closer to God even in times of crisis and remind ourselves what's really important to our lives from this time.

For example, the suspending our corporate worship service in our beautiful sanctuary teaches us that we should not take for granted that we gather together every Sunday. In my entire life, and probably for Pastor Tim in the twenty-plus years of his ministry, we've never closed our doors on Sunday. Who knew that we have to empty our church on Sunday? What about our schools? My children are so happy about their unexpected long-extended spring break. But not so much for parents, right? Last week, I was about to enroll my two sons for spring soccer at Y, but I bet it must have already been canceled. What about your kids' sports activities? What about your workplace or your business? What about your daily routine? What about your vacation plan? How has this COVID-19 virus threat affected or disrupted your life and our society? We cannot help but acknowledge our human weakness before this pandemic situation. It is most likely that most of our activities were suspended or at least affected to some degree physically, emotionally, financially, and spiritually. And it leads us to think about our lives, that so many of us took it for granted: our work, sports, church, favorite restaurants, Walmart, things we've been enjoying. We come to realize that almost everything that we thought they are in our control is not ours at all. The Bible says,

the builders are working for nothing.

If the Lord doesn't guard the city,

the guards are watching for nothing. (Psalm 127:1)

The more we realize that there is not so much to do at this point (even as the government recommends us to stay home), the more vividly we know that God is the foundation of our lives. Unless God protects us, our country, and gives us life, we become nothing. At this point, we should humble ourselves and repent the ways in which we take control of our lives, the ways in which we thought it must be here and there. Most of all, we should remember the love of God that is unchanging and eternal. Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Holding onto the truth, let us continue to share the love of God poured into our lives every day with those who are fearful heart so that they might come to realize that they are not alone. God is with us, and God is good all the time!

Blessings,

Pastor Heewon



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
<h1>APRIL</h1>						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> 202 Prayer</li> <li> 10am - Worship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Online Devotions</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Weekly Updates</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Good Friday -</li> <li> Online Praise and</li> </ul>	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> 202 Prayer</li> <li> Easter</li> <li> 10am - Worship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Online Devotions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Newsletter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Weekly Updates</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Online Praise and</li> </ul>	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> 202 Prayer</li> <li> 10am - Worship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Online Devotions</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Weekly Updates</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Online Praise and</li> </ul>	
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> 202 Prayer</li> <li> 10am - Worship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Online Devotions</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Weekly Updates</li> </ul>			

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[www.fumcdixon.org](http://www.fumcdixon.org)  
Facebook: **First United Methodist Church in Dixon IL**

Conference website: [umcnic.org](http://umcnic.org)  
District Superintendent, Rev Dr. Brian Gilbert  
815-561-8285

**THE HERALD**  
April 2020

**Watching Services online** If you want to watch the Sunday worship services that we are recording live, they are available to view on the church Facebook page at First United Methodist Church in Dixon IL. You have the option to see them live or anytime during the week! If you are still confused, please talk to the pastors.



**Newsletter deadline** Articles for the next Herald are due in the church office no later than April 14th. Email, bring copy or call me to get your article in! Thanks!

**Staff Phone#**  
Pastor Tim Mitchell, 815-440-0278  
Pastor Heewon Kim, 847-912-2808  
Pastor Stan Rodabaugh, visitation, 815-973-0307  
Melissa Reynolds, office, 815-284-2849  
Tommy Whitcombe, music, 815-440-9623  
Carla Anderson, organist, 815-590-6698  
Jessie Marie Dir, records, 815-288-1326  
Sharon Welker, treasurer, 815-652-4384  
Keith Gabany, janitor, 815-288-5001  
Laura Anderson, youth, 815-421-3279