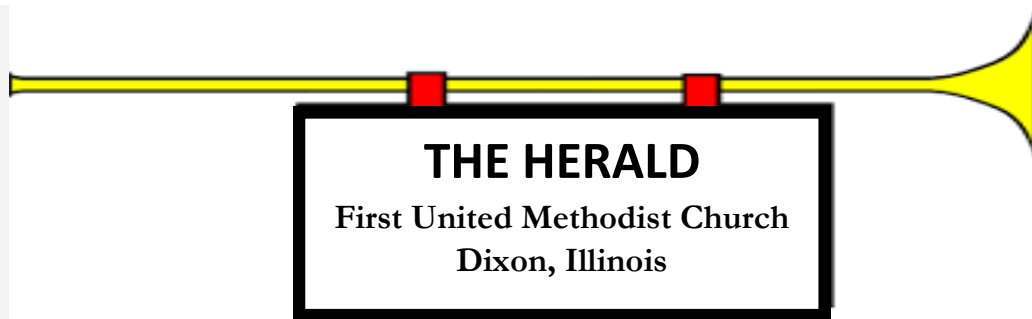


MAY 2021



*Upcoming Events:*

- May 1-31 202 Prayer
- G2 Groups Please see attached calendar
- May 1, 8:00 UMM
- May 3, Online Devotion
- May 4, 6:00 Staff Parish
- May 6, 6:00 Crossroad Meeting
- May 10, Online Devotion
- May 10, 6:00 Crossroad Meetin
- May 11, **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**
- May 11, 4:00 Prayer Team
- May 11, 6:30 Trustees
- May 13, 6:30, Finance
- May 13-26, **Crossroads Survery Opens**
- May 17, Online Devotion.
- May 17, 5:30 Faith Develop.
- May 18, 7:00 Leadership Coun.
- May 19, 1:00 Herald's Angels
- May 20, 6:30 Worship Commit.
- May 24, Online Devotion
- May 27, 6:30 Green Team
- May 29, 11:00 Bill Doan celebration of Life
- May 31 **Memorial Day Office Closed**

**Worship Services:**

Saturdays:

5:00 pm in the Chapel

Sundays:

10:00 am in the Sanctuary

Greetings in the glorious name of our RISEN Lord and Savior, The Easter Season continues! Each Sunday until Pentecost Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, is an opportunity for us to celebrate our Risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! The resurrection of Jesus defines us as Christians.

Because of what God did at the Resurrection and Pentecost our faith is participatory. The Resurrection invites us to believe and have faith in God. Pentecost invites us to allow God the Holy Spirit to indwell our mind, body and spirit. Through God's love that is poured into us through our relationship with Jesus, by the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit we can live in hope and anticipation. This hope and anticipation has sustained us throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. This participatory spiritual respiration with our beloved Triune God is what will propel us into a hope-filled future.

On Easter I asked you if you were ready to be disturbed by God. Many of you shouted yes! Some of you kind of whispered yes under your breath not sure what I was asking you to sign up for. Being disturbed by God is making yourself available to be used by God. It is saying, "I expect God to show up in my life and in the life of our church." Allowing God to disturb your life is living into and through our **202 Breakthrough Prayer**.

Over the past few weeks I have been part of Zoom meetings led by Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey. Kibbey is the author of the books, **Ultimate Reliance** and **Floodgates**. These were the resources we used last year during Lent for our **Opening the Floodgate** series. Kibbey is a huge proponent of prayer. She believes everything that the church does must be grounded and immersed in prayer. I totally agree with her and I believe our church believes that prayer is an essential part of our Christian faith.

Sue has an infectious spirit that brings you into the presence of God. She says that when you pray the **Breakthrough Prayers** you are asking God to show up in your life. Her infectious spirit is the result of not only expecting God to show up through prayer but responding to God when God shows up! She calls these moments, Conflux moments. This is what I was talking about when I asked you if you wanted to be disturbed. Do you want God to show up in your life? If you do then you must be ready to respond! When a Conflux moment happens it must be accompanied by a response otherwise it is wasted!

The gospel readings for the seven Sundays of Easter are Conflux moments. They are moments that are recorded in the gospels of God showing up. The resurrected Jesus shows up in the life of the disciples and changes the course of

history. Why? Because those people who encountered the Risen Christ responded. They told the world about the love of God found in His resurrected Son Jesus. How if you believed that the resurrection was real and true, God through the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit would be a part of your life. A life of resurrected living! When Conflux moments are shared Holy momentum happens and things change!

We have been praying our **202 Breakthrough Prayer** for a year. I have had several conversations with members of our church who have told me about God showing up in their lives during the pandemic. I have asked them to share those stories and I have been told they couldn't possibly talk in front of the congregation. I have offered to record and edit their Conflux Moment and been turned down. Do you remember I asked you if you wanted to be disturbed by God? The telling of your Conflux Moment is being disturbed. Remember the Conflux moments recorded in the Gospels? What if the disciples and others witness to the resurrected Jesus had refused to tell their Conflux Moment? I bet you many of them were just as scared as you! It is recorded in Luke, that they were so afraid that they didn't tell anyone! But we know they told their story because we have celebrated Easter for almost 2000 years. They did tell their story about God showing up!

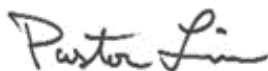
So, once again I invite you to help build the Holy Momentum that God wants to happen in our church. How? By stopping by and telling me your Conflux moment. Allow the power of the Holy Spirit to embolden you to tell the mighty act of God in your life. I can record your story and share the video during worship. I can record your story and share it from the pulpit with your permission. No story about God showing up is insignificant! We can edit together a group of Conflux moments and share them. The most important thing to do is to share our stories!

I want to finish my article with an update on our congregation's participation in the Crossroad Survey. As I told you last month the United Methodist Church is at a critical crossroad in its future. Our denomination is most likely going to split into multiple expressions. Your participation in the survey will help insure that Dixon First has clarity about its future and where we align with the UMC or one of the new expressions of Methodism. To help you make informed answers when you take the survey we will be holding 2 Crossroads meetings, May 6<sup>th</sup> and May 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary. At these meetings I will be explaining to you what will happen at the August 2022 General Conference. I will talk about The Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace through Separation Agreement. I will do my best to present the current options that our church will have when choosing which expression we will align with.

We will open the survey up to be taken on May 13- 26, 2021. For those with an email address you will receive a link to the survey. Couples sharing an email will be able to use the same email to take the survey. For those of you who don't use computers we will have printed copies for you to take. You will be able to pick them up at the office starting May 13. The purpose of the survey is to determine the theological position of the congregation. Once we know where we are theologically we will have conversations on how this will shape our future. Please start praying over this survey and plan on participating in the survey. The more people we have taking the survey the more accurate the result will be.

I look forward to having conversation with you about your Conflux Moments and about the future of Dixon First. Know that God loves you and walks daily with you!

Blessings Pastor Tim

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Lin".



## CROSSROADS SURVEY

for United Methodist Congregations



**May 6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Crossroads Meeting in Sanctuary at 6:00 pm**  
Attend one of these meetings to learn about the possible future of the United Methodist Church. This is an informational meeting to share the state of our Denomination and what choices our church may have to make.

**May 13 – 26 Complete the Crossroads Survey**

Each person on our email list will receive an invitation to participate in the Crossroads survey. Printed copies will be available for those who don't use email.

*This survey will help to determine the future of Dixon First UMC.*

**ANSWERED PRAYER!!!** Thank you Sue Stach for agreeing to be our new coordinator for Meals on Wheels. If anyone would like to add their name to volunteer delivering Meals on Wheels for our church please call Sue @ 815-288-5473. God Bless!!

# JOY CAMP 2021

In-person at Camp Reynoldswood

June 20-26

Ages: entering 5<sup>th</sup> grade to Graduating High School

Cost : \$507.00

Contact Pastor Tim for questions:

815-284-2849

[pastortjm49@gmail.com](mailto:pastortjm49@gmail.com)

FEBRUARY INCOME	\$ 31,100.26
FEBRUARY EXPENSES	<u>\$ 27,434.37</u>
FEBRUARY NET	\$ 3666.39



## Financial Notes for MARCH 2021

Copies of the full financial report are available upon request.

## Green Note:

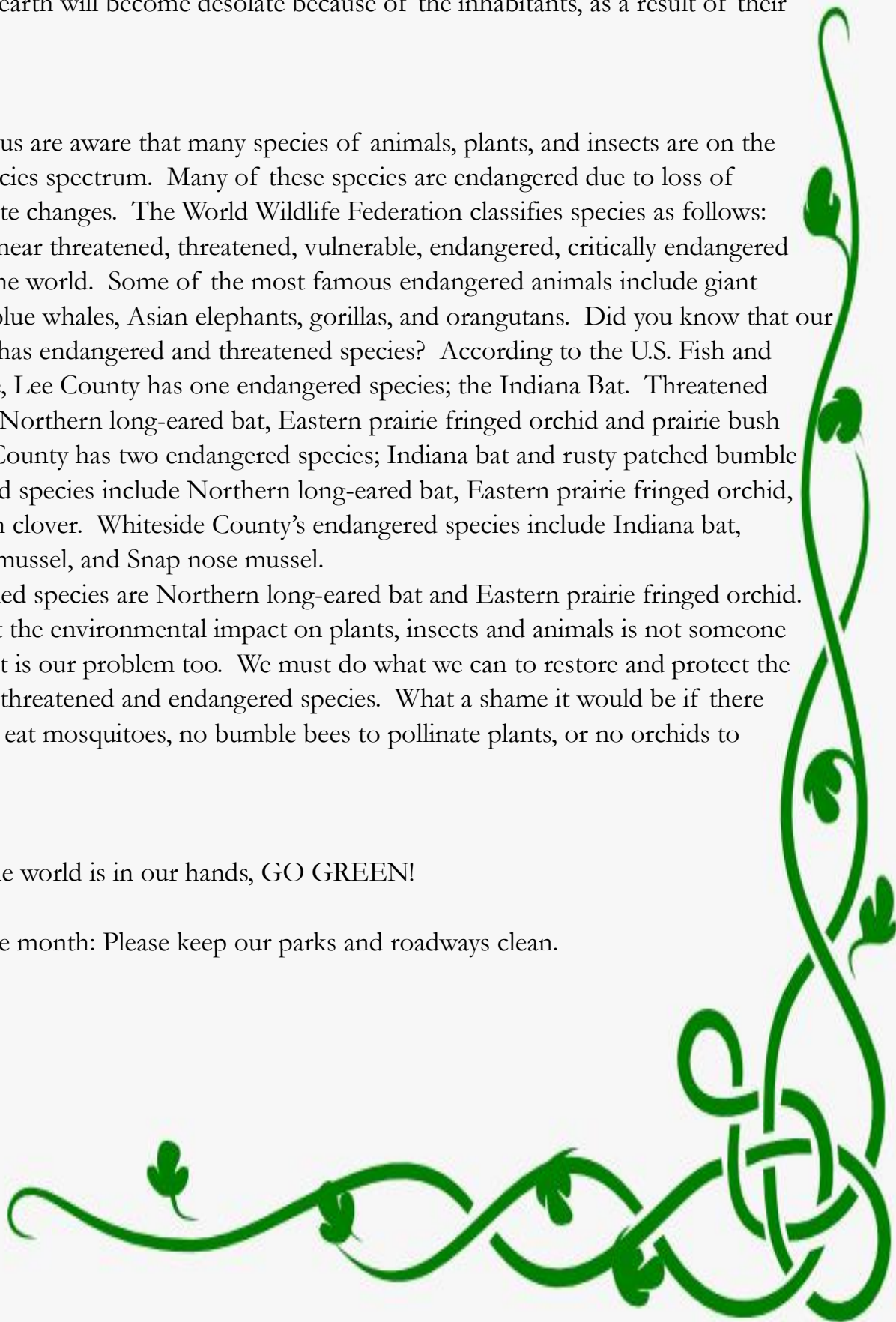
Micah 7:13 the earth will become desolate because of the inhabitants, as a result of their deeds.

Most of us are aware that many species of animals, plants, and insects are on the endangered species spectrum. Many of these species are endangered due to loss of habitat or climate changes. The World Wildlife Federation classifies species as follows: Least concern, near threatened, threatened, vulnerable, endangered, critically endangered and extinct in the world. Some of the most famous endangered animals include giant pandas, tigers, blue whales, Asian elephants, gorillas, and orangutans. Did you know that our area of Illinois has endangered and threatened species? According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Lee County has one endangered species; the Indiana Bat. Threatened species include Northern long-eared bat, Eastern prairie fringed orchid and prairie bush clover. Ogle County has two endangered species; Indiana bat and rusty patched bumble bee. Threatened species include Northern long-eared bat, Eastern prairie fringed orchid, and prairie bush clover. Whiteside County's endangered species include Indiana bat, Higgins pearly mussel, and Snap nose mussel.

Threatened species are Northern long-eared bat and Eastern prairie fringed orchid. This shows that the environmental impact on plants, insects and animals is not someone else's problem-it is our problem too. We must do what we can to restore and protect the habitats of our threatened and endangered species. What a shame it would be if there were no bats to eat mosquitoes, no bumble bees to pollinate plants, or no orchids to admire.

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

Green tip of the month: Please keep our parks and roadways clean.





Greetings in the wondrous name of our risen Christ Jesus, Our Lord and Savior!

Spring has come!!! Beginning with a hint of yellow green light covering every branch of the trees on the street or in the woods a few weeks ago, now we can see beautiful spring flowers, such as forsythias, magnolias, daffodils, azaleas, tulips, and many others the name of which I do not know, and beautiful trees covered by yellow green buds or young leaves we can find everywhere around us! What a wonderful season God makes a spring for us!

As we are celebrating the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ through the Easter season, seven weeks from Easter Sunday till Pentecost, all these spring flowers and trees that we can find around us filled with the spirit of life coming from God's power of love for the creation would bring us an image of the resurrection of our Lord Christ Jesus as the manifestation of God's love and grace for us! Jesus was going through the passion and death on the cross and risen from the dead after three days in his deadly obedience to God's will, which manifests God's gracious love for us humanity. Likewise, the plants or trees that we have observed budding and blooming of flowers and leaves out of the dead-looking branches were going through the harsh and cold weather of the winter and are coming into a new life following the way of God's mighty purpose and love for them as God's creation.

But, as we talked about last few weeks, Jesus' resurrection is not the end of God's salvation of us from the sins, but only the beginning of our salvation with our new reality of living in the light and peace of Christ Jesus in the guidance of the Holy Spirit. As we read in the verses from John 20:19-31 last week, even in their meeting with the risen Jesus Christ and their rejoicing of Jesus' resurrection, the disciples still seem not to live into the reality of the resurrection in their struggling with the fearful reality they are located in.

This story of the disciples' struggling with their reality filled with fear without a true understanding of how to live into the reality of resurrection would bring us the same question that the disciples might have regarding Jesus' resurrection in our struggling with the reality we have been living in especially through a year-long situation of the pandemic COVID-19. The question is "What does it mean to live into the reality of the resurrection at this time of fear and despair?" In other words, "How can we live into the new reality of the resurrection given to us by God's grace and love through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ?"

The answer can be found in what Jesus said to the disciples in the passage from John 20:19-22.

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit..."

In his reality of the resurrection, Jesus gives us "Peace" and "the Holy Spirit" and commissions us to be his apostles in the new reality of the resurrection, as he says, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." Thus, in this regard, with our faith in the Triune God's grace and love for us through Jesus Christ and with our living on Jesus' peace in the guidance of the Holy Spirit that Jesus breaths on us, living our life to the mighty purpose of God with our recognition of Jesus' resurrection as the beginning of our salvation would be a way to live into the reality of resurrection.

May we all be budding and blooming into the new life that Jesus offers us through his death and resurrection and live into the reality of the resurrection not only through this Easter season but also all through our life as disciples of Christ!

Blessings,  
Pastor Young Sun

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		MAY				1 8am - UMM, Page 5pm - Worship, F.H.
25	26	27	28	29	30	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 5pm - Worship, F.H. 6:30pm - May
8:30am - Brooks G2 10am - Worship 6pm - Culvers Group	Online Devotions 1pm - Staff Meeting 4pm - Pastor Tim G2	5pm - 4-H Special 6pm - Macklin G2 - 6pm - Staff-Parish		6pm - Crossroad	6:30pm - Pastor Jay	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
8:30am - Brooks G2 10am - Worship 6pm - Culvers Group	Online Devotions 1pm - Staff Meeting 4pm - Pastor Tim G2 6pm - Crossroad	NEWSLETTER 4pm - Prayer Team 5pm - 4-H Special 6pm - Macklin G2 - 6:30pm - Trustees,		Crossroads Survey Open 6:30pm - Finance, cr	6:30pm - Pastor Jay 9am - May Wedding 5pm - Worship, F.H.	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Crossroads Survey Open						
8:30am - Brooks G2 10am - Worship 6pm - Culvers Group	Online Devotions 1pm - Staff Meeting 4pm - Pastor Tim G2 5:30pm - Faith	6pm - Macklin G2 - 7pm - Leadership	1pm - Herald's	6:30pm - Worship	6:30pm - Pastor Jay	5pm - Worship, F.H.
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Crossroads Survey Open						
8:30am - Brooks G2 10am - Worship 6pm - Culvers Group	Online Devotions 1pm - Staff Meeting 4pm - Pastor Tim G2	6pm - Macklin G2 -		6:30pm - Green	6:30pm - Pastor Jay 11am - Bill Doan 5pm - Worship, F.H.	
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
8:30am - Brooks G2 10am - Worship 6pm - Culvers Group	Memorial Day Online Devotions					

### ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
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Dixon, IL  
Permit No. 230

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

**THE HERALD**  
April 2021

**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 13th. Email, bring copy or call me to get your article in! Thanks!

## Staff Phone#

Pastor Tim Mitchell, 815-440-0278  
 Pastor Young Sun Lee 217-778-7898  
 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