

JUNE 2021



Upcoming Events:

- June 1-30 2021 Prayer
- June 1, 11:00 Lyle Bogott
Celebration of Life
- June 1-8, Pastor Young Sun
out of office
- June 5, 8:00 UMM
- June 7, Online Devotion
- June 8, 4:00 Prayer Team
- June 8, 6:30 Trustees
- June 10, 6:30 Finance
- June 14, Online Devotion
- June 15, 7:00 Leadership Coun.
- June 17, 6:30 Green Team
- June 17, 6:30 Worship Comm.
- June 21, Online Devotion.
- June 21, 5:30 Faith Develop.
- June 22, 6:00 Staff-Parish
- June 28, Online Devotion



Worship Services:

Saturdays:

5:00 pm in the Chapel

Sundays:

10:00 am in the Sanctuary

THE HERALD

First United Methodist Church
Dixon, Illinois

Greetings to the faithful of Dixon First UMC,

It is hard to believe that we are almost 6 months into 2021! At the beginning of the year I chose my centering verse for the year. It is Romans 12:1-2, ***“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*** In the morning, as I start my day, I read this passage of scripture to remind myself of:

1. My commitment to grow closer to God by becoming more like Jesus.
2. To remind myself that God is my hedge of protection from the chaos and craziness that the world will throw at me today.
3. To be alert for the presence of God in my life so that I live into God’s will and not my own will or someone/something else’s will.

At the end of the day, before I go to sleep, I read the passage again as I reflect on how my day went. I do this so that I can leave my day with God so that I can have a restful night’s sleep. Along with reading my centering scripture I use an **End of the Day Examen** that my friend gave me. I offer these questions to you so that you too can find a restful night in the arms of God.

1. How is it with my soul? How is my life with God?
2. Do I know that I am forgiven for any sins I have committed today?
3. Does the Spirit of God witness with my spirit that I am a child of God?
4. Is the love of God shed abroad in my heart?
5. Is there any sin or addictive behavior, inward or outward, that had/has power over me?
6. Am I defeated in any area of my life?
7. Have I been honest with myself and others in all my thoughts, words, and actions?
8. Have I been jealous, impure, critical, irritable, touchy, or distrustful today?
9. Is there anyone I fear, dislike, disown, resent, or refuse to forgive?
10. Have I hurt anyone by my attitudes, words or actions face to face or behind the persons’ back?

11. Have I engage in evil speaking, evil surmising, gossip, or spreading rumors?
12. Am I resisting the leading of the Spirit in any area of my life?
13. Have I engaged in rest, recreation, and other restorative leisure practices?

After I reflect on those questions I end my day with the following prayer:

Meet me, O Christ, still my mind as I bring this day to a close.
Move me, O Spirit, quiet my heart and still my soul as I prepare for sleep.
Mend me, O Father, from today's hurts so I do not carry them into my dreams.

O Lord, let me empty myself of today so that I may be renewed and prepared to meet tomorrow.
Take the arguments of the day and renew me with your peace.
Take the discouragements of the day and replace them with your hope.
Take my weariness and renew my strength.
Take my doubts and renew my faith.
Take my wounds and heal them with the balm of your love.

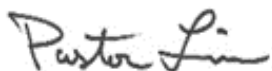
Let me enter my rest in the embrace of your loving arms, O blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen

My hope is that if you find your life a little chaotic, restless, and unsettled you can use my example to help you find joy and peace by refocusing and centering your life on our beloved Triune God.

Crossroad Survey Update: As I write this article we are in the middle of the two weeks for participating in filling out the Crossroads Survey. By the time that you receive this issue of the Herald the survey participation time will be closed and we will be waiting for the results of the survey. Once we have them we will review them at our June Leadership Council meeting and then make plans to share them with the whole congregation at the beginning of July.

May you always feel the loving presence of our beloved Triune God. Know that you are a beloved child of God. As you live each day to the fullest know that God the Holy Spirit is with you always. Loving you, nurturing you and strengthening you for the day.

Blessings,

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

Pastor Tim



First United Methodist Church





Music Appreciation

You might wonder how we can have “Music Appreciation” while we’ve been going through the protocols of Covid-19 this last year. Even though we haven’t seen our friends formally sitting in the Chancel Choir loft, there’s plenty of musical talents that have found a way to emerge. Also, there are people who work behind-the-scenes to choose music that adds depth and emotion to our services. **THANKS** and **APPRECIATION** go out to those who have shared solos and duets with the Saturday and Sunday congregations; piano and organist accompanists; instrumentalists; those who volunteer to be song leaders and help hymn selection; Bell Choir participants; the Men’s Trio; and last, but not least...our Music Director, Tommy Whitcombe.

APRIL INCOME	\$ 24,931.42
APRIL EXPENSES	<u>\$ 26,481.41</u>
APRIL NET	\$ (1,549.99)



Financial Notes for APRIL 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.

The Green Team needs your help. In order to be effective, the team needs a core group of three or more active members. This group will determine the focus of our church's efforts to green our lives. Eventually, we want to expand our efforts to other churches and community groups. We need one group of committed members to make that happen. Please pray fully consider joining the Green Team. Some areas of specific interest are listed on the form below. Pleads indicate any and all of interest to you. Even if you do not join the Green Team, people with similar interests can contact each other. Please return your completed form to the church office or put them in the Green Team mailbox. Our next meeting is Thursday, June 17 at 6:30pm in the parlor. Please join us in as you can. Thank you for your support.

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

Green tip of the month: Support eco-friendly policies and legislation.

Name: _____

Phone Number/email: _____

Best days/times to meet: _____

Areas of interest:

___ air quality

___ gardening

___ alternative energy

___ habitat restoration/conservation

___ endangered species

___ homemade non-toxic products

___ environmental advocacy

___ water conservation

___ OTHER _____

Greetings to brothers and sisters in Christ of the loving and faithful community of Dixon First!

How fast the change of season is!! Even before we enjoy enough the beautiful rebirth of the budding and blooming flowers and trees of the spring through this Easter season, the weather is sneaking into the warmer and brighter air of the summer. I am so sad to see that the spring is gone, but I am also thrilled to meet the summer with a hopeful anticipation to return to the normal way of life with less concern of meeting in person with our loved people.

One more thing that makes me feel thrilled to meet this summer is my gardening experience that I started a couple of weeks ago for the first time in my life. With the help of Pastor Jay, I made a small square shaped garden bed with a metal frame that I bought from Amazon, set it on the previous garden bed site and filled it up with gardening soils that I bought from a garden center. And with a thrilled expectation to see plants sprouting and growing in this small garden bed, I started sowing and planting some vegetables, such as peppers, lettuce, and pumpkins two weeks ago, some of them in seeds and others in nursery plants, watering them using a small watering can first but later an extended hose connected to the outside faucet, and waiting for the sprouts coming out from the seeds and the nursery plants' growing up with more leaves and taller height.

Then, it is just one week after I was sowing some seeds of vegetables that I experienced an indescribable joy to see many small sprouts coming out of seeds sowed in the garden along a small furrow that I made for sowing the seeds! In this big joy of my own given to me through this short gardening experience, I could imagine how joyful God was when God completed all creation as is described in Genesis 1:31 (NRSV), "God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good." I was also amazed with the power of God's creation that I could witness through this short process of gardening, which reminds me of what the Apostle Paul says in Galatians 6:7-8, as follows.

⁷ Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. ⁸ If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. (Galatians 6:7-8, NRSV)

As the Apostle Paul admonishes us in these verses from Galatians, even in my short experience of gardening, I could realize that God only allows me to reap what I sow, not whatever I do not sow. In my reflection on the days and months that we have been living in the pandemic situation of COVID-19, this short experience of gardening brings me a chance to think about what I was sowing in my life during the time, whether I sowed to my own flesh, or to the Spirit.

For most of us in the fear and instability that each of us would have been struggling with in our own personal situation, we might have been sowing more to our own flesh than to the Spirit. But, Jesus' love for us in his laying down his life for the salvation of our souls from the sins, which we have been reflecting on through the season of Easter, allows us to get another chance to sow to the Spirit and thereby reap eternal life from the Spirit through the gardening of our life.

Then, what do you like to sow in your garden of life as the way to sow to the Spirit?

With the well-known verse of the Apostle Paul's exhortation regarding the gifts of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 13:13 (NRSV), "And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love," I pray that we may be able to sow the seeds of love, faith, and hope in our gardening of life as Christians; the seed of love as the greatest gift of the Spirit, the seed of faith based on our love of God and love of neighbor, and the seed of hope given to us through Jesus Christ in his life, death, and resurrection for the salvation of us from the sins.

Blessings,

Pastor Young Sun

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
Pastor Young Sun Out of Office						
		11am - Lyle Bogott				8am - UMM, Page 5pm - Worship,
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Pastor Young Sun Out of Office						
10am - Worship	Online Devotions	4pm - Prayer Team				5pm - Worship,
6pm - Culvers Group	1pm - Staff Meeting 4pm - Pastor Tim G2	6:30pm - Trustees,		6:30pm - Finance, cr		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
10am - Worship	Online Devotions	7pm - Leadership		6:30pm - Green 6:30pm - Worship		5pm - Worship,
6pm - Culvers Group	1pm - Staff Meeting 4pm - Pastor Tim G2					
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Joy Camp-Pastor Tim Gone						
10am - Worship	Online Devotions	6pm - Staff-Parish				5pm - Worship,
6pm - Culvers Group	1pm - Staff Meeting 4pm - Pastor Tim G2 5:30pm - Faith					
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
10am - Worship	Online Devotions				JUNE	
6pm - Culvers Group	1pm - Staff Meeting 4pm - Pastor Tim G2					

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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