
Robbins' Herald

APRIL

2020

MAY

How do you write a calendar for April and May when everything is up in the air with no landing time forthcoming? You don't! So, I will take a bit of space to give some words of encouragement.

I hope you are finding ways to connect to our Holy God during these weeks of sheltering in place. At this point I am planning to be on Facebook Live every Wednesday night about 7pm to give a mid-week re-connect to our Lord Jesus and each other. Hope you will be able to join in on my Facebook page [Peggy Gates Katzmark](#). The reason is that on my page anyone can access it, whereas on our group page only members can. I then post it on Robbins group page for later viewing.

If you do not have access to internet, please stay connected in other ways. Personally, I am soaking my soul in prayer books and books of the Bible, as well as on-line prayers, services, and RightNow Media offerings. Others may interpret that I'm trying to gobble up reassurances that God is trustworthy in this anxious time. But really, I am already trusting God to walk beside us, and lead us through to the other side. Maybe the other side will look like the desert did to the Israelites, no onions or leeks to make their food taste good with giants in the future. Or maybe, the other side will look like milk and honey compared to our previous captivity.

God has always been our comforter and provider; God has not changed. May the jingle you repeat every time you wash your hands be this:

Jesus loves me this I know,
for God's promise tells me so.
I am His and He is mine,
I can trust Him all the time.

May God Bless You All and Keep You Safe,
Pastor Peggy Katzmark



Mission Emphasis: April

HENDERSON SETTLEMENT PROGRAMS

Like many of our churches and ministries, Henderson Settlement has been forced to re-think and rearrange some of their staff and programs. James L Knight, Executive Director, writes in a recent thank your letter: “We also stand in awe of the ways we see God moving in the hearts of our staff members. The flexibility, support and grace demonstrated throughout the organization this past year has been truly amazing. We have made necessary and predictably painful transition’s that we just knew would be hard, only to find that God went before us preparing the way. In fact, He has amazed each of us by using these changes to bring about new possibilities none of us in the Leadership Team had ever envisioned. We frequently find ourselves saying, “How did that happen? That shouldn’t have worked out that well!”

Following are some of the projects Robbins has participated in through our partnership in ministry to their community:

1. 37 foundation–up homes built in the community
2. Replaced their kitchen oven and fryer which died just before their heavy work camp season
3. Funding which made available a replacement of their box truck used for food deliveries
4. A “very special” youth visit to the Creation Museum & Ark Encounter Staffing for their Summer Recreation Program, staffing for their Youth ministries
5. Their 2019 Community Christmas Program
6. They have a USDA-certified processing plant in Williamsburg, KY that can cut, package & label the meat from their farm for local sales, through the Thrift Shop.
7. In April their greenhouse operations will begin in time for the local school children to “shop” for a plant to give to that important person in their life.

2020 Work Camp Projects in the Settlement:

1. Redesign & improvement of the Frakes Community Park Redesign & conversion of former Clinic building into new Administrative Building
2. Redesign & conversion of former White Oak thrift store building into White Oak Work Camp lodging & common area.

The second list of priorities will be with the Community Home Repair.

Continuing with the letter from James Knight, Ex. Director; “On behalf of Henderson Settlement. I would like to thank you for your continued partnership with us in ministry to our community. You are among our most significant and faithful financial supporters, and that support has been critical in our efforts to support our community members in need. Your visits to spend time with us are also priceless. Call from time-to-time. We would love to hear from you.

Mission Commission Members: Dave Minger, Chris Kemper, Judy Herriff, and Pastor Peggy appreciate your love and devotion and support for missions. May you feel blessed through blessing others.

Mission Emphasis: May

HEART AND HANDS

Heart and Hands is a Christian based non-profit agency founded in 1981 to meet emergency needs of those living within Eaton Rapids Public School District. In addition to living within the School District, applicants must meet the USDA's current income eligibility guidelines.

According to the Heart & Hands web site; "Our purpose is to compassionately assist meeting basic human needs of individuals and families within the Eaton Rapids School District."

Robbins is one of the many churches, local businesses, community organizations, individuals and foundations, such as the Greater Lansing Food Bank, which support Heart and Hands.

In addition to food, Heart and Hands offers some personal hygiene items.

Heart and Hands is governed by a Board while the day-to-day operations are handled by the Director, Cathy Howell and 25-30 volunteers. Volunteers are always needed and receive training. Their location is at the back of the First Baptist Church. The hours are Tuesday afternoon from 4pm to 6pm, Wednesday and Thursday mornings 9am to 12 noon.

Donations of non-perishable food and personal care items (i.e., soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, etc.) are always needed and can be dropped off during business hours. You may also drop your donation in the donation bin off the lobby at church.

HEART AND HANDS ANNUAL REPORT – January 2020

Distributions:

1. 1,418 Households (average of 118 families per month)
2. 7 households received urgent housing assistance
3. 41 households received transportation (fuel/bus tokens)
4. 4,628 Eaton Rapid area residents served (1,798 children & 2,830 adults)
5. 59 Households received utility shutoff assistance
6. 2 households received homelessness assistance
7. 23,875 pounds of food, household products, personal hygiene items, and fresh produce was collected
8. \$44,454.61 received from donations
9. \$17,000 received in grants.
10. \$25,760 received in Meijer "Simple Give" gift cards
11. 26 volunteers gave more than 23,100 hours to keep our food pantry running smoothly.
12. In February a milk cooler was donated, now they can offer fresh milk.
13. They purchased a new glass door merchandiser refrigerator which allows them to offer fresh produce
14. They purchased a new glass door merchandiser freezer which enables them to offer more frozen meat.

Also, as part of their annual report, Cathy writes; we are extremely grateful for your support and interest in our work. "Please know your contribution, in each and every form, is truly making a difference in the lives of so many Eaton Rapids residents"

Any undesignated mission giving in May will help support Heart and Hands ministries. You may give by using an envelope in the pew racks. Write Heart and Hands on the memo line.

The Robbins Mission Commission (Chris, Dave, Judy, and Pastor Peggy) thanks you.

Seeking Patience for Spring 2020

“Lord, give me patience – right now!” So goes a prayer I’ve read, if not tried. And instant patience can be useful. I turn on one of the lights in our house that doesn’t seem to come on for a second, and I eventually learned to be patient for that second. I have heard sports announcers praise the patience of a running back who pauses that half-second for the play to develop before dashing through the gap. A basketball team, apparently frantically zipping the ball around the court while players without the ball keep moving, can be praised for three seconds of patience and extra passes if they don’t force a shot too soon. Back in our ordinary lives, the patience to hold off our angry response for one to ten seconds might give us the perspective to save the situation. Yes, seconds of patience can be valuable..

Patience for minutes or hours can be useful, too. For years, I thought Dad was just more talented at poetry than I was. Then I realized that what he brought to the effort was not just talent, but the *patience* to put together the thoughts, rhymes, and meter to make a poem. Later I realized it was his spiritual strength and warm heart that made his poetry possible. And after all that, maybe he just was more talented than I. But he had patience – as a farmer, poet, father, and even games of carroms one evening after milking. Dad lined up his shots more carefully than I did, and won the series, eight games to four. From one man, I learned more about patience than I was ready to apply.

I started thinking about this article in mid-March, when corona virus news made it seem that we were facing a need for a half-month of patience. We don’t leave our house every day, but we are used to being able to go somewhere safely on *any* day we liked, for enjoyment or shopping or both. Being advised to keep away from groups of people for late March (including worship and birthdays) was a challenge to our tolerance and patience.

I thought I saw a problem. The newsletter was for April and May, and it looked like that two-week restriction would be over by then. But, as you know if you have not been hibernating, it looks like those wonderful spring months will continue to have restrictions. It looks like patience might be needed for the whole season. Briefly, I thought of adapting a John Steinbeck book title to call the article “The Spring of Our Discontent.” But a cooler head prevailed – mine. Let’s talk about the virtue needed, not the complaint, which is being discussed extensively already.

Yes, *virtue*. Some virtues are needed or helpful to support other virtues. For example, C. S. Lewis wrote, “Courage is not simply one of the virtues but the form of every virtue at the testing point, which means at the point of highest reality.” For example, if you are honest only when it is safe to be honest, you do not show honesty at its testing point.

In some recent writings, I have emphasized thankfulness (or gratitude, or appreciation) as the virtue that made other virtues *easier*. Now I am emphasizing a virtue to make other virtues more *durable* – patience. I’m writing about patience, not because I’m good at it, but because it seems to be needed this spring. Some patience is needed anytime; another level of patience is needed in spring, which seems to be such a fickle season. (When asked, “Will spring ever come to Michigan?”, I answer, “Oh, yes. Several times.”) A still higher level of patience is needed for *this* spring, as our actions are under discipline and restriction, to slow the spread of a remarkably easy-to-transmit virus.

If you are (Let me just say it.) *impatient* with all this attention to the corona virus, all these restrictions on freedom, I have three things to say to you: **1.** I understand; patience doesn’t come easily. **2.** If your impatience leads you to careless acts that threaten the health of others – and as a 76-year-old, I claim some privilege of caring about my own health – I am not impressed by how you express your love for freedom. **3.** It helps me, in dealing with the situation, to remember that, in World War II, everyday people had numerous restrictions and disciplines to help us win the war. If anything, there was an increase in social cohesiveness as people shared sacrifices. OK, I don’t remember it firsthand (Do the math.), but some lore about the spirit of the times persists.

I know it’s about time for me to plunge into my call for patience, and my ideas about how to live patiently, but I request your patience. First, let me recognize that the need for patience takes different forms. Judy and I are spending days at home; some people have to go to work. We have no children in the house; some people have them every day. Our finances are not strained; some people have to figure close, even make hard choices. So, let me just point out that limit. I will write my comments on patience to myself (I hope I pay attention later.) but let you in on them. So, this is definitely *not* a “Be like Dan” piece; I couldn’t face Jesus if I took that approach.

So, listen in as I talk to myself. (Uh-oh. Not ten days into a reasonable stay-at-home discipline, already Dan’s talking to himself.) Some aspects of patience might apply to everybody.

Actions. Some of you might already have all you can do and doing things just because they use time might seem ridiculous. Probably so, but even for you, it might be good to find some things that give relief, refreshment, or enjoyment, and that you

can cram into your busy life. It might be a food choice, book of short stories, short walks outside, feet up and watching a favorite TV show – I don't know, because tastes differ. When you invent your mini recreation, you might wonder why I didn't mention it. It's because your mind goes places my mind doesn't. Your vacation might be five minutes or five hours.

Service. Some people are making protective masks for health-care workers and others who need them. Some people bring needed things to people of limited mobility – and deliver them without getting physically near those people. Some set up online worship services. Your imagination, and your perception of what's needed, probably go beyond the best I could do.

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Projects. I can't begin to tell you what *your* project might be. Besides doing what I should for the household, I might tidy my office room, so I'll have a proper place for things I don't want to lose. Or gather some of my writings into a chapter for a possible book someday. But that's me. Look within. Is there something you once told yourself you would do someday? Does it still call out to you? Maybe this is *someday*. Maybe this is when you change your life, not just have it changed for you.

Time with God. I turn down the *Upper Room* at church, explaining that I can get it online. I can, but usually don't give it thirty seconds. Whether your format is a devotional guide, a "coffee with Jesus" time, a prayer list, or something else, "Take Time to Be Holy" as the song says. Yes – actual *time*. (Yes, Dan, that writer is talking to you. Are you paying attention?) This empowers your patience.

Health. This isn't about going to medical professionals. It's more about how you eat, how you move, how you pay attention to your body. Patience calls for some physical health, as well as spiritual.

Play. Games can make the time more bearable, give people some fun together, and even exercise the minds.

Attitudes. Let me start with a rule of thumb that I believe covers my experience: If somebody describes somebody else as having a *bad* attitude, that is suspect; the person might have an honest opinion the describer does not like. If somebody describes somebody else as having a *good* attitude, that is likely to be true; the describer does not have anything to gain from praising at a distance. So be suspicious of others' criticism of your attitude. They might be right, so listen; but they might not be.

Truth. A lot of communications will come at you during the coronavirus crisis. See whose pronouncements are consistent, and fit with what you know to be true, and make sense. My own emphasis here is to believe the scientifically and medically trained people; they have invested their lives in learning things. Frankly, anti-science attitudes will kill people in this crisis.

Love. In this time when people can get on each other's nerves, it is important to make a *decision* to love, and act on it, even when we don't feel like it.

Humor. I am known around here as an advocate of humor, so I won't pound on it further, except that as a needed attitude, it does not outrank love or truth. That said, humor *can* heal.

Gratitude. Most of us can think of something to be thankful for. Maybe all of us, but I had to start gently. If you can be thankful for a blue sky, or that somebody loves you, or bacon, or laughs, it's a start. If we can be intentionally thankful, other attitudes might come more easily.

Hard job first. I don't always do this, and it isn't even always right, but on some days when I intentionally start with the job I don't want to do, I can make the day good. That might take:

Courage, which is every other virtue at its testing point, including:

Patience, the virtue of continuing to do your best and be your best, when it's not easy.

Give yourself credit. You can't always get the compliments you deserve from others, so give yourself credit when you are doing well (and suspect that it won't show or get attention). Maybe say to yourself something like, "This needs patience, which I usually don't have, but here I am, patient-ing all over the place." Or: "I not only did the hardest job first, but I did the next-hardest next. I think I can end this day a winner."

If you see something missing in all that, congratulations. I suggest praying *before* you dig in with patience or start doing the hardest thing; then *thank* God as you continue and as you finish something.

God helping us, friends, let us be patient this spring.

Dan Ellsworth

ROBBINS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES – FEBRUARY 11, 2020

Present:

Richard Bailey – SPR Chair; Keith Hayter – Congregational Care Facilitator; Amy Henderson – Finance Committee Chair; Judy Herriff – Missions Team Leader; Carol Huntington – Lay Member to Annual Conference; Pastor Peggy Katzmark – Nominations & Leadership Development, Education; Ted Kilvington – Church Council Chair; Beth Mosko – Worship Chair; Jean Brown – Recording Secretary

Devotions:

Amy Henderson offered devotions entitled, “You need other people around you, and they need you; Change Requires Community,” from Rick Warren’s website. She started by reading a passage from Romans. You will not make all the changes you need to make, want to make, would love to make, plan to make, or dream to make by yourself. If you could, you would. But you can’t, so you won’t! From Romans 12:4-5 (NLT), “Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ’s body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.” God wired the universe in such a way that we need each other. The phrase “one another” is used 58 times in the New Testament: Love one another, care for one another, encourage one another, support one another, pray for one another, greet one another, share with one another. God never meant for you to go through life alone. The two things the Bible says you must have: God’s power and community. At Robbins, we have people from different backgrounds, education, political views, etc., but what we have in common is our love for God. That unites us and allows us to help each other out.

Ted Kilvington opened the meeting in prayer.

Finance:

Amy Henderson reported that, even though the January Treasurer’s Report shows a deficit for January, we are actually in the black; Jim Vogel prepaid the health care and utility bills that are normally due in February this month since he would be leaving for Arizona. Also, there are some issues with lines not printing on the report which makes the detail lines look like they are not accurate, which is due to a problem with the Quicken software. The balances, however, are correct. Jim was researching, and Amy is continuing to research, the problems and will reprint the report when resolved.

Missions:

Judy Herriff reported that the Missions Team has disbursed the overage of funds in their account as follows:

\$700.00 to Michigan Area UMC Camping
\$455.56 to CHUM, a therapeutic horse-riding program

This brings the balance to \$1,500 in their budget. The team has set their 2020 meeting dates for the last Tuesday of every other month at 2:00 PM.

Lay Member to Annual Conference:

Carol Huntington reported that there are a couple upcoming meetings that she will not be able to attend, one being the special session called by Bishop Bard on March 7th to consider whether the Michigan Conference will send the legislation based on the protocol of reconciliation and grace through separation of church to the General Conference. Following some discussion and research, it was determined that Robbins can elect an alternate to act on behalf of the Lay Member. Rich Bailey nominated Ted Kilvington to be our alternate delegate to conference and attend the special meeting in Carol's absence, and Carol Huntington seconded. The motion carried. Pastor Peggy indicated there is a \$15.00 fee for whoever attends.

Congregational Care:

Keith Hayter reported that Congregational Care delivered two meals last week to Dan and Judy Ellsworth as Judy recovers from knee replacement surgery.

Staff Parish Relations:

Richard Bailey reported that Alma Weber and Joanie Noble have joined the SPR Team. The Team is currently looking to revise the covenant with Pastor Peggy since it was last updated in 2017.

Worship:

Beth Mosko reported that her Team is working smoothly, and planning is done through Easter.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Peggy reported that she is concerned as to how to handle the Discretionary Fund. This area does not fall under Robin's duties and currently Peggy has been trying to take care of it but does not have the time it requires to continue in this capacity. Robin does take the initial call and fills out the necessary form for follow-up, but it can be time consuming confirming details and justifying the need. Since Ted Kilvington and Brenda Matteson approve such requests, it was suggested that one of them follow up on these requests. Ted indicated they receive 4 to 6 requests a year. Pastor Peggy will contact Brenda if she would be willing to take this on; Judy Herriff volunteered to back up Brenda if she agrees to do it.

Pastor Peggy also suggested continuing the potluck suppers on Wednesdays throughout Lent, starting with Ash Wednesday. There would be 6 meals total—including Ash Wednesday—and people would be asked to bring a dish to pass and their own table service. It was decided to go forward with it and an announcement will be put in the bulletin.

Pastor Peggy announced that she will give a progress report on the Vision Framing and disciple pathway at the March meeting. She will then be on vacation from March 11th through March 20th. Carolin Spragg will give the sermon on March 15th.

Judy Herriff closed in prayer.

Next meeting: March 10, 2020—6:30 p.m.. Devotions: Judy Herriff



He is Risen

DEATH COULD NOT HOLD HIM.

Rejoice in the resurrection of

Jesus Christ.



WISHING YOU A BLESSED AND JOY FILLED EASTER!

ROBBINS UMC – AD COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Attending:

Ted Kilvington, Alma Weber., Judy Herriff., Keith Hayter., Peggy Katzmark., Rich Bailey (acting secretary), Amy Henderson.

Devotions

Judy Herriff: 1 Thessalonians 5:12 - 18: Gratitude Recommended to write down at least one blessing each day. Being grateful is a choice.

Business

Conference: 900 of (1000 – 1050) were in favor of sending the motion (Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation) to general conference.

February minutes: approved

Treasurer's Report: Positive balance but expenses are low. March will be higher as Insurance is due. Funding for Boiler and Parsonage will come from Capital Improvement. A new coversheet for the finance report is needed to update dates.

Keith Hayter – Congregational Care: Meals to the Ellsworths; Judy Herriff checked on the Hayters.

Missions – no report

Memorials – request for a camp scholarship

SPR – no issues

Worship: From Beth ... Survey results – large majority keep service times as is – 33 same, 5 make change.

Worship is working on a better flow for service.

Pastor Peggy: March 29 – have a town hall meeting on current state on vision framing team. Final team meeting on the 24th (planned for extra time). . Potlucks needed to have leadership – Ash Wednesday service and potluck canceled due to weather. A new sermon series starting Easter – the I Am statements by Jesus. Dan Ellsworth will give the sermon on Pentecost as Peggy will be at Conference. The Egg Hunt will be April 11 – time TDB. Ida Raymond and Kellie Lyons will be in charge. We will have individually wrapped candy. Need more definition on what candy is needed. Easter Brunch is planned. Adjourn @ 7:26 PM

Next meeting date to be determined – Ted Kilvington will provide devotions.

Motions: none

Actions Items: Amy Henderson to provide a report on finance report for the town hall. Keith Hayter to coordinate food for Easter Breakfast.



Birthdays

Cooper Lyon	04/01
Joanie Noble	04/02
Lisa Campbell	04/02
Clark Campbell	04/06
Cathy VanderMolen	04/10
Jo Glasgow	04/11
Brenda Matteson	04/13
Leigh Furgason	04/16
Sue Vogel	04/20
Joshua Schnepf	04/22
Faith Sharp	04/27
Damin Harris	04/30

Robbins United Methodist Church

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Contact information:

Church Office: 517-663-5226

Website: www.robbinsumc.org

Office Hours: Tues – Fri, 9-2

Email: robbins@robbinsumc.org



Birthdays

Ryan McGhan	05/04
Gabriel Towsley	05/06
Darlene Whitford	05/07
Paytin Harris	05/10
Charlotte Elizabeth Towsley	05/12
Andrew Verstraete	05/17
Mike McGhan	05/19
Alex Henderson	05/21
Peggy Katzmark	05/22
Quentin Henderson	05/23
Judy Herriff	05/27
Beth Mosko	05/29
Sherry Brown	05/29
Cullen Henderson	05/31

