



## Conception Abbey Road Trip

The confirmation class and 21 adults from the church family made a road trip to Conception Abbey in northwest Missouri Saturday, March 26. The multigenerational day trip provided new insight into the life of Catholic monks at their abbey.

During the visit, the group attended a mass which ended up being a funeral mass for a Benedictine monk who died at the age of 96 earlier that week. The guide, Maite Rodriguez, shared that this was an extremely rare event as it might happen once in five years.

The group also reviewed the 14 Stations of the Cross. Maite was able to provide the readings specifically for the young people in our group. Each joined in the readings and the prayers for each station.

After lunch, we returned to the sanctuary for a brief daily time of prayer, followed by an in-depth historical and artistic review of the basilica which included a 14<sup>th</sup> century statue.

On the return trip, the group made a brief stop at a Mormon historical site near Polo, MO. The trip was completely funded by a grant from the Missouri Methodist Foundation.

## Church worship services

Our current message series is entitled "The Bible Never Said That." This discussion during the season of Lent provides a way of deepening our discipleship in Christ through greater understanding of the scriptures and therefore greater understanding of the character of God.

### Upcoming Message

Apr. 3 Faith Means You Won't Suffer

### Service times for in-person and online worship

9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

## Prayers for our church family

June Mellinger's daughter-in-law Felicia Brown, Jana Miller, Trudy Quibell, Ginger Baile, Kelly Weinberger, the family of Amanda Brown, the family of Bernie Clark, the Ukrainians and world peace

## Celebrating our church family

### Birthdays for the coming week:

Sun. Apr. 3 Baird Brock  
Mon. Apr. 4 Lexi Winterbower  
Wed. Apr. 6 Rhonda McClung  
Thurs. Apr. 7 Trudy Quibell  
Fri. Apr. 8 Ally Hassler, Alyson Imboden,  
William Bridgmon

### Anniversaries for the coming week:

Mon. Apr. 4 Bob and Susan Denham  
Tues. Apr. 5 Jeff and Marilyn Imboden  
Thurs. Apr. 7 Marion and Irma Woods

## Attention Drivers! Riders need you

Members of the church family are asking for rides to church. We need small teams to make sure they have a way to church.

One team is driving on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays, so we need a second team for 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays. A team is 2-3 individuals.

No special license needed, but copies of a drivers license and insurance card are required for the insurance company.

If you need a ride, contact the church office by Thursday, 2 p.m., so we can pick you up on Sunday morning.

Job Openings at UMCBurg

**Nursery Director**

We are looking for someone who loves Jesus and kids to be the nursery director.

The nursery director will schedule and supervise all nursery workers and volunteers according to the Safe Gatherings safety and security procedures for all events. The director will also

- fill out necessary reports: child/worker accident reports, maintenance repair reports, and required reports of child neglect and/or abuse as mandated by the state of Missouri and Johnson County.
- provide a safe, clean, inviting, and nurturing environment for children birth-3 years old.

The nursery directory will be motivated to fill God's love in the nursery and with the nursery families.

**Audio Visual Technology Coordinator**

UMCBurg is looking for an audio visual technology coordinator.

The audio-visual coordinator will recruit and train an audio-visual team to accomplish the church's mission. The audio-visual coordinator will be self-motivated and able to prioritize duties. He/she will be able to learn and train a team in essential audio-visual technology including the following: worship slide creation and projection, multicamera live-streaming video, and running a soundboard.

Resumes and references can be mailed to the church office at 141 East Gay St. Warrensburg, MO 64093 or emailed to [contact@umcburg.org](mailto:contact@umcburg.org)

**Nomination of Church Leaders**

This month we are encouraging congregants to nominate leaders to serve in our church. Grab a nomination form in our office, atrium, or online. Please submit nominations by April 30, 2022.

**Coming Soon to**  
**First United Methodist Church**

**FOOD TRUCK PARTY**

Tuesday, May 31 thru Saturday, June 4  
 VBS Sunday on June 5

PK - 5th Grade  
**RESERVE YOUR SPOT!**

Questions? Contact Vada ([vada@umcburg.org](mailto:vada@umcburg.org))  
[shineumcburg.org](http://shineumcburg.org)  
[mycokeburyvbs](http://mycokeburyvbs)

**Giving To God's Work**

A shout out to those who attended last Tuesday's *Putting Your House in Order* event. Personally, it brought to my attention the many things to think through in organizing my final wishes. The 'big stuff' is squared away, but there are so many 'little details' that had not previously come across my radar. The workbook provided will help me address those details as well as facilitate conversations with my daughters.

Thanks go to Rev. Laura Murphy for conducting this workshop. She is a wonderful resource at the Missouri United Methodist Foundation, and we are fortunate to learn from her expertise. If you missed the workshop, we have access to the materials for you.

Our next workshop is scheduled for May 9 at 6 p.m. entitled *Where Your Heart is ...* We hope that you find these topics useful and thought provoking as we consider the legacy we leave to our church and others.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Dale Carder, Generosity Chair, [carder@ucmo.edu](mailto:carder@ucmo.edu), or Robyn Criswell-Bloom, Legacy Giving Chair, [rcriswellbloom@gmail.com](mailto:rcriswellbloom@gmail.com). Thank you!

**YOUTH GROUP** April 3 @ 6 p.m.

Join us as we start a new series called **Break Trail**.

**This week's session:**  
*Jesus never gives up on us.*

SUMMER  
**MISSION**  
 TRIP

**Partnered with Clinton FUMC**  
 Working with Della Lamb and Restore KCMO  
**June 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th 2022**

Looking for a great way to give back and have fun this summer? Join us for a mission trip this summer in Kansas City.

**Who?**

Middle school and high school students

**Where?**

Della Lamb and Restore KCMO.

No cost for this mission trip.

Sign up on the Events page at [umcburg.org](http://umcburg.org).

## The Bible Never Said That: God Has Only One Plan

How many of us have ever asked ourselves, "Does God have only one plan for our lives?" Has every detail lined up to bring us to where we are today?

Today we are going to look at the inspirational scripture, Jeremiah 29:11, to understand better what this passage is telling us and not telling us about God, humanity, God's faithfulness and grace, and our human response to these gifts.

**For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Jeremiah 29:11**

### How to Read Scripture: Context

The prophet Jeremiah lived and served God during the 5 and 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE when the nation of Israel was conquered by the Babylonian empire. Jeremiah chapter 29 was written during a time of war, a time of great uncertainty. He speaks to a people who have been conquered and taken into exile in a foreign land. Jeremiah writes to a people like the Ukrainians today who face the threat of being annihilated by a larger, foreign power. His audience asks, "Will God provide for us?"

Jeremiah speaks to assure his people that God will be faithful. Even though they have rebelled, fallen short, God will always maintain the covenant to bless the nation of Israel and make them a light to the other nations. We can infer from the book of Jeremiah that his audience hoped that God had a plan to set them free instantly without further suffering. Jeremiah tells them to be patient. That God has "plans." That over the course of generations, God will move through thousands and millions of people to set them free and bring them back home.

### How to Read Scripture: Experience

Is Jeremiah 29:11 telling us that God has only one plan? Or is Jeremiah telling us that God has lots of plans for our welfare and hope?

My dad, Wes Norton, felt called by God at a young age to help other people find health and wholeness in their lives. When we've gone through scrapbooks together, I've read cards that people sent him during high school encouraging him to pursue his plan to become a doctor. He enrolled at Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas and studied biology and chemistry as part of the pre-med program. He took the MCATs and did well, but when he applied to med school programs, he wasn't accepted. He sat down with the dean of the med school program at the University of Arkansas who told him one of the plans he might follow would be to enroll in a master's degree program in biology or chemistry at their university, get to know the people in their department and plan to transfer in a year or two to the med school.

During the fall of my father's senior year in college, my grandfather was having health challenges and received the

diagnosis that he had leukemia and would most likely only live for a few more years.

Facing the loss of my grandfather and related financial considerations for the family as a whole, my father discerned that this plan of pursuing med school wasn't the direction God was calling him at this time. He went to work teaching public school and coaching. After my grandfather passed away, my father learned about another opportunity to help people find health here in Warrensburg. He enrolled in the Industrial Hygiene Health and Safety program at CMSU, now called UCM. This was during the time when we were learning more about the risk of chemical exposure to workers' health in manufacturing facilities. My dad studied with Steve Mills and Al Scism, who members of our church, to prepare for a career in preventative healthcare. My dad went on to work with General Motors over 30 years helping prevent accidents and exposures for thousands of workers.

When I've talked with my dad about his journey to answer God's call to care for others' health, he feels that there were many plans that God could have directed him to take. He can imagine having had a rich career and a positive impact in a number of areas and locations.

Although serving as an Industrial Hygienist wasn't his first plan, it was rewarding. Most likely the cancer that claimed my grandfather was caused by his exposure to Benzene and other chemicals when he was a professional painter. At the time of his diagnosis, there wasn't anything doctors could do to restore my grandfather's health. My dad feels that while God invited him to take many paths, being in a position to help reduce the risk of other workers being exposed to chemicals was very meaningful.

Reflecting on my father's experiences with God, I wonder if God has many possible plans for our lives that we are invited to follow.

### Online Sound Improvements at UMC Burg

Hello Church Family,

We wanted to drop you a note to let you know that thanks to Sonia Manly and Dr. Steve Price and others, we have significantly improved the sound quality of our online worship. Worship with us online this Sunday and enjoy the sound of music, prayer, message, and scripture.

If you have any feedback, positive or areas of growth, please let us know. This helps us continually improve sharing the message of Jesus's love and forgiveness to new people. Send us an email at [contact@umcburg.org](mailto:contact@umcburg.org) with specific feedback. Please include the date and time of the service you are commenting on.

-Pastor Peter

Dear Church Family,

Events over the past few years across the United States have forced churches to consider an event such as a violent intruder or active shooter situation during service. The safety committee wants to ensure that as a congregation we are prepared for such events. This past weekend the Church Safety Committee trained the congregation on how to react in the event of a violent intruder or active shooter during service. For those who were unable to attend service the following is what was presented.

Warrensburg First United Methodist Church recognizes the government program called Run, Hide, Fight as the best course of action in the event of a violent intruder. These options are in the order that they should be considered for your protection.

There are ten entry and exit points into the church. On Sundays, North (Atrium), West (Playground), and South (Sanctuary) entries into the church will be unlocked. The remaining ones will be secured. However, any entry and/or exit points can be used in the event of a situation.

In the event of an emerging situation the welcome team will help guide and assist the congregation on what actions to take.

The Run-Hide-Fight recommended actions are:

**RUN** – This option should be considered if the intruder is determined to gain entry. Evacuate to the exterior and run as far and as fast as you can.

**HIDE** – This solution should be used when the intruder does not seem to be aware or does not appear to be interested in the sanctuary. Close and lock doors at front and rear and shut off lights. Keep away from windows and doors. Hide under the pews.

**FIGHT** – It has been documented that when all else fails and you are confronted by a violent intruder your chance of survival is higher if you confront them rather than remaining passive. Get mad! Show no mercy!! Some great options for defense in this situation are to throw any objects you have such as purses, bibles, hymnals. You can also deploy a fire extinguisher to temporarily disorient the intruder.

Once you are in a safe place you must immediately call the police. Do not assume someone else has called! Be prepared to give them the church's address of 141 E. Gay. State that there is an intruder in the building and how many people are/were present in the facility. Also, if applicable tell the dispatcher where you are located in the building.

If you are evacuating the building while police are making entry, ensure you have nothing in your hands and keep your hands up to ensure the police know you are not a threat. You can attempt to direct the police to the threat but do not interfere. Their job will be first to eliminate the threat then provide aid to those injured.

Lastly, the Shine Children's Ministry team has a safety plan and have been trained on how to react if there is a violent intruder or active shooter situation. If you are a parent with a child in the Nursery or Sunday School, follow the instructions of the welcome team to ensure your safety. The Shine Children's Ministry team will protect and evacuate your children.

Remember that the most important thing that you can do is to have a plan before something happens.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 440-759-0419.

Your sister in Christ,  
Gabrielle Benedict  
Safety Committee Chair