



Katharine Norton and Luke (front); Donna Olson, Christi Riddle, Peter Norton and Blue, Doug Christie, Jackson Short (middle); Celeste Olson, Emily Hathhorn, Mary Elizabeth Weigand, Mike Weigand (back) participated in the annual CROP walk Sunday.

Giving To God's Work

What is my legacy? Certainly, there are many important facets to the life I have lived and many things I hold dear: my family, my educational experiences, dear friends and my church. But have I really communicated these things to family members and told those I love just how special they are? Have I taken any significant actions to fund those things that are closest to my core being? Unfortunately, I haven't.

That is one reason I've appreciated the *Putting Your House in Order* and the upcoming *When Treasures and Hearts Come Together* workshops. The *Treasures* workshop will guide participants to reflect on what is nearest and dearest to their hearts and how to set up legacy gifts to reflect what is important to them. The workshop's intent is not to sell financial services; however, it will provide education around the variety of financial giving options.

I look forward to putting my legacy into action. How about you? Please join us on Monday, May 9 at 6 p.m. for the *When Treasures and Hearts Come Together* workshop. You can reserve a spot by contacting the church office, 660.747.8158, or signing up in the atrium.

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

Come Decorate for Vacation Bible School April 30

We are looking forward to hosting young kids (pre-K to 5th grade) to learn about God this summer at Vacation Bible School. Join us this Saturday April 30 at 2 p.m. to begin working on decorations. We will be making a food truck to go along with our Bible School theme, *Food Truck Party with God*. RSVP with an email to vada@umcburg.org.

Church worship services

Upcoming Messages

May 1 The Spiritual Life of Middle Age
May 8 The Spiritual Life of Maturity

Service times for in-person and online worship

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

Preparing for worship

Scriptures for the coming week:

Mon. May 2 Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Tues. May 3 Numbers 12: 6-8
Wed. May 4 Titus 2:2-3
Thurs. May 5 Titus 1:7-9
Fri. May 6 Timothy 3:8-9, 11-12
Sat. May 7 Titus 3:4-8

Prayers for our church family

June Mellinger's daughter-in-law Felicia Brown, Jana Miller, Trudy Quibell, Barry Hoskins, Nancy Scism, Terry Austin, Abbey Metcalf's father, Kelly Weinberger's father, Earlene Christie, the Boy Scouts are requesting prayers for the Pierce family, prayers for a church member with special needs, the Ukrainians and world peace

Celebrating our church family

Birthdays for the coming week:

Sun. May 1 Kinsly Wiltse, Olivia Harrison
Mon. May 2 Anna Miller, Bob Cochran, Greg Hassler, Mark Brown, Peggy Province
Wed. May 4 Nancy Gregg, Tristan Wendel
Thurs. May 5 Wyatt White, Ilya Bron-Frankum, James Baile

Anniversaries for the coming week:

Fri. May 6 Arley and Gaynal Taylor



**Kids Can Do Collected \$293.57
Sunday for CROP. Thank you!!!**

Spiritual Life Grows With Us

Today we are going to look at how God stands beside us and what he has provided us as tools to grow in our own faith and manage the challenges that confront us during our life journey.

As an educator, I studied the various theories on learning and pursued specialized training for those who struggle with learning. Two truths were revealed repeatedly: Every student learns differently and every student learns on his/her own timeline.

Where does this come in relation to faith? Quite simply the development of one's faith is a process. It does not follow any one specific pattern, but it is a unique pattern for each person.

We took the confirmation class through the curriculum **Confirm** during the past school year. Yet, the student manual did not provide a multiple-pronged approach to teaching about faith so we included other experiences and materials.

For instance, the class visited the Auschwitz exhibit at Union Station. The audio story included interviews of survivors which added to their understanding.

The confirmands were asked what they learned about the faith of the Jewish people and those who came to their aid:

- "I feel like it was important to them because they prayed for protection and to make it out of there alive."
- "To keep their head up and know their worth. . ."
- "Because they had to have faith in God that their lives would be set free and it would be okay."

In Luke 22:42-52, the story of the 12-year-old Jesus gives a peek into the life of a Jewish youth. Even though he was God's son, he was born into a human body and had to develop like any other human.

After going to Jerusalem for a festival, the family left and discovered Jesus was not with him. It took three days for them to locate him in the temple with the religious leaders.

When questioned, Jesus replied that they should have expected him to be there in his Father's house. Such an answer would have seemed disrespectful by today's culture, but his knowledge surprised the Jewish leaders.

Jesus the student was also the teacher. His human development took another 20 years; he grew to be the greatest teacher of all--Jesus Christ, God himself.

One's faith journey is unique. There is no one perfect curriculum that assures us of our faith development. Instead, we jump into a life journey following the ebb and flow of the culture around us. How our faith develops is complicated by the human factor of free choice that can challenge our beliefs.

John Wesley believed in prevenient grace. When you are born, God loves you and you receive his grace immediately. You receive his unconditional love and grace simply because you are born into this world.

When Wesley established the methods of living a Christian life, he taught his followers the works of piety:

- **Individual Practices** – reading, meditating and studying the scriptures, prayer, fasting, regularly attending worship, healthy living, and sharing our faith with others
- **Communal Practices** – regularly share in the sacraments, Christian conferencing (accountability to one another), and Bible study.

These practices were to develop one's faith, strengthen reliance on God, and then to serve one another as God asked us to do. By teaching the youth and practicing these methods, we continue to grow in faith.

The confirmands' trip to Conception Abbey demonstrated an entirely different manner to live and grow in faith. The lifestyle of the monks is a stark contrast from the images of the Auschwitz prison camp, and it is also very different from the daily lifestyle of this church family.

When we got back onto the bus, students were asked, "How did this visit to Conception Abbey change your viewpoint of living your faith?" Consider these answers:

- "It makes me see that I maybe should put a little more effort [into my faith]."
- "It gave me more information on how things are and were and a way to live my faith."

As a church family, we have a responsibility to guide the next generation into developing a lifestyle that sustains them through all life's challenges. This church's mission statement is *Living that all may know Jesus*. This statement shows God's love; it shows that we are to be models of God's love and that we are to live God's love, grace, and forgiveness at all times, in all places, in all we do. Let's teach our youth this lesson and then continue to support each other in our faith journeys so that we fulfill our mission, *living that all may know Jesus*.



Clyde Hart, Emma Hart, and Kaylin Martin were confirmed as full members of our church family Apr. 24.