

Pastor Peter's message notes from Feb. 6, 2022

## Let's Talk It Out: I Disagree and I Love You

Several years ago, I was in a class when a student started a presentation by asking the question, "How many of you know someone with whom you agree on every topic?" This question really woke us up. As we discussed this question, we realized that we didn't know any two people that completely agreed about every topic. Even married couples I know well that share decades of their lives together, who sacrifice and pursue common goals, always have some areas of disagreement. Haven't you found this to be the case?

When I help couples prepare for marriage through premarital discussions, one of the things we discuss is how to communicate with each other around big topics and how to stay in love when you inevitably disagree. This is hard work. But with God's grace, we can disagree and stay in love.

The book of James offers us guidance on how to disagree and continue to love each other. **"You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness."** James 1:19-20

The United Methodist Church understands itself as a church in which people can agree about core beliefs, disagree about non-essentials, and continue in unity and mission to serve God and neighbor. One of my coaches, Aaron Brown, the lead pastor of Woods Chapel UMC, has said in many sermons, "Jesus calls us to unity, not uniformity."

John Wesley studied and learned from Christians of all different backgrounds: Eastern Orthodox, German pietists, Moravians. He was educated at Oxford and ordained in the church of England. He read heavily in the works of the early church. He drew on the faith and knowledge of people of faith from a variety of different traditions who held different ideas and beliefs. He was always seeking to understand the core of Christianity with a focus on how people of faith could serve together to transform the world.

There are certain beliefs that are core to our identity as Christians in the United Methodist tradition. For example, we believe that salvation is available to all people through Jesus Christ. This is gift that we receive but can never earn. We believe that faith must be expressed in mission and service to the world.

**"While it is true that United Methodists are fixed upon certain religious affirmations, grounded in the gospel and confirmed in their experience, they also recognize the right of Christians to disagree on matters such as forms of worship, structures of church government, modes of baptism, or theological explorations. They believe such differences do not break the bond of fellowship that ties Christians together in Jesus Christ. Wesley's familiar dictum was, "As to all opinions which do not strike at the root of Christianity, we think and let think." Book of Discipline 2016, Our Doctrinal Heritage, page 56.**

The first question we should ask ourselves is not, "Where do we disagree?" The question we should first ask ourselves is, "How can we work together to accomplish God's mission in our hurting world?"

## Church worship services

### Upcoming Messages

Feb. 13 A Scout is Kind (Scout Sunday)  
Feb. 20 Communicating Gently

**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. Feb. 14 Galatians 5:16-18  
Tues. Feb. 15 Galatians 5:19-21  
Wed. Feb. 16 1 Corinthians 9:10-12  
Thurs. Feb. 17 Ephesians 5:5-9  
Fri. Feb. 18 Galatians 5:22-23  
Sat. Feb. 19 Galatians 5:4-25

## Prayers for our church family

Bob Garrow, Margie Simmons, Janet Ernest, June Mellinger's daughter-in-law Felicia Brown, Jana Miller, Christina Hart, Ken and Betty O'Neal's nephew Bill O'Neal, Doug Christie's uncle Ron Ijam, the family of Janet Ernest, Ed Woodrel

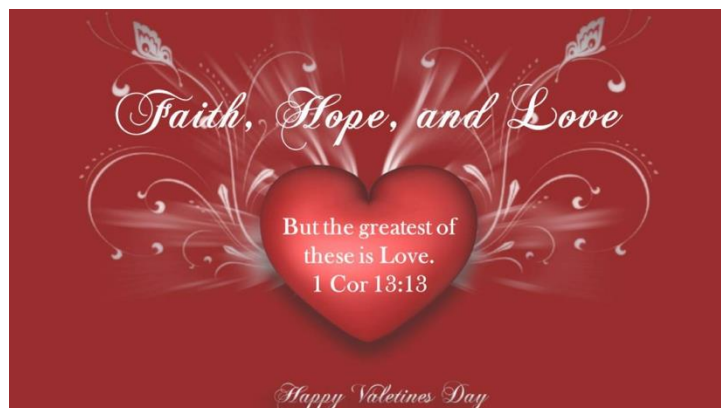
## Celebrating our church family

### Birthdays for the coming week:

Sun. Feb. 13 Gary Carter  
Mon. Feb. 14 Marilyn Imboden  
Tues. Feb. 15 Allen Scism, Stephen Pattenaude  
Wed. Feb. 16 Michael Weigand, Rhett Vesecky  
Thurs. Feb. 17 Wayne Wildman  
Fri. Feb. 18 Kathy Rogers

### Anniversaries for the coming week:

Mon. Feb. 14 Tom and June Mellinger  
Thurs. Feb. 17 John and Jennifer Yost



### Sign Up for Church Directory Photo Session

Sign up for your portrait session for our new church directory (it has been years since we have had one). Photo sessions will be at the church.

- Mon. Feb. 21 2:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Tues. Feb. 22 2:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Fri. March 4 2:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Sat. March 5 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

On Sunday, sign up in the atrium or pick up instructions to sign up online. A link for signing up is on the church's website and Facebook page. We are having excellent results, but we know others may prefer to sign up online during the week.

Everyone in the church family is encouraged to participate to create an accurate, up-to-date directory, but it is an opportunity for you to bring your family, friends, and even your pets to get that special portrait you have been wanting.

Universal Church Directories, Blue Springs, provides everyone participating a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and a church directory. You will also have the opportunity to purchase additional portraits.

Volunteers are needed to meet and greet those coming in for portraits. Call the church office at 747-8158 or email the church at [contact@umcburg.org](mailto:contact@umcburg.org) if you can help.

### Conception Abbey, March 26

#### Join Confirmation Road Trip #2

The Confirmation Class invites you to join them on a road trip. This is an opportunity to grow in our faith as a church family and learn about the Benedictine monks.

The class will take a charter bus to Conception Abbey near Maryville, on Saturday, March 26. They will tour of the abbey, attend a mass, eat lunch, and experience the Stations of the Cross.

Sign up on Sunday mornings in the atrium, email [susan@umcburg.org](mailto:susan@umcburg.org) or [doug@umcburg.org](mailto:doug@umcburg.org), or call the church at 660-747-8158. The bus seats 56.

The United Methodist Foundation approved a grant which covers all cost for this road trip.

### Monthly Mission: Next Generation Ministries

February's Disciple Gift Focus is UMC-Burg's Next Generation Ministries. Donations will support Vacation Bible School, mission trips and youth gatherings. Contributions will also be used to revitalize the children's and youth space in the church.

If you have any questions about the youth program, visit with Kelly Weinberger, Next Generation Minister, and Vada Postlethwait, Children and Young Family Minister.

Donations can be left in the offering plates on Sunday morning, mailed to the church office, or given through the church website, [umcburg.org](http://umcburg.org).

## Giving To God's Work

The past two months Robyn Criswell Bloom and I have been writing articles about giving to our church and to God's work. I hope you have been reading them, and I also hope they have been informational.

If you have questions or comments, or would like something specifically covered, please feel free to contact us.

Next week I am going to begin a series of articles on methods of giving that can save you money and others that could even provide you a source of income. Please check out the United Methodist Foundation at [www.mumf.org](http://www.mumf.org). Feel free to contact Robyn, myself or the foundation with your questions or comments.

Thanks for listening!

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Robyn [rcriswellbloom@gmail.com](mailto:rcriswellbloom@gmail.com)

Foundation 800-332-8238

### In loving memory of Janet Ernest

March 6, 1929 – Feb. 7, 2022

We extend our sympathies to the family and friends of Janet Ernest, who passed away in Amarillo, Texas, Feb. 7.

Janet's daughter, Jackie Case and her husband Chuck Case are very appreciative of all of the care they have received from our congregation. The visits, calls, and prayers have meant a lot to them.

Janet enjoyed worshipping with our church online and reading our newsletter these past several months.

Funeral service arrangements are being made through the Williams Funeral Homes in Warrensburg, MO. There will be a private celebration of life service for the family this summer.



