

Pastor Peter's message notes from Feb. 20, 2022

Let's Talk It Out: Communicating Gently

This month we are discussing the Bible's guidance on how to communicate. Healthy communication is essential to our mission of "living that all may know Jesus" because the way we communicate affects our relationships with everyone. To invite a new person to faith in Jesus, we need to communicate in a way that is healthy and encouraging.

Paul writes to the church about the Fruit of the Spirit and tells them that when a person is earnestly seeking to live for Jesus, the Holy Spirit dwells in them and they start to show the following qualities in all that they do and say: **By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. Galatians 5:22-23**

Paul goes on to share advice with us on how we should respond to other people sinning against us: **My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. Galatians 6:1**

Even when we are hurt, we should pray and ask God to help us lean into gentleness in how we respond. Our goal should always be to bring healing and reconciliation with our words, not anger and resentment.

I've been developing a theory about how humans communicate that I think helps us understand our scriptures for today. One major aspect of human communication is to ask another human to take an action that we desire.

Sometimes we communicate a need for action at a low level of urgency, like, "I think we are out of milk. Can you add this to the shopping list?" Sometimes we need to communicate at high levels of urgency. On Christmas Eve my son was walking on the sidewalk outside our house when Katharine screamed at me to grab him. She had heard a car accelerating down the road, and I was the only adult close enough to grab him to make sure he didn't jump in the street.

Whether we are consciously aware of it or not, we are always choosing to communicate at various levels of urgency to other people. Paul tells us that if you have to lean into an emotion in how you communicate, ask for God's strength to lean into gentleness rather than anger.

When I was at Boy Scout camp one summer, one of the adult leaders privately and calmly approached me about my attitude. I was not focused on the merit badges I was working on at the camp. If he would have approached me raising his voice and demanding I start moving that instant to complete my First Aid merit badge, I doubt I would have been able to hear his concern for me as a person and his desire for me to make the most of myself and support the other people in the troop. He spoke firmly and clearly but gently and in private.

In our short conversation I didn't give him any assurances that I would do better or take the actions he asked of me, but in my heart, he had gently started a process of reflection that would guide me to be more focused on projects I had committed to and teams I was a part of. This process of self-reflection he had started with his intentional communication would stay with me the rest of my life.

Church worship services

Upcoming Messages

- Feb. 27 "Six Words" with Rev. Laura Murphy
- Mar. 2 Ash Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.
"Repent, and Believe the Gospel"
- Mar. 6 "Inviting Jesus into the Conversation"

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. 28 | 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2 |
| Tues. Mar. 1 | 2 Corinthians 6:3-10 |
| Wed. Mar. 2 | Matthew 18:19-20 |
| Thurs. Mar. 3 | Matthew 16-19; John 20:23 |
| Fri. Mar. 4 | Matthew 7:7; John 15:7 |
| Sat. Mar. 5 | John 14:23 |

Prayers for our church family

Bob Garrow, Margie Simmons, June Mellinger's daughter-in-law Felicia Brown, Jana Miller, Christina Hart, Doug Christie's uncle Ron Ijam, family of Alice Repp, Lynn Wilson, family of Wantea Lane,

Celebrating our church family

Birthdays for the coming week:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Sun. Feb. 27 | Andrew Workman, Peter Blaszczyk, Serena Smith |
| Mon. Feb. 28 | Aubrey Smith |
| Tues. Mar. 1 | Cody Narron, Heather Harrison |
| Wed. Mar. 2 | Charles Hall, Don Snyder, Trudy Sites |

Feb 6 The five friends
Luke 5:17-26

Feb 13 Healing the Man with the Withered Hand
Luke 6:6-11

Feb 20 A Servant Is Healed
Luke 7:1-10

Feb 27 Jairus's Daughter
Luke 5:8:40-42 Luke 5:8:49-56

Wonder

Luke 5:26

All the people were besides themselves with wonder. Filled with awe, they glorified God, saying, "We've seen unimaginable things today."

SHINE

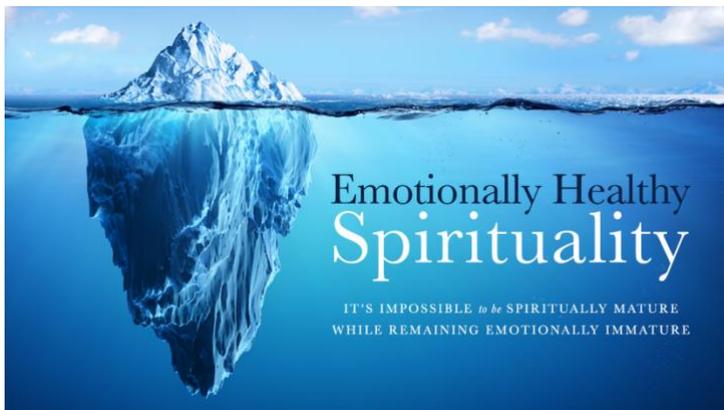


Kids Can Do Sunday

February 27



Bring your extra change to church!



Interactive Bible Study March 9 and March 13

Join us for an interactive Bible Study and discussion on *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality* by Pete Scazzero. We will be discussing this best-selling book to unpack the core biblical principles that can guide you to experience lasting, beneath-the-surface transformation in your relationship with Christ.

Two identical sessions of this class will be offered in person at the First United Methodist Church of Warrensburg on both Wednesday, March 9 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 13 from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Register for this class at umcburg.org/events

Meet New Members Wayne & Rhonda Rogers



We welcome Wayne and Rhonda Rogers to our church family. They joined UMC-Burg Sunday, Feb. 20.



Attention Yout!

Make sure you are signed up for KC Mavericks game on Sunday, Feb. 27. Bus leaves church at 2 p.m. and should be back by 7 p.m. No cost. Bus holds 15 so sign up at umcburg.org 'Events'.

United Methodist Men Meeting Feb. 28

The United Methodist Men will meet Feb. 28 at 6 p.m. at The Rock.

Scott Reed will present on the Helping Hands ministry.

Larry Bryan will provide dinner, which is \$10. You are invited to bring a friend.

Giving To God's Work

Last week I told the story of how my great grandmother taught me how to place a donation into to the offering plate and how I can still remember my first time of putting my nickel in the plate.

On Wednesday night Robyn Criswell Bloom and I were teaching about giving to our confirmation class. We discussed several things from tithing to how to budget your money. Obviously, this group in not at the age where they are able to work and make a lot of money, but I think we all should make a point to educate our next generation. If you have a child this age, maybe sitting down and discussing your income and expenditures would be beneficial to them. Perhaps others in our congregation could make a point to discuss this with their grandchildren. Our next generation is our church's future. Please help teach, mentor and engage with them.

By the way Robyn and I have decided middle school teachers don't make enough money.

If you have an experience with giving you would like to share, please email Robyn or me. We would love to share stories about how giving has impacted your life.

Thanks for listening!

Dale Carder Generosity Chair carder@ucmo.edu

Robyn Criswell Bloom

Planned Gifts and Special Giving Chair
rcriswellbloom@gmail.com

Make Sure to Sign Up for Conception Abbey

On March 26, the Confirmation Class and all others interested in learning more about Catholicism are welcome to join in the road trip.

This is an opportunity to broaden one's faith journey and learn about the Benedictine monastery located near Maryville. By joining the Confirmation Class, we also strengthen our church family's bonds. This is a chance to meet and share with multigenerations.

If you are interested, sign up online through the church's webpage, umcburg.org under 'Events', email Pastor Susan at susan@umcburg.org, or call the church office.

There is also a sign-up sheet on the table in the atrium. The last day to sign up is March 11.

The trip will include a tour of the abbey, attending mass, a lunch, and the Stations of the Cross.

The bus will leave at 8 a.m. and return sometime after 6 p.m. --Pastor Susan



Conception Abbey: A Benedictine Monastery "So that in all things God may be glorified." – Rule of St. Benedict

Conception Abbey is a Benedictine monastery dedicated to the glory of God as St. Benedict instructs in his *Rule*. We exist to praise God in our daily cycle of prayer and work, welcome guests, educate future priests, and share the Gospel.

Visit <https://www.conceptionabbey.org/> to learn more about Conception Abbey.

Church Directory 2022 Photos Underway

If you did not get your photo taken this week, we still have two more days for photos to be taken:

Fri. March 4 2:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Sat. March 5 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Every effort possible is being made to assure that this church directory will have all of the church family represented. If you have not scheduled an appointment, please do so. You may call the church office and be added or you may go online and schedule your own time.

Go to <https://ucdir.com>. Click on the box for scheduling to the lower left. Select which day, scroll down to find a time and fill in the information.

Volunteers will greet you as you arrive and help you walk through the process with the photographers. The photos and their review are going to take about 30 minutes.

Everyone who is photographed will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and a church directory. You will also have the opportunity to purchase additional portraits.



Scouting 2022





TOWN HALL MEETING

DATE: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH

LOCATION: COMMUNITY CENTER

TIME: 6:30 PM

TOPICS:

EDUCATION ABOUT OUR HOMELESS POPULATIONS
CONCERNS RAISED BY THE COMMUNITY
PATHWAYS TO SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

SPONSORED BY:



JOURNEY HOME OF JOHNSON COUNTY