

Pastor Peter's message notes from Jan. 30, 2022

Healthy Communication

Jesus says we need to practice direct communication with each other. If we have a problem with someone, we need to talk to them directly.

If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one.

-Matthew 18:15

It is so difficult to face someone when you have a problem, isn't it? You think to yourself, I don't want to have a fight. Let me just ignore this and hope the problem goes away. Or the worst, let me go complain to someone else about how they are making me feel. We can gang up on them.

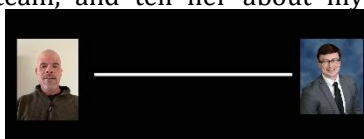
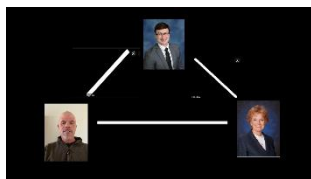
But as Jesus describes in the scripture, direct communication is the way to handle conflict. If we don't communicate with each other directly, we do harm to ourselves, each other, and the community. Communication is a blessing from God. Communicating can help us reconcile and make peace where there is conflict. Unhealthy communication can cause anger, resentment, and hurt.

The staff and the leadership committees, like the PPR, trustees, and finance committees, agree to support each other through a covenant of leadership that everyone reviews and signs before they start leading. There are several Biblical guidelines for healthy communication in this covenant including following the Matthew 18 method of direct communication.

Our leadership covenant reads

- I will seek to resolve differences in a Christ-like manner, will keep appropriate boundaries in communication, and understand that passive aggressive behavior will not be tolerated.
- I will seek to communicate with others clearly and regularly.
- I will keep confidences and work towards unity—remembering always we are bound to one another through loyalty, respect, and mutual support.

Let me give you a fun example. Let's say that I have a problem with Dan Blackburn, our Finance Committee Chair. (By the way, Dan and I don't have any conflict. This is just a fun example. We serve together in ministry very well). Let's say that he doesn't like my idea to call the bank to ask for a loan to build a swimming pool on the roof of the church. I've hinted I would like this added to the agenda of the next finance committee meeting he put together, but no discussion about a loan for a pool is listed. It would be inappropriate for me to go to Robyn Criswell-Bloom, also on the finance team, and tell her about my problems with Dan. Instead, I should go to Dan directly and tell him what I'm feeling.



That is direct communication. That is the Matthew method. That is doing no harm.

Church worship services

Upcoming Messages

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|---------|---|
| Feb. 6 | Let's Talk It Out:
I Disagree and I Love You |
| Feb. 13 | A Scout is Kind (Scout Sunday) |

Service times for in-person and online worship
9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Preparing for worship

Scriptures for the coming week:

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| Mon. Feb. 7 | Colossians 3:12-15 |
| Tues. Feb. 8 | Ephesians 4:2 & 32 |
| Wed. Feb. 9 | Roman's 13:8 |
| Thurs. Feb. 10 | John 14:7 |
| Fri. Feb. 11 | Ephesians 2:14-16 |
| Sat. Feb. 12 | Philippians 4:7 |

Prayers for our church family

Bob Garrow, Margie Simmons, Janet Ernest, June Mellinger's daughter-in-law Felicia Brown, Jana Miller, Christina Hart, Ginger Baile and family on the loss of her husband Charles, Ken and Betty O'Neal's nephew Bill O'Neal

Celebrating our church family

Birthdays for the coming week:

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|----------------|---|
| Sun. Feb. 6 | Brett Hunt |
| Mon. Feb. 7 | Shawn Schmidli |
| Tues. Feb. 8 | Kennisen Gilpin |
| Wed. Feb. 9 | Marion Woods |
| Thurs. Feb. 10 | Brooke Snider, Grant Snider,
Karin Smith, Travis Hart,
Peter Norton |
| Fri. Feb. 11 | Jeff Wendel |
| Sat. Feb. 12 | Beth Hunt |

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

Paulette Moore transferred her membership from Buffalo United Methodist Church in Minnesota back to UMC-Burg. She is happy to be back among family and friends. Paulette is Chuck Linville's mother.



Giving To God's Work

Wow, a revelation (and a bit of personal information)! For the past couple of years, my husband has been of the age that he must take a distribution from his IRA: the Required Minimum Distribution. He's directed the investment firm to make the check payable to him, withhold taxes, and reported the distribution as income the following year. Well, in 2021 we learned that RMDs can be made payable to any charitable organization. So that's what he did in January, and it was so easy. He directed that the check be made payable to the Church and withheld \$0 in taxes.

The check arrived today at our home, payable to the Church. The amount was for his entire RMD. He designated the gift between the General Fund, the Building Fund and Disciple Gifts as he wished and took the check to the Church. There were three exciting parts to this transaction:

1. He received no income, and therefore will pay no 2022 income tax on the distribution,
2. He will not receive the tax benefit of this charitable gift. However, we no longer itemize our income taxes, so this is of no consequence in our current situation.
3. The Church received the full amount of the distribution, allowing for more good work to be done in achieving God's vision for our Church.

That's how the scenario worked out for 2022. He can make a different decision next year if he so chooses. While this worked great for us, your financial planner will be able to advise you as to what's in your best interest.

If you have questions, comments, or need more information, please contact Robyn Criswell-Bloom, rcriswellbloom@gmail.com.

Sign Up For Church Directory Photo Session

It's time for a new church directory! We will be working with Universal Church Directories to create a new church family album. 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.

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.

Flyers are in the atrium with instructions on how to sign up online. Volunteers will be available to help you sign up on Sundays in the atrium before and between services. Watch for more information on Facebook and the church website on how to sign up.

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.

Donations can be left in the offering plates on Sunday morning, mailed to the church office, or given through the church website, umcburg.org.

Sign Up For March Trip To Conception Abbey

It's time to sign up for the confirmation road trip to Conception Abbey near Maryville Saturday, March 26. All expenses for transportation and lunch are covered by the United Methodist Foundation grant.

The road trip is available to confirmands, youth, and others from our congregation. If you are interested, email Pastor Susan at susan@umcburg.org or call the church office.

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.

UMW February Meeting Canceled

The United Methodist Women will not meet in February because of Covid concerns. The March meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 15. This year our monthly meetings will begin at 2 p.m. We will follow Covid protocols. For more information contact Vicki Ollison 660-362-0044.

Thank You Church Family

We want to thank you for making our Rock Residents' Christmas very special. Thank you for participating in the Angel Tree. Thank you for all your support throughout all of 2021, your prayers, financial donations, monthly dinner donations, and so much more.

College Age Ministry Team