

Pastor Peter's message notes from Jan. 9, 2022

The Baptism of Jesus

Over the next three weeks, we will be praying and reading key scriptures to help understand baptism. For those of us who have been baptized, this is a time to remember and renew our baptisms. It is a time to pray about how we might encourage other people to receive the new life offered in Christ through this sacrament.

For those who haven't been baptized or haven't had family members baptized, the next several weeks are an invitation to consider accepting the invitation to die to sin and receive the grace of Jesus. We will end the message series on January 23 with a chance to remember our baptisms or be baptized and initiated into God's family.

What is Baptism? Baptism is a sacrament, a gift given to us by God. Matthew 3:13-17 tells how Jesus received baptism from his cousin John in the river Jordan. Jesus chose to begin his public ministry by being baptized and initiated into the reign of God.

Baptism is so important that the risen Christ in his last conversation with his disciples in Matthew 28, commands them to go out and baptize all the nations in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit initiating them into God's family.

If baptism is a sacrament, what is a sacrament in the Christian and the United Methodist understanding?

What is a sacrament? "An outward sign of an inward grace, and a means whereby we receive the same." -John Wesley, Sermon, "Means of Grace"

As United Methodists, we recognize two sacraments which Jesus practiced and commanded his followers to practice: Baptism and Holy Communion.

Both sacraments include the use of physical elements: water in baptism and bread and wine/juice in communion. United Methodists believe the sacraments involve the presence of the Holy Spirit and are God's gifts that we cannot earn or deserve because of good works or piety.

Shared in public among the community of believers, both sacraments are available and should be received by all people. Words are spoken to ask the Holy Spirit to change our lives through these sacraments. We believe that the sacraments are means of grace whereby we are changed at our deepest level by the very presence of God.

God's gracious forgiveness, made available through Christ, comes to us in baptism. This grace covers more than personal sins that have been committed prior to receiving the sacrament of baptism. We continue to sin throughout our lives and are continually in need of pardon. Baptism signifies that God's forgiveness is always and repeatedly available to us when we repent.

Is God calling you to be baptized? Maybe God has been calling on your heart to receive the waters, the holy spirit and new life in Christ.

Has God been calling you to baptize your children? To mark them as saved and a part of God's family?

What would happen if you said yes to the call of the Holy Spirit to receive the waters of baptism?

Church worship services

Upcoming Messages

Jan. 16 New Life in Baptism
Jan. 23 The Baptism of the Family

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. Jan. 17 Acts 2: 36-42
Tues. Jan. 18 Isaiah 44: 3-5
Wed. Jan. 19 Acts 5: 29-31
Thurs. Jan. 20 Acts 16: 29-34
Fri. Jan. 21 Philippians 2: 14-15
Sat. Jan. 22 Acts 2: 43-47

Prayers for our church family

Andrew Wallace, Bob Garrow, Margie Simmons, Brian & Alyssa Gossett (Amy Holmes' cousin), John Culp, Judy Murray and family on the death of Judy's sister; Bryan and Beth Hunt and family on the death of Bryan's father, Gary Hunt

Celebrating our church family

Birthdays for the coming week:

Sun. Jan. 16 Nathan Peel
Mon. Jan. 17 Brenna Schmidli, Jim Dahman, Corey Scott Wendel
Wed. Jan. 19 Yashraj Airen
Thurs. Jan. 20 Genevieve Case, Haviland Woodson
Fri. Jan. 21 Irene Miller
Sat. Jan. 22 Ross Gostomski

Calling All Shine Ministries:
Volunteers, Families and Church Staff

JAN 30

Thank You!



Join Us for Lunch

Sunday, January 30th
(Following 11am Worship Service)
12:15pm

Updates In Safety Procedures

“Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.”
Acts 20:28

Dear Church Family,

Throughout His ministry, Jesus provided for not just the spiritual and eternal needs of his flock, but also for their physical needs. In continuing with His example, as a congregation we must work to create a house of worship that provides for the emotional and spiritual care in an atmosphere that is also safety minded.

Over the last few months, your Church Safety Committee has revamped the safety plan so that we can provide our congregation with a safe place to gather. After several internal meetings as well as meeting with the Warrensburg Police Department, we have revised and improved on the church safety plan. The most visible aspect of the plan for our congregants will be that beginning Sunday, 23 January 2022, entry to the church will be limited to the doors located at the North (Atrium), West (Playground), and South (Sanctuary). Greeters will be at these doors to ensure a welcoming environment and to assist as needed. Another critical part of the plan is that at the beginning of each service through its conclusion the South doors (Sanctuary) will be closed and locked from the inside. The South doors will still be open as an exit. This change will limit entry into the sanctuary once the service has started. The intent of these measures is to ensure that as a congregation we can safely worship together. We will be placing signage on the doors to reflect these changes.

I encourage everyone to pray about the upcoming changes and consider joining the Safety Committee as we work towards improving the safety of our congregation.

Your sister in Christ,
Gabrielle Benedict
Safety Committee Chair

Community Celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr.

The University of Central Missouri is once again hosting the MLK Celebration, held each year in January. This year the theme is “Living the Dream: Live and in Color.”

A variety of events will provide, according to the UCM website, “an opportunity for our community to pause and reflect on the work and impact of the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr., while recommitting to the goal of showing respect and dignity toward one another.”

[Click here](#) to view the variety of events. Note that Monday, Jan. 17, a Community Praise and Worship Service will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the UCM Alumni Memorial Chapel. Our own Doug Christie has been invited to say the prayer for this service.

Giving To God's Work

Did you know . . .

1. the United Methodist mission statement is to “Make Disciples for Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World”?
2. UMC-Burg’s vision statement in support of the Methodist mission is “Living that All May Know Jesus”?
3. the Church’s strategic goals and budget for 2022 line up with both the Methodist Mission and UMC-Burg’s Vision?

Organizationally, the alignment of these three items is important as they are our roadmap to where we go, guiding our decision-making and prioritization of resources. Are we achieving God’s vision for our Church and thereby accomplishing His mission? Certainly, many of the programs we participate in – outreach through Disciple giving, Next Generation programming, praising God through music, etc. – impact lives and bring us in closer relationship with Jesus. What other opportunities might we have?

One is our personal Legacy giving. Ask yourself, “What do I want my legacy in UMC-Burg to be? How do I want to be part of God’s vision for our Church? How do I impact the lives of others as a reflection of God’s blessings in my life?” As you consider these questions, know that Legacy gifts can be current, pledged over time, or future/estate gifts.

We have upcoming opportunities this spring to explore ways in which we can realize our personal Legacy giving goals. In the meantime, if you have questions, comments, or need more information on Legacy Giving, please contact Robyn at rcriswellbloom@gmail.com.

Monthly Mission: Jamaica Medical Mission

The Disciple Gift for January is the Jamaica Medical Mission. A display board in the atrium has a sample hygiene kit if you want to add that to your giving. All monetary gifts are appreciated and can be left in the offering plates on Sunday morning, mailed in to the church office, or given through the church website,

