

Pastor Susan's message notes from Jan. 16, 2022

New Life After Baptism

Baptism is one of two sacraments in the United Methodist Church with the other being communion. Sunday's sermon was the second of three on baptism.

Baptism by water is a symbolic act that begins one's faith journey. It initiates a new life as part of the Christian faith. There are three questions to answer as we continue understanding baptism.

1. What is new life?

New life is simply the life we live after we are baptized. It is the beginning of our faith journey whether baptized as an infant, a young child, or an adult. Baptism by water marks the time when we live as a Christian.

Referring to the scripture in John 3 about the Pharisee Nicodemus meeting with Jesus in the dark of night, we learn that when we are baptized by the water, we are then baptized by the Holy Spirit, too.

2. How do I live the new life?

We live as Jesus taught us to live. We live loving one another. John Wesley developed the practices, the methods, by which we can live. Wesley gave us the *means of grace* both individually and communally:

Individual Works of Piety: reading, meditating and studying the scriptures, prayer, fasting, regularly attending worship, healthy living, and sharing our faith with others

Individual Works of Mercy: doing good works, visiting the sick, visiting those in prison, feeding the hungry, and giving generously to the needs of others

Communal Works of Piety: regularly share in the sacraments, Christian conferencing (accountability to one another), and Bible study

Communal Works of Mercy: seeking justice, ending oppression and discrimination (for instance, Wesley challenged Methodists to end slavery), and addressing the needs of the poor

Living the new life after baptism means accepting one's responsibility to follow a disciplined lifestyle that makes us accountable for living that others may know Jesus.

3. What if I mess up/sin in this new life?

God loves us so much that he never gives up on us. As we live into the reality of our baptism, we accept God's love and the grace he provides us. We also come to realize the powerful gift God has given us--the gift of forgiveness.

You have accepted God as your savior, but you are human. We make mistakes. The primary thing to remember is that when you follow Jesus' teachings, you will recognize your mistakes, repent, ask forgiveness and resume living the *means of grace* knowing that God has forgiven you.

After baptism by water and the Holy Spirit, we begin a new life as part of the Christian community. It is up to us to follow the spiritual practices to remain in close relationship with God. And we share this with others as we live a new life that others may witness Jesus.

Church worship services

Upcoming Messages

Jan. 23 The Baptism of the Family

As part of the Sunday service, as we conclude this message series, we are offering a renewal of baptism.

The next two weeks will feature a sermon series called "Let's Talk It Out."

Jan. 30 Healthy Communication

Feb. 6 I Disagree and I Love You

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. 24 Matthew 18:15-20
Tues. Jan. 25 Lev. 19:17; Deuteronomy 19:15
Wed. Jan. 26 1 Corinthians 6:1-6
Thurs. Jan. 27 Matthew 18:18-20
Fri. Jan. 28 John 3:22; 5:13-15
Sat. Jan. 29 John 14:23; 20:23

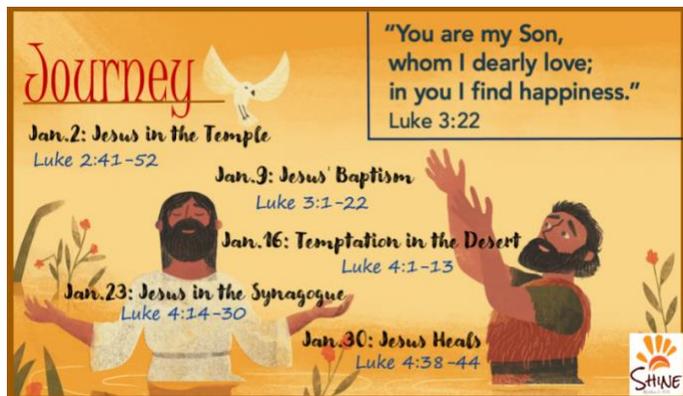
Prayers for our church family

Andrew Wallace, Bob Garrow, Margie Simmons, Brian & Alyssa Gossett (Amy Holmes' cousin), John Culp, Janet Ernest, Felicia Brown

Celebrating our church family

Birthdays for the coming week:

Sun. Jan. 23 Don Coleman
Tues. Jan. 25 Melissa Lightfoot
Wed. Jan. 26 Chad Snider, Jim Ward, Richard Carr, Wanda Dahman
Thurs. Jan. 27 Alice Hanrahan
Fri. Jan. 28 Curt Jenkins
Sat. Jan. 29 Kelsey Smith, Mark Olson



Collins Inspired by Jamaica Medical Mission

The Jamaica Medical Mission, this month's Disciple Gift focus, affects everyone who participates in this life-changing ministry.

Erica Collins is one of many who have traveled as part of the Jamaica Medical Mission team and been inspired by her experience. According to Erica, the mission is more than a feel-good medical endeavor. The mission is the opportunity to fulfill the commandments of Christ to serve, to love and to do life in him together.

At the January United Methodist Men's meeting, Erica explained that the Jamaica Mission is "more than a medical mission."

- It's the relationships with our team members, hosts and others we serve in that community.
- It's listening to "the poorest of the poor as they endure the tough times and still feel blessed.
- It's working with medical personnel who give back by training students.
- It's students who assist with medical care in ways they could not do in the United States.
- It's students experiencing the intensity of the clinic and then relaxing in the evenings with their mentors.
- It's the sharing of reflections on the day's experiences at devotion time.
- It's sharing chores with team members they may not have worked with during the daytime duties.

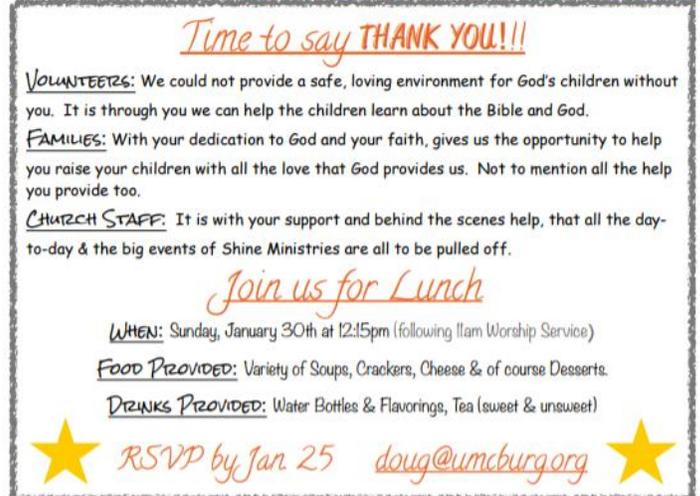
As the first social worker to be part of the team, Erica says the church receives a return on their investment. Team members come home to better serve their own community. Some college students come to Jamaica questioning their beliefs and come home committed to Christ and better equipped to serve others. Concentrating on the mission goals for the week helps us take time to rethink our priorities.

Giving To God's Work

What a successful year we experienced in 2021 with our Disciple Giving! Your gifts to Undies Sunday, Missouri Valley Community Action Agency, Jamaica mission work, Survival House, Heifer International, UMCOR, the Christmas Store, and others supported our Church's outreach efforts. Most importantly, the gifts directly impacted the lives of others in our local and broader communities. Children had hats and gloves, underwear, food to eat; adults were assisted with personal items, clothing and physical assistance as they struggle through rebuilding their lives. Eliminating food insecurity for all is an ongoing focal point.

Our work in 2022 moves forward under the leadership of 12 committed, passionate leaders. Thank you Steve, Susan, Larry, Doug, Russell, Christie, Kelly, John, Vicki, Glenda, Carol and Mary Elizabeth for dedicating your time and organizational skills to further the Church's outreach. You are much appreciated by your Church family and most importantly by those we serve together.

If you have questions, comments, or need more information, please contact any member of the Disciple Gift committee: Carol Hassler, Glenda Goetz, Sue Evans, Doug Christie, Susan Smith, Dale Carder, John Pieron or Robyn Criswell-Bloom and Peter Norton.



Alice Hanrahan To Celebrate 90th Birthday



Alice McFerrin Hanrahan was born on January 27, 1932, to Floyd and Maude (McCoy) McFerrin. The youngest of eight children, Alice was born in the family home which her father built and is still standing in Lafayette County in the Mount

Tabor area. Alice grew up on the farm and recalls riding a horse to the schoolhouse when she was a girl.

On January 23, 1953, Alice married her high school sweetheart, Joe Hanrahan, at the First United Methodist Church of Warrensburg. They raised two children, Cheryl (Rob) Horine and Hal (Susan) Hanrahan, and have five grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.

While Joe and Alice did move around quite a bit during the earlier years of their marriage for Joe's work, they returned to Warrensburg to stay in 1975. Alice worked for many years as a receptionist for Dr. Lederer, and after his retirement worked for other medical offices in Warrensburg. She also worked for the Standard-Herald Newspaper as well as for a florist.



Alice was a very good seamstress and is a green thumb who enjoys growing house plants. She loves spending time with family, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and is an avid sports fan. Alice loves to watch baseball, especially the Royals and college basketball. She is always happy when MU wins!

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.



Confirmation Road Trip to Conception Abbey

Planning has started for a Saturday, full-day road trip to Conception Abbey near Maryville, MO, on March 26.

The United Methodist Foundation has awarded a grant to cover the cost of the charter bus and additional expenses for the trip.

The road trip is available to any others in the congregation who wish to join the class and the youth for this experience. The trip will include a tour of the abbey, attending mass, a lunch, and the Stations of the Cross.

As soon as the details are finalized, they will be announced so we can get everybody signed up. This is a full church-family experience as we live that our confirmands can learn more about Jesus. --Pastor Susan