

Doug Christie's message notes from Jan. 2, 2022

Understanding Importance of Epiphany

What nativity scene is complete without the three Kings bearing gifts for baby Jesus. What is the meaning of this iconic scene?

Thursday, January 6 is the celebration of Epiphany. Epiphany, aka Theophany, The Day of the Magi or Three Kings Day, is a celebration of God manifesting as the baby Jesus and revealing Himself to the world.

One problem with the traditional nativity scene is that there are three kings. The number of kings is never mentioned in scripture, and they weren't kings.

"Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared" --Matt. 2:7.

We don't know the nationality of these men either. Most Biblical scholars believe they were from Persia. Historians believe that the trip took the Magi from nine months to two years to get to Israel. The Holy family were living in a house.

"On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." --Matt. 2:11

Even the number of wise men is never mentioned in scripture, it is believed that number became three because there are three gifts mentioned in scripture. Three gifts, Three Wise men. The number of Wise Men Herod sent is also unknown. We don't know the nationality of these men either. Most Biblical scholars believe they were from Persia.

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Why is the Wise Men story even important if we don't know all the facts and so much of what we have been told is myth?

One fact that everyone agrees is that the Magi were gentiles from a foreign land. This is the key to the "Three Kings" story. By using the Gentile Wise Men, God was announcing to the entire world that this Jewish infant born into poverty, to an unwed mother was not just a King to the Jews but a savior to the entire world! Now and forever!

The wise men traveled thousands of miles to see an infant. They treated this infant like a king, bowing down and giving him gifts reserved for loyalty.

If Jesus were stock, God was "going public". God was offering this Jewish baby to not only Israel but the world. God offers his saving grace to anyone and everyone that will "knock on the door".

"There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus". --Galatians 3:28

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(January 6 begins the liturgical season of Epiphany, which is brief, and is traditionally a time to review our baptism. The next sermon series is on Baptism.)

Church Worship Services

Upcoming Messages

Jan. 9	The Baptism of Jesus
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. 10	Titus 3:4-8
Tues. Jan. 11	Joel 2: 28
Wed. Jan. 12	John 3:5
Thurs. Jan. 13	Romans 3:1-11
Fri. Jan. 14	Ephesians 2:4-8
Sat. Jan. 15	Titus 2:14; 3:14

Prayers for our church family

Andrew Wallace, Bob Garrow, Margie Simmons, Bill O'Neal (Ken & Betty O'Neal's nephew), Bob and Jane Cooper, John Culp, Bryan Hunt family

Celebrating our church family

Birthdays for the coming week:

Sun. Jan. 9	Bruce Smith
Tues. Jan. 11	Dale Smith, Mary Belle Rowland
Wed. Jan. 12	Kim Blackburn, Reese Honan, Sandy Karas
Thurs. Jan. 13	Curtis Cummings
Fri. Jan. 14	Danna Tracy, Frank Blackburn
Sat. Jan. 15	Barb Metcalf

Calling All Shine Ministries:

Volunteers, Families and Church Staff



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

Mark your Calendar!

Join the Confirmation Class March 26, for a full daytrip to Conception Abbey in northwest Missouri. Thanks to a grant from the United Methodist Foundation, there will be no cost for all who choose to make this trip.



Giving To God's Work

The new year is officially upon us. Well, hopefully I'm the only one in this boat, but I can't remember what we pledged to the Church for 2022 – that happened way back in October! And I surely can't remember how we designated our gift. If you find yourself in this situation, just call the Church office, 660-747-8158, and leave a message for John Yost or Christi Riddle. They'll be glad to you help out. Also, pre-printed and blank envelopes are now available in the atrium. These are prepared for monthly giving; gifts can also be made online if you prefer.

As we look forward to new beginnings and new possibilities in the coming year, let us remember that we are generous givers because God has given generously to us. Thanks for all you do to impact lives by Giving to God's Work.

If you have questions, comments, or need more information, please contact Dale at carder@ucmo.edu or Robyn at rcriwellbloom@gmail.com.

United Methodist Men Meeting January 10

United Methodist Men will meet Monday, Jan. 10 at 6 p.m. at The Rock.

Larry Bryan is providing beef vegetable soup and chili. Cost for dinner is \$5.

Erica Collins will provide an outside perspective of her experiences on past Jamaica mission trips.

Please bring your 2022 membership dues of \$5.

Commission And Orientation Planned For All Church Committee Members January 9

We are so proud of all of our committee members who have said “Yes” to answering God's call to serve Jesus through our church in the coming year.

On January 9 we will hold a service to commission all of our committee members. After the second worship service we will host a lunch and orientation session for committee members in the Family Life Center. All committee members including new and seasoned, are encouraged to attend.

Schedule January 9, 2021

9:30 a.m. worship – Pray for committee members

11 a.m. worship – Pray for committee members

Noon to 2 p.m. – Lunch and Orientation for all committee members

Provide The Opportunity To Worship With Us

Volunteers are needed to provide transportation to and from church on Sunday mornings. We have several members and non-members who would like to attend services but have no means of transportation.

Volunteers would use their own vehicles. They will not be driving the church van.

Please contact Doug Christie in the church office if you are interested in volunteering.

Mills Working To Resume Jamaica Medical Mission

by Steve Mills, coordinator of Jamaica Medical Mission

This month's disciple gift focus is the Jamaica Medical Mission trip, one of the most successful missions sponsored by UMC-Burg.

First United Methodist Church began supporting the Jamaica Medical Mission to Falmouth, Jamaica, when a retired nurse practitioner, Bev Blankenship, joined the efforts of an early mentor, Dr. Wally Carpenter, in Falmouth over 20 years ago. In the following years, UMC-Burg supplied three, then six, and then 12 volunteers to support other teams. Soon, Bev was organizing annual teams from UMC-Burg.

In the past few years, approximately 12 teams from the Midwest have regularly returned to the same community to build relationships in the clinic, schools, nursing home, and girls' home. The clinic is only operated when a team comes to staff it. Patients depend on this facility to regularly receive medicines they need for control of chronic diseases. Medical schools have been attracted to send teams because of the consistent care that regular staffing permits. Recent teams sponsored by UMC-Burg have included students interested in nursing and medicine. Some of these students are now practicing nurses and physicians and have asked to return as staff.

Whether a volunteer is working in the clinic, school, or nursing home, team efforts are welcomed and appreciated. The success of previous missions has depended on individuals who were flexible to meet needs that are revealed only after we arrive in the community.

The pandemic has prevented volunteer teams from returning to Jamaica for two years. Although the local Methodist Church is responsible for maintaining the facilities, it has suffered from the lack of visitors and members. In order for medical and other teams to return, damage created by termites (see photos to the right) must be repaired before the facility can be licensed for patient treatment. A small advance team plans to investigate the needs for repair of facilities at the clinic, hostel, and a girls' home in January 2022. Changing pandemic conditions for travel provide further challenges.

Are you available to lend your skills to form a construction team to return in early March? How can you support the next team? Contact Steve Mills (smills@ucmo.edu) at 660-441-8309.

Financial support is also appreciated. Send checks to UMC-Burg with Jamaica Mission in the memo line. You can also donate specifically to the Jamaica Medical Mission through the online giving button on the church website.

