



Youth Missionaries to Whiskey Ridge

The church's Youth Group made its second mission day by going to volunteer at Whiskey Ridge Rescue, an animal rescue near Green Ridge.

Pastor Peter and Kelly took 15 youth to do chores for the rescue while meeting the animals and learning about the program. The youth are considering to continue serving at the rescue on a regular basis.



Church worship services

Upcoming Message

Rev. Jim Downing, retired elder, who served in Sedalia, will bring Sunday, July 3, message.

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

Preparing for worship

Scriptures for the coming week:

Monday June 27	Luke 10:38-42
Tuesday June 28	John 11:1 & 12:2-3
Wednesday June 29	Psalms 27:4
Thursday June 30	Matthew 6:25-30
Friday July 1	Matthew 6:31-34
Saturday July 2	Philippians 3:13-14

Praying for our church family

Felicia Brown, Jana Miller, Barry Hoskins, Nancy Scism, Abbey Metcalf's father, Earlene Christie, the Boy Scouts are requesting prayers for the Pierce family, prayers for a church member with special needs, Benedetta Culver, Earlene Brown, Debbie Brown, Mary Belle Rowland, Alice Hanrahan, and Neil Roberts.

Celebrating our church family

Birthdays for the coming week:

Sun. June 26	Ashlyn Culp Gabrielle Benedict
Mon. June 27	Marion Chumo
Tues. June 28	Emilee Snow

Anniversaries for the coming week:

Tues. June 28	Kari and Jack Hart Paul & Mary Belle Rowland
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Youth Group's lessons

Sunday, June 26: Youth will complete our June Unit from GROW curriculum. The BIG IDEA for this week is, "In God's family we love each other".

Scripture: 1 John 3:16-18, John 15:9-17, and 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

Youth leaders: Kim Blackburn
Kelly Weinberger

"Better Together"

Hitting It Out Of The Ballpark

Father's Day seems such an appropriate time to talk baseball. Using a metaphor of the umpire's protective gear, the message was on teaching the next generations how to develop God's armor.

In Ephesians 6, Paul describes God's armor by connecting it to a gladiator's armor. Each part of the armor is almost an exact parallel to the protective gear that baseball umpires wear behind home plate.

The key from Ephesians is the Christian traits that can protect them from temptation and evil, or as Paul says, "... the tricks of the devil."

In Ephesians these Christian traits are listed in verses 14-17:

- v. 14--the belt of truth
- v. 14--justice as the breastplate
- v. 15--shoes . . .so you are ready to spread the good news of peace
- v. 16--the shield of faith so that you can extinguish the flaming arrows of the evil one
- v. 17--the helmet of salvation
- v. 17--the sword of the Spirit, which is God's word.

As parents, we are responsible to live our lives as real-life examples of integrity. This role continues as we become grandparents and great-grandparents because the very behaviors that God asks us to follow are being watched closely by the next generations.

Consider the baseball games at which we sit and watch the team do its best to make the hits and score the winning runs. The audience is made up of parents, grandparents—in other words, adults. The crowd is there to support and encourage the players. They are not examples of evil forces who rant and rave at the players and the umpires.

But there is much more to do as parents to provide our youth with the skills, the armor, the protective gear to manage their lives. We are the coaches: we must make sure we have the knowledge of scripture; and that we know the practices that sustain our faith even when we feel like we are losing the game.

The umpire at home plate is dressed much like the ancient gladiators whose uniform Paul is referencing in his letter to Ephesus. And the umpires are to be people with integrity, to be honest, to be fair and to be just in their calls. They are to protect the integrity of the game.

Umpires are also well-trained in the rules of the game. They must study the rules, and they must practice the application of these rules in real life games. It is difficult to learn the rules, but Deuteronomy 6, provides the how and when to teach God's rules.

The task of raising the future generations of faithful is a responsibility for all parents, even grandparents and great-grandparents and that includes us, the church family. When we join together to equip the next generations, we are "hitting it out of the ballpark."

Scripture references for June 19 message:

- Ephesians 6:11-18
- Psalm 103:13
- Proverbs 20:7 & 22:6
- Deuteronomy 6:6-9
- 1 Corinthians 16:13

Giving To God's Work

Hmmm I've decided that I want to make a Legacy Gift to the church and its missions. I'm in pretty good health now, but who knows (especially with my family history) what resources I will need to take care of myself for the remainder of my life? Even though I'm assured that God will provide, I want to be a good steward of His generosity.

Have you had these thoughts? Perhaps remembering the church in your will is a viable way to use the resources you need while you're living and help the church in the future. You might:

- Tithe your estate – the age-old standard of 10% can do a world of good
- Imagine that you have a child named "Charity" that will receive a portion of your estate similar to your other children or heirs

If this is appealing to you, an attorney or the individual who drafted your existing will can assist you in making changes. Though the gift is in the future, it is important to contact the church prior to finalizing gift plans in order to discuss your wishes and intents. All gifts support ministries that change lives and share the love of Jesus Christ in a world of need.

If you have questions, comments, or need more information, please contact Robyn at rcriswellbloom@gmail.com or Dale Carder at carder@ucmo.edu. Thank you for your generosity!

June Disciple Gift: Heifer International Goats Help Families Feed Themselves

Goats can be the key to a family's survival. Give a goat to a family in need. Along with training and education in its care, each goat gift donation:

- Provides milk, cheese and butter for nourishment
- Boosts income through sales of extra milk
- Encourages better crop yields by creating fertilizer and clearing land

Goats are known for providing delicious milk, which can be used to create cheese that can be sold for income, in turn providing a family's children the opportunity to go to school. Goat milk is more easily digestible, and one animal can produce up to four gallons a day. Goats are ideal for zero grazing, which means very little land is needed to raise them. Their natural curiosity and intelligence also make them great pets for families with children. This article can be found at heifer.org.



Missouri Annual Conference 2022

On June 11th and 12, the Missouri Annual Conference (MAC) gathered at the Branson Convention Center to hold the first in-person conference since June 2019. The clergy team of Peter, Susan, Vada, and Kelly attended. In addition to the clergy, Warrensburg FUMC sent Bob Muir, Jana Miller, and Kim Blackburn. Bishop Robert "Bob" Farr, a MAC attendee since 1976, made it clear from his opening remarks MAC will embrace diversity. He encouraged MAC to continue to follow the example of Jesus and welcome all people. He called on the conference to pursue unity in Christ while accepting diversity in thought.

After Bishop Farr's address, Dr. Lucas Endicott gave the Mission, Service, and Justice Report. Despite the pandemic, MAC raised money to continue domestic and international projects. Service and giving within our conference remain steady. In 2020 and 2021, MAC raised 1.3 million dollars for the Mozambique initiative, resulting in eighty-seven new wells and more malaria prevention projects. MAC has also logged 86,000 volunteer hours in Puerto Rico for Hurricane Maria clean-up. To learn more about global missions, visit <https://umcmmission.org/serve-with-us/>.

Rev. Dr. David Gilmore gave an update on Race and Culture, reminding the conference that "Diversity *within* the Church helps us become a better reflection of God's vision *for* the Church." Diversity matters to God and should matter to us. A 2022 Conference priority is to engage 20% of Conference churches in race and culture work by December 31, 2022. Bishop Farr made clear this a priority both personally and institutionally. In the past year, he completed a twenty-five-stop listening tour of historically black churches. Resources are being allocated toward this goal:

- In the Fall of 2022, a free five-part multicultural leadership training will be available online through MAC.
- Another resource is the *Race and Faith* podcast, produced by MAC and hosted by Rev. Sharon Williams, <https://www.moumethodist.org/faithandracepodcast>.
- 650,000 in grant money is being allocated to historically black churches. The funds will be distributed as one-time grants of up to 25,000 dollars. Applications must be received by September 1, 2022.

On Sunday morning, Rev. Brett Cheek, LaCroix, led a teaching time about discerning the future. He reminded the attendees that God is more interested in transforming than keeping order. Spiritual maturity is the willingness to be led in uncomfortable directions, even toward chaos. He asked the audience to answer these questions: What do I want? What scares me? What is the Spirit saying?

After this inspiring message, the conference celebrated the ordination and commissioning of new clergy. The MAC welcomed twenty-four licensed local pastors, one associate member, nine provisional members, two deacons, and four elders. Rev. Cynthia Wilson, Atlanta, gave a sermon entitled "Wake Up, Get Up, Speak Up" based on Acts 20: 7-12. In the passage, a boy named Eutychus falls three stories from a window while Paul preaches. Paul then revives Eutychus. She reminded the new clergy and everyone in the church to stay focused on their own walk with God and not get distracted by petty things.

The next Missouri Annual Conference will be held in June 2023 in St. Charles, Missouri.



Looking for a personal mission service project?

Consider contacting Crossroads as they are looking for volunteers. As you know, one of our church family works with Crossroads. Beth Hunt is one who helps families with the final phone of life.

Hospice volunteers make a huge difference in someone's life by simply being present. They provide support and companionship to patients and families in their homes and long-term care facilities. Once trained, you can provide caregivers a short break and spend time with a patient playing cards, visiting, reading aloud, or sharing your well-behaved four-legged friend. Veteran volunteers also needed to visit patients who have also served.

You can also join our fun team of activity volunteers who visit facilities and offer music, movement and crafts. No nursing skills needed or personal care duties performed by volunteers. Hospice volunteering can be a meaningful and life-changing opportunity for anyone, even teens. For more information and training, contact Dawn Shipman at (816) 591-6671 or Dawn.shipman@crossroadshospice.com.