

Pastor Peter's message notes from Mar. 6, 2022

Let's Talk It Out:

Inviting Jesus Into The Conversation

I never cease to be amazed by the power of prayer to heal relationships. I never cease to be amazed by the power of prayer to bring patience, trust, and joy to conversations. I love that our church has the practice of beginning meals, meetings, Bible studies, and worship with prayer. I've seen over and over again how prayer positively changes the way that people communicate.

I've had to have several difficult conversations over the past several years. When I take time to pray for the people I am about to talk with, even when the situation is difficult, and disappointing news will be shared, I can see the healing power of Jesus bringing the best out in other people. Jesus never promised us that life would be easy. But he did promise us before he ascended into heaven that he would always be with us.

Take time to pray for the people in your life every day--your coworkers, your family, your neighbors. Pray especially for the people you feel hurt by or have conflict with. Ask to pray with the people in your life. The staff at the church knows that I pray for them, and I know that they pray for me. Just knowing this changes our relationships with each other. We experience more trust, care, and mutual regard.

Invite Jesus into the conversation and listen for his gentle guidance. Jesus tells us in Matthew 18:20, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." **Matthew 18:20**

If you don't already, take a risk and ask your spouse to pray with you. Pray together each day to give thanks for your love together. Give thanks for God's presence in your life. Pray about big decisions that you have to make together.

Praying together has helped Katharine and I listen for God's guidance in the major decisions of our lives. We prayed together about getting married and about moving to Missouri to serve together in the Missouri annual conference. We've prayed about having kids and about major financial and career decisions. The daily practice of prayer with your family allows you to better hear the voice of God guiding you all through life.

In a culture in which exact control of the products you purchase is a marketing strategy, prayer helps us to grow healthy relationships with those that are most important to us. Prayer helps us to compromise where we need to and focus on what matters the most. Through prayer Jesus helps us to see that sometimes it is less important to be right than it is for us to be united in how we face the challenges before us. Prayer helps us to see and follow God's presence in our lives.

Hello First United Methodist Church Warrensburg family,
We just learned that the next General Conference has been postponed until 2024. We will continue to accomplish our mission of, "Living that all may know Jesus," through sharing our faith, life changing worship, raising the next generation in faith, and missions like feeding the hungry through the Johnson County Food Center and the Jamaican Medical mission. We will continue to share the good news of new life offered to everyone. -Pastor Peter
[See the press release from The United Methodist Church on page 4.](#)

Church worship services

Our next message series is entitled "The Bible Never Said That." This discussion during the season of Lent provides a way of deepening our discipleship in Christ through greater understanding of the scriptures and therefore greater understanding of the character of God.

Upcoming Messages

- Mar. 13 Sodom & Gomorrah Were About Sexuality
- Mar. 20 The Matrix Is Real
- Mar. 27 God Has Only One Plan
- Apr. 3 Faith Means You Won't Suffer

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. Mar. 14 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- Tues. Mar. 15 Romans 14:8-9
- Wed. Mar. 16 1 Corinthians 15:3-4
- Thurs. Mar. 17 1 Corinthians 15:51-53
- Fri. Mar. 18 Matthew 24:30-31
- Sat. Mar. 19 Acts 1:7-11

Prayers for our church family

Bob Garrow, Margie Simmons, June Mellinger's daughter-in-law Felicia Brown, Jana Miller, Ken and Betty O'Neal's nephew Bill O'Neal, Doug Christie's uncle, Ron Ijam, Trudy Quibell, Ginger Baile, Kelly Weinberger

Celebrating our church family

Birthdays for the coming week:

- Sun. Mar. 13 Sophia Weldon
- Mon. Mar. 14 John Culp
- Wed. Mar. 16 Doris Grigsby, Oliver Stefan
- Thurs. Mar. 17 Dan Blackburn, James Logan Culp, Ken O'Neal, Valerie Anderson
- Fri. Mar. 18 Bernie Clark, Robert Boyd
- Sat. Mar. 19 Leslie Koepke

March 2022 Celebrate Wonder

And I tell you:
Ask and you will receive.
Seek and you will find.
Knock and the door
will be opened to you.
*Luke 11:9



March 6 Luke 17:11-19 Ten Men with Skin Disease	March 13 Luke 18:35-43 A Blind Man is Healed
March 20 Matthew 26:17-35 The Last Supper	March 27 Matthew 26:36-46 In the Garden

March's Disciple Gift: Helping Hands

James 2:17 *In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.*



As *FIRST* supports our local community through *HELPING HANDS*, *FIRST* also supports UMCOR.

UMCOR was born during the sufferings of World War II and today continues to respond to disasters severely impacting individuals, families and communities.

In 2021, UMCOR assisted people impacted by severe weather, earthquakes, volcanoes, COVID-19 lockdowns, political unrest and armed conflicts. It also provided shelter, comfort and solutions for refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants. Below highlights just a few of 2021's UMCOR efforts.

Haiti earthquake and tropical storm relief. In August, a 7.2 earthquake struck Haiti. It is estimated 2,200 deaths, 12,200 injured, and hundreds missing. Two days later, Tropical Storm Grace worsened the situation. UMCOR is responding to meet basic humanitarian needs with cash assistance for families, food, hygiene, health, shelter, protection and livelihoods.

Afghanistan and Afghan refugee resettlement. After the withdrawal from Afghanistan, UMCOR joined with multiple partners to formulate multiple strategies for the unrest and uncertainty. UMCOR remains and is working to provide humanitarian relief.

In the U.S., UMCOR is urging congregations to partner with Church World Service (CWS) to resettle Afghan refugees. CWS is one of nine resettlement agencies approved by the U.S. Department of State.

Relief/Recovery efforts in the U.S. UMCOR's U.S. Disaster Response office provided assistance with multiple state conferences due to Hurricanes Ida, Henri and Fred.

Emergency funds aided Texas response efforts after the winter storm/flash snow event impacting the state's infrastructure.

After the devastating December tornadoes, UMCOR continues to work with disaster response coordinators in the Arkansas, Kentucky and Tennessee-Western Kentucky conferences.

FUMC efforts. Thanks to your generous 2021 donations, you supported one of many humanitarian efforts, internationally and within the U.S. As you learn more about UMCOR, please consider giving a financial gift. Your gift, joined with those of others, makes a significant impact in the lives of individuals and communities.

Check out this link for more info on UMCOR:

<https://youtu.be/C5kPZu9pMLg>

Giving To God's Work

Putting Your House in Order

How many of you have wondered if you have everything in order after you pass? Will your financial plans work? Does anyone know where your important documents are located? Does someone have the combination to open your safe or do they even know if you have a bank security box? How about funeral arrangements, and what legacy would you like to leave upon passing? Many older adults have wills or trusts, but younger adults may need these if they have young children or have had more than one marriage. These are things we don't enjoy talking about and often put off.

In that regard, we have asked Rev. Laura Murphy to come and provide a workshop on Putting Your House in Order on March 29 at 6 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Please plan on attending and ask anyone you think might find this helpful to come with you.

We will have more information and details as the date gets closer, so save this date and plan on attending.

March 29, 6 p.m. in the Family Life Center

If you have questions, please feel free to ask Robyn or me.

Thanks for listening,

Dale Carder Generosity Chair carder@ucmo.edu

Robyn Criswell Bloom rcriswellbloom@gmail.com

Food Drive March 12 For Johnson County CROP

March is the month that our church has committed to help the Johnson County CROP Committee with their monthly food drive. The Food Drive is March 12 at HyVee from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Volunteers will stand at the entrance of HyVee and give incoming customers a pre-made need list created by the Johnson County Food Center. As customers leave the store, they will put donations in carts set up for donations. At 2 p.m. all donations will be taken to the Food Center.

A board member from the Johnson County CROP Committee will be at HyVee at 9 a.m. to help get started and at 2 p.m. to take donations to the Food Center.

The more volunteers we have the shorter the shifts.

Please contact Doug Christie at the Church Office via email or phone call if you would like to volunteer

Let's help our neighbors, near and far!

This month our giving supports UMCOR's global disaster responses and *FIRST*'s Job Squad/Ramp Crew for our congregation and community. Your generous donation is split 50/50, half to UMCOR and half to *FIRST*, unless otherwise designated.

You can donate online or place your donation in the UMCOR bucket, located in the atrium, each Sunday in March.

Interactive Bible Study March 13

Join us Sunday, March 13 from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. for an interactive Bible Study and discussion on *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality* by Pete Scazzero. We will be discussing this best-selling book to unpack the core biblical principles that can guide you to experience lasting, beneath-the-surface transformation in your relationship with Christ.

This session, which is over pages 1-79, is a repeat of the March 9 session. These discussion groups will begin with an overview and then break out into small table discussions. We will continue reading and have periodic discussion days through the year as we work to improve our spirituality. Register for this class at this link: <https://www.umcburg.org/events>.

Join us on March 26 for Conception Abbey

We have two weeks until our Conception Abbey trip on March 26. There are still several spots left on the bus, so it's not too late to sign up for the trip.

The trip will include a tour, mass, a lunch, and the Stations of the Cross.

The Crossroads charter bus will leave the church parking lot at 8 a.m. and should return shortly after 6 p.m. The Missouri Methodist Foundation Grant covers all the costs of the transportation and the meal.

If you are interested, email Pastor Susan at susan@umcburg.org, call the church office, sign-up on the sheet on the table in the atrium, or go online at <https://www.umcburg.org/events>

UMW Meeting Tuesday, March 15

The United Methodist Women will meet Tuesday, March 15, at 2 pm in Room 141 at the church.

Debbie Brown will give the devotion, Vicki Ollison the Daily Prayer Guide, and Donna Sample the *response* minute. The Prayer & Self-Denial Program will be presented by Vicki Ollison.

The program focus is Love, Justice and Service: Answering the Call, highlighting the lay Order of Deaconess and Home Missioner, administered by UMW.

The offering will support the education and training of deaconesses and home missionaries and, also, retired deaconesses.

This program will be an introduction for the April 19 meeting with guest speaker, Mandy Caruso-Yahne, Deaconess and Home Missioner, serving at Amethyst Place, Kansas City.

Covid protocols will be followed. No refreshments will be served. Members may bring their own water bottles. All women of the church are invited. Please call Vicki Ollison (660-362-0044) for more information or if you need transportation.



Last week students from the United States and around the world gathered at the Rock, our church's college age ministry, for a Culture Night. It is exciting to see new relationships being formed and the Good News of Jesus being shared. Seven new people attended worship at our church on Sunday after this fun event.



YOUTH GROUP
Sunday at 6 p.m.
Atomic #2
Make it a habit to invest
in your relationships.

Coming Soon to
First United Methodist
Church



Questions?
Contact Vada
vada@umcburg.org

shineumcburg.org
mycokeburyvbs.org



**DAYLIGHT
SAVING TIME
SPRING FORWARD**

Family Bible Study

What: Join us in breaking apart The Lord's Prayer to help us understand today.

Who: K-5th grade student
(and parents)

When: Sunday evening 6-7pm
*March 6, 13, 20, 27 & April 3, 10

Questions? Contact: vada@umcburg.org



General Conference further postponed to 2024

As the pandemic continues and the wait time for visas stretches to over two years in some countries, the Commission on the General Conference announced March 3 that the 2020 General Conference cannot be held in 2022 due to COVID-related and governmental policies/constraints.

Commission members received a report based on conversations with multiple officials of the U. S. Department of State outlining the massive backlog of visa applications in some areas. This backlog has led to wait times up to 800+ days for scheduling an initial interview. In addition, commission members described an increasingly complex interview process in some areas requiring two or three interviews, which also creates a roadblock that would preclude participation by many delegates outside the United States of America.

Commission chairperson Kim Simpson said the decision to postpone once again was an exceedingly difficult one, with many factors to consider -- including visas and passports, the health and safety of delegates, volunteers and other attendees, vaccination rates, and the need for provisions for quarantine or medical care should any delegates contract COVID-19.

"We engaged in a fair, thorough, integrity-filled discussion of the alternatives," said Simpson. "The visa issue is a reality that is simply outside our control as we seek to achieve a reasonable threshold of delegate presence and participation. Ultimately our decision reflects the hope that 2024 will afford greater opportunity for global travel and a higher degree of protection for the health and safety of delegates and attendees."

The Book of Discipline 2016 requires the Commission to take necessary measures to assure full participation of all General Conference delegates. Consistent with that guidance, the Commission determined that the physical attendance of as many delegates as possible at the General Conference is critically necessary.

A significant advantage of further postponing the 2020 General Conference to 2024 is that the Commission has already secured a venue for what would have been the regularly scheduled quadrennial event. An announcement about the location will be forthcoming as soon as the required logistical planning is complete.

According to Sara Hotchkiss, Business Manager of the General Conference, moving the legislative gathering to 2023 was an option that was discussed, but was not found to be feasible due to a number of reasons, including but not necessarily limited to the logistical challenges of planning, the remaining backlog of visa applications and interviews, and the proximity to the 2024 General Conference.

A technology study team appointed by the Commission reported in February 2021 that it wasn't feasible to create a virtual alternative of the General Conference that would safeguard the integrity of the voting and credentialing process, meet legal requirements, and support the complexity of the legislative committees required by ¶507.11 including but not limited to interpretation in multiple languages, and meaningful participation across multiple time zones. While many churches and organizations have adapted technology for events that are based heavily on presenter/observer situations, that is not the type of gathering that embodies a General Conference. Full participation of delegates in Christian conferencing as a means of grace was not seen as possible under these circumstances.

Secretary of the General Conference, Gary Graves, said the further postponement raises a number of additional questions not specifically addressed in *The Book of Discipline 2016*. "As the postponed 2020 General Conference now enters the typical cycle of preparation for a General Conference that would have been held in 2024, we will need to look to the Judicial Council for clarity regarding which preparations and processes are based on the postponed 2020 General Conference and which would need to be enacted should this be seen as a new 2024 General Conference."

The Judicial Council recently ruled that, "the deadlines for petitions submission in ¶ 507 are based on the date of the postponed General Conference and reset with each postponement."

The Commission will meet again on March 28 to continue the work of preparing for the postponed 2020 General Conference and looking ahead for possible solutions that may help avoid delays in future meetings should unforeseen circumstances occur or persist.

Simpson expressed appreciation to all of those in the Dakotas-Minnesota Area who were involved in planning for hosting and providing volunteers for the Minneapolis event. "We want to recognize the efforts of everyone who has worked so hard over several years to provide a welcoming experience. We are grateful to James Haun for his leadership as Local Host Committee Chair and his service on the Commission on the General Conference," said Simpson.

Hotchkiss added, "We appreciate the patience and understanding of the Local Host Committee as we have gone back to the drawing board on multiple occasions. They have been more than gracious."

According to Graves, "It is always a monumental task to host the General Conference, but to prepare several times and still not be able to put those plans into action seems even more difficult. We look forward to ways that we will honor the efforts of the Dakotas-Minnesota Local Host Committee when we finally meet together."

"The Commission appreciates that many people are disappointed about the circumstances of the 2020 General Conference and shares in the disappointment that it has not been able to be held," said Simpson. "COVID-19 has tested the collective patience, understanding, compassion, resolve, and even faith of the world. Commission members remain hopeful and pray that the world's circumstances improve to help make the next General Conference not only possible, but a reminder of the witness of The United Methodist Church as a global representation of the body of Christ."