

Reverend Laura Murphy's message notes from Feb. 27, 2022

## Six Words

As a pastor and representative of the Missouri United Methodist Foundation, the favorite part of my work is hearing people's stories. After all, everyone has a life story that can impact another person's life.

Have you thought much about your life story? Have you thought of writing it down, or how you want it told? My guess is that most of us don't write down our life story because in the thick of life, we don't realize the story we are living is significant enough to share. Consequently, we let the opportunity slip away, losing the precious moments we've been given to share it with the next generation.

But what could happen if we got to work at writing down our life stories? Do you think it could change the way we see our lives, and better yet, how others see our lives? Could it change who we become? Could it make an impact on future generations?

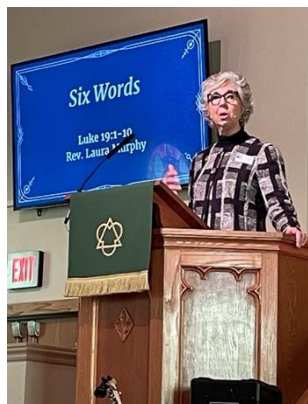
When we take a moment to look back at the stories of people in the Bible, I doubt any of them thought their stories were significant enough that people would still be talking about them centuries later. But it's by hearing their stories the significance of their lives unfolds. It's the same for us. Life stories reveal something powerful that others can learn from. For example, there is a profound lesson in how when a person's life intersects with God's story, their life story changes forever.

Think about the stories of Abraham, Noah, Daniel, the prodigal son, the woman at the well, the blind man, Matthew, and Paul...just to name a few! Their lives were all interrupted by God as they recovered from something difficult, finding restoration and hope. Here we are thousands of years later, still learning about how by the grace of God, there is new life for all of us—especially when faced with hardships and challenges.

I am so thankful that we can learn from these people's stories, as well as others who have gone before us. Their life stories have become their legacies. After all, a legacy is something conveyed from one person to another, passed down from one generation to the next.

Too often people think of a legacy as being a financial gift, but really our material wealth is only a small fraction of our legacy. Leaving a legacy is far more about sharing what we have learned, not just what you have earned. It's about bequeathing values over valuables. Legacy is about telling our story in a way that others can glean hope and faith in the messy world around them.

Today I challenge you to think about your life story and how it becomes your legacy. Think about how others can learn from what you've experienced. Think about how—by the grace of God—things are different than what you ever expected them --Rev. Laura Murphy



## Church worship services

### Upcoming Message

Mar. 6 Inviting Jesus into the Conversation

### New Sermon Series: The Bible Never Said That

Mar. 13 Sodom & Gomorrah Were About Sexuality

### 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. 7	Genesis 19:1-11
Tues. Mar. 8	Genesis 18:20
Wed. Mar. 9	Deuteronomy 28:28-29
Thurs. Mar. 10	Genesis 19:24-25
Fri. Mar. 11	Luke 10:1-12
Sat. Mar. 12	Matthew 9:37-38

## 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

## Celebrating our church family

### Birthdays for the coming week:

Sun. Mar. 6	Karen Martin
Mon. Mar. 7	Addyson Stoenner, Katrina Burton, Madison Baker
Tues. Mar. 8	Dorothy Jones, Jeffrey Imboden, Kelli Gilpin
Thurs. Mar. 10	Richard Smith, Riley Yung, Rylee Miller
Sat. Mar. 12	Kirk Pedersen

### Anniversaries for the coming week:

Sun. Mar. 6	Glenda and David Goetz
Tue. Mar. 8	George and Donna Sample

### March 2022 Celebrate Wonder

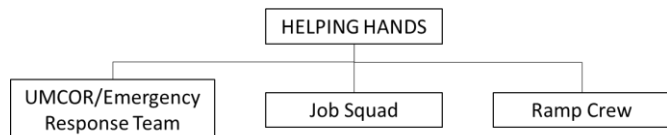
And I tell you:  
Ask and you will receive.  
Seek and you will find.  
Knock and the door  
will be opened to you.  
\*Luke 11:9

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

## March's Disciple Gift: Helping Hands

**Acts 20:35** *In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'*

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



**Helping Hands** is the overarching committee that encompasses three mission efforts to help those in need: UMCOR/Disaster Response Team, Job Squad and the Ramp Crew. **Helping Hands** interfaces with **FIRST's** leadership when seeking assistance--whether it be funds, logistical support or other actions needs to support the envisioned activities.

**Emergency Response Team (ERT)** supports UMCOR and deploys within the U.S. ERT deploys only after receiving a call for assistance from the Missouri Methodist Conference. Members must be UMCOR trained before deploying. Deployments are typically five days (Day 1: travel, Day 2-4: work, Day 5: travel) but can extend, as needed. The teams are self-sufficient bringing their own equipment, meals and sleeping gear. Typically, lodging is coordinated with a Methodist church near the work area(s).

**Job Squad** supports **FIRST's** family and the local community. Anyone can join to help others...no training, no auditions... just you! We provide a "work crew" to do non-technical, non-professional work in and around the house the owner may not be able to perform. Examples include raking leaves, trimming shrubs, cleaning gutters, and...shoveling snow. If you need assistance, contact **FIRST's** office and explain the work needed. The office will forward the request and you will be contacted by the **Job Squad** to determine if the work is within their skill range and coordinate a possible work time.

**Ramp Crew** is restarting **FIRST's** relationship with West-Central Independent Living Solutions (WILS). Previously, **FIRST** provided work crews and equipment while WILS provided materials to build ramps in six counties, including Johnson County. Today, we are coordinating with WILS and hope to build our first ramp this spring. Bob Muir graciously agreed to assist in the ramp's design, determine needed materials and only "supervise" the ramp's construction. Anyone can help! We had an energetic group of volunteers--**FIRST's** adults and youth, college students and Whiteman AFB personnel--and hope to rebuild this team who made an impact to many people's lives. If you can cut wood, screw nails or want to help, please contact **FIRST's** office.

**Proverbs 3:27** *Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act.*

Click [here](#) to learn more about UMCOR Sunday:

## Giving To God's Work

I think most all of us want to ensure that what we do in this world will make a difference. You can make an impact at your work, as a family member, with friends and in your church. Some are great leaders while others are great followers. Our impact on others is often not known, but there is almost always an impact.

Recently Russia invaded Ukraine, and many of us realize the ramifications this will have to those on both sides of the battle with loss of life and resources and for some a loss of hope.

Proverbs 3:27 states do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act. I think now is the time for our church members to act and make a difference in prayer and giving to help make a difference in the lives you choose to help.

Let's force a life-changing ministry in the world. Let's do good now for those to whom it is due.

Thanks for listening!

Dale Carder Generosity Chair [carder@ucmo.edu](mailto:carder@ucmo.edu)

## UMW Focuses On Love, Justice, Service

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.

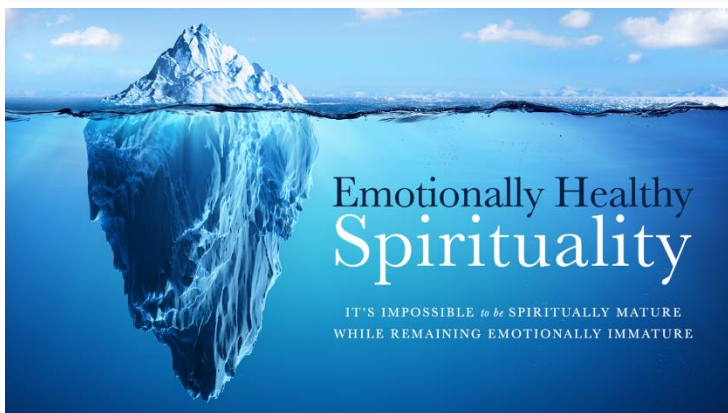
Covid protocols will be followed. No refreshments will be served. Members may bring their own water bottles. All women of the church are invited. Please call Vicki Ollison (660-362-0044) for more information or if you need transportation.

### 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 9 and March 13

Join us 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.

Two identical sessions of this class will be offered in person at the First United Methodist Church of Warrensburg on both Wednesday, March 9 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 13 from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Register for this class at this link:  
<https://www.umcburg.org/events>

### Ready for a road trip?

#### Join us on March 26 for Conception Abbey

The Confirmation Class and as many of the church family as can fit on a charter bus will drive to northwest Missouri to tour and to experience the life of the Benedictine Monks at Conception Abbey.



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

Click on this link <https://www.conceptionabbey.org/> to learn more about Conception Abbey.

The Crossroads chart bus will leave the church parking lot at 8 a.m. and should return shortly after 6 p.m. on March 26. The Missouri Methodist Foundation Grant covers all the costs of the transportation and the meal.

The last day to sign up is March 11. If you are interested, email Pastor Susan at [susan@umcburg.org](mailto:susan@umcburg.org), call the church office, sign-up on the sheet on the table in the atrium, on go online at the link below:

Sign up here for **Conception Abbey** at  
<https://www.umcburg.org/events>

Other events to sign up include Children's Lent study on the Lord's Prayer, VBS, Youth Mission Trips, and Emotionally Healthy Spirituality.

### Last Chance For Church Directory Photo

Only two photo sessions remain for getting your picture taken for the new church directory! Check the church website or contact the church office to sign up.

Fri. March 4 2:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Sat. March 5 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Everyone photographed receives a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and a church directory.

### Food Drive 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



### Youth Attend KC Mavericks Game

The Sunday Night Youth Group attended a KC Mavericks hockey game Feb. 27. Check in with Kelly Weinberger to learn more about the youth group and its activities.