



**Maddie Schmidt**, daughter of Molly and Tyler Schmidt, was baptized Sunday. What a unique experience that Maddie was baptized by her grandfather Rev. Dr. Bart Hildreth, in the church where her parents were married five years ago, surrounded by her extended family May 15.

## Decorating For Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School starts Tuesday, May 31, so it's time to start getting the church ready to welcome the kids. We need all the help we can get to get the decorating finished. Below are the dates we will be working. Please consider helping any of these times to get our Food Truck Party up and ready.

### Decorating Dates:

5/20 @ 6-8 p.m.

(focus on putting some decorations up in the atrium and sanctuary)

5/25 @ 1-3 p.m.

(working on any decorations that need to be made)

5/28 @ 9 a.m.-12 noon

(Putting up all final decorations! Rainbow Rooms, Atrium, Sanctuary, upstairs elementary hallway)

## Position available: Office Manager

The office manager will undertake administrative tasks, ensuring the rest of the staff and the church's volunteers have adequate support to accomplish the church's mission. The office manager will be self-motivated and able to prioritize duties. He/she will be trustworthy and maintain confidentiality. Resumes and references can be emailed to [contact@umcburg.org](mailto:contact@umcburg.org) or mailed to the church office at 141 East Gay St. Warrensburg, MO 64093

## Church worship services

### Upcoming Messages

May 22 I Believe!

May 29 The Ascension of Jesus

### 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, May 23

Acts 1:1-5

Tuesday, May 24

Luke 24:32-36

Wednesday, May 25

John 14:26-27

Thursday, May 26

Acts 1:6-11

Friday, May 27

1 Thessalonians 5:1-2

Saturday, May 28

Revelations 1:7-8

## Prayers for our church family

Felicia Brown, Jana Miller, Barry Hoskins, Nancy Scism, Terry Austin, Abbey Metcalf's father, Earlene Christie, Doris Grigsby, Mary Belle Rowland, Benedetta Culver., and another member of the church family with health needs. The Boy Scouts are requesting prayers for the Pierce family.

## Celebrating our church family

### Birthdays for the coming week:

Sun. May 22

Priscilla Owusu Sekyere

Mon. May 23

Candy Stephens, Katelyn Helmig, Dale Carder

Wed. May 25

Gary Larson, Sharon Muir

Thurs. May 26

Bettina Christie, Earl Karas, Katie Gostomski

Sat. May 28

Addilyn Wiltse, Bryleigh Wiltse, Logan Carter

### Anniversaries for the coming week:

Tues. May 24


Bob and Ginger Cochran  
Gary and Dixie Larson

Fri. May 27

Doug and Bettina Christie

Please contact Carol Hassler [carol@umcburg.org](mailto:carol@umcburg.org) with information and pictures of your high school and college graduates so we can recognize them in upcoming newsletters.

## May's Disciple Gift: Survival House



### Services

Crime Victim's Compensation Assistance  
Professional Therapy and Counseling  
Emergency Shelter  
24 Hour Hotline  
Court Advocacy  
Case Management  
Children and Family Services  
Weekly Support Groups  
**And Much More!**

### Contact Information

Outreach Office: (660) 429-1088  
Shelter Office: (660) 429-0522  
Fax: (660) 429-3643  
24/7 Hotline: (800) 846-7597

### Outreach Office Hours

Monday - Friday  
8:00am - 4:00pm

**All services are free and confidential**

Survival House Outreach Center  
137 E Culton St.  
Warrensburg, Missouri 64093

Our offices are located above the Food Pantry and can be accessed by the rear entrance.

For more information, please contact the Outreach Office.

**24/7 Confidential Hotline**  
**(800) 846-7597**

## Giving To God's Work

### Seven Faces of Philanthropy

I want to share a portion of an article that was written by Prince and File. It discusses the seven ways people like to give, and I thought it might be fun for you to look at each one and see if you totally relate with one of these faces:

**Communication:** doing good is God's will (you don't want recognition). You like to hear testimonies on how funds are used. Twenty-six percent of the people fall within this bracket.

**Devout:** doing good is God's will (you don't want recognition). You like testimonies and are trusting of people who share your views. Twenty-one percent of the people fall within this category.

**Investors:** you like good business practices with bottom line results. Annual reports, tax breaks but have no moral obligation to give. Fifteen percent of the people fall in this category.

**Socialite:** doing good is fun (you like to be honored and enjoy creative ways to give). You expect the organization to have a sterling reputation and enjoy the social networking. This group comprises eleven percent of givers.

**Altruist:** doing good feels right (you are a selfless donor and prefer to be anonymous). Nine percent fall in this category.

**Re-payer:** you respond to life changing experiences (you have low involvement in the organization and seek attention. There is ten percent in this grouping.

**Dynasty:** doing good is family tradition (you like to help and enjoy testimonies). This group has 8 percent.

So, what category do you most closely relate to? I personally think I fit in communication and devout but does it really matter? I think if we better understand how and why people give we can have a more open discussion in our church and continue the growth we have been experiencing these past few years.

Thanks for listening! If you have questions or comments please contact Robyn Criswell-Bloom or me. [Rcriswellbloom@gmail.com](mailto:Rcriswellbloom@gmail.com) [carder@ucmo.edu](mailto:carder@ucmo.edu)

A note from Chuck Linville . . .

Our parking lots are starting to fill up. (It's Peter's fault) If you are young or young at heart and able, please consider parking in the lower lot just to the west of the church. That is our property as well if you were concerned.

SUMMER  
MISSION  
TRIP

**Partnered with Clinton FUMC**

Working with Della Lamb and Restore KCMO

**June 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th 2022**

Looking for a great way to give back and have fun this summer? Join us for a mission trip this summer in Kansas City.

# PROCLAIM



May 1- Paul is Changed (Acts 9:1-10)  
May 8- Paul Escapes with Help (Acts 9:21-25)  
May 15- Paul and Timothy (Acts 16: 1-5) (2 Timothy 1:5-7)  
May 22- Paul and Silas in Prison (Acts 16:16-40)  
May 29- Shipwrecked (Acts 27:1-44)

These people are servants of the Most High God!  
They are proclaiming a way of salvation to you!  
\* Acts 16:17b

## The Trinity

A common question that we receive here at the church is, "What is the Trinity?"

Today we will look at some of the classic scriptures that form the foundation of the doctrine of the trinity, trace the intellectual history, and finally see how what we believe about the trinity influences the way that we relate to God and each other.

In Genesis 1:1-5 we read an account of God's creation of the world. Christians have interpreted the "wind from God" as the presence of the Holy Spirit and the words of God speaking creation into being as the presence of Jesus, "the Word" (Genesis 1:1-5). Genesis shows us that God is eternal. God is collaborative within God's self. God invites us into the creative process asking humans to create by multiplying and stewarding the earth (Genesis 1:26-31).

In the gospel of John, when Jesus completes his earthly ministry, he returns to the father and sends the Holy Spirit to be with us forever. Jesus tells us, **I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup>In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. John 14:18-20**

The identity of the Son, the Father, and the Holy Spirit are all wrapped up in one. They relate to each other in community and fulfill distinct roles. We also share in this identity with God. Jesus tells us in this passage from John that because of the Holy Spirit's presence in our hearts, we share in the resurrection of Jesus. The presence of God is within us.

The idea of the trinity took time to develop. God did something unique and history changing through the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus and the sending of the Holy Spirit to dwell inside of the hearts of the disciples at Pentecost. On the road to understanding the trinity, there were several well-intentioned ideas that were discarded by the church as not truly capturing the essence of God.

One of these ideas was Arianism, which argued that Jesus was created by God the Father. The problem with this understanding of the trinity is that if Jesus was created, he would be a creature and not equal to the Father and not deserving to be worshipped.

### The Nicene Creed

The emperor Constantine converted to Christianity and saw that unity in faith and understanding would be helpful uniting the Roman Empire. He called for and funded a council in Nicaea in May 325 CE. Bishops from across the Roman Empire and beyond traveled to be a part of this.

One of the reasons for this council was to define how God is one in three persons. The council affirmed the equality and co-eternity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit by developing the Nicene Creed.

**"I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and**

**invisible; And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man..."**

### Nicene Creed

The Nicene creed affirms both the humanity and the divinity of Jesus. He isn't a prophet, a holy man, an angel. Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Father, together are the Godhead.

It's fun to think about the eternity of God across the course of time but why does this matter to us today? Justo Gonzalez, a Christian historian, writes that what we believe about the trinity has a huge bearing in how we see ourselves, our relationship to God and people around us in our society. During the Arian debates the Roman emperor, his court and the landed aristocrats tended to favor the Arian understanding of the trinity. God the Father was superior to Jesus the son and the Holy Spirit. This way of thinking supported an orderly, hierarchical society in which you had the Caesar, generals, soldiers, etc. The radical message of the Nicene Creed was that a poor Jewish carpenter was co-equal and of the same substance as the father. Freedman, laborers, slaves across the Roman Empire were drawn to Christianity because in this understanding of the trinity they saw themselves invited to be in relationship with a God that came to be with them. In the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus shares with us this desire to share in our lives in the way that the father, son, and Holy Spirit share together.

**The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. John 17:22-23**

Register to join us!

**FOOD TRUCK PARTY**

ON A ROLL WITH GOD!

Tuesday, May 31 - Friday, June 3  
After Summer School  
12:25-4pm

Saturday, June 4  
9am - 12noon

Preschool - 5th Grade

shineumc.org  
mycokesburyvbs

umc.org  
First United Methodist Church  
141 E. GAY STREET

## **The Bishop's Talk: The Future of The United Methodist Church in Missouri**

May 12, 2022

On April 24, 2022, Rev. Bob Farr, the Bishop of the Missouri United Methodist Annual Conference, held an informational session at Woods Chapel United Methodist Church in Lee's Summit. Nearly twenty members of our congregation attended the event. I thought I would provide a summary of the vision our bishop presented for the future of the United Methodist Church in Missouri for our congregation.

I think we have the best approach to the Gospel. We are rooted in scripture, centered in Christ and united in the essentials. We are a denomination that allows for unity in Christ and diversity in the kingdom.

Since its founding, the United Methodist Church has been a church that encouraged intellectual freedom in an environment of grace and unity. In the current culture there is a movement to adopt an attitude of, "you are either with me or against me." Bishop Farr reminded us that we don't have to agree on everything, we don't now and never have. In the United Methodist denomination today, people of sincere faith have disagreed about divorce, abortion, the death penalty, etc. and remained united in faith in Christ. In our history as a denomination, we have disagreed about slavery, race, full inclusion of women, just to name a few. Bishop Farr called us to strive for Unity in Christ--not conformity.

We have been able to agree to disagree on some things and still love Christ. A small number of congregants and churches have decided they don't wish to agree to disagree on the issue of human sexuality. On both sides of the discussion and for other reasons, a small number of individuals and churches have decided to disaffiliate with the United Methodist Church in Missouri. Just over 30 churches have either disaffiliated or are starting the process of disaffiliation. As a point of reference, the Missouri Annual Conference is composed of over 700 churches.

Bishop Farr stated in an open letter, "Let me be clear: I am staying with the United Methodist Church. I have no intention of leaving the Church that has taught me and shaped my faith. I will not leave to participate in the Global Methodist Church or any other Wesleyan denomination or leave to become an independent Christian. I am a United Methodist."

Like the bishop, the United Methodist Church gave me my faith. I can count at least five generations of United Methodists in my family tree. My grandfathers who were United Methodist ministers and many United Methodist church families I have been a part of across the country nurtured me in my faith in Jesus. I, Peter Norton, am staying with the United Methodist Church. With the support of our congregation and leadership committees, I will continue to lead our church to be an active congregation of the United Methodist Church, supporting our brothers and sisters in Christ through efforts like disaster relief through UMCOR, connecting our graduating seniors with United Methodist Churches in new towns they move to, and supporting the planting of new churches in Missouri and around the world.

Over a year ago we formed a task force to study the issues around ministry with LGBTQ persons in our denomination and to keep the church council and congregation informed as we lead our church through this process.

As always, we will be transparent and accountable in everything we do. We won't do anything in our church in secret or that isn't done in an open and transparent process that involves the input of everybody.

The bishop concluded his talk by reminding us that the biggest challenge we face in reaching people for Jesus is our inward focus. Decline in membership and the closing of dying churches is exponentially much more of a problem than disaffiliation.

Let's all remain focused on reaching out to new disciples of Jesus Christ. Be a braver, more diverse church--a welcoming place for everyone. Invest time with people in our community and share with them how good Jesus is. Plant more new churches! Listen for the Holy Spirit and stay focused on the mission field you have been called to serve.

In the link below, Bishop Farr shares a longer-term vision for the Missouri Conference.  
<https://www.moumethodist.org/newsdetail/letter-from-bishop-farr-on-the-postponement-of-general-conference-16385135>

Rev. Peter Norton