

Pastor Peter Norton's message notes from June 28, 2020

The Kingdom On Earth

Where will the kingdom of heaven be? If we look at the scriptures, we will see the story of the Bible is a consistent narrative of God creating the world and coming into history to create the kingdom of heaven here on earth.

In Genesis chapter 1 we read how God created everything and called it good. Genesis goes on to tell the story of how sin enters the world, and how even though humanity continues to get it wrong, God continues to work to bring forgiveness and redemption to all creation. In Genesis 9:8-13, after the flood, God makes the covenant to not destroy the earth or the creatures that inhabit it.

The beauty of the stories of the Old Testament is that we hear again and again how the people of God make mistakes, but we also hear the story of God stepping into history to guide and redeem his people. For instance, when Joseph is sold into slavery in Egypt by his brothers, God works good out of this evil by sharing with Joseph the dream that Egypt needs to prepare for a seven-year famine.

The climax of the story of God in the Bible is when God sends his only son into the world to save the world from our sins. To bring about the kingdom of heaven on earth, Jesus lived a life full of the same joys, frustrations and pains we also face in our lives. The meaning of the incarnation is that "God is with us."

We understand the world isn't the way God intends. There is so much evil and pain and disappointment. We pray that the glimpses we see of the kingdom of heaven expand until we see God face to face and God lives among us. The book of Revelation ends with a vision of the kingdom of heaven on earth. God wants us to prepare for the return of the king, Jesus Christ. God wants us to be a part of the kingdom of heaven here on earth. Like the incarnation, God is coming down to earth to be with us. **"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them.'" Rev. 21:1-3**

Because the story of the Bible tells us that the kingdom of heaven is here on the earth, how does this affect our discipleship? How are we called to seek the kingdom of heaven here on earth? The earth matters. Farmers understand that we are called to care for our land so that the generations that follow us for hundreds of years will find joy in God's gracious gift. We matter. Each of us has a soul and a body and a life worth living. It is important to spend time caring for your soul and refreshing yourself with the spirit of God. You can do this by regularly praying, studying scripture, and worshipping every Sunday you are able. Our neighbors—those we know and don't know—matter. We make phone calls. We host food drives for the local food center. We remember that we are all children of God, and everyone deserves to be treated with kindness and respect.

Where is the kingdom of heaven? The kingdom of heaven is already here on the earth, and it is coming to this earth. To experience the new life offered in Christ, we are called to seek every day the kingdom of heaven here on this earth. The kingdom of heaven is here and someday, it will be fully realized.

Preparing For Worship

Scriptures for the coming week

Monday	July 6:	Psalm 39
Tuesday	July 7:	Psalm 84
Wednesday	July 8:	Psalm 90
Thursday	July 9:	Psalm 116
Friday	July 10:	Psalm 139
Saturday	July 11:	Psalm 144

Worship Service

UMC-Burg is now open for church! Join us Sunday mornings at 8:30 or 11:00. Or, you can still join us on Facebook at 9:30 a.m.

The Psalms, more than any other part of the Bible, express our deepest emotions and encourage us to bring them to God in prayer. Join us this summer for the sermon series "Summer in the Psalms" as we pray together through the Psalms.

Our Church Family

Prayer concerns from our church family

Aura Tavernner, Judy Murray, Bill Brame, Donna Rosiere, Jaccie Blaszczyk, Linda Riddle, Camden Garcia, Peggy Province, Nita Woodrel, Charles Baile, Jim Hudson

Birthdays for the coming week

July 5: Annette Erickson
July 7: Bobbie Riffle
July 8: Bob Braun, Rylee Harrison
July 9: Cole Braun, Jim Helmig, Ben McClung
July 10: Harvey Christie, Royce Ewing

Anniversaries for the coming week

July 7: John and Sally Hart
July 10: Ron and Amy Holmes



We look forward to seeing you in church
July 5 for our reopening!
Join us at 8:30 a.m. or 11 a.m.
for worship.
Come dressed in your Aloha best!
And don't forget your mask. 🧐

College Age Ministry Team Looks Forward To Rejuvenating The Rock At UCM

The Missouri Methodist Church believes it is vital to have a college ministry, stating on their website, "Growing up, stepping out and being away from home for the first time is exciting, but these years provide the greatest chance of walking away from faith. Providing a community to rely on can be life-changing and life-saving for many college students. In this time of transition, college-age ministry encourages students to independently choose to pursue and strengthen their relationship with Christ."

UMC-Burg's College Age Ministry Team echoes this belief and is working hard to rejuvenate The Rock, the church's college ministry at UCM. Ginger Cochran, Steve Mills, Bob Muir and Lisa Schmidli are all passionate about the role the ministry plays in college students' lives.

Campus ministry definitely made an impact on Steve Mills, who was involved in the Methodist college ministry as an undergraduate student at Southwest Missouri State (now Missouri State in Springfield) in the 1960s. Steve said, "Methodist campus ministry helped me balance the hard questions I had as a biology student." He understands that "the decisions and connections students make now will affect their support of the church for a lifetime." Steve also heads up the annual Jamaica mission trip. He said, "We reach many life science students through the Jamaica mission. I want to involve the Jamaica mission in the Rock programming to reach more Central students. Students can support the mission even if they cannot afford to travel."

Bob Muir grew up going to church and said, "The youth fellowship environment helped build my relationships and make me a better person in my career and life. Young people of today need that bond with God and church. I believe that as the Rock moves forward, this will enrich the lives of the students."



Jackson Yost helps his grandfather, John Yost, lay sod at the church. The grass by the sidewalk died and needed to be replaced with sod. John has been working several weeks on this project, making sure it is done for the church reopening July 5.

Ginger Cochran recalls the impact the church had on her own children. She recalled, "I grew up going to church and raised my children in this church. The conversations and youth group activities they participated in played an integral role in the adults they are today. I am grateful for the leadership in the youth group that supported my own children. I truly feel as FUMC moves forward the youth group will rebuild. The students at the Rock will be valuable in this by sharing their time and ministry."

Lisa Schmidli is especially interested because two of her three children are in college; her son Cole will be attending UCM in the fall. She said, "Our two daughters attended Christian-affiliated universities and were actively involved in chapel time, bible studies, and various youth ministries. That was such a blessing for them (and a comfort to their parents) during their transitions from small town teenagers to independent young adults. So with that in mind, I would like for the Rock to provide a similar sense of belonging to young people attending UCM. I envision the Rock as a place where Christian-based students can feel secure voicing their beliefs and concerns with others. An active and positive atmosphere is not going to happen overnight. We have quite a hill to climb; however, Preston has wonderful ideas that appeal to today's youth, and he is quickly getting things in motion for us."

The College Age Ministry Team has three goals:

1. To support our college age students to grow in their faith in Jesus together
2. To support our college age students to serve and develop relationships in our church
3. To support our college age students to serve and develop relationships in our community.

A Note for the Kids

In July we will continue to learn about communities (God's and ours). Do communities stay the same over time, or do they change? How do we handle it? We will learn how to trust and lean on God as he leads us through things that change. Join us on Facebook as we go back to Joshua, chapter 1 this week and beyond.

July's Verse: *The LORD your God is with you wherever you go.* -Joshua 1:9

*Facebook: [UMCBurg.org Children & Young Families](https://www.facebook.com/UMCBurg.org)

*Email: kingdomkids@umcburg.org

Calling All Gardeners!

We need volunteers to help weed the mulch beds around the church.

Call Chuck Linville
660-441-1244





Preston Parks Brings Passion For Student Ministry To The Rock

The College Age Ministry Team and Pastor Peter are pleased to have Preston Parks as the new director of The Rock. Bob Muir describes Preston as a “real getter.”

Preston grew up in Raymore and graduated from Summit Christian Academy in Lee’s Summit. He attended Avila University for one semester

before transferring to UCM and moving to Warrensburg. He will be a sophomore this coming fall at UCM studying Automotive Technology with a minor in Business Administration. From a very young age until moving to Warrensburg, he attended Abundant Life Church in Lee’s Summit. While attending UCM, Preston also works as an Auto Center Technician at Wal-Mart and is a Next Generation Intern with the Children and Young Family Ministry.

Preston says The Rock was a driving force in him attending UCM. His brother Easton lived at The Rock for two years while studying at UCM, which is how he learned about the opportunity to live there. He explained, “The Rock was such a blessing when I first came to Warrensburg. I wouldn’t have been able to attend UCM if it weren’t for this opportunity. Before I moved in, I attended Avila University on a collegiate track scholarship. At this university, I realized it was not God’s plan for me to be there. My original major was not for me, I was not connected at all because there were no on-campus

Christian ministries, and the entire track program at the college was cut. I decided to transfer to Central. It was only because of the opportunity of The Rock that I was able to attend UCM. I was able to live on campus instead of commuting one hour every day.”

After living at The Rock, Preston was pleased to be appointed as the new director. He said, “I wanted this job to give back to the place that God gave to me. The Rock has declined over the past year or maybe more, but it has so much potential. With this amazing opportunity, I want to rebuild The Rock ministry into a thriving campus ministry that spreads the love of Jesus all over the UCM campus.”

Preston’s passion for The Rock is evident in his vision for the program. He said, “My vision for The Rock over the next few months is to make the physical building and the resident living policies functional and attractive for future residents. I want it to be able to host and be a launchpad for future ministry. Long term, my vision is to make The Rock a home for a campus ministry that will host worship nights, fellowship meals, and potentially an on-campus coffee shop. I would love to eventually see The Rock be able to take on a college minister to be able to grow this vision into a reality one day.”

To achieve his short-term goals, Preston has worked with the rest of the Campus Ministry Team to set up a clean-up day at the Rock. He explained, “With everyone’s help we can clean and revamp the Rock for the residents to be able to maintain. We will be cleaning, organizing, and doing basic maintenance around the house. We would love to see church members volunteer to help on July 18!”



Hey Kids! Great News From Harley About Coming Back To Church

Hello, boys and girls! I have some doggone good news for you. IT’S TIME TO COME BACK TO CHURCH!!

Pastor Peter and a special committee have been working hard to make sure we can come back to church and worship safely. And they need us to follow some special rules. We can do that, right?

- We all need to wear our masks to church.
- We are going to sit with our families throughout the service because we aren’t allowed to have kids’ worship or to be in the nursery just yet.
- There will be children’s time during the service, but we will stay in our seats with our moms and dads rather than come to the front.

I had a really great idea! I’m going to bring a “doggie bag” to church so I can have a book or some crayons and paper to draw with during the service. I’m also going to bring my own Bible so I can follow along with the scriptures! Maybe you could make a bag with your family, too!

I’m “paws”itive it’s going to be amazing to be back at church! I’ll see you there!



Sign Up For The ROCK Service Day

Where: The **ROCK**

305 S. Holden St. Warrensburg, MO

When: July 18 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

The congregation and residents of The **ROCK** will be coming together to clean, organize, and revamp Th **ROCK!** We want to make Th **ROCK** into a place where we can house new and upcoming campus ministry! Bring work clothes, some gloves (some will be working outside doing landscaping) and a hard-working spirit!

* Use this link for the Google form sign-up sheet*
<https://forms.gle/G5PXPuyzxfHTiDx66>

THERE IS NONE **HOLY** LIKE THE **LORD**:
FOR THERE IS NONE BESIDES **YOU**;
THERE IS NO **ROCK** LIKE OUR **GOD**.

1 Samuel 2:2



What You Can Expect This Sunday, July 5, As You Attend UMC-Burg's Reopening

The church pastors, staff, and volunteers met June 27 to practice a run-through to make sure everything runs safely and smoothly when you return for in-person worship. Here is an explanation of how everything will work that day. A reminder that you will use either the playground entrance or the atrium entrance. A huge thank you to the Task Force for Reopening for their thorough planning.



1. An usher will greet you at the door. Because attendance books have been removed from the sanctuary, the usher will also check you in.



2. A volunteer will scan your forehead to check your temperature. Based on CDC guidelines, if you have a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher, you will be requested to worship online rather than in person to protect our neighbors from potential infection. Hand sanitizer will be available. If you forget your mask, we will have one for you to use. The number is limited, so we ask that you bring your own if you have one.



3. Pastor Peter and Pastor Susan will be at the east and west sanctuary doors to welcome you. Please remember while in church to maintain social distancing.



4. An usher will direct you to your seat. Ushers will dismiss the congregation one row at a time at the conclusion of the service similar to that at a wedding.



5. We will have socially distanced seating in the pews. Check out those masks! The congregation will be seated in every other row. All contact surfaces in the sanctuary and in common areas of the church will be disinfected between services.



6. The first row will be reserved for pastors and staff who lead the service. Musicians will be seated on the stage.