

Pastor Peter Norton's message notes from Sept. 27, 2020

Faith at Home: Worship

Some of my favorite memories as a kid were of being in worship with my parents and with my brother. I remember standing next to them and singing hymns and going to the front of the church for children's time.

I still remember many of scriptures and stories I heard from the pastors all these years later. All of these memories of worship remind me that beyond my immediate family, I have a church family that loves and cares about me. Throughout the challenges and disappointments of life, my church family has been a physical reminder of God's unconditional love for me.

What are some of your memories of worshipping as a child or young person? I know not everyone had this opportunity to worship as a young person. Many of us came to faith as adults and now wish to share their faith with their kids and grandkids. When we worship God together as a family, our lives are changed. Each time we worship, we draw closer to each other and closer to God.

For several years I've served in Children's ministry and youth ministry. One of the questions that is often asked by families who are discerning how to best raise their children in faith is this: When is my child old enough to worship with the church family?

Let me ask you another question, "When are kids old enough to celebrate Christmas? Or Easter?" When are kids old enough to be a part of family dinners? From the moment they are born, children are old enough to worship with our church family. As an infant, they are learning that they are loved by God. They are learning that they are loved by their church family.

In the book of Matthew, Jesus teaches his disciples that the kingdom of heaven is for children. Throughout chapter 18 and 19 Jesus teaches the disciples that for us to be citizens of the kingdom of heaven, we need to approach God with joy and humility, like a child. This message builds up to his conclusion in Matthew 19:14: **"But Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.'** Matt. 19:14

The Fuller Youth Institute completed a nation-wide study in the United States a few years ago to look at the simple question, "What practices help support young people who grow up in Christian households to continue growing in their faith when they are in their 20s, 30s, 40s, and 50s?"

While the study didn't find one specific reason, it did find one practice that they saw in the childhood of almost every young adult who continues to practice their faith: Worship. Specifically worship on a regular basis with the total church family. Worship on a regular basis with all of the generations of the church family, every week. Worship with hymns, praying together, listening to messages, developing supportive relationships of faith with members of the church across different generations.

How can we raise our children and grandchildren in faith? If you only have one hour a week to lead your children to draw closer to Jesus, spend that hour in worship. Worship more than anything plants the seeds in young children for a lifetime of faith.

Preparing For Worship

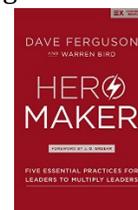
Scriptures for the coming week

Monday	Oct. 5:	Luke 10:1-16
Tuesday	Oct. 6:	Luke 10:17-20
Wednesday	Oct. 7:	John 20:19-23
Thursday	Oct. 8:	John 20:24-31
Friday	Oct. 9:	John 21:1-14
Saturday	Oct. 10:	John 21:15-25

Upcoming Worship Messages

- Oct. 4: The Hero Maker: Multiplication
- Oct. 11: The Hero Maker: Permission Giving
- Oct. 18: The Hero Maker: Disciple Making
- Oct. 25: The Hero Maker: Gift Activating

In Jesus' three short years of earthly ministry, he sacrificially invested in leaders who went on to change the world. In our message series Hero Maker, we will be equipped with practical steps to effectively develop leaders and multiply Jesus' influence for God's kingdom.



Our Church Family

Prayer concerns from our church family

Aura Tavernner, Judy Murray, Donna Rosiere, Jaccie Blaszczyk, Linda Riddle, Camden Garcia, Peggy Province, Nita Woodrel, Charles Baile, Irene Miller, Ann Wilson, Nancy Walters, Michael Smith (Hubert Neth's son-in-law), Jim Hudson; Alice Hanrahan, the O'Neal and Holmes family on the loss of their sister/aunt Virginia Ramsey

Birthdays for the coming week

- Oct. 5: Hayden Anderson, Jeremy Imboden, Hank McClung
- Oct. 7: Justyn Graham
- Oct. 8: Beverly Yung, Emma Baker, Charley Ridenhour, Lucy Ridenhour, Doris Rogers

Anniversaries for the coming week

- Oct. 7: Brandon and Aubrey Miller
- Oct. 8: Ryan and Mandy Abner

Connecting with Us

DVDs of worship services are also available.. Simply contact the church office to sign up to receive DVDs of each worship service. Email requests to jim@umcburg.org or call the church at 660-747-8158.



World Communion Sunday

Consider the value of Christians around the globe joining in communion on the same day. World Communion Day is October 4.

Communion will be offered during Sunday's service for the first time since COVID shut down March. The liturgy is the same, but the elements will be shared differently.

The last time communion was given, prepackaged elements were used and will be used this week, too. As guests arrive, they will be given a small cup with a wafer to have at their seats.

After the message, the communion liturgy will be shared. Participants will remain in their seats as we join together in sharing the elements.

Simply pull the tab to reveal the wafer, then a second seal has to be peeled off for the juice. If you have trouble, raise your hand and an usher will come to help.

After the benediction, please drop the used cup and seals in the trash as the doors.

John Wesley felt strongly that communion be a regular part of our worship, including it in the acts of piety. He was also a strong proponent of healthy practices.

Maintaining safe distance, hand sanitizer, and COVID safety procedures, communion elements will be shared safely any time communion is offered. The safety of our guests is the greatest priority. --Susan A. Smith

Historic Annual Conference Held

By Meryl Lin McKean, Lay Representative

The 2020 Missouri Annual Conference was unlike any other. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the conference was held virtually in late August. Instead of the normal event held in person over three to four days in June, the conference took place in two hours with more than 800 participants in the online webinar. Pastors Peter and Susan, Vada Postlethwait and I met at our church to share in the worship, prayer and business.

The theme of "KINDOM – INclude, INspire and INvite" was selected before the pandemic and racial justice movement swept across the country, and the theme proved to be very timely.

"God created us for relationship. We're all related, we're all kin," said Marsha Eichler, the conference sessions chair.

Delegates passed the 2021 budget which is \$1.2 million lower than the 2020 budget. Many local churches are continuing to pay 100% of their apportionments even though they are asked to pay only 75% because of the pandemic. The Missouri Conference has \$1.5 million in reserve, and it had a clean audit. Nineteen local churches closed in the past year.

First United Methodist Church

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Before the conference, I viewed many videos showing the good work of United Methodists and how our connectional giving makes a difference throughout the Show-Me State. A new initiative, supported by the offering at Annual Conference, is the Rural Missouri Connection which focuses on transportation, mental health, substance abuse, broadband access and workforce development.

The General Conference, the global decision-making body of the church, postponed its assembly until August 29-September 7, 2021 in Minneapolis. Delegates will consider proposals to resolve the long-term debate around LGBTQ inclusion. Please pray for the delegates in the coming months.

This prayer from the United Methodist Book of Worship seems especially relevant:

O gracious God, we pray for your holy Church universal, that you would be pleased to fill it with all truth, in all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, establish it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of him who died and rose again, and ever lives to make intercession for us, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen. – *The Book of Common Prayer, UM Book of Worship #501*



Welcome Patricia Sheffer

Sunday, September 27, Patricia transferred her membership from The Summit, in Lee's Summit. She now lives in Warrensburg where she has family; and her granddaughter Kayla Law came to Sunday's service, too.

As part of the liturgy, she chose to reaffirm her faith. United Methodists may reaffirm their faith at any time and a liturgy for that is available.

If this is something you feel would help you in your faith journey, contact Pastor Peter. His email is peter@umcburg.org, to arrange a time to do reaffirm your faith.

Rev. Peter Norton, Senior Pastor

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