

Associate Pastor Susan Smith's message notes from May 17, 2020

Strong Women of the Bible: Priscilla

Buried in scripture are stories of faith leaders who provide models still today, regardless of the historical changes that developed over the millenniums. The story of Priscilla and Aquilla is one New Testament story that teaches us more about being disciples.

At the beginning of Paul's second missionary trip, he met Priscilla and Aquilla. The three shared a common bond not only as skilled tentmakers but also as faithful Jews. The difference was that Paul was the transformed Jew sharing the good news of Jesus' life, death and resurrection.

Soon Priscilla and Aquilla joined Paul in his missionary work. While in Corinth, Paul, Priscilla and Aquilla worked together not only in the shop working on tents and sails but also spreading the story of Jesus that he was indeed the long-awaited Messiah.

When the dissension at the temple became riots among the Jews, the Roman proconsul was called in, they dismissed it, and Paul left teaching in the temple and established a house church next door to Priscilla and Aquilla. When the time came for Paul to leave Corinth and head to Ephesus, Priscilla and Aquilla went with him.

The story of the couple shows us how we can be called to use our gifts to do God's work. Paul's emphasis on Priscilla is an example of how God uses strong women in faith. The manner in which Priscilla is listed first provides a hint of how she breaks the stereotypes of the female role in ancient times and works side-by-side with her husband--not only in their craft but in the church.

Over our own lifetimes, faith-filled couples have blessed us by their modeling of how faith works in our lives regardless of challenges. Growing up in Montgomery City, I remember Beth and Burt. Beth had polio as a young woman which left her with a limp, yet despite this challenge, she and Burt raised their family and modeled their faith in God daily.

In our own church community are models I can list from our congregation: Mary Belle and Paul, June and Tom, Ruth and Harold, Nan and Bill. I have witnessed how they remained faithful despite life challenges. And today, I can also name young couples making a difference: Beth and Bryan, Kim and Dan, Krystle and Brian.

Life will hand all of us challenges, but God is always with us. We witness couples teaching us how to believe in God, how to live our faith, and how to grow in our faith. Another young couple is my own cousin and his wife, Neal and Amanda, who have two daughters; the youngest has Downs Syndrome so is one of the vulnerable in the midst of the current pandemic. Amanda uses the Facebook platform to share about her faith and how it helps her manage their challenges. She even posted one message which her older daughter Alyssa drew on the sidewalk: "God will shower us with his comfort through Christ."

Priscilla and Aquilla were ancient models of Christian disciples. We learn from them as they broke stereotypes, became missionaries with Paul in Ephesus, and then worked with Apollos and others to teach the good news. Look around today, and you too will find today's leaders modeling faith.



Bulletin Board

Scriptures for the coming week:

May 25:	Acts 2: 1-13
May 26:	Acts 2: 14-21
May 27:	Acts 2: 22-28
May 28:	Acts 2: 29-36
May 29:	Acts 2: 37-47
May 30:	Joel 2: 23-32

Upcoming Services

Services are 9:30 a.m. every Sunday on Facebook

- May 24: Strong Women of the Bible: Mary
- May 31: Pentacost—Happy, Happy Birthday

Prayer concerns from our church family:

Ann Wilson, Aura Tavernner, Judy Murray, Bill Brame, Donna Rosiere, Jaccie Blaszczyk, Linda Riddle, Camden Garcia, Peggy Province

Birthdays for the coming week:

May 24:	Karla Guier
May 25:	Gary Larson, Sharon Muir
May 26:	Bettina Christie, Earl Karas
May 28:	Justin Baker, Logan Carter, Addilyn Wiltse, Bryleigh Wiltse
May 30:	Kaylin Martin

Anniversaries for the coming week:

May 24:	Bob and Ginger Cochran, Gary and Dixie Larson
May 30:	Harvey and Earlene Christie Richard and Karin Smith



The Offering Plate

The pandemic directives changed in-person worship to online worship almost overnight. Fortunately, the church's leadership had already committed resources to prepare for online worship, so the transition was quickly made.

As we move forward, worship will continue to include an online presence. The gifts of the church family assure the ability to maintain and develop the equipment and team needed to broaden the church's reach to those of our congregation who are homebound and to those beyond our immediate community. This allows our church to continue our goal of *"Living that all may know Jesus."*

1. Mail your gifts to the church:
First United Methodist Church
141 E. Gay Street
Warrensburg, MO 64093
2. Go on-line and donate through the church's website: <https://www.umcburg.org>

A Behind-The-Scenes Look At The Production Of UMC-Burg's Online Worship Service



Warrensburg First United Methodist Church is fortunate to have a tech savvy team--made up of Andrew Arbeau, Ashley Ingram, Conner Cummings, and Katie Richardson--who have made online worship possible the last two months.

The behind-the-scenes process is no different than any production one would see on a Hollywood movie set. The first step is pre-production, which involves scheduling when to shoot people's parts and determining which order makes the most sense. It also includes determining where to put the lights, putting together an equipment list, and pulling in props for the set such as flowers and candles.

Andrew gets a copy of the sermon ahead of time, which has sections bolded where the pastor might want to emphasize a word or have a scripture reading. Andrew said, "I try to find three of these bolded parts so I can break the sermon into quarters. We then shoot each of these quarters twice and take the best of each. I take the quarters, put them together, and put a graphic on top, and it looks like the pastor talked nonstop for 20 minutes. In reality, there's a lot of stop and go in-between."

The second step is production, the actual day of filming. One interesting thing to note is two services are filmed in one week. As Andrew and Ashley explained, "Filming two days



every two weeks saves a huge chunk of time as opposed to blocking off two days a week every week." This, however, has its challenges. Ashley explained, "Definitely something we've noticed since starting this process is we have to keep everything consistent. For instance, we kept changing the colors of the vestments, and that got off so we have to make sure every Sunday has the same color, and we have to watch the candles and make sure they're always lit. We have to make sure everything is the same including people's outfits. We don't want someone's outfit changing in the middle of the service."

If you were to walk into the sanctuary on taping days, you would definitely feel like you were on a studio set. In the center aisle pointed directly at the podium, a camera is set

high on a tripod with a step ladder behind it for camera man and director Andrew. As director, Andrew looks for several things. "I'm looking for any moments that might come across awkwardly on camera. For example, if Peter is doing his sermon and he trips over some words, we may need to record it again, or if he needs a second to think before the prayer, I make sure it's not an uncomfortably long silence. I also look at the camera angles. For instance, we record two angles of the organ, one from behind the keyboard so you can see Alice's fingers moving and then another shot from the front of the organ."

Ashley runs slate--which means she is responsible for reading off scene, shot, take number and date. She also does the audio synching. Because the church does not have a true clapboard, Ashley claps after reading off the scene information. This makes it easier when editing to match up the video and audio because the clap creates a spike in the audio. To the right of the stage is a computer and sound board manned by Conner; multiple cords wind their way toward the person being recorded to connect microphones for a clear sound.

The third part of the process is post production. At this point Andrew and Ashley work on creating the slides. Andrew also selects the best take of each recorded element. He then puts all the elements in a folder and sends it to Katie online which can take up to two hours because of the size of the folder, which has been up to 33 gigabytes, a pretty large file size.

Because Andrew is so well-organized, Katie said, "I can get right to work editing; with everything in the right order it makes it much easier on me. I would say it takes probably at least two hours every time to edit, but sometimes longer. I do enjoy it! It can be tedious, but it's also something to get lost in. Plus I get a sneak peak of the beautiful music and the message for the week!"

The final step of production is the actual distribution of the service, meaning posting it on Facebook. Andrew said, "Emailing the link and releasing the video in what is called the Premiere option seemed like a nice option for us because the congregation could gather all at once to watch together."

By the time everyone in front of the camera and behind the scenes has done his or her job, many hours have been spent to put the final product together. However, as Conner said, "It's been a fun experience. I'm very thankful to Peter and everyone in the congregation. We wouldn't have been able to do any of it without their support."

