



Pastor Peter's message notes from June 7, 2020: **How to Pray Without Owning the Agenda**

A number of times in the Bible people come to Jesus and pray for something specific and immediate. The Centurion asks Jesus to heal his servant. Jesus hears his prayer and heals the servant. But there are other ways to pray. During the Sermon on the Mount in the gospel of Matthew when the disciples ask Jesus how they should pray, Jesus teaches them to pray without owning the agenda.

When we pray without owning the agenda, our prayers trust that in the end God will accomplish what He promised. This promise of God's ultimate victory comes out through Jesus' words during the Sermon on the Mount.

1When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

3 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

6 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Matthew 5:1-6

In this sermon, Jesus describes people who are suffering and yearning for the kingdom of God on Earth. Jesus promises a reversal. Even though you are poor today, one day, you will receive the kingdom of heaven. Even though you mourn today, someday you will be comforted. Even though you are meek, or taken advantage of by the authorities of the world, someday you will inherit the earth. Even though you are hungry for righteousness, someday you will be filled.

I have been overwhelmed this last week by the anguish and cry for justice in our country. Many times in my life I've read about a black man who died in police custody and seen images of hurt and cries for justice. I've been confused by images of peaceful protests turning into violence and looting. I've seen

this many times in my life, and I'm only 35 years old.

I've shared with you before that I drifted away from the Christian faith when I was in my early twenties. One of the things that brought me back to faith in Christ was hitting rock bottom and realizing that I didn't have the ability to change my life on my own. I just couldn't do it. It was only through the grace of Christ that I could live the life God was calling me to live.

I wonder if we are at a similar moment as a nation. I truly believe that most of the people I know want justice for all people, especially our black neighbors. We want peaceful, healthy neighborhoods. We want our police officers to be safe and respected as they put themselves at risk to keep us safe. And yet we don't know how to get there on our own. I think this hurt is bigger than any of us. Only Christ can bring the healing we need as a nation.

When we don't have the answers, we have to trust in God for guidance. During the Sermon on the Mount Jesus teaches us that prayer is less about getting our agenda across to God and more about receiving God's agenda in our lives. This is how Jesus tells us to pray:

- Pray to be more like Jesus
- Pray for the world to look more like the kingdom of heaven on earth
- Pray to be who God wants you to be, not who you want to be.
- Pray for what God wants the world to be, not what you want it to be.

As we move through this challenging time as a community, I'm asking all of us to pray the Lord's Prayer once a day (Matthew 6:9-13). I'm asking all of us to pray without owning the agenda. The Lord's Prayer reminds us that even when we are going through challenging times, Jesus is always with us. He is leading us into a place better than we could ever imagine. God, may your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

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, Beverly Jackson, Nita Woodrel

Birthdays for the coming week

June 15: Elyse Gremaud, Ethan Gremaud, Hugh Smith
June 16: Beckett Burton, Betty Horine, Art Norton, Patty Sommerkamp
June 19: Sarah Peel
June 20: Ginger Cochran, Pearl Warnken

Anniversaries for the coming week

June 14: Curt and Christi Cummings

Preparing For Worship

Scriptures for the coming week

June 15:	Luke 17: 1-10
June 16:	Luke 17: 11-19
June 17:	Luke 17: 20-21
June 18:	Luke 17: 22-37
June 19:	Mark 4: 30-32
June 20:	Mark 10: 13-16

Upcoming Services

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

- June 14: The Kingdom Coming
- June 21: The Kingdom Here and Now
- June 28: The Kingdom on Earth

Putting Faces To Names

A Look At Those Working Behind the Scenes To Keep You Connected To UMC-Burg

Behind UMCBurg.org in Print



Just before the coronavirus forced the church into a shutdown, a new idea was launched--create a weekly mailing for members unable to attend church.

And then the shut-down hit. Suddenly, it was important that we find a way to continuously communicate with all church members. The weekly newsletter was a solution to fill the void in communication.

The new idea was to provide a sermon abstract and news briefs to supplement the usual bulletin information. Who could do this? One obvious choice--Carol Hassler. She had already simplified the weekly bulletin providing announcements, birthdays, anniversaries and prayer requests. Carol then volunteered her time and talents in journalism to produce and distribute this newsletter: *UMCBurg.org in Print*.

Carol, who joined the church in 2002, taught English and journalism for 31 years at Warrensburg High School; she retired in 2014 but continues teaching part time. When COVID-19 closed the schools, Carol had to adapt to another challenge--online teaching.

As Carol took on the responsibility for the bulletins and now the weekly newsletter, she began putting her journalism skills to use. She said, "I tell my students now I have to practice what I preach."

Carol has added to the content of the newsletter by interviewing and writing feature articles so members can learn more about the stories of our members and of the church itself. This content shows her passion for the people and the work of the church. Carol said, "Everyone has a story to tell, and everyone's story deserves to be told."

Carol's talents and time make it possible to keep church members informed on a regular basis by using emails and snail mail for those who do not have internet. She said, "It's so important that the church finds ways to communicate with the congregation during this time. Realizing that the church is still here for us and reading other's stories lets us know we are not alone."

The work to get a weekly newsletter put together and mailed out takes time. Carol has spent hours interviewing, writing and designing the newsletter. She said, "I am really enjoying producing the newsletter. We welcome anyone who is interested in helping. I'm also always looking for people or topics to write about, so please email me with ideas."

God provides each one with special gifts, and ministry takes all types of gifts to carry God's mission forward. Carol's gifts for teaching, journalism, and communication allow her to do all that she can in any way she can to help the church live that all may know Jesus.

--submitted by Pastor Susan Smith

Behind The Camera



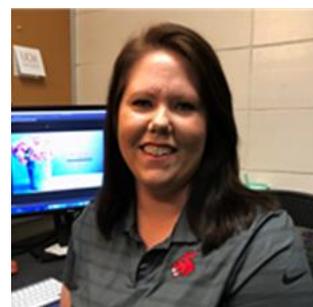
Andrew Arbeau, from Blue Springs, graduated in May from UCM with a bachelor's degree in Digital Media Production with an emphasis in Digital Cinema. Andrew began attending UMC-Burg in August 2018 ultimately becoming the AV coordinator and now the producer of the online worship services.



Conner Cummings, a Warrensburg native, has been attending FUMC for over 10 years. He is the praise band leader. Conner has a lot of background in music technology, so he has now gone behind the scenes making sure the audio works through the soundboard and computer for the recorded services



Ashley Ingram, also from Blue Springs, recently completed her junior year at UCM, and is working on a degree in instrumental music education. She began attending UMC-Burg when she came to college. Ashley is the production assistant and helps with sound recording, audio sync board and slide creation. A fun side note: Andrew and Ashley, who have been dating for six years, plan to get married at UMC-Burg next June.



Katie Richardson works for UCM's Athletic Department as the Video Operations Coordinator. She has a degree in Journalism with an emphasis in Broadcast News from the P.I. Reed School of Journalism at West Virginia University and a minor in music. Katie and her family have been attending UMC-Burg since the summer of 2014. Katie does much of the final editing of the online service and also sings in the church choir.