

*Pastor Peter's message notes from February 28, 2021*

## **Sins that People Are Okay With: Lying**

The Holy Spirit is described as the "spirit of truth" that will guide us to the truth (John 16:13). God calls us to live in the truth. And yet, we lie all of the time. We tell small lies. We tell big lies. Lying is one of the sins that people are okay with.

How many of you would sneak out to go to parties in high school? Am I the only one that did this? You would tell your parents you were going one place, but go another?

One time I got caught red-handed when I went with my friends to a haunted house in the city. As it turned out my parents weren't disappointed that I was hanging out with friends. They were mad that I lied to them about where we were going. Looking back on this and other similar experiences, I realize that lying to my parents created distance and distrust between us where there need not be.

Jesus clearly calls us to tell the truth. In all circumstances. Jesus tells us that living in the truth develops trust and creates healthy relationships.

1. The truth will heal our relationships.
2. The truth will heal our marriages.
3. The truth will heal our church.
4. The truth will heal our relationship with God.

The story of Barnabas, Annanias and Sapphira in Acts 4:32-5:11 shows us that honesty, transparency, accountability are God's will for us and our church.

The other day Doug Christie, our office manager, and I were looking at the year-end reports, and we saw something that didn't look good. One question asks how many young people were confirmed this last year. The truth was zero. We didn't host a confirmation class this past year. It was like a dagger in the heart. We have young people in the church, but we didn't provide the opportunity for them to be confirmed. It was tempting to make up a number or roll over the number from previous years, but that would be lying. It would be misrepresenting the truth. Here's the other thing lying would do. It would be ignoring the real need that our young people have to learn about Jesus.

Doug said something that I thought was really wise. He said, "Well it's easy. When we have decided that we are always going to tell the truth, you don't spend a lot of time trying to make up excuses. You tell the truth and start thinking about how to have a confirmation class next year."

As a result of these conversations, our church has decided to host a confirmation class starting in the fall of 2021. The students will be confirmed in the spring of 2022.

Confirmation is for students in 6, 7, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. On **Monday March 8 at 5:30 p.m.** we will have the first of several interest meetings to start signing up students and adult leaders and building excitement about this important ministry. Please pray about students who might be a part of confirmation and adult leaders who might mentor them to choose faith in Jesus for themselves.

Email us at [contact@umcburg.org](mailto:contact@umcburg.org) to get the Zoom invite to this important meeting. It will be fun. With the Holy Spirit we can do it!

## **Preparing For Worship**

### **Scriptures for the coming week**

Monday	March 8:	Luke 18:1-8
Tuesday	March 9:	Luke 18:9-14
Wednesday	March 10:	Luke 18:15-17
Thursday	March 11:	Luke 18:18-30
Friday	March 12:	Luke 18:31-34
Saturday	March 13:	Luke 18:35-43

### **Upcoming Worship Messages for Lent**

Mar. 7:	Sins That People Are Okay With: Greed
Mar. 14:	Sins That People Are Okay With: Self-Righteousness: Rev. Kim Jenne, Director of Connectional Ministries
Mar. 21:	Sins That People Are Okay With: Apathy
Mar. 28:	Sins That People Are Okay With: Violence

## **Church Worship Seasons**

**In-person Worship Resumes** this Sunday, March 7, and online will continue regardless. Everybody is reminded that CDC protocols will continue: masks, social distancing, hand sanitizer/washing, and no singing out loud by the congregation. We look forward to seeing you again as we resume meeting.

### **Service times for in-person worship:**

March 7, 14 & 21	9:30 am only with online
March 28, Palm Sunday	9:30 am <b>and</b> 11:00 am, both online
April 4, Easter Sunday	9:30 am <b>and</b> 11:00 am, both online

**Lent** Only 14 days of the 40 Lenten days have passed. This Christian season is a time of deep, personal reflection of one's faith journey. It ends on Holy Saturday, which is April 3, 2021. If you would like to learn more, check this link: [UMC & Lent](#).

**Holy Week** begins with Palm Sunday, March 28, 2021. There will be Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services at 6 p.m. These services will be in person but will also be online on the church website and the church's [Facebook page](#).

**Easter Sunday** is April 4. Mark your calendars to join us in person or online to celebrate Christ's resurrection.

## **Our Church Family**

### **Birthdays for the coming week:**

March 7:	Addyson Stoenner, Katrina Burton, Madison Baker
March 8:	Dorothy Jones, Jeff Imboden, Kelli Gilpin
March 10:	Richard Smith, Riley Young
March 13:	Sophia Weldon

### **Anniversaries for the coming week:**

March 8. . . . .	Donna and George Sample
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## Prayers for our church family

Joyce Smith (John Yost's sister); Jaccie Blaszczyk; Linda Riddle; Camden Garcia; Irene Miller; Nancy Walters; Michael Smith (Hubert Neth's son-in-law); Sherry Printz (recovering from back surgery); Jim Hudson; Alice Hanrahan; Waneta Lane; Genevieve Case's son Mark Case; Matilda Agyemang's mother Comfort; June Mellinger's family member Nathan, Olivia O'Brien's family on the death of her grandfather, and Michelle Schubert

[Anyone who wants to add to the prayer list may do so by emailing the request to [contact@umcburg.org](mailto:contact@umcburg.org), calling the church (660-747-8158), or making a direct request to Pastor Peter or Pastor Susan. Please make sure to leave a contact name and contact information with each prayer request, especially if emailed or left on the phone's answering machine.]



**Have you signed up and/or gotten the COVID vaccine?**

We work hard to make sure that in-person worship is a safe place for all those choosing to attend, but we also want to make sure to support the country's efforts to get everybody vaccinated as soon as possible.

The following information lists various paths to register for the vaccination. Please use this to help you in any way that it can to get your vaccination:

- call 1-800-748-7826 for one contact through the Care Connection for Aging
- email [information@goaging.org](mailto:information@goaging.org)
- check the website [Care Connection for COVID vaccine](https://www.careconnectionforaging.org/covid-19-vaccine)

Meryl Lin says they will aid individuals to register and even assist with transportation if needed.

There are two local websites to sign up for the vaccine in our community:

- <http://johnsoncountyhealth.org/covid-19-vaccine-in-johnson-county/>
- <https://wmmc.com/Covid-19/>

Another recommendation is to contact one of the pharmacies to see if they are going to offer vaccinations. Some have received them through Sommers here in Warrensburg, and Walmart is now offering them.

Walgreens is now taking reservations online, but are not certain when they will receive the vaccines in the store. The link for registering with Walgreens: [COVID vaccine at Walgreens](https://www.walgreens.com/COVID-vaccine-at-Walgreens)

If anyone else has a link or can share their own experience, please do so by emailing [susan@umcburg.org](mailto:susan@umcburg.org) or [carol@umcburg.org](mailto:carol@umcburg.org). We will share the information through Planning Center as soon as possible.

## Lay Delegate McKean asks for input on proposal



The Missouri Conference Mission Council has voted unanimously to recommend that the Missouri Conference reduce the number of districts from nine to five beginning July 1, 2022. The proposal will be considered by clergy and lay voting members at this June's annual conference.

To learn more about the proposal and to register to attend one of the virtual town hall meetings scheduled for March, go to <http://www.moumethodist.org/redistricting>

Please share your thoughts on the proposal with our lay delegate, Meryl Lin McKean, who will vote on behalf of our church at annual conference.

## UMW Meets Via Emails During COVID

UMW president Vicki Ollison will continue holding monthly meetings through an email format through the month of April. Anyone wishing to receive the monthly meeting emails may call Vicki at 660-362-0044 or email her at [eagle11@charter.net](mailto:eagle11@charter.net).



## Confirmation Class Prepares for Fall Start

We are excited to host

a confirmation class starting in the fall of 2021.

Confirmation is a wonderful opportunity for students to practice spiritual disciplines, learn about the history and theology of Methodism, experience religious immersions through class trips, and discover what it means to be a follower of Christ.

We will have monthly interest meetings between now and the fall to build excitement, answer questions about the class and recruit students and adult leaders.

If you are a youth, or a parent of a confirmation-age youth (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade), interested in this opportunity to grow in faith, please get in touch!

We also encourage parents and guardians to go through the confirmation class with their kids. Each week students will be asked to pray, read scripture, and reflect on questions of faith. The whole family draws closer to God when we learn together.

If you would like to be an adult mentor to help guide our students to choose faith in Jesus for themselves, please come to these interest meetings!

Contact our church office for more information and the Zoom link to the interest meeting at [contact@umcburg.org](mailto:contact@umcburg.org).

*Living that all may know Jesus*

## Looking for ways to serve?

Remember John Wesley's quote: *Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.*



### Open Hearts, Open Books Ministry Team

We are seeking 3-5 volunteers for the Open Hearts, Open Books ministry team to develop a plan to assist the local school district in any way that we can.

The funds collected need to be distributed appropriately to students and/or teachers as identified by the team. The goal is to have a plan and to make appropriate connections with the school district by the beginning of the 2021-22 school year.

Please email Regina Higgins at [rhiggins@ucmo.edu](mailto:rhiggins@ucmo.edu) or Pastor Susan at [susan@umcburg.org](mailto:susan@umcburg.org) if you want to participate or have suggestions and/or questions.

### Safe Gatherings certifications encouraged

The volunteer team helps resume and expand these programs. All volunteers must complete Safe Gatherings certification which is located on the website: [Safe Gatherings](http://SafeGatherings.org).

Please contact Children & Young Families minister Vada Postlethwait for more information at [vada@umcburg.org](mailto:vada@umcburg.org) or [doug@umcburg.org](mailto:doug@umcburg.org).

### Tech Team looking for volunteers

The Tech Team will train anybody who is interested in learning. If you are interested, email [sonia@umcburg.org](mailto:sonia@umcburg.org) or call the church office.

COVID season has taught us the value of our online format and how important it is to have a team cross-trained and ready to step in and help produce our services at all times during the week such as in the case of a funeral or other special event needing to be shared online.

### Managing archives & membership records

Volunteers are needed to join in an effort to audit the old membership records to assure that the Planning Center database is accurate. If you are interested in helping, please join us on Wednesday mornings in the church office.

Additionally, the church has a large set of archives with pictures and records that needs reviewing, organizing, and culling. We need those who recognize faces from over the years to help us identify and organize these artifacts.

If you want to join in the effort, call the church office at 660-747-8158 or email Doug at [doug@umcburg.org](mailto:doug@umcburg.org) or Pastor Susan at [susan@umcburg.org](mailto:susan@umcburg.org) for more information.

### Volunteering helps expand God's ministry

As you read through these ideas, maybe you wonder what you can do. There are many more tasks that need to be done or ministries that need your help. Volunteering at the church empowers us to do even more to live that others may know Jesus. If you hear a whisper--or a loud call--that you can volunteer for even an hour a week, contact the church. Call 660-747-8158 or email [contact@umcburg.org](mailto:contact@umcburg.org).

## 12 Months of Giving: March



Most all of us can remember the devastation that resulted and the feeling of wanting to help when, almost 10 years ago on May 22, 2011, Joplin, Missouri was hit by a massive tornado that tore a six-mile wide path across southwestern Missouri. This tragedy killed over 100 people and affected thousands more. That spring, several storms struck both the Midwest and the South. There to help immediately was UMCOR (United Methodist Church Committee on Relief).

In fewer than eight weeks, UMCOR provided a quarter of a million dollars in emergency grants to 15 United Methodist conferences across the United States, most to these hard hit areas. In that same period, more than 9,300 cleaning buckets--including kits put together by UMC-Burg members--were shipped to devastated areas.

This is only one instance of the aid provided both nationally and globally by UMCOR, the humanitarian relief and development arm of the United Methodist Church Committee on Relief, which assists United Methodists and churches in becoming involved in disaster relief. UMCOR's goal is "to alleviate suffering and to be a source of help and hope for those left most vulnerable."

The organization assists worldwide those who suffer natural or human-caused disasters including famine, hurricanes, tornadoes, war, flood, fire, and other events. UMCOR also assists with migration, hunger and poverty, water sanitation, global health, creation care (agriculture), women and children, and sustainable development. Specifically, UMCOR provides relief, response and long-term recovery grants.

One of the most impressive aspects of UMCOR is their philosophy of "Early in and last out." According to UMCOR's website, "When a disaster overwhelms a community's ability to recover on its own, UMCOR provides essential relief supplies and supports long-term rebuilding efforts. While UMCOR is not a first-response organization, it stands ready to accompany communities in need over the long haul of their recovery until a 'new normal' is established after a crisis."

As you learn more about UMCOR this month, please consider giving a financial gift. Your gift, joined with those of others, makes a significant impact in the lives of individuals and communities. In fact, 100 percent of your gift goes to serve others. You can give online through the UMC-Burg website or mail a check to the church. Also, now that we are back worshipping in person, you can drop off a donation all during March in the UMCOR buckets which will be placed in the sanctuary.

