

Pastor Peter Norton's message notes from Oct. 4, 2020

The Hero Maker: Permission Giving

Last week we began a discussion on Hero Making looking at how Jesus used his three years of ministry to invest in a small group of disciples and then sent them out to make more disciples for God. Jesus gave them permission to invite all people in the world to be a part of the family of God.

People have been contacting me and the church staff all week to share the dream that God has put on their heart. Susan Jackson and other members of the college age ministry team say God is calling them to lead a Bible study for young people. Jana Miller talked with me right after the worship service about getting a team together to dream about how to make the church computer lab a resource for the students and families in our community who need access to the internet. Permission-giving is a shift from seeing what God can do through my own leadership to seeing what God can do through other leaders.

In the book of John Jesus appears to the disciples after his resurrection and gives them his authority to go out and change the world for God. John 20:19 begins by describing how even though Peter, John and Mary have seen the risen Christ, the disciples have locked themselves in a house because they are afraid of what will happen if they venture out and tell the world about Jesus. Jesus appears to the disciples in their moment of fear. He reassures them again that he is alive. Then he gives them permission to go out to change the world for God saying, **"As the Father has sent me, so I send you."** John 20:21

Jesus consistently found opportunities to say to the leaders that God sent him, "I see in you" a leader who can change the world for God. This statement of encouragement empowered the disciples to have the same conversations and make other disciples.

When I was in my early twenties, I thought I was called to be a public-school teacher. I spent a year teaching English in Cartagena, Colombia. It was a wonderful experience, but when I returned to Missouri, I was confused about where I would invest my life. The members of my local church saw something in me. I remember Dave Conley, the senior pastor and several other church members saying, "I see in you a leader who can help people grow closer to God." They asked me to help lead the youth group. To visit people in the hospital. Later on, they asked me to preach. Because heroes in the church saw something in me, I started to see myself as a hero maker for God.

Who have been the hero makers in your life? I bet that you are where you are today because someone at some point took the time to tell you, "I see in you a hero. God can guide you to do amazing things for Jesus." Prayerfully select someone you can approach with an I see in you affirmation this week. Ask God who he is calling you to encourage to take their next step in faith.

Preparing For Worship

Scriptures for the coming week

Monday	Oct. 19: Habbakkuk 2:14
Tuesday	Oct. 20: Matthew 28:19-20
Wednesday	Oct. 21: John 14:12
Thursday	Oct. 22: Acts 1:1-8
Friday	Oct. 23: Acts 13:2-4
Saturday	Oct. 24: Ephesians 3:20; Timothy 5:22

Upcoming Worship Messages

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.



- Oct. 18: The Hero Maker: Disciple Making
- Oct. 25: The Hero Maker: Gift Activating
- Nov. 1: The Hero Maker: Kingdom Building

Our Church Family

Prayer concerns from our church family

Aura Tavernner, Judy Murray, Donna Rosiere, Jaccie Blaszczyk, Linda Riddle, Camden Garcia, Peggy Province, Charles Baile, Irene Miller, Ann Wilson, Nancy Walters, Michael Smith (Hubert Neth's son-in-law), Jim Hudson; Alice Hanrahan, Ed Woodrel on the passing of his wife, Nita.

Birthdays for the coming week

- Oct. 18: Ryan Abner, Ken Messer
- Oct. 19: Earlene Christie, Carol Hassler, Nathan Ridenhour, Debbie Ward
- Oct. 20: Rose Marie Kinder, Laura Smith
- Oct. 21: Lisa Schmidli
- Oct. 23: Liam Rowland

Anniversaries for the coming week

- Oct. 23: Robert and Denise Carr

Connecting with Us

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



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Pastor Peter’s sermon theme for November 1 is “Kingdom Building” and we will also honor the saints who have passed this year. This theme also connects to the Missouri Conference’s theme **“KINDOM: INclude, INspire, INVite.”**

Learning to be hero makers this Sunday looks back on the saints who were hero makers in our own lives. How we can become hero makers now?

Help us celebrate the saints in our lives. If you have a saint to remember, please share the name and how that saint was a hero maker in your life. We want to share the stories of our saints with others here in the newsletter.

Also, help us make sure we have an accurate list of the saints in the lives of our church family. Send us the names and their final day in their earthly journey. Email the names and dates along with your reflections to susan@umcburg.org or carol@umcburg.org.

Election Day Approaching; Pray On!

Social justice is a major emphasis in the United Methodist Church and outlined in the Book of Discipline.

In paragraph 164 under social principles, section five provides the church’s stand on the political community. **“While our allegiance to God takes precedence over our allegiance to any state, we acknowledge the vital function of government as a principal vehicle for the ordering of society. . . .”**

A) **Basic Freedoms and Human Rights**--We hold governments responsible for the protection of the rights of the people to free and fair elections. . .

B) **Political Responsibility**--The strength of a political system depends upon the full and willing participation of its citizens. . . .”



November 3 is quickly approaching and as shared last week, Bishop Farr asks that we pray daily for the election. Pray for the “free and fair elections” to be maintained. Pray for the leadership of our country. Pray for the good of all who live within our country.

Dear All-knowing God, guide us in making decisions this election for the good of all. Help us to hear the truth, to vote our conscience; to focus on unity and peace, and to accept the outcome graciously. Amen.

--Pastor Susan

Community Thanksgiving Meal Continues Despite COVID Season

The Johnson County Crop Walk continues the tradition of offering a Thanksgiving meal on Thursday, November 26, from 11 A.M. to 1 P.M. making one change to accommodate the COVID season.

Because of the restrictions on large gatherings, social distancing and masks, this year’s meal will be for curbside pick-up or delivery only.

Workers will be following strict food handling guidelines to prepare, package and serve the meals using the First United Methodist Church’s kitchen and Family Life Center.



The menu will be turkey, mashed potatoes, brown gravy, stuffing, green bean casserole, rolls, sweet potato casserole, and dessert.

Reservations need to be made by Monday, November 23. Contact Doug Christie at (660)624-9597 or emailing johnsoncountycropwalk@hotmail.com.

The Crop Walk team provided two options for serving the meal to the Church Council. The Church Council reviewed and recommended using the pick-up and delivery option to make sure everybody remains safe during the COVID season.

Helping During COVID Season

Many young families face difficulties due to COVID. In this church family, a member has lost a job and is trying to manage paying rent, putting food on the table and filling the vehicle with gas. Vicki Ollison is working with this family spearheading efforts to meet the family’s needs. If you can provide assistance, please call Vicki at 660-362-0044 or email her at eagle11@charter.net. Vicki can answer your questions and help reach out to the family.