

*Pastor Peter's message notes from March 21, 2021*

## Sins People Are Okay With: Apathy

Today we are going to talk about the sin of apathy. If I'm honest, I don't really care about this topic. Just kidding!

In Revelation, Jesus challenges the church in Laodicea to care. Jesus tells them, "I know your works; you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot." Revelation 3:15.

Apathy moves us back and forth along the spectrum from "I don't care," to "It doesn't matter." When we are apathetic, "Difficulty becomes rendered a vice, and ease a virtue," Bart Hildreth, pastor at First St. Charles UMC.

Don't we all want to care? Why do we become apathetic like the church in Laodicea? Is it that we have lost too much and don't want to risk being hurt again? Have we cared so long and hard about problems in the world that we experience compassion fatigue? Does God care about us?

The joy of the gospel message is that God cares about us so deeply that he sent his only son to be with us. To suffer all of the pain that we suffer. To take our sin and death so that we might have new life. Far from telling us that nothing matters, Jesus tells us that we can change the world.

Several years ago, I helped lead a confirmation class with a woman named Gwynn Erdmann. She and her husband were a joy to be around. They loved spending time with their kids and encouraging them to grow in their faith. One day Gwynn told the class how God saved her life.

When she gave birth to her second son, Justin, she became homeless. She had nowhere to live. But God placed her Uncle George in her life. He invited her, her newborn and her two-year-old son to live with him and his family in his home in Bellefontaine, Missouri where he was a Methodist minister.

The people of the church cared about her and found ways to support her and her two children. She got a job at their daycare center. She went on to work for a doctor and then earn a degree as an ER nurse.

When I called Gwynn a few weeks ago to hear her story again, I could hear the determination she had in her voice. She cared so deeply about her two boys that she pushed herself to the limit. Her uncle George and the people of her church cared about her so much that they prayed and supported her for years. Her faith kept her focused on the promise of a better life. God cared about her deeply. Last year she got to dance with her second son, Justin, at his wedding.

Right now, we are at a critical time for so many young families and children in our community. We are coming out of a pandemic that, despite our best efforts, has caused young people to lose time in their education and in their spiritual formation.

What if we leaned in to support these children and young families?

We have had scores of members of our church step up to support children in our congregation to grow in their relationship with Jesus through our children's church and nursery program. God calls us to care.

**"How is Jesus calling you to change the world?"**

## Preparing For Worship

### Scriptures for the coming week

Monday, March 22	Proverbs 13:2 (NIV)
Tuesday, March 23	Matthew 5:1-12
Wednesday, March 24	Matthew 5:38-42
Thursday, March 25	Matthew 5:43-48
Friday, March 26	Matthew 26:47-56
Saturday, March 27	Matthew 26:57-68

### Upcoming Worship Messages for Lent

- Mar. 28: Sins That People Are Okay With: Violence  
April 1: Maundy Thursday: What should I do with Jesus?  
April 2: Good Friday: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?  
April 4: EASTER SUNDAY! Why do you look for the living among the dead?

## Church Worship Seasons

**Holy Week** begins with **Palm Sunday**, March 28, and will be the first Sunday the 11 a.m. traditional worship service will again be offered. The 9:30 a.m. service will feature the Praise Band while the 11 a.m. has traditional music.

### Service times for in-person and online worship

March 28: Palm Sunday	9:30 a.m. <b>and</b> 11 a.m.
April 1: Maundy Thursday	6 p.m. traditional with communion
April 2: Good Friday	6 p.m. with Praise Band
April 4: Easter Sunday	9:30 a.m. <b>and</b> 11 a.m.

Remember when attending in-person worship, CDC protocols continue: masks, social distancing, hand sanitizer/washing, and no singing out loud by the congregation.

## Prayers for our church family

Linda Riddle; Camden Garcia; Irene Miller; Nancy Walters; Michael Smith (Hubert Neth's son-in-law); Jim Hudson; Alice Hanrahan; Waneta Lane; Genevieve Case's son Mark Case; Michelle Schubert, Bob Boyd's stepson Douglas Sparling, Bernie Haldiman, Hallie Wilson, Pete Blaszczyk, Jana Miller, and Nathan (June & Tom Mellinger's family)

[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.]

## Our Church Family

### Birthdays for the coming week:

Monday, March 29 Timothy Burton  
Wednesday, March 31 Chance Riddle, Rowan Schmidli  
Thursday, April 1 Emersyn Miller, Sharon Marnholtz  
Saturday, April 3 Baird Brock

### No anniversaries this coming week.

### God Helps Pick Up the Pieces

I was at Bass Pro today and heard a loud crash and something shattering. Being nosy, I walked **towards** the sound and saw some people whispering and looking back to the end of the next aisle. When I walked down that aisle, I saw that an elderly man had hit a shelf and many things had fallen to the ground and broken. He was kneeling on the floor embarrassed, frantically trying to clean up. I felt so bad for him.

Everyone was just standing there staring at him. So I went and knelt beside him and told him not to worry and started helping him pick up the broken pieces. After about a minute, the store manager came and knelt beside us and said, "Leave it, we will clean this up." The man, totally embarrassed said, "I need to pay for all this." The manager smiled, helped him to his feet and said, "No sir, we have insurance for this, you do not have to pay anything!"

If you have read this far, give me another minute. Wherever you are, close your eyes, and imagine God doing the same for you! Imagine the broken pieces of your mistakes or the pieces of your broken heart from all the blows life has thrown at you all over the floor, and you're there trying to collect all of the pieces and fix them yourself. Now imagine God comes and kneels right down beside you, smiles and says to you, "Leave it all there, I will clean this up for you."

He loves you that much and wants to put all of those pieces back together if you will let Him! With Him we have this insurance, and it's free! All you have to do is ask Him to save you, to forgive you, to help you, and to heal you. He's faithful, I promise! He did it for me! He will do it for you.

### Let's help our neighbors far and near!

This month our giving is focused on supporting UMCOR's global disaster response and on reestablishing UMC-Burg's Job Squad to help those in our local congregation and community.

For each dollar donated, 50 cents will go to UMCOR and 50 cents will go to funding the Job Squad. However, you are welcome to designate your donation however you choose.

Look for the UMCOR donation bucket in the atrium each Sunday in March



## UMC-Burg Forming Early Response Team

James 2:17 *In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.*

For March's month of giving, as part of supporting UMCOR, we are re-introducing the Early Response Team (ERT).

ERTs are not first-response emergency workers nor are they recovery/rebuild/repair teams. Under specific guidelines, they assist survivors without causing further harm or being a burden to the affected community.

ERTs fill specific needs early after a disaster while providing a caring Christian presence. They:

- Provide a Christian presence, be a part of the caring ministry of listening.
- Take steps to prevent further damage to a family's personal property: tarps, flood clean-out, debris removal
- Help manage donated materials, gather information, or help as needed
- Observe and report survivor's needs to local disaster operations

UMC-Burg formed an ERT around 2008 with 10 people. Some traveled to St Louis, Sedalia and northwest Missouri for tornado debris clean-up. The need continues to grow for teams to respond to natural disasters as we have seen in the recent flooding and tornadoes across the country.

To help with these disasters, UMC-Burg is looking to resurrect an ERT. If you want more information or are interested in lending your time and talent to this mission, email [contact@umcburg.org](mailto:contact@umcburg.org) or call the church office at 747-8158.

You can become ERT certified by participating in a three-phase training via ZOOM (in the comfort of your home) on:

- April 23<sup>rd</sup> 3:00 – 5:30
- April 24<sup>th</sup> 8:30 – 11:00
- May 1<sup>st</sup> 8:30 – 11:00

**Training is \$15 per person** and registration closes April 12. Use the following website to register: <https://missouri-reg.brtaapp.com/ERTTraining2021> Completely fill-out the form and select Heartland for District and BASIC for Course selection.

With this training, you are ERT certified for 3-years. Please contact UMC-Burg's front office when you successfully complete this training.

**Acts 20:35** *In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'*

## Nominations Sought for Leadership Committees

Each year new members are nominated to serve a three-year term on church leadership committees, which meet once a month. Most committees meet on Zoom.

This spring, the nominating committee is accepting nominations for church leadership committees. In March, April and May, the nominating committee will review all nominations and discern the most appropriate leaders to serve our congregation as we strive to live into Jesus' mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

We are looking for people to serve on the following committees:

**Trustees:** Responsible for managing the physical church building and property and the funds and bills related to the building and The Rock; oversee the maintenance of the two properties.

**Pastor Parish Relations Committee:** Focuses on personnel and staffing needs.

**Finance Committee:** Oversees the budget and ensures the church's financial obligations are being met.

**Nominating Committee:** Identifies people to serve on church leadership committees.

Nomination forms are available on our website and at our church office. You can nominate yourself or someone else. Nominations can be turned in to the church office in person or via email at [contact@umcburg.org](mailto:contact@umcburg.org). Your nominations are welcome and much appreciated.



## Preparation begins for fall confirmation class

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.

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).

## General Conference Postponed To Summer '22

The General Conference of the United Methodist Church has again been postponed because of pandemic-related issues including travel.

The meeting of the global decision-making body is now scheduled for August 29-September 6, 2022. It had earlier been rescheduled for late August of this year.

When the conference meets in person in Minneapolis, it is expected to consider the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation, a widely-reported plan that was created in response to the ongoing differences over LGBTQ ordination and marriage.

<https://www.gracethroughseparation.com/legislation>,

Please continue to pray for the global church, the delegates, and our FUMC family as we learn more about the issues and move forward together through the guidance of our Lord and Savior.



Sharon Muir noticed the sad state of the silver on display in the office. She offered to polish them up so we got them down and off she went with them. About a week later she returned with them shining bright.

These three pieces are etched with "M.E. Church South 1895." If anybody can share more of their history, please email the church at [contact@umcburg.org](mailto:contact@umcburg.org). Thank you to Sharon for the loving care she provided these artifacts of our church. —Pastor Susan.



**Wanted**

**Nursery Director  
and Nursery Workers**

**For more information contact  
[vada@umcburg.org](mailto:vada@umcburg.org)**

## Father Richard Rohr's prayer of confession

I thank you, Lord Jesus, for becoming a human being so I do not have to pretend or try to be God.

I thank you, Lord Jesus, for becoming finite and limited so I do not have to pretend that I am infinite and limitless.

I thank you, crucified God, for becoming mortal so I do not have to try to make myself immortal.

I thank you, Lord Jesus, for becoming inferior so I do not have to pretend that I am superior to anyone...

I thank you for becoming weak, so I don't have to be strong.

I thank you for being willing to be considered imperfect and strange, so I do not have to be perfect and normal.

I thank you, Lord Jesus, for being willing to be disapproved of, so I do not have to try so hard to be approved and liked.

I thank you for being considered a failure, so I do not have to give my life trying to pretend I'm a success.

I thank you for being wrong by the standards of religion and state, so I do not have to be right anywhere.

I thank you for being poor in every way, so I do not have to be rich in any way.

I thank you, Lord Jesus, for being all of the things humanity despises and fears, so I can accept myself and others in you.

AMEN!