



Warrensburg First United Methodist Church

141 E. Gay St., Warrensburg, MO 64093 660.747.8158 www.umcburg.org

Living That All May Know Jesus

October, 2019

Vol. XXIV

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:30am Connections
Connected Band

10:45am Traditional
Blended with choir
and "Kids Own Worship."

*A nursery is available for children
through 2 years of age.*

A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY

In October and November we will be encouraging each other to pray about God's generosity and our response in faith.

A brief update on our financial situation

I had the opportunity this summer and fall to attend 17 listening sessions to hear the vision God has put into the hearts of the people of our church. In nearly every listening session I heard the desire to have more information available about our church's finances and opportunities for giving.

During our Generosity Initiative in October and November we will be investing lots of time communicating about the finances God has entrusted us to steward for ministry. In 2006 and 2007 the church discerned it was important to add an addition to our building to have more room for additional ministries and to reach new people, especially young people.

The church took on \$3 million dollars in debt to pay for this addition. In November of 2019 we have paid down this debt to \$824,000. Major accomplishment!

We recently renegotiated our loan to have a lower monthly payment. Our interest rate is 5.12%. Our monthly payment is \$6,990. At the current rate of payment, we will pay off the loan in July of 2034. We have the option to renegotiate our loan every five years.

Our current annual budget is just around \$400,000. These funds go to create exciting ministries that bring new people to faith like our Sunday School for elementary school kids, college age ministry, and worship services. These funds also provide for staffing, programming, building maintenance, and mission funds that go beyond our walls to support Christian ministry in Missouri and around the world. We'll spend some time in worship to walk through how God is using our resources to change the world in more detail. (Continues on Pg. 3)

MINISTRY IN MOTION - SUNDAY MORNING CHURCH BUS

Need a ride to church? Call the office by Noon on Friday to arrange a bus stop at your home. The FUMC bus is handicap accessible.

The Strength of the Church is YOU!

Everything that lives starts with a seed. In the Parable of the Sower (Luke 8:4-8) Jesus said, "A sower went out to sow his seed and as he sowed, some fell on the path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered for lack of moisture. Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a hundred-fold." As he said this, he called out, "Let anyone with ears to hear, listen!"

Let the Holy Ghost speak through your giving. The strength of the church is you. This year as pledge season comes around please listen to your heart and hear what Jesus would want you to do. All the things we do here in the church are because of you!

Marlene Millstead

UMW WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Donna Sample for being selected Heartland District's **UMW Woman of the Year**. She was recognized Oct. 12th at the UMW District Fall meeting for her many years of service in United Methodist Women. Donna continues the UMW legacy of faith, hope and love in action.



ROCK STUDENTS SPONSORS

Thank you to the many families who responded to this new ministry opportunity! We are so happy to see the students engaged with their host families and look forward to seeing the Rock students and their American families share about their experiences and activities with us!

WANTED: BELL RINGERS!

Here is an easy and fun way to share your faith and help in "doing the most good" for our neighbors in need in Johnson County. The Salvation Army is seeking volunteers to ring bells at those iconic red kettles in November and December. Church groups, families and individuals are all welcome to spend a few hours bell ringing at Warrensburg stores. You pick the date, time and location! To register, simply go to registertoring.com or call 660 422-4304. – Meryl Lin McKean

FOOD PANTRY DRIVE CONTINUES

The Big Box is gone for now, but our mission isn't over! Please continue to bring food donations and place them in the cabinet next to the Family Life Center! Remember, Hunger Takes No Vacation! Keep our mission going! Thanks! – Glenda Goetz

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

We are excited to be offering Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University beginning Wednesday, Dec. 3rd. Watch your bulletin and our Facebook page for more information and to sign up!

ELECTRONIC GIVING

Winter snows – when church attendance lags during the bad weather – don't have to be a hit to the church's finances. The weather service and TV stations are predicting a bad winter especially in January and February. Please remember that the church's bills keep coming during these times. Electronic and credit card giving can help keep the church's finances steady throughout the year. Sign up today to discover how your church can skip slow months! – Marlene Millstead

Introducing First Conversations!

What is *First Conversations*?

First Conversations are small group conversations pertinent to Christians in today's 21st century culture, both personally and in community, locally and globally.

How are *First Conversations* going to be introduced?

Beginning October 30, First UMC offers *First Conversations* in conjunction with Pastor Peter's November sermons that will use Mike Slaughter's book, *Shiny Gods*, and its companion devotional book, *First*. The one-hour conversations are 5:30 to 6:30 in the Family Life Center (FLC). A light supper will be provided participants. Taking a seat at one of the round tables to eat develops the conversation group. A volunteer leader will begin the discussion around 5:45.

What is the purpose of *First Conversations*?

John Wesley began the Methodist movement emphasizing the importance of a small group, aka class meetings, to nurture one's faith and to add accountability to one's action as a Christian.

What does one expect from a *First Conversation* session?

Because today's work schedules and evening activities make time commitments challenging, the session begins with a quick supper prior to a guided conversation. The conversation is to be done within one hour so those who excuse themselves at 6:30 may leave with no regrets even if others continue in discussion.

What plans does the church have after the first four weeks of *First Conversations*?

Planning is being done to incorporate Wesley-style class meetings through *First Conversations* beginning in January 2020. Topics, resources, and structure guidelines are in development and there will be at least two different structures:

1. Church-wide conversations based on special series being used in the weekly sermons or seasonal studies.
2. Additional conversation groups will be set up either formally or informally. These may be traditional Wesleyan accountability-focused conversations or they may be based on topics and/or books.

First Conversations can be designed to match the needs of the participants. They can meet at different times and locations that best suit those participating. The *First Conversations* Planning Team is also available to help those who wish to establish their own small group conversations.

A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY, CONT'D FROM PG. 1...

Our Generosity Initiative

During our Generosity Initiative, I'm asking everyone to do three things:

1. Pray about where God is calling you to give each day
2. Attend worship Nov 3, 10, and 17th
3. Participate in either Financial Peace University or First Conversations. You can sign up through our church office

Measurable Goals for our Culture of Generosity

1. Our congregation collectively pays off \$100,000 in personal debt by Dec 31, 2020
2. 5 new giving units by Dec 15, 2019
3. Total pledge increases by 5% for 2020 by Dec 15, 2019

God has blessed us with a wonderful church family and countless opportunities for ministry in our community. I'm so excited to be your pastor and can't wait to dream with you about where God is calling us to go and give this next year!

Rev. Peter Norton

CARE CENTER/HOMEBOUND OUTREACH

Help us keep in touch with our Care Center and Homebound members through visits, cards or calls. Vicki Ollison is leading this effort and welcomes all interested volunteers. Contact her at (660)-362-0044 or email (eagle11@charter.net).

GROUP CHARGE CONFERENCE

Join us for a group charge conference at First UMC Sedalia. This is an inspiring time to meet United Methodists from across the district, listen to a good speaker, and attend a workshop on leadership. Charge Conference is Sunday, Oct. 27th, 2-4pm at First UMC Sedalia.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER NEWSLETTER ITEMS...

With the holidays around the corner and winter weather coming up faster than we'd like, we will be working up to a month ahead of schedule on bulletins and newsletters these next two months. The deadlines for articles, announcements, etc. are...

BULLETINS – Noon Monday for that week's bulletin. Please let us know how long you want your announcement to run if other than one time. We assume it's for the current week unless you tell us otherwise. The earlier you can get us your announcements/etc. the better!

NEWSLETTER – November 14 and December 10

FACEBOOK LIKES

We've successfully doubled our likes on Facebook in the past three months so a big thank you to everyone that has liked our page on Facebook! Now, here's a challenge...

Facebook's algorithms for business pages and what gets displayed to users is based largely on the number of likes the business' page has. The magic numbers are 1000, 2000, 5000, and 10,000. As a business page hits these marks the page gets more showings to casual users. So, we'd like to ask that you take a few minutes and do this to help...

Go to our Facebook page. While you have the page open, look for the page's "like count" (usually on the right side of the page). Click the link that says "Invite Your Friends to Like this Page." You'll get a list of your friends and buttons to click for each friend to invite them to like the page. Please do that the next time you're on FB and let's see if we can hit 1,000 like by Thanksgiving!