



Warrensburg First United Methodist Church

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

Living That All May Know Jesus

March/April, 2020

Vol. XXV

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.*

Longing for Easter During the Season of the Corona Virus

Hello First Warrensburg United Methodist Church Family,

During this season of lent we are encouraging each other as Christians to spend extra time each day in prayer, scriptural study, and worship as we reflect on our mortality and sin. As we face the only global pandemic that any of us have lived through, we are more aware than ever of our mortality and the fragileness of human life. Our message series during lent has been entitled, "Confronting Evil." We have discussed confronting the evil and sin of bitterness, betrayal, cynicism, and putting Satan behind us.

As we face the possibility of spending weeks and even months with less human contact, we will need to confront the evil of cynicism. I don't know about you, but it really got me down when I heard that March Madness was canceled, and the Jennies ended their fantastic season with cancellation of games.

Even though we are walking together through a season of physical isolation, we can stay connected to each other. Even though we confront evil and death in our world, these things are overcome by the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter. We don't have to give into cynicism. Jesus gives us reason for hope.

I'm sure that you are watching the news and information from the Center for Disease Control and White House closely.

Given recent recommendations coming from our leaders in the federal and local government our church's administrative council has discerned it is important to take the following measures to ensure the safety of our congregation and do our part to slow the spread of the virus.

- We will suspend in person worship in favor of online worship through April 1, 2020.
- We will suspend all gatherings hosted at the church through April 1, 2020.
- Some church staff will continue to work from our facility but have the option of working from home.

The Administrative council will meet on March 31 and every two weeks going forward via telephone to determine how to best encourage our congregation to stay connected during these times of physical isolation. We will also review new information and recommendations provided by the Center for Disease control to determine when it will be safe to resume in person worship and other gatherings.

Continue to give towards God's ministries through our church. If you are in habit of giving in person on Sundays, consider giving online through our website. Call the church office if you have any questions about how to accomplish this.

I am really proud of our staff and congregation for the time and extra care they have already put in to follow the CDC recommendations.

In Matthew 15:32 Jesus gives his disciples a seemingly impossible responsibility to care for other people during a time of scarcity.

Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, 'I have compassion for the crowd, because they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat; and I do not want to send them away hungry, for they might faint on the way.' Matthew 15:32

The disciples respond with cynicism, saying that it is impossible to care for so many people. They think only about their individual ability to meet the needs of others. Jesus asks them to give what they have, blesses it, and multiplies it. The crowd is moved by this act of giving and all 4,000 men (and I'm sure just as many women and children) have enough to eat.

Our church has everything we need to shine the hope of Jesus to our community in Warrensburg and Johnson county.

Let's stay connected to Jesus and each other,
Rev. Peter Norton

Stay connected to Jesus and each other

1. Worship with us online once a week
2. Call one person each day in our community for encouragement and prayer
3. Pray for those who are most vulnerable in our community



College Age Ministry Team Formed to Reach New Students for Jesus

Our congregation is growing and looking outside our walls to reach new people for Jesus. One of the largest groups of people in our community without a church home are students ages 18-25 at UCM and State Fair Community College. We currently have a good nucleus of college students connected to our church, but there are hundreds of students without a church home during these formative years of their lives.

We recently formed a college age ministry team to come alongside our college age students to encourage them to grow in their relationship with Jesus. Bob Muir, Ginger Cochran, and Steve Mills will be working with Denish Otieno and Preston Parks and the other college students connected to our church to develop a

discipleship plan for new college age students to connect to Jesus through our congregation.

College Age Ministry Mission Statement: Our congregation lives so that all area college age students know Jesus.

Big Goals for the next 6- 12 months

- By May 1, 2020 make sure that every resident at the Rock is connected with a host family who wants to be.
- By June 1, 2020 develop a discipleship plan for new college age students to develop relationships with existing members of our church to know Jesus more deeply.
- By August 1, 2020 work alongside the residents of the Rock so that they offer ministries that introduce other college age students to Jesus.
- By August 2, 2020 recruit an additional four leaders in the church to come alongside our students at the Rock to develop relationships and help them manage living together.

Small Group Ministry Facebook Group

Many may have noticed that a Small Group Ministry group is now listed on the church's Facebook page. This is a step into offering scripture and discussion on-line.

This group started with the first week of Lent. Currently the scripture connections are with Pastor Peter's suggested readings that prepare for each Sunday's message.

Initially the group was posted as private but is now public. All are welcome to join and encouraged to post comments, ask questions, and provide support within the group.

Check it out at this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/848615225590163/> .

Preparing for Future Small Groups

The planning team for First Conversations, the small group ministry in our church, is preparing resources as members complete their current study.

If you have any requests or suggestions for a small group, please email them to susan@umcburg.org. The team is doing all it can to provide meaningful resources for all groups.

After the team meeting this week, watch for updates on suggested resources. Remember that topics such as the Philippians study and Adam Hamilton's *The Walk* can be offered again for different groups.

Groups can choose their own meeting times and places, but letting the office know those times and who is attending is appreciated. Again, just email Pastor Susan with your information, suggestions, and questions.

Congregational Care

Under the current reality of the coronavirus epidemic, the visits to our members in the various care centers has been stopped. Still, the team is concerned that each member remains connected, therefore, the card ministry portion of the team is essential.

Wanda Dahman spearheads this effort, but each member can contribute by sending cards and making phone calls.

Please let the team know what you are doing and how we can help. Contact Vicki Ollison at eagle11@charter.net or Pastor Susan at susan@umcburg.org.

Marlene Retirement, Please Send Cards

Our longtime staff member Marlene Milstead is retiring after 19 years of faithful service. We had planned to celebrate her ministry with a BBQ potluck on April 5th after church, but because of the Corona Virus, we will postpone this event until we are all able to meet together in person. We all have the opportunity to express our appreciation for her ministry by sending cards for our church office. Marlene is looking forward to more time with her husband Jim.

Starting in April, 2020 our church will have our bookkeeping work done through the Teresa Colster CPA, LLC accounting firm. This Warrensburg based firm does the bookkeeping work for Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church and Christ Church Episcopal here in Warrensburg. They come highly recommended. Our administrative council believes that the good financial ministry Marlene provided will continue on with the Teresa Colster CPA, LLC accounting firm.

Please send cards for Marlene to our church at:

First Warrensburg United Methodist Church
141 East Gay Street
Warrensburg, MO 64093

Baptism of Hudson Vesecky

We welcomed Hudson Vesecky into our family of faith on March 15th through baptism. We are looking forward to what God will do through you and our church in the coming years.

Congratulations to Josh and Lauren and their family!



CHILDREN AND YOUNG FAMILIES MINISTRY

Meet Vada Postlethwait

After a lengthy interview process, we are pleased to announce that Vada Postlethwait will be helping us reach new children and young families for Jesus as our Children and Young Family Minister. Vada is a leader that we raised at First Warrensburg UMC. Years ago, our church raised her in faith as a young person and gave her leadership opportunities as a young adult. Now she will be equipping new leaders to pass down the Good News of Jesus to the next generation.

“This position is one that has always been very close to my heart. I spent my youth in this church, going on youth trips, working in the nursery, and even aiding and teaching in the preschool for many years. The idea and possibility of continuing to work with children and their families to help them learn and grow in their own faith has been a passion in my heart.” Vada Postlethwait.

Vada brings professional experience as a certified public-school teacher to this position as well as years of experience in local churches. She has already been instrumental recruiting and equipping many new leaders to pour into the next generation as a member of our Children’s Ministry Team. Vada will supervise Preston Parks, our Next Generation Student Intern and continue to work with our Children’s Ministry Team with the goal of continuing to equip more and more leaders to work with children in our church and community. Over 50% of Warrensburg and Johnson County are not a part of a community of faith. Vada’s work will be to continue to disciple leaders so that we can reach an exponential number of young families for Jesus.

“The Children and Young Family Minister position is a passion and a calling for me. It is a way to grow myself and others as disciples of Jesus Christ. I can only imagine what possibilities there are within the current and future congregation members. I know Warrensburg United Methodist Church is a strong and resilient church, and I want to help by working with the children and young families,” Vada Postlethwait.



Meet Preston Parks

To help us reach new children and young families for Jesus, Preston Parks will join our staff as our Next Generation Student Intern. Preston is passionate about sharing the Good News of Jesus with young people and developing new leaders. He will work with Vada Postlethwait, our Children and Young Family Minister and Children’s Ministry Team to recruit new leaders and pour into the next generation.

Preston is a new resident of the Rock Student Ministry program and is excited about discipling college age and high school students to work with younger students. Preston is a student at UCM and is majoring in Automotive Technology Management and Minor in Business Administration. He is graduate of Summit Christian Academy and comes to us with passion and experience in student ministries. Preston started a Bible study during High School to encourage his friends and classmates to grow deeper in their relationship with God. He will be bringing an entrepreneurial spirit to our church.

The Food Pantry always needs us! Remember you can bring your donations to the cabinet outside the FLC! Hunger takes no vacation, especially right now!!!

Nominating New Leaders for Jesus

Each member of the body of Christ is given gifts and a mission. Some are called to feed the hungry, to preach, to visit people in the hospital. There are many differing ways that Christians can serve. In the United Methodist Church, some mature Christians are called to the ministry of strategically leading the church through service in the areas of finance, trustees, pastor parish relations, and nominating new leaders.

Each year new leaders are nominated to these areas of leadership to serve a three-year term on the finance, trustees, pastor parish relations, and nominating committees. Our administrative council agreed that these leaders are called to hold each other accountable to strive to live up to the following high standards.

During the month of March, the nominating committee will be accepting nominations for committee leaders. In the months of 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.

- I will strive to keep the disciplines of Christian life, understanding that no one leads in faith who is not growing in faith. To that end, I will:
 - pray regularly
 - study scripture regularly
 - worship every Sunday I am healthy and in town
 - give a tithe
 - belong to at least one small group where I am nurtured and can grow
 - serve in at least one ministry outside my specific area of responsibility
 - and seek opportunities to witness my faith
- I will strive to lead and teach in a manner consistent with *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*, especially with regard to the organization and administration of the United Methodist Church, with the mission of The United Methodist Church, and my own individual leadership description.
- I will seek to lead the church outward its mission: *“to live so that all may know Jesus.” by “ Making new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. ”*
- I will strive to place the church’s needs for ministry above my own desires and preferences.
- I will, at every opportunity, seek ways to develop others who will develop others as leaders in the church.
- I will have high expectations of myself and others and will work toward excellence in every area of ministry.
- I will strive to be both self-directed and accountable to others for my ministry.
- I will seek opportunities to collaborate with others whenever possible.
- I will strive to be flexible because ministry can be unpredictable.
- I will always seek to learn new ways of effectiveness in ministry.
- I will seek to resolve differences in a Christ-like manner, will keep appropriate boundaries in communication, and understand that passive aggressive behavior will not be tolerated.
- I will strive to take initiative and responsibility and, as a leader, work to build community within the church and among the leadership board.
- I will seek to communicate with others clearly and regularly.
- I will keep confidences and work towards unity—remembering always we are bound to one another through loyalty, respect, and mutual support.
- I will keep all leadership conversations with the utmost confidentiality when appropriate and understand that any failure to keep confidentiality will be taken as a serious breach of trust.
- I will recognize that failure is okay – failing to try is not.
- I will strive to have fun, remembering that joy is contagious and a clear sign of the new life offered in Jesus Christ.

Your nominations are welcome and much appreciated. Nomination forms are available on the church website and in the office. Nominations can be turned in to the church office in person or via email at publisher@umcburg.org.

UMW NOTES AND INFO

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT...

Our program booklet is in process, so here is a brief summary until it is ready. Also, I have included information about the Heartland District Spring Book Read and the District Spring Meeting.

I'm looking forward to beginning a new year of helping women, children and youth around the world. You are such special women and I am so thankful for knowing and working with you. Please call or email me if you have questions and bring a friend to a meeting. Vicki Ollison 660-362-0044

UMW 1st UMC WBG 2020 Programs and dates

All meetings in Rm. 141 @ 1:30 pm on 3rd Tuesday of the month, except May 2, Sept. 19 and Dec. 5
Pres., Vicki Ollison; V.P., Jana Miller; Sec., Ellie Carter; Tres., Debbie Brown.

April 21—Hostess, ?; response, Donna Sample; Program, TBA.

April 25—Heartland District Spring Meeting @ Pleasant Hill UMC

May 2, Saturday—Spring Unit Meeting—Rm. 141 @1:30 pm—Program, TBA

August 9—UMW Sunday

Sept. 19, Saturday—Fall Unit Meeting—Hostess, Exec. Com; Devotion, Peggy Province; Program, TBA

Oct. 20—Hostess, Ellie Carter; Devotion, Annette Erickson; Program—Pledge Service

Nov. 17—Hostess, Donna Sample; Devotion, Ginger Baile; Program, World Thank Offering, Jana Miller

Dec. 5, Saturday—Christmas Unit Meeting—Hostess, Exec. Comm.; Devotion, Wilma Bushmeyer; Program, Exec. Com.

Ladies,

Please make plans to attend our Heartland District Spring Meeting, focusing on Climate Justice. The title of our program is PERMISSION TO LAUGH: HOW LEVITY IN THE CLIMATE CONVERSATION CAN INSPIRE ACTION.

Our speaker will be Kellie Case. Kellie is a graduate of the University of Missouri-Kansas City. She holds Bachelor of Science degrees in Environmental Studies and Geology. Additionally, she earned minor degrees in Environmental Sustainability and Business.

Kellie is currently the Program Manager at Green Works in Kansas City. Green Works is a 13-year strong non-profit responsible for the dissemination of environmental education and workforce development of urban youth. She is the former president of the Student Environmental Coalition at UMKC. With a "boots on the ground" mentality, she and her team hosted numerous Missouri River clean up events in cooperation with Missouri River Relief and Healthy Rivers Partnerships.

She believes getting students in direct contact with the natural environment instills a greater sense of stewardship of the planet as a whole.

This proud mother of two college graduates is currently renovating a 100-year old over/under duplex in Midtown Kansas City using her 25 years of design experience blended with principles of sustainability.

With the support of Kellie and Green Works, we will have hands-on youth climate activities all morning long. Please invite and encourage your youth to attend. The programming will be fun and informative.

One of the hands-on projects will model building a school out of waste materials. You can refer to our UMW Reading Program Selection, THE SODA BOTTLE SCHOOL for more information. If you are bringing youth, have your congregations collect empty soda pop bottles (16oz) for the project. Bring the washed bottles to the meeting with your youth.

Finally... invite, invite, invite. Share this email and the information. I can't stress enough how if you are excited, your members will be excited as well. Look for more information and the registration form in our upcoming newsletter.

Love,

Holly Urie

Heartland District UMW VP

UMW CONTINUED...

The United Methodist Women will meet Tuesday, April 21, at 1:30 pm in Room 141. Our program focus will be the Journey Home homeless shelter. Erica Collins and another board member will speak to us about its operation. We will also have an ingathering of feminine hygiene products for the shelter. All women of the church are invited to attend and learn about this needed mission in our community.

Ladies,

Please extend our invitation to all of your members for our 2020 Heartland District Spring Book Read. We are so excited to host this event and we have a very special morning planned.

The book we have chosen is THE SAME SKY. It is currently available on AMAZON. The book's narrative is driven by two storylines. One of which involves a young girl trying to make her way up from Honduras to the United States by way of a migrant caravan. There is much to discuss.

Along with our book discussion, we will have an opportunity for your unit to complete the #1. criteria of The Mai Gray Charter for Racial Justice Club by learning about the culture of Honduras. We have a traditional Honduran breakfast planned. In addition, our Pastor Chris Sams and his wife Becky will tell us about the mission trip they took there.

Our facilitator for the book discussion is Susan Yoss. Susan has attended Adrian UMC and supported UMW for 19 years. She is excited about the mission work of United Methodist Women and attended Mission U for the first time in 2019.

Susan has worked in education for 29 years. She is a licensed professional counselor and a certified rehabilitation counselor. She currently works for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor who helps with employment for individuals with disabilities.

In addition, we will have mission resources available, including a limited number of 2020 UMW Reading Program books for purchase.

We would love to have an R.S.V.P. from each unit, but we also do not want to exclude anyone from attending that might decide to come at the last minute. If you can let us know an approximate number by March 7th, we would greatly appreciate it. However, please make sure your members know they are welcome even without an official R.S.V.P.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Love,

Holly Urie

Heartland District UMW Vice-President



WHS Girls Sextet performed at FUMC 10:45 service March 8. They sang Psalm 67 by Julie Knowles.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Emersyn Miller	Birth	1-Apr
Baird Brock	Birth	3-Apr
Austin Jones	Birth	3-Apr
Rachel Stark-Wroblewski	Birth	3-Apr
Jeff & Marilyn Imboden	Wedding	5-Apr
Rhonda McClung	Birth	6-Apr
Jackson Nimmo	Birth	7-Apr
Marion & Irma Woods	Wedding	7-Apr
Ally Hassler	Birth	8-Apr
Alyson Imboden	Birth	8-Apr
Baird Brock & Rose Marie Kinder	Wedding	10-Apr
Larry Yung	Birth	10-Apr
Ellie Gilpin	Birth	11-Apr
Dave & Carrie Ewing	Wedding	12-Apr
Madison Ilnicky	Birth	12-Apr
Finnean Price	Birth	16-Apr
Ed Wirthwein III	Birth	16-Apr
Dragos Stefan-Dogar	Birth	17-Apr
Mary Carr	Birth	19-Apr
Sean Fall	Birth	20-Apr
Iva Metge	Birth	20-Apr
Kristen Adcock	Birth	21-Apr
Barb Carder	Birth	21-Apr
Greg Lightfoot	Birth	21-Apr
Joshua Harencak	Birth	22-Apr
Tyler Henderson	Birth	22-Apr
Susan A. Smith	Birth	24-Apr
Alex Schumacher	Birth	25-Apr
Carris Cummings	Birth	27-Apr
D.J. & Margie Short	Wedding	27-Apr
Linda Baker	Birth	28-Apr
Bob & Marilyn Boyd	Wedding	28-Apr
Chase Farmer	Birth	28-Apr
Ron Holmes	Birth	28-Apr
Novella Perrin	Birth	28-Apr
Chloe Ridenhour	Birth	28-Apr
Ivan Rogers	Birth	28-Apr
Fran Waller	Birth	28-Apr
Alice Repp	Birth	30-Apr

EVENTS ON OUR CALENDAR

At this time all events, activities, and group meetings are suspended until the Administrative Council discerns that it is safe to resume them.



OUTREACH TEAM

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.

MINISTRY IN MOTION DRIVERS

We are in need of additional drivers for this important ministry! Please contact Chuck Linville to help out!