

Pastor Peter's message notes from Jan. 3, 2021

## Living That All May Know Jesus: In Our Heart

Several years ago, 66 members of our church gathered for a time of prayer, discernment, and vision to draft a mission statement that would guide the ministry of our church into the future.

Dee Hudson, a long-time member of our church, attended this visioning session and gave a speech the following Sunday sharing the mission statement created with the congregation: "Living that all may know Jesus." She spoke about God's desire for us to continually "search for a more excellent way of being the church," the need for all of us to be "willing to change," and the recognition that the church is the body of Christ, and it takes every single person contributing in a meaningful way to realize the fulfillment of our potential for God.

Dee said, "We recognized it takes talented musicians, creative teachers, forceful leaders, caring volunteers, conscientious ministers (both lay and professional), willing committee members, and faithful attenders to move a church forward."

The letter to the Colossians shares our mission and offers us wisdom and guidance on how to succeed. Colossians calls us to think globally to "**seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.**" Col 3:1. When we think globally, Jesus stretches our imagination of what is possible. We start to see how God can use us to change the world.

Steve Mills, who heads up our medical mission to Jamaica, has a global vision. Steve emphasizes that those who travel and serve are changed in their own hearts through the relationships they develop and the witness of faith they hear from those who receive medical care.

Colossians also calls us to act locally to live our lives rooted in Jesus, serving him and accomplishing his mission. Through the everyday details of our lives, we can become more like Jesus. Colossians 3:17 says, "**And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.**"

When we commit to following the practices of faith that are described in the scriptures in our daily lives, over time, we become more and more like Jesus. We experience more of the compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience described in Colossians 3:12. The more that we live for Jesus, the more he changes our hearts. We believe that to change the world for Jesus, we need to let Jesus change us.

When we join a congregation of the United Methodist Church, we agree to support each other to grow closer to God through prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. The little things we do every day can have both a local and a global impact.

I encourage you to take time as we are starting the new year to write out specifically how God is calling you to live that all may know Jesus in 2021.

## Preparing For Worship

### Scriptures for the coming week

Monday	Jan. 11: Leviticus 19:18
Tuesday	Jan. 12: Proverbs 24:28-29; 25:21-22
Wednesday	Jan. 13: Lamentations 3:40-42
Thursday	Jan. 14: Matthew 5:43-44
Friday	Jan. 15: 1 John 5:1-5
Saturday	Jan. 16: Romans 12:2-3

### Upcoming Worship Messages

- Jan. 10: Living That All May Know Jesus: In Our Church
- Jan. 17: Living That All May Know Jesus: In The World

## Our Church Family

### Prayer concerns from our church family

Aura Tavernner, Judy Murray, Donna Rosiere, Jaccie Blaszczyk, Linda Riddle, Camden Garcia, Peggy Province, Irene Miller, Ann Wilson, Nancy Walters, Michael Smith (Hubert Neth's son-in-law), Jim Hudson, Alice Hanrahan, Waneta Lane, Earlene Christie; Genevieve Case's son Mark Case, Michelle Schubert, the O'Neal and Holmes families on the passing of Ken O'Neal's brother Bill O'Neal, Doris Grigsby's nephews

### Birthdays for the coming week

- Jan. 11: Dale Smith, Mary Belle Rowland
- Jan. 12: Kim Blackburn, Reese Honan, Sandy Karas
- Jan. 13: Curtis Cummings
- Jan. 15: Barb Metcalf
- Jan. 16: Nathan Peel



Our church sign lets all who pass by know that our mission is to "live that all may know Jesus" both locally and globally.

### UMC-Burg Sets 12 Months of Giving

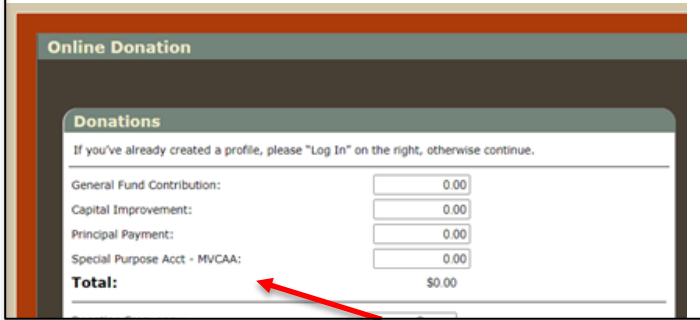
This year our church has decided to focus on a specific organization each month to impact our giving to our church, community and mission. You will find information on each month's mission in the newsletter, on Facebook, and during worship services. Many of these we have supported in the past years and some are new. Each year the finance committee will review and edit the list.

This year's schedule:

- January: Jamaica Medical Mission
- February: Pathways out of Poverty
- March: United Methodist Committee on Relief-UMCOR
- April: CROP
- May: Heifer International
- June: Survival House
- July: Undies for Sunday
- August: Johnson County Food Center
- September: United Methodist Women
- October: Big Brothers Big Sisters
- November: Christmas Store
- December: Missouri Valley Community Action Agency

In the spirit of doing our Father's work, we would not only like to have you donate to these worthy causes, but we also need volunteers to assist in promoting and organizing each mission. If you have a special interest in one of the organizations listed above, please contact the church office for more details and to volunteer.

We have made giving to these organizations easier for you! For those of you who give through the church website, the organization will be listed in the options for donations. For instance, in the picture below, you can see an option to give to MVCAA (Missouri Valley Community Action Agency).

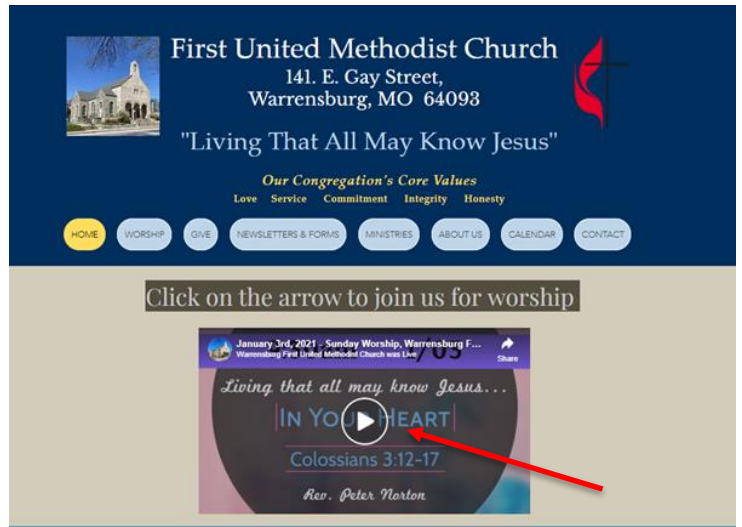


### In-Person Worship Remains Paused

The Church Council has decided to continue to pause in person worship and select events for the time being.

On January 21, 2021 the council will meet with Dr. David Glover and review updated health information regarding COVID-19.

At the December Church Council meeting, Dr. Glover said it is possible that we could be looking at a much safer environment in a few weeks; therefore, it may be safe and appropriate to resume in person worship and all other events in late January or early February 2021.



### Church Provides Website Link, DVDs Of Services

We've made it easier to access our online worship services! Go to the homepage on the church's website—[umcburg.org](http://umcburg.org)—and click on the arrow. The service will start immediately—no having to scroll through Facebook. You can watch live each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. or later at your own convenience.

If you do not have internet access but have a DVD player, we are happy to mail DVDs of the worship services to you. We are currently doing that for several parishioners, so don't hesitate to ask.

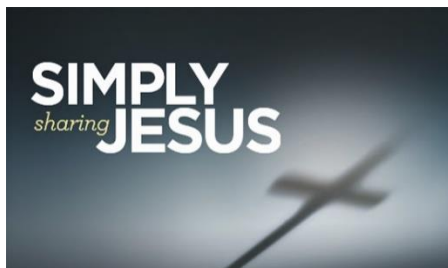
As usual, you can continue to join us for worship on Facebook. Links will be emailed each Sunday for both Facebook and the website.

If you have any technology issues, please call the church office or email [contact@umcburg.org](mailto:contact@umcburg.org). We'll be glad to help!

### Would you like to have more confidence sharing your faith with others?

Join us for an 8-week evangelism class where we develop the practice of inviting people to have a relationship with Jesus.

- February 1 – March 22, 2021
- Mondays on Zoom from 4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Led by Roger Ross, the director of Congregational Excellence at the Missouri Annual Conference
- For more information call the church office at 660-747-8158 or email [contact@umcburg.org](mailto:contact@umcburg.org).



## Jamaica Medical Mission Has Served Others For Over 20 Years

One of the longest-running and most successful missions sponsored by UMC-Burg is the Jamaica Medical Mission, which got its start over 20 years ago.

According to Steve Mills, who now coordinates the mission, in 1998 the idea began when the Outreach Committee at UMC-Burg was discussing ways to reach out beyond the local community with missions. A memorial fund had been received to fund missions and children's programming. The Outreach Committee had been funding missions primarily from the proceeds of the annual hog roast but now had additional funding.

The committee learned that church member Beverly Blankenship had been invited to join a medical mission to Jamaica lead by a former colleague of hers, Dr. Wally Carpenter. She joined the 1998 team and returned with such enthusiasm that she and two others from UMC-Burg were part of the '99 mission; six from Warrensburg joined as a part of the 2000 mission.

As the 2001 mission was being planned, 12 volunteers were recruited for the October 2001 mission lead by an Omaha group. Steve and Lynda Mills were last minute additions. The depression in tourism following 9/11 led to frequent comments by Jamaicans who expected the mission to be cancelled due to discouragement of travel from the U.S. at that time. However, the group was able to fulfill its mission, traveling to Jamaica in October 2001.

The youth were also encouraged to get involved when youth director Guy Albert and Dr. David Glover organized two youth mission trips to Jamaica during the early 2000s.

In 2002, Beverly Blankenship began organizing and leading annual Volunteer in Mission medical groups with a major emphasis on collecting and sorting donated medicines with significant support from Dr. Jayne Brockhaus. Beginning with the 2005 mission, Beverly asked Steve Mills, Don Riffle, and Dennis Foresman to assist with organizing the missions. They have continued this role since that time.

As Steve continued working with the Jamaica mission, he realized the medical missions provided a unique opportunity for undergraduate pre-medical and pre-nursing students and worked with about 40 college students during 10 missions.

Initially, Steve and Lynda joined teams lead by Dr. Dean Thomson of Nebraska City to enable college students to work in the clinic in ways not usually possible in the States. Steve explained, "Although volunteers can assist in medical offices in the States, volunteers in a mission team can be more engaged in all aspects of treating patients. Students can quickly determine if medicine and serving patients will be their career."

Six missions were scheduled during the summer and two during spring breaks at UCM. During the first seven trips, students were enrolled in a one-hour service learning course and collected data and reported on an environmental factor affecting the ability to deliver medical care in Falmouth.

Going on the mission trip definitely solidified Kylia Clark's career decision; she is now working as a pharmacy tech. She said, "My trip to Jamaica was transformative. When

I arrived, I had thoughts of pursuing pharmacy, but I had no real idea of what pharmacy entailed or if it was a career path I was interested in. Now working as a pharmacy technician, I realize the trip set a decent foundation for situations I would encounter in the pharmacy setting. I think this experience is well needed for people going into healthcare. The Jamaica Medical Mission helped me to solidify my passion for pharmacy and offered me hands-on experience I wouldn't have necessarily gotten anywhere else, which is valuable to us as healthcare providers and to our future patients."

Understanding the far-reaching effects the mission has on others, Steve emphasized, "This is not just a Methodist mission. The tentacles of this mission go throughout this community and beyond."

Clearly, Steve is passionate about the Jamaica medical mission, having been on 22 trips. He stressed the importance of continuing the trip: "This mission maintains and builds relationships with existing and new friends from whom we can learn important lessons. Jamaicans have faced many financial, personal and cultural extremes and often respond to extremes that would stress us out with the comment 'No problem, it's just a situation.' Jamaicans know Americans by what they see on CNN and their encounters with American tourists. We can provide a Christian perspective."

Steve continues to encourage others in our community to join the mission. He said, "Without recruiting others, Dr. Carpenter's effort with one trip to Falmouth in the late '80s would not have resulted in 12-15 teams continuing his work for Christ. Each of us has the responsibility to find others to continue to build those relationships."

Currently, Steve is considering organizing a mission trip to Jamaica for the first week of June. Making the trip will be determined by the interest of volunteers, the lift of travel restrictions and the availability of the COVID vaccine. Even if a team is unable to make the trip, Steve said they will continue their mission by providing a way to support the infrastructure.

If you are interested in joining the team, contact Steve Mills at 660-441-8309 or [smills@ucmo.edu](mailto:smills@ucmo.edu). Financial support is also appreciated. Send checks to UMC-Burg with Jamaica Mission in the memo line. You can also donate specifically to the Jamaica mission through the online giving button on the church website.

*\*This is the first article in a series. Find out more about what it's like to be part of this mission in upcoming weeks.*



**Surviving The Difficult Times: A Reflection on Challenges, Hope, Kindness, and Strength of Faith**

-By Ann Wilson

As the new year arrives, I look back over 2020. This past year has brought with it many different challenges. Covid-19 has changed all of our lives. We have had to adjust and change our lifestyles to avoid this dreadful illness. Having groceries delivered or picked up, masks to ward off the germs, limitations of where we can go, separated from our families and friends—I could go on and on about the detrimental effects. The worst challenge, of course, is for those who have lost family members and friends to this horrible disease.

Others have been isolated because of their age or other factors that put them even more at risk. Seniors have been locked down in nursing facilities, distancing them from their families. Some of us have been seriously ill and others homebound. We are living in a painful time in history with much suffering.

Amid these difficult times, we now see hope on the horizon. A vaccine has been discovered to fight and perhaps end the Covid-19 rage.

Benevolent individuals have helped those affected. Our hospitals with doctors and nurses working around the clock have made great sacrifices to treat those affected with the dreadful malady of Covid-19.

Community groups have bound together to help in these efforts. Our churches, government agencies, and non-profit charities, and our country and the world have fought tirelessly to help us through this horrendous time in history.

These bible verses uplifting us come to mind:

**"I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me."**  
*Philippians 4:13*

**"In the world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."** *John 16:33*

My favorite,

**"But those that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint."** *Isaiah 40:31*

I will close with a poem that inspires me:

THE OAK TREE  
By Johnny Ray Ryder, Jr.

A mighty wind blew night and day.  
It stole the oak tree's leaves away.  
Then snapped its boughs and pulled its bark  
Until the oak was tired and stark.

But still the oak tree stood its ground  
While other trees fell all around.  
The weary wind gave up and spoke,  
How can you still be standing, oak?

The oak tree said I know that you  
Can break each branch of mine in two,  
Carry every leaf away,  
Shake my limbs and make me sway.

But I have roots stretched in the earth  
Growing stronger since my birth.  
You'll never touch them, for you see,  
They are the deepest part of me.

Until today, I wasn't sure  
Of just how much I could endure,  
But now I've found, with thanks to you.  
I am stronger than I ever knew.

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This poem has great meaning for me. It represents the strength of my faith. My faith has grown over the years throughout my Christian journey, bringing me closer to God.

No matter what negative force or circumstances I meet throughout my life, I know that I am not alone. The Lord will help me, sustain me, and cause me to overcome!



**Position Available**

**Praise Band Director**

We are looking for a praise band director who loves Jesus and music. The praise band director will recruit and train the praise band to accomplish the church's mission. The praise band director will be self-motivated and able to prioritize duties. He/she will be able to coach a band to lead life-changing worship.

Resumes and references can be emailed to [contact@umcburg.org](mailto:contact@umcburg.org) or mailed to the church office at 141 E. Gay St. Warrensburg, MO 64093

**A Christmas Memory**

*By Bernie Clark*

Christmas 1943  
Brother got a bike  
I got a sled  
Snow comes  
He wants to trade  
I say yes  
Spring comes  
He wants to trade back  
Nope