

Rev. Jenne's message notes from March 14, 2021

Sins People Are Okay With: Pride

The sermon series, "Sins People Are Okay With," continued with Rev. Kim Jenne, the Missouri conference's Director for Connectional Excellence.

Rev. Jenne shifted the phrase "sins people are okay with," and put it in these words: "those behaviors and attitudes we have convinced ourselves are appropriate or even, good, so we have justified our indulgence in them." But as we delve into the teachings of Jesus, we discover something altogether different; that, in fact, these behaviors or thoughts often lead us further away from God rather than draw us closer.

She focused on the sin of *pride* identifying it as the "archetypal sin, the sin from which **all other sins** proceed as from a root." All vices, all sin follow the prideful pattern of loving a created thing over the Creator. With a reference to the character Mr. Darcy from *Pride and Prejudice*, she pointed that prideful people want superior status over others.

The antidote for the sin of pride is humility. Lent offers us the opportunity to intentionally cultivate humility personally, but also in the community of the local church and for the United Methodist church and its global connection.

Defining humility takes us back to the origins of the word which comes from the root *humus* meaning ground or earth. It is from the *humus* we are made, and it is to the *humus* we will return. This is where we get the name of our 'creatureness'--humanity. We are made to be humble, to express humility.

Rev. Jenne emphasized "to *not* do so is to *deny* our humanity." And she referenced C. S. Lewis' quote, "Humility is not thinking less of yourself but thinking of yourself less." Humility is self-forgetfulness.

She recognizes in her current conference position many churches struggle with how to remain in community with one another when they disagree on important and emotional issues. We are more concerned with being right over being good. Jesus invites us to accept humility as a way of being in the world--to think of others more than ourselves. She added, "When we do this, we begin to see the true humanity in all of God's creation."

Reclaiming our humility is *always* linked to repentance. We cannot become fully human *until* we repent; and repentance means *nothing* without action. Lent is the season to review this process:

1. We confess.
2. We receive pardon (assurance of forgiveness).
3. We begin the work of repentance (change).
4. We receive restoration (healing).

John Wesley encouraged that confession be public, as is intended throughout the New Testament. Wesley expected members to be included in a small group or *band* in which one was to confess sins publicly to one another in that group and to pray for each other's healing from sin. We now incorporate confession in prayers of confession.

In closing, Rev. Jenne shared Father Richard Rohr's prayer of confession. Please take time to read the prayer by going to this link: [Fr Rohr's Confessional prayer](#)

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. 21: Sins That People Are Okay With: Apathy
 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

Sunday, March 21, marks the final week of one in-person service. We meet in person at 9:30 a.m. for service and the service will also be broadcast online through our website, [umcburg.org](#), or on the Facebook page, [FUMCBurg](#).

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

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.

Also, there will be in-person worship services on **Maundy Thursday** and **Good Friday**, each at 6 p.m. Both services will also be online. **Easter Sunday** is April 4, with both the 9:30 and 11 a.m. services in-person and online.

Service times for in-person worship

March 21	9:30 a.m.
March 28, Palm Sunday	9:30 a.m. and 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. and 11 a.m.



Wanted
Nursery Director
and Nursery Workers
 For more information
 contact
vada@umcburg.org



UMC-Burg Responds To National Disasters

As we focus this month on supporting UMCOR and reestablishing an ERT and Job Squad, let's take a look at what UMC-Burg has done in the past.

Approximately 10 years ago, UMC-Burg's ERT and youth heard and responded to calls for help. Here's the *Reader's Digest* of just two of their stories.

ERT. In April 2011, UMC-Burg received a call for tornado debris removal assistance in St Louis. Within three-days, five adult ERT members were assembled and enroute to help. The team brought their equipment, bedding and meals—some donated by UMC-Burg members. Housing was at a Methodist church, so warm showers and kitchen facilities made it feel (almost) like home.

The day after arrival, an AmeriCorp representative identified the work to be done and where. For three days the team sawed and sawed many, many trees, moved debris and other like efforts. At the end of each day, a well-deserved rest was awarded.



Upon return to the church in the evening, the team cleaned up, prepared the evening meals, reflected on the day's activities and lastly, performed maintenance on the equipment. Finally, when the lights went out, a few folks received a serenade of snoring, interlaced with the harmonious sound of a CPAP machine.

UMC-Burg's ERT worked just 3½ days but made a positive impact. More clean-up remained, but this would be done by subsequent teams.

YOUTH. On Saturday, September 13, 2008, Hurricane Ike made landfall on the Texas coast at 2:10 a.m. with maximum winds of 110 mph. Ike's destruction was unimaginable, and in Texas, 84 people died.

The next summer, the Missouri Methodist conference coordinated a Youth Mission to assist in Hurricane Ike recovery at Beaumont, TX. UMC-Burg heard the call and sent 3 adults and 10 youth. The Team left UMC-Burg on a Saturday, stopping in Memphis, TN (half way), and arrived on Sunday. Texas lodging was at two locations: the ladies at a school gym and the gentlemen in a church gym. They ate breakfast and dinner together and made lunches before going to the worksite.

The Team continued repairs on a house belonging to a Veteran's Home volunteer—and she was still volunteering!

Some work was done but much remained. The Team installed

subflooring and drywalls, finished taping and mudding, and started sanding. The Team brought their own equipment while local and government agencies provided plywood, screws, drywall and mud. Once the mudding was complete, it was sanding and sanding and more sanding.

At the end of day, members went "home" for a quick shower, rest and then met for dinner. After dinner, the Team reflected on the day's activities followed by a Youth gathering full of music and praise.

The Team worked Monday thru Wednesday. Thursday was a "re-charging" day and they went to the Texas Gulf to play on the beach and swim. Their last day in Texas, Friday, was the last work day.

The Team did not finish the house but another group was coming. The Team showed love and compassion by helping a

stranger and heard the owner's passion to help others by her continued volunteer work before, during and after Ike.



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

Nominations Sought For Leadership Committees

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 different ways that Christians can serve. In the United Methodist Church, 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. Committees meet once a month.

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. Your nominations are welcome and much appreciated.

Our church council agrees that these leaders are called to hold each other accountable to strive to live up to the following high standards.

- 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 with my own individual leadership description.
- I will seek to lead the church outward in 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 okay.
- 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.

Our Church Family

Birthdays for the coming week:

Sunday, March 21	John Bulluck, Wilma Baile
Monday, March 22	Dayln Culp
Tuesday, March 23	Dee Sample, Jessica Wyatt
Wednesday, March 24	Daniel Benedict, Glenda Goetz Paul Gregg
Friday, March 26	Aubrey Harris
Saturday, March 27	Gracyn Imboden, Rachel Scott

There are no anniversaries for the coming week.

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, Kim and Kel Lambert

Order Your Easter Lilies For Easter Sunday

One long-time tradition has been to purchase Easter Lilies for Easter Sunday. If you would like to purchase an Easter lily, notify the church no later than March 25 by 2 p.m.

The cost for one lily is \$7; you can purchase as many as you like. If you would like the lily to be in honor of or in memory of a loved one, please let us know the name when you order.

To pay, mail a check to First United Methodist Church, 141 E. Gay St., Warrensburg, MO 64093 or drop payment off in the church office. Put "lily" in the memo line.

Another option to pay for the lilies is to [click here](#), which will take you to UMC-Burg's giving page on the church website. Put the amount in the General Fund Contribution box. There is also an option for indicating a person's name for In Honor or In Memory.

Spring is about to bloom in full force and on Easter let's fill the chancel with the lilies as we celebrate the resurrection and the progress to return to in-person worship.

Spinnet Piano Available

Ed Woodrel called the office and offered to provide Nita's spinet piano for use in the church. After a review with the music team, the piano would not be needed here at the church.

If anybody would like to have a piano, please contact the church office and we will help make a connection. Ed wants the piano to be in a place where it will be valued and played.

You can email the church, contact@umcburg.org, or you can call the office at 660-747-8158.



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.

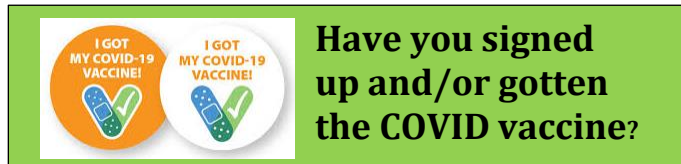
We will have monthly interest meetings between now and the fall to build excitement, answer questions about the class and recruit students and adult leaders.

If you are a youth, or a parent of a confirmation-age youth (6th-8th 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. Each week students will be asked to pray, read scripture, and reflect on questions of faith. The whole family draws closer to God when we learn together.

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.



The following information lists various paths to register for the vaccination. Please use this to help you in any way that it can to get your vaccination:

- call 1-800-748-7826 for one contact through the Care Connection for Aging
 - email information@goaging.org
 - check the website [Care Connection for COVID vaccine](#)
- They will aid individuals to register and even assist with transportation if needed.

There are two local websites to sign up for the vaccine in our community:

- <http://johnsoncountyhealth.org/covid-19-vaccine-in-johnson-county/>
- <https://wmmc.com/Covid-19/>

Another recommendation is to contact one of the pharmacies to see if they are going to offer vaccinations. Some have received them through Sommers here in Warrensburg, and Walmart is now offering them.

Walgreens is now taking reservations online, but are not certain when they will receive the vaccines in the store. The link for registering with Walgreens: [COVID vaccine at Walgreens](#)