

*Pastor Peter's message notes from February 14, 2021*

## Scouting: Learning life's values

The Bible tells us that one of the most important things we can do with the life that God has given us is to walk in integrity. To consciously choose the good even when it is hard. To choose good, even when it requires self-sacrifice.

The Bible also tells us that Jesus loved children and young people, spending time with them even when he was busy.

One of the best things we can do in response to God's grace in our lives is to share God's love with the next generation.

I'm proud of the Cub Scout Pack 399 and Boy Scout Troop 400, our church charters. I'm thankful for the many adult leaders who have sacrificially given their time to raise the next generation in integrity.

The Scout Law lists 12 points that a Scout tries to live up to every day: trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent. It is not always easy to do, but a Scout always tries.

Scouting has always had a focus on matters of faith. The centrality of "duty to God" in the Scout Law and Promise has been repeatedly reaffirmed by the movement. For the founder of the scouting movement, Lord Baden Powell, religion was not a part of scouting, but something that lay at its very foundation. A scout is reverent.

**REVERENT.** Be reverent toward God. Be faithful in your religious duties. Respect the beliefs of others.

The conversations, the merit badges, the projects, the camp outs are all opportunities for young scouts to learn about the integrity of Jesus from you, their adult leaders. They look to you to be models of how to live Godly lives, loving God and loving our neighbors as ourselves.

I'm so pleased that our Cub Scout Pack and Troop are committed to encouraging our scouts to develop their faith in God through the PRAY religious emblem program. I'm so proud of the scouts and leaders who worked together this year to complete the PRAY awards via Zoom. You didn't let the limitations of the pandemic stop you from growing in your relationship with God.

I am excited that we have recently resumed in-person events for scouts in our church following the safety procedures recommended by Johnson County Community Health Services.

One of the highlights of my year was meeting on Zoom with Mack Young to review his PRAY award and hear from him how he has grown in faith through daily Bible study, worship, and prayer.

I just want to applaud all of the parents and adult leaders in our scouting ministry. You have been dedicated, persistent, and creative in this last year to ensure that the young people in our scouting program continued to have safe, fun, and exciting opportunities to grow and develop character and faith. Continue this excellent ministry. Continue to raise the next generation in faith. Our church is with you. We are committed to children and young families.

*The righteous walk in integrity—*

*happy are the children who follow them! --Proverbs 29:7*

**God bless you and thank you for your ministry.**

## Preparing For Worship

### Scriptures for the coming week

Monday	Feb. 22	Acts 5:1-11
Tuesday	Feb. 23	Acts 5:12-16
Wednesday	Feb. 24	Acts 5:17-26
Thursday	Feb. 25	Acts 5:27-32
Friday	Feb. 26	Acts 5:33-39
Saturday	Feb. 27	Acts 5:40-42; Proverbs 12:22

### Upcoming Worship Messages for Lent

Feb. 21:	Sins That People Are Okay With:	Gluttony
Feb. 28:	Sins That People Are Okay With:	Lying
Mar. 7:	Sins That People Are Okay With:	Greed
Mar. 14:	Sins That People Are Okay With:	Self-Righteousness
Mar. 21:	Sins That People Are Okay With:	Apathy
Mar. 28:	Sins That People Are Okay With:	Violence

## Church Worship Seasons

**Lent** is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday, which is April 3, 2021. If you would like to learn more, check this link: [UMC & Lent](#).

**In-person worship resumes:** The Church Council has approved in-person worship to resume on Sunday, March 7, at 9:30 a.m. The COVID protocols will be expected: masks, social distancing among family pods, hand sanitizer/washing, and no singing.

**Holy Week** begins with Palm Sunday, March 28, 2021. There will be Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services at 6 p.m. As the Church Council decided to resume in-person worship as of March 7, these services will be in person but will continue to be provided online on the Facebook page and the church's website: [umcburg.org](#).

**Easter Sunday** is April 4. Mark your calendars to join us in person or online to celebrate Christ's resurrection.

**Online worship:** Whether the church meets in-person or not, the online worship will continue. The Tech Team posts the live service on the [umcburg.org](#) website and on the church's Facebook page prior to 9:30 a.m. each Sunday. Anyone who wishes may join us at that time, but the service remains available even when the service concludes.

## Our Church Family

### Birthdays for the coming week

- Feb. 21: Matt Cheney
- Feb. 22: Nahvia Paige, Steven Mills
- Feb. 24: Pam Smith
- Feb. 25: Larry Bryan, Lisa Tighe-Miller
- Feb. 26: Peter Blaszczyk
- Feb. 27: Andrew Workman, Serena Smith

... and prayers for these in our church family

The family of Peter Blaszczyk on the loss his wife Courtney, the family of Ann Wilson, Joyce Smith (John Yost's sister); Jaccie Blaszczyk; Linda Riddle; Camden Garcia; Irene Miller; Nancy Walters; Michael Smith (Hubert Neth's son-in-law); Sherry Printz (recovering from back surgery); Jim Hudson; Alice Hanrahan; Waneta Lane; Genevieve Case's son Mark Case; Matilda Agyemang's mother Comfort; June Mellinger's family member Nathan, Olivia O'Brien's family on the death of her grandfather, and Michelle Schubert

[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.]

**Have you signed up and/or gotten the COVID vaccine?**

There are the 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/>

Living that all may know Jesus



OPEN HEARTS, OPEN BOOKS

Connecting 100,000 kids with 100,000 books

Regina Higgins and I met with Rev. Sharon Williams on Thursday, February 11, via Zoom. The purpose of the meeting was to connect with the Missouri Conference concerning the **Open Hearts, Open Books** initiative.

Rev. Williams assumed the role of associate director for the Office of Mission, Service and Justice Ministries only seven months ago and is learning how the Educational Task Force envisioned how **Open Hearts, Open Books** is a tool to break the cycle of poverty.

The conference priority first identified the effort to break the cycle of poverty as *Pathways Out of Poverty*, a name educators recognize as the Ruby Payne multifaceted program focusing on various educational and community resources to understand and address the issues of poverty.

**Open Hearts, Open Books** seeks to establish supportive relationships between faith communities and schools. The website, [openheartsoopenbooks.org](http://openheartsoopenbooks.org), provides resources for churches to use as they develop this ministry. The website visually shows progress toward the conference goal of 100,000 books in 100,000 students' hands.

Regina shared with Rev. Williams the planning process for setting up the ministry here in our church. The goal is to establish the ministry team and begin working on the design of the ministry over the next six months. She also noted, especially with the current pandemic limitations the new ministry may not be fully implemented for up to 18 months.

This month we are asking you to consider supporting the ministry. If you are interested in serving on the church's ministry team, please email [rhiggins@umco.edu](mailto:rhiggins@umco.edu) or [susan@umcburg.org](mailto:susan@umcburg.org). If you want to donate to a fund for purchasing student books, you may send checks to the church office with "Open Hearts, Open Books" in the memo or go to [umcburg.org](http://umcburg.org) and click on the 'give' button.

--Pastor Susan



### Looking for ways to serve?

Let's follow Mother Teresa's and John Wesley's models



### Children's Shine Ministry

As the church prepares to resume in-person worship, Shine Ministry wants to develop a plan to resume various programs for the youth of the church. This includes Sunday school, nursery services, and the Wednesday Shine On program.

The volunteer team helps resume and expand these programs. All volunteers must complete Safe Gatherings certification which is located on the website: [Safe Gatherings](#).

Please contact Children & Young Families minister Vada Postlethwait for more information at [vada@umcburg.org](mailto:vada@umcburg.org).



## **Tech Team looking for volunteers**

More volunteers are welcome to assist with the online productions and for the sound booth. As COVID season sent us into the online format, having cross-trained volunteers continues to grow as a new area of ministry.

The Tech Team will train anyone who is interested in learning. If you are interested, email [sonia@umcburg.org](mailto:sonia@umcburg.org) or call the church office.

## **Managing church archives & membership records**

Volunteers are needed to join in an effort to audit the old membership records to assure that the Planning Center database is accurate. If you are interested in helping, please join us on Wednesday morning in the church office.

Additionally, the church has a large set of archives with pictures and records that needs reviewing, organizing, and culling.

If you want to join in the effort, call the church office at 660-747-8158 or email Doug at [doug@umcburg.org](mailto:doug@umcburg.org) or Pastor Susan at [susan@umcburg.org](mailto:susan@umcburg.org) for more information.

## **Sing or play? Music teams invite you to participate**

March 7 is drawing close and in-person worship resumes. The Praise Band and the Chancel Choir welcome anyone who sings or plays an instrument or both to contact [sherry@umcburg.org](mailto:sherry@umcburg.org) for the Chancel Choir, or [austen@umcburg.org](mailto:austen@umcburg.org) for the Praise Band.

## **Volunteering: Joining in God's ministry**

As you read through these ideas, maybe you wonder what you can do. Volunteering at the church empowers us to do even more to live that others may know Jesus. If you hear a whisper--or a loud call--that you can volunteer for even an hour a week, contact the church. Call 660-747-8158 or email [contact@umcburg.org](mailto:contact@umcburg.org).



## **February 14 Featured Church's Scouting programs**

Traditionally Sunday, February 14, might focus on a theme of love as it is also Valentine's Day, but this year, the second Sunday of February focused on the Scouting program which the church, especially the United Methodist Men, sponsor.

During Sunday's service, the scouts filled many of the roles usually done by laity. As the scout program was also featured, the service began with the presentation of colors.

Those who joined us on Facebook probably noticed a few differences as the Scouts had videotaped some portions of the service earlier in the month.

Sunday's service still included in-person scouts who received awards and who shared testimonies.

Karen Martin, Scout leader who volunteers as the church's auditor and is a member, received the God and Service Award during the service.



## **Scouting religious awards presented:**

Lillian Cantrell--God & Me  
Lathan Cantrell--God & Family  
Ace Little--God & Church  
Adrian Pfister--God & Church  
Mack Young--God & Church  
Karen Martin--God & Service



## **Scout reflections:**

**Adrian Pfister** (top) shared about his family's trip to the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. He used the Philmont Grace: *For food, for raiment, for life, for opportunity, for friendship and fellowship, we thank thee, O Lord. Amen.* He then shared how each part of that grace relates to his scouting values.



**Mack Young**'s (middle) reflection focused on reverence, which means "to feel or show deep and solemn respect." He added that reverence to God is the foundation of faith, using scripture for support. He linked the last point of the Scout law and the Scout oath to the importance of reverence and noted the PRAY program is another way a Scout can be reverent.



**David Dietz** (bottom) focused on the fifth point of the Scout law--being courteous. Scouts learn that being courteous helps to pay respect to others and follows the Scout slogan: "to do at least one good turn daily." He concluded, "Along with courage, loyalty, and many other great leadership qualities I am a firm believer that to be a good Samaritan or to strive to be a good leader, courtesy is always needed."

***In Loving Memory...***

**Ann Wilson**

Sue Ann Wilson, 62, of Knob Noster, passed away peacefully Monday, February 8, 2021, at her home surrounded by her family.

Born November 22, 1958, in Sedalia, she was one of two children of M. Lynn and Patty Sue (Callis) Wagenknecht. On June 30, 1990, in Smithton, she was married to Curtis Wilson.

Ann was a graduate of Smithton High School and William Woods University.

Besides her family, her life was centered around horses and music. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Warrensburg and assisted with the children's choir. She was involved in various other community efforts as well,

including her recent passion of establishing the "Think God" billboard outside of Warrensburg. She had authored a book entitled "Riding the Tide." Ann courageously battled cancer for over ten years. Her faith enabled her to face her circumstances with strength and perseverance. She will be remembered for her kindness.

She is survived by her husband, Curtis; a daughter, Hallie Wilson; her mother, Patty Wagenknecht; and special friend, Kathryn Tippie.

She was preceded in death by her father, Lynn Wagenknecht; a brother, Bill Wagenknecht; grandparents; and other close relatives.

In lieu of a graveside service, due to the weather and the pandemic, a brief service for family and close friends was held at 2:00 p.m. Friday, February 12, 2021, at Smithton

In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to the "Think God" billboard fund (with checks made to First United Methodist Church of Warrensburg), or to a charity of the donor's choice, in care of the funeral home.



***In Loving Memory...***  
**Courtney Blaszczyk**

Courtney Rhea Blaszczyk, age 44, of Knob Noster passed away Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at her home.

She was born May 14, 1976 in Winterset, IA the daughter of Kevin Bishop and Patricia Boyd.

She and Peter Blaszczyk were married on July 25, 2015. Her passion to provide love and happiness for rescue animals and her family was unconditional. She loved history, museums and traveling. Her smile could brighten anyone's day and was so infectious.

Courtney is survived by her husband Peter; her children, Benjiman Blaszczyk, Daniel Blaszczyk, Jeremy Blaszczyk, Melissa (Andrew) Fountain, Hunter Simmons, and Amanda (Justin) Brown; her siblings, Jennifer Seals, John (Angie) Van Horn, and Joe Van Horn; Nichole Bishop, Barbara Garton, and Erin Bishop. Her grandchildren Ayden Moore, Alan and Barrett Fountain.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Bill and Betty Boyd; and her uncle Mike Boyd.

Funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, February 15, 2021 at the First United Methodist Church with Reverend Peter Norton officiating. The video from the service is available on the church's Facebook page.

Memorial contributions are suggested to the Sedalia Animal Shelter and can be left in care of Sweeney-Phillips & Holdren Funeral Home.

