

Pastor Peter's message notes from Oct. 25, 2020

The Hero Maker: Gift Activating

I have a dream of a different Johnson County! I have a dream in which all of the young men and women who grow up in our community know that they are loved by Jesus Christ. This is the prayer Katharine and I pray for our son each night. It is our prayer for all of the children in our community. Based on the 2010 census less than 50% of the children in our community are growing up in families who are actively a part of a community of faith.

This is a big dream, but we heard Jesus' words in Matthew 28:19-20 challenge us to dream big. Not because we are strong. Not because we are convincing. But because Jesus loves all of the children of the world, and he wants to share this news through us!

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20

This is a big dream! The people who are currently a part of our church can't accomplish this dream by themselves. There just aren't enough of us. To accomplish Jesus' dream, we will have to activate the gifts that God has given other people--new families, mothers and fathers, aunts and uncles, parents and grandparents—to teach their children that Jesus loves them.

Jesus calls us to activate gifts in other people. "The practice of gift activating is a shift from asking God to bless the use of our own gifts to asking God to bless leaders whom we are sending out," Dave Ferguson said in his book *Hero Maker*.

Commissioning is the simple process of blessing a person or team and affirming the use of the gifts God has given them. On Sunday October 25, we invited those worshipping with us online and in person to discern if God was calling them to a particular ministry and to receive a prayer of blessing. If you feel that God is calling you to a specific ministry, receive this prayer of blessing and affirmation.

May God bless you in your call to ministry. May God give you the strength, the wisdom, and provision to accomplish the ministry he has called you to.

May new people know the name of Jesus Christ, know that he is good and loving through your words and actions and the faith you share.

May the Holy Spirit send you out to reach people far from God, bring them to Christ, bring them into the church, and develop them as leaders – who then develop other leaders. Amen.

Preparing For Worship

Scriptures for the coming week

Monday	Nov. 2: Luke 19:36-40
Tuesday	Nov. 3: Matthew 6:1-6
Wednesday	Nov. 4: Matthew 6:19-21
Thursday	Nov. 5: Matthew 6:22-23
Friday	Nov. 6: Mathew 6:24
Saturday	Nov. 7: Deuteronomy 28:12-14

Upcoming Worship Messages

- Nov. 1: The Hero Maker: Kingdom Building
- Nov. 8: Rich Church, Poor Church: Why Give to the Church
- Nov. 15: Rich Church, Poor Church: Know the Mission
- Nov. 22: Rich Church, Poor Church: Transformation

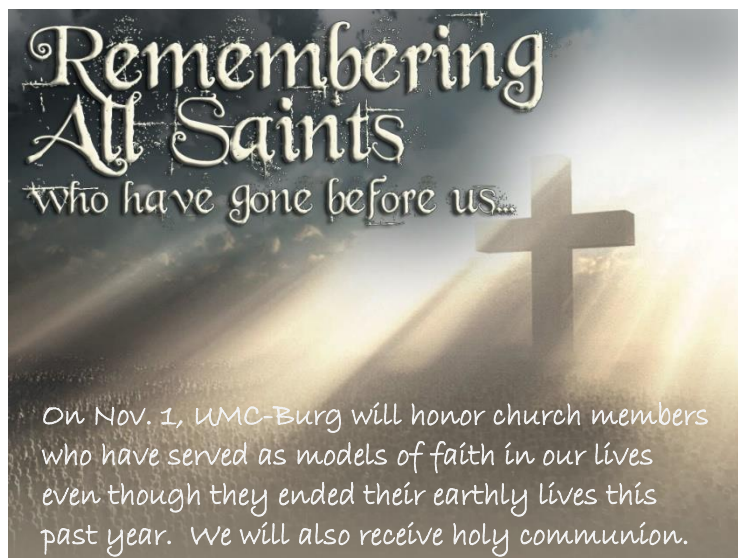
Our Church Family

Prayer concerns from our church family

Aura Tavernner, Judy Murray, Donna Rosiere, Jaccie Blaszczyk, Linda Riddle, Camden Garcia, Peggy Province, Charles Baile, Irene Miller, Ann Wilson, Nancy Walters, Michael Smith (Hubert Neth's son-in-law), Jim Hudson, Alice Hanrahan, Wanda Dahman, Waneta Lane

Birthdays for the coming week

- Nov. 1: Johnathan Benedict, Cheryl Yung
- Nov. 4: George Sample
- Nov. 5: Andrew Jackson
- Nov. 6: Dixie Larson
- Nov. 7: Regan Honan



The Hero Maker in Action: Part 2 in a 3-part series

Say Yes To God's Request

-by Carol Hassler

In Pastor Susan's Oct. 18 message, "Hero Maker: Disciple Making," she discussed another aspect of hero making. Hero makers do identify others to apprentice, but they also hear the call to be a disciple or to develop a ministry in the church.

This idea was evident in emails I received last week in response to last week's article about Jim Hudson, "The Hero-maker in Action." Several people emailed about how much Jim had also impacted their lives.

Judy Murray wrote, "When we came to this area and to FUMC 19 years ago, Jim was one of our teachers in the Aldersgate class... and a good one." Clearly, in addition to inspiring students at UCM, Jim had answered the call to use his gifts at church. He exemplified the church's mission to "live that all may know Jesus."

Almost a year ago, I received a call from Pastor Susan asking me to use my gift of writing to help with first, the bulletin, and then as COVID shut down the church, the newsletter.

Like many of us probably do when we receive a call from the church, I at first hesitated. Did I have the time? I could teach writing, but I never really wrote for others. Could I find a way to make the newsletter engaging? I have known Susan for years and wanted to help fulfill her and Pastor Peter's vision of keeping people connected to the church, so I said yes.

While writing articles for the newsletter, I have met and introduced our congregation to people who have answered the call and said yes—both in the past and present—to using their gifts for the church: the Wednesday crew, the college ministry team, the quilters, the tech team, musicians, and members of church committees to name only a few.

Even in the past couple months, I have seen people saying yes to sharing their gifts. Many showed up to help on the church cleaning day in September. Stan Smith has joined the Wednesday crew, and Stan and his wife Pam helped with a funeral dinner. We are seeing new faces during the worship services with Liz Henks, Keaton Denny, Ashley Ingram, Cassidy Pachner, and Kelli Gilpin sharing their musical talent; and Hannah Hunt, Tilly Agyemang, Marion Chumo, Evan Holmes and Trevor Martin reading the scripture. We have heard the voices of Conner Cummings, Doug Christie, and Evan Holmes on the KOKO morning devotionals. Debbie Brown and Evan Holmes are volunteering Wednesday afternoons with Shine On, Luci Smith is now part of the Children's Ministry Team, and Susan Jackson is working with Preston Parks to develop a college-age bible study group.

Cameron Holmes and Sue Evans are helping out in the church office. We have several members who serve as ushers and greeters for Sunday morning worship.

As I reread this list, I realize that I may have left names off—and for that I apologize. However, I also realize in rereading this list that even with the church affected by COVID, people are still finding ways to keep this church vibrant. They are saying yes when a hero maker from the church calls. They are saying yes when they see opportunities to serve. They are asking, "How can I serve?"

So my call to you is this: If someone sees in you a talent, interest, or skill, and asks you to join in a ministry, trust that God is speaking to you through them. Say yes. The hero makers see in you the possibilities of becoming a hero maker, too. When you say yes, you will discover blessings you never expected.

Church Clean-Up Day In December

There will be a church clean-up day Dec. 5 from 9 a.m. to noon. Facilities manager Chuck Linville said he plans to have a clean-up day every three months.

Donations For Family In Need

Two weeks ago, we mentioned a young family in our church who needed financial help. Donations have been coming in, and the family is very grateful for the gifts which have helped provide for rent, food, and gas.

According to Vicki Ollison, we have received enough donations to reach our goal. We thank everyone for their generosity.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING MEAL

Thursday, November 28

Sponsored by Johnson County CROP Walk

To Volunteer: Please call Erica at 660-223-3260 or email johnsonsoutycropwalk@hotmail.com. There are opportunities to package meals for delivery, be a part of the delivery team or help with curbside pick-up.

To Make a Monetary Donation: Please make checks payable to The Food Center and put Thanksgiving Meal in the memo line. Place cash donations in a sealed envelope marked Thanksgiving Meal. Donations can be given to Doug Christie or



Christi Riddle, or if preferred mailed directly to The Food Center, P.O. Box 872, Warrensburg, Mo 64093.