

Pastor Peter's message notes from April 4, 2021

Why Do You Look For the Living Among the Dead?

Jesus is risen! Doesn't it feel like Easter? It feels like we have been waiting for Easter for over a year. This Sunday we celebrated the baptism of Elizabeth Grace Benedict into our family of faith. It was a tradition in the early church to baptize new believers on Easter. This was a way of showing that we are born again through our baptism. As Jesus overcame death, through his resurrection, we also overcome death and enter into a new life with Christ.

In our church we baptize infants. Their parents, their sponsors, and the church family make a covenant to raise their children together in faith. We promise to pray for them, to teach them about Jesus through the nursery, children's church, youth group. We promise to gather in each other's homes, to share our lives together and to encourage each other as a family of faith to live for Jesus.

When the children of our family of faith reach the age of reason, we spend a year focused on encouraging them to learn about the faith and to say yes to Jesus's invitation to new life through him. The parents of our children, their sponsors, the family of our church make a covenant to be mentors to our children. We encourage our children to decide for themselves to accept the faith that has been handed down to them.

Like the women who witnessed the empty tomb, we are given the opportunity to share the good news that Jesus has overcome death.

Like Elizabeth Grace, I was baptized as an infant. Through the family of faith, I was surrounded by strong young families and other kids my age who encouraged me to live for Jesus. We would worship together in the sanctuary, study the Bible in Children's Church, and have sleepovers at each other's houses.

When I faced the challenges of growing up, my friends from my family of faith were there for me. One time I got in a fight on the playground and Garrett, one of my friends from church, was there to wipe away my tears and help me calm down. (By the way I lost that fight). I was there for Garrett as he faced the challenges of growing up in faith.

When I was 13 our youth group went to an event in St. Louis called Acquire the Fire. With great preaching and music, we were invited to come forward and become part of God's new creation and give our lives to Christ. I remember I was so scared. The distance between where I sat in the auditorium and the stage seemed like an eternity, but Garret was with me. We encouraged each other. Garrett and I said yes to Christ together. We went through the confirmation class together and in front of the church we said yes again to Jesus later that year.

Elizabeth Grace's sponsors, her church family will be there for her and the other children in our church as confirmation mentors to encourage them to say yes to Jesus.

Our faith is the greatest gift we can offer to our children. Jesus has overcome death! We are alive! Christ is risen indeed.



Elizabeth Grace, the daughter of Daniel and Gabrielle Benedict, was baptized Easter Sunday.

Preparing For Worship

Scriptures for the coming week

Monday, April 12	1 Samuel 18:1-9; Psalm 70
Tuesday, April 13	1 Samuel 18:10-16; Psalm 71
Wednesday, April 14	1 Samuel 18:17-30; Psalm 72
Thursday, April 15	1 Samuel 19:1-7; Psalm 75
Friday, April 16	1 Samuel 19:8-17; Psalm 76
Saturday, April 17	1 Samuel 19:18-24; Psalm 77

Church Worship Services

Upcoming Worship Messages

- April 11: David's Truth: Stopping Giants
- April 18: David's Truth: Saul and David
- April 25: David's Truth: The Promise
- May 2: David's Truth: Sin and Sorrow

Service times for in-person and online worship

9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

CDC protocols continue: masks, social distancing, hand sanitizer/washing, and no singing out loud by the congregation

Monthly Mission: April

CROP's History Dates Back to Post-WWII

This month we are focusing our disciple gift on CROP, most commonly associated with the CROP walk held every April in Warrensburg—and all across the country.

CROP, an acronym for the Christian Rural Overseas Program, is part of Church World Service, which originated in 1946 in the aftermath of World War II. Its primary mission was to help Midwest farm families share their grain with the hungry in post-World War II Europe and Asia. Seventeen denominations came together to form an agency “to do in partnership what none of us could hope to do as well alone.” In 1946-47, U.S. churches provided more than 11 million pounds of food, clothing and medical supplies to war-torn Europe and Asia.

The largest fund-raising events for Church World Service CROP are the CROP Hunger Walks. These walks started over 50 years ago in 1969 when teens in Bismarck, North Dakota, and York County, Pennsylvania, decided they needed to do something for families who had to walk miles for food and clean water.

Today, more than 2,000 communities across the United States participate in these walks each year. The walks are sponsored by Church World Service and organized by local congregations and groups to end hunger at home and around the world.

A unique aspect of CROP Hunger Walks is that Church World Service doesn't receive all of the money raised. Up to 25% of the money donated is given to local hunger fighting agencies which include food banks and community gardens.

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, June Mellinger's nephew Nathan, the family of Ken Messer

Celebrating our church family

Birthdays for the coming week:

Sunday, April 11	Ellie Gilpin
Monday, April 12	Madison Ilnicky
Friday, April 16	Finnean Price
Saturday, April 17	Cynthia Togom, Stan Smith

Anniversaries for the coming week:

Monday, April 12	David and Carrie Ewing
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WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

2021

CROP HUNGER WALK

Ending Hunger One Step at a Time



Join UMC-Burg's CROP Walk Team!

It's time for the annual CROP Hunger Walk, and UMC-Burg is looking for people to join its team. [Click here](#) to register.

The official walk date is Saturday, April 24. Because of COVID, the walk this year will again be virtual. However, the UMC-Burg team is planning to walk together Sunday, April 25 directly after the 11 a.m. service.

If you are unable to join us April 25, you can walk any other time. Please send us a picture or video of you or you and your friends participating.

If you would like to donate to CROP, send a check to UMC-Burg with CROP in the memo line or go to the church website at umcburg.org and click on the Give button or [click here](#).

Upcoming COVID Vaccine Clinic April 13

Johnson County Community Health Services is hosting a COVID vaccine clinic Tuesday, April 13, at the Johnson County Fairgrounds. It is open to ALL Missourians.

Individuals can register at their website: <http://johnsoncountyhealth.org/covid-19-vaccine-in-johnson-county/>. You can also call their office at 660-747-6121 and tell them you need to schedule an appointment for a COVID vaccine.

Nursery and Children's Church Available

The nursery is open both services for children ages birth to 3. We also offer Children's Church during both services for children age 4 to 5th grade. We still need volunteers to help with both. If interested, email contact@umcburg.org or vada@umcburg.org

Correction: The following names should have been included in last week's newsletter on the Easter lily donation list:
Beth and Bryan Hunt in memory of Doug Mooney and Vicki Hunt

Charge Conference To Be Held April 18

There will be a special church Charge conference April 18 at noon, directly after the 11 a.m. service, to approve a salary package for Susan Smith, associate pastor.

Pastor Susan has been volunteering her time since October 2019. It was at a charge conference at UMC-Burg approximately 15 years ago that Susan began her ministry, and she completed her course of study in 2015 through St. Paul's School of Theology. Susan was appointed to Norris and Chilhowee Methodist Churches, where she served for 10 years.

The Heartland District Superintendent Rev. David A. Gilmore will be in attendance to conduct the meeting, which is in accordance to the church discipline.

Register for ERT Training; Deadline April 12

UMC-Burg is looking to resurrect an Emergency Response Team to work in conjunction with UMCOR. If you want more information or are interested in lending your time and talent to this mission, email contact@umcburg.org or call the church office at 747-8158.

You can become ERT certified by participating in a three-phase training via ZOOM (in the comfort of your home) on

- April 23 3:00 – 5:30 p.m.
- April 24 8:30 – 11 a.m.
- May 1 8:30 – 11 a.m.

Training is \$15 per person. **Registration closes April 12.** Use the following website to register:

<https://missouri-reg.brtaapp.com/ERTTraining2021>

Completely fill out the form and select Heartland for District and BASIC for course selection.

With this training, you are ERT certified for 3 years. Please contact UMC-Burg's front office when you successfully complete this training.

Confirmation Class Meeting April 21

We are excited to host a confirmation class starting in the fall of 2021.

If you are a youth, are a parent of a confirmation-age youth (6th-8th grade), or are interested in serving as an adult mentor for confirmands, please mark your calendar for April 21 at 6:30 p.m. in Room 235. Pastor Peter will lead a discussion about the structure and planning of the confirmation class.

Contact our church office for more information at contact@umcburg.org.

DID YOU KNOW?

**FUN FACTS
ABOUT
UMC-BURG**

Provided by Chuck Linville

Our church has 6 A/C units and 24 furnaces for climate control. Good heavens, 24! I knew this place was full of hot air, but I will not name names.

Senior Center Seeks Drivers For Meal Delivery

Warrensburg Senior Center needs volunteer drivers to deliver meals to the homebound.

Deliver one day a week or five. Pair up with a friend or volunteer on your own. You will provide safe, contactless delivery to qualified older adults.

Sometimes your visit may be the only one a senior will get. Social interaction is more important than ever during COVID-19.

Call the Senior Center at 660-747-2624 or Bettina Christie at 660-624-7184 to find out more about one of the most rewarding volunteer roles you will ever serve.

Volunteers Needed To Help Clean Church

Hello everyone. As our church is opening back up, your help is desperately needed to keep it in good shape. There are always areas that need a helping hand to keep her looking good.

Helping just one or two hours a week would be of great value. Dusting, sweeping, mopping and organizing would be the standard of the day. You don't have to clean toilets, and just tell me if you don't do windows.

There are always outside jobs that need to be done as well, weed control for one, and I might even let you ride the mower if you promise to take care of my baby. One rule only: If you are asked to do anything that you would rather not, just tell me. Believe me, there is always a variety of tasks to choose from. Please consider being a helping hand to our church. If interested, send an email to contact@umcburg.org or chuck@umcburg.org or call the church office.
-Chuck Linville

Nominations Sought For Leadership Committees

Each year new members are nominated to serve a three-year term on church leadership committees: Trustees, Pastor Parish Relations, Finance, Nominating. Committees meet once a month; most meet on Zoom.

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.



Lend a helping hand Saturday, May 1, from 9 a.m. to noon to do some spring cleaning inside and outside the church



Kendall Brice Messer Oct. 18, 1949-April 3, 2021

Kendall “Ken” Brice Messer, a long-time Warrensburg resident, died unexpectedly on April 3, 2021, at the age of 71.

Kendall is survived by his wife of 50+ years, Barbara (nee Avaux); his children, Jessica (Doug) Brauer, Sara (Brian) Shewry; and Eric (Alisa) Messer; his grandchildren Jacob and Addison Brauer, Aiden Shewry, and (Brad) Stanley, and his brother, Brian (Joy) Messer.

Ken was born in Fairfield, Iowa, on October 18, 1949, to Clifford and Mazie Messer. He graduated from Iowa State University in 1971 with a degree in Animal Science. He later graduated from the Graduate School of Banking at the University of Wisconsin – Madison in 1988. Kendall retired from Edward Jones in 2011 after a 37-year career in banking and financial planning.

Ken was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He greatly enjoyed gardening and singing in the First United Methodist Church choir. He was a long-time member of Rotary International, serving as District Governor from 2013-2014. A strong believer in servant leadership and an avid volunteer, Ken served on many boards and participated in many organizations including Lions Club, the Executive Board of Care Connection for Aging Services, the Board of Directors of the Trails Regional Library Foundation, and WIG Investment Club.

A visitation will be held on Friday, April 9 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. at Sweeney-Phillips & Holdren Funeral Home in Warrensburg. A funeral service is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 10 at First United Methodist Church in Warrensburg followed by burial at Sunset Hill Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be directed to the Music Ministry of the First United Methodist Church in Warrensburg or the Trails Regional Library Foundation in Warrensburg.

Due to Covid, masks will be required at all memorial events to honor, respect, and protect Ken’s family.