

Pastor Susan's message notes from Jan. 17, 2021

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

Today we consider how our church's mission statement, "Living that all may know Jesus," fits in today's tumultuous world. I find it impossible to ignore the timeliness of today's message. Not only is our country undergoing a difficult transition in leadership, but we are also honoring Martin Luther King, Jr.'s leadership for equality.

We are tasked by God to live as models of faithful living, a call that is timeless and knows no boundaries. It is a responsibility that cannot be ignored. John Wesley also lived in a society filled with social inequality, health challenges, and global strife. Yet he persisted--growing his personal faith as he developed methods to guide others.

Living our faith openly is not easy, but we must. The challenges that surround us are matters of social justice. UMC's General Conference, the worldwide administrative arm of our denomination, reviews and revises the social creed that provides clarity how to live so others may know Jesus. We believe in the triune God and that the Holy Spirit is God within us, empowering us to serve. This includes being stewards of the world He created for us. We are to protect the land, the environment, and all that inhabit this world with us.

God gave us the human body and the gift of companionship. We do not live in isolation; we live in community. The pandemic is challenging, yet we follow health recommendations to protect each other in our community. Wesley was an activist for human rights and valued each individual as a child of God. The social creed emphasizes no division among people; we are all one of God's children, and we are to love one another regardless of our differences.

Listening to Martin Luther King, Jr.'s words and seeing him lead marches peacefully, I understand we are all the same, we are all equal, and we are called to value one another despite differences of gender, age, race, or sexual preference. When someone else is hurt, I am hurt.

When this church read Rick Warren's book, *The Purpose Driven Life*, I was drawn to the chapter 33 that quoted Wesley: "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."

Whatever job you have, use your skills, talents, and enthusiasm as though you are doing that job for Jesus himself.

Certainly, there are times when it feels like we cannot live our faith openly, or we are so overwhelmed by life, we feel weak, unable to do what we know we should. When those feelings surface, turn to God in prayer, in scripture and in community with fellow believers and listen. We grow in faith and learn to live our faith in ways that others may also know Jesus. Hear these words from 1 John 2:15-17, echoed throughout the Bible: *<sup>15</sup> Do not love the world or the things in the world. The love of the Father is not in those who love the world; <sup>16</sup> for all that is in the world—the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, the pride in riches—comes not from the Father but from the world. <sup>17</sup> And the world and its desire are passing away, but those who do the will of God live forever.*

## Preparing For Worship

### Scriptures for the coming week

Monday	Jan. 25: Genesis 2:4-9
Tuesday	Jan. 26: Genesis 2:10-24
Wednesday	Jan. 27: Genesis 3:1-7
Thursday	Jan. 28: Genesis 3:8-13
Friday	Jan. 29: Genesis 3:14-19
Saturday	Jan. 30: Genesis 3:20-24

### Upcoming Worship Messages

- Jan. 24: In the Beginning ... Genesis 1:1-2:3  
Jan. 31: In the Beginning ... Genesis 2:4-3:24

## Our Church Family

### Prayer concerns from our church family

Aura Tavernner, Jaccie Blaszczyk, Linda Riddle, Camden Garcia, 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, Matilda Agyemang's husband William Gyau Baffour and her mother Comfort, June Mellinger's family member Nathan

*The Care Team now has a partner team to help meet the needs of the church family. A newly formed Prayer Team will coordinate the efforts to share our church family's prayers. Prayer is a vital part of our faith, and sharing prayers of need and comfort or praise and thanksgiving is important to keep us connected as a church family.*

*Anyone who wants to add to the prayer list may do so by emailing the request to [contact@umcburg.org](mailto:contact@umcburg.org). A message can be left by calling the church (660-747-8158), or requests can be made directly 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.*

### Birthdays for the coming week

Jan. 25:	Melissa Lightfoot
Jan. 26:	Jim Ward, Richard Carr, Wanda Dahman
Jan. 27:	Alice Hanrahan
Jan. 28:	Audrey Lightfoot, Curt Jenkins
Jan. 29:	Kelsey Smith
Jan. 30:	Donna Sample

Living that all may know Jesus

### Sonia Manly Hired As New A-V Coordinator



Sonia Manly, a junior digital media production major at UCM, has been hired as the new audio-visual technology coordinator.

Sonia is training this month with current A-V coordinator Andrew Arbeau and will take over the position in February. Sonia has been a part of the A-V team for over a year.

Originally from Manhattan, Kansas, Sonia said she took the job because she felt it was the most logical next step in her career. Sonia is recruiting volunteers to serve on the AV team. She is excited to train a team of people in how to serve God by using this technology for worship.

Sonia enjoys UMC-Burg, commenting, "It's a good community. It's really strong in faith, and it helps me build my faith as a person and grow as an individual."



#### 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)



May this serve as a big "Thank You" to all those who sent cards and extended best wishes on my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. I find it hard to believe that reaching this milestone warrants as much recognition and encouragement as I received. Nevertheless, it makes me realize how much loved ones, especially my church friends, mean to me. You are very special!!

Blessings to all,  
Mary Belle Rowland



Thanks to your donations, we raised over \$2,500 for Missouri Valley Community Action Agency in December to support working families through rent and utility assistance this winter. Pictured above, Pastor Peter Norton and office manager Doug Christie present a check to Mandy Schull, Community Services Manager; Malinda Wilckens, Community Outreach Specialist; Shelba Williams, Resource Specialist.



#### FUN FACTS ABOUT UMC-BURG

*Provided by Chuck Linville*

Did you know . . . the glorious thunder that Alice Coleman creates each Sunday is from a pipe organ that was built in 1906. It was moved to this location in 1950 and rebuilt in 1990. It is worth an estimated \$338,520.



We are looking for people to

- help with tasks in the church office
- work with the tech team in producing the online service
- maintain the church website
- help with production of the newsletter

No experience necessary!  
If interested, email [doug@umcburg.org](mailto:doug@umcburg.org)

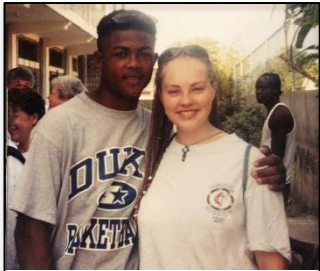
## Growing Through The Jamaica Mission

A life-changing experience will stay with you forever. And one of those life-changing experiences for Children and Young Families minister Vada Postlethwait is going on the Jamaica medical mission trip 20 years ago—the summer of 2001—when she was a high school junior.

Vada said, “One will change and grow closer to God on any mission trip they go on. It does not matter what your age is, as long as you have an open heart and open mind.”

During the one-week mission trip led by youth group leaders Guy and Jonna Albert, the teens did a variety of jobs. Vada explained, “There were three locations where we worked during the days: the clinic, the church where we were staying, and Montego Bay Orphanage. We had adults who went along with us who could guide us in the clinic and construction on the church. I was at the orphanage every day. It was such a great experience and truly tugged at all the heart strings. I loved seeing how the little ones were able to reach all members on our team!”

Vada still remembers several of the Jamaican youth from that trip. She recalled, “There were two teenage



Jessica Little with a teen the youth met in Jamaica.

boys who lived in the neighborhood we were working and staying in. They hung out in the evening with us and were full of life. Jessica Little kept in touch with one of them over the years, and we found out he died from gun violence probably about 10 years ago. The other

individual I remember was a little girl at the orphanage. She was about one year old and had a tumor on her stomach, and there was nothing that could be done for her. The sweet thing was so happy and easy going, she was just a doll. I would say it is because of her I understand how individuals are able to have endless love for children who are not theirs biologically. All the smiles and laughter in that orphanage were like a ray of sunshine from God. He was present with every single person there.”

People going on a mission trip also have an opportunity for fun and sight-seeing, which is especially exciting for anyone who has never been out of the country. Vada said, “It was my first trip out of the country, my first trip on my own without my mom, my first trip experiencing life beyond Missouri on my own, and my first trip seeing God's purpose beyond my own. We got a chance to visit a local market, see goats and cows walking along the road with the cars, and go to Dunn's River Falls, Glistening Waters, the ocean, and more.”



Vada with children from the orphanage in 2001.

Anyone who talks about going on a mission trip recognizes the power of doing Christ's work. Vada said, “I could go on and on about my one experience with the Jamaica mission. It truly was that magical. It was inspiring meeting the locals and seeing the joy and excitement on their faces because they knew we were there to help them. We, the mission team, are the hands and feet of God, making a difference. The mission teams are the ones who are bringing Christ's light into their lives. These individuals may already have a relationship with Christ but may need a miracle in one way or another. The medical support and help are just part of it. All of the side conversations and relationships that are built over time lift up the locals' spirits.”

The impression the trip made on Vada was powerful. She said, “I think the reason Jamaica has such an impact on me today is that I believe it was God's plan to show me what His purpose was for my future. It was after that mission trip that I reflected on my time and opportunities there, and realized that I was to work with young children of God no matter what their background.”

Vada encourages others to get involved in the Jamaica medical mission. She emphasized, “We are building a brother/sisterhood with the native Jamaicans in the short time we are there on a mission trip. It is wonderful being an active disciple of Christ. He is feeding everyone who is involved! It doesn't matter if you are involved through prayer, financial support, helping to prepare for a trip, or going on the actual mission trip. We are all the hands and feet of the Lord for our brothers and sisters in Jamaica, and that will always remain with us.”

Half of the approximately \$6,000 needed to fund the mission trip has already been raised. To help the team meet its goal, please consider donating by mailing a check to UMC-Burg with Jamaica Mission in the memo or using the online giving button on the church website.

## The Social Creed of the United Methodist Church

We believe in God, Creator of the world; and in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of creation. We believe in the Holy Spirit, through whom we acknowledge God's gifts, and we repent of our sin in misusing these gifts to idolatrous ends.

We affirm the natural world as God's handiwork and dedicate ourselves to its preservation, enhancement, and faithful use by humankind.

We joyfully receive for ourselves and others the blessings of community, sexuality, marriage, and the family.

We commit ourselves to the rights of men, women, children, youth, young adults, the aging, and people with disabilities; to improvement of the quality of life; and to the rights and dignity of all persons.

We believe in the right and duty of persons to work for the glory of God and the good of themselves and others and in the protection of their welfare in so doing; in the rights to property as a trust from God, collective bargaining, and responsible consumption; and in the elimination of economic and social distress.

We dedicate ourselves to peace throughout the world, to the rule of justice and law among nations, and to individual freedom for all people of the world.

We believe in the present and final triumph of God's Word in human affairs and gladly accept our commission to manifest the life of the gospel in the world. Amen.



*Valentine's Day is only a month away!*

*What a great time to share your romantic story--whether it be how you met, a unique date, a proposal, a wedding.*

*I know from visiting with a lot of you that you have wonderful tales of true love.*

*Please send me your story at [carol@dumcburg.org](mailto:carol@dumcburg.org) so we can celebrate love all through February.*