

Pastor Peter's message notes from Jan. 10, 2021

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

As we prepare for the new year as a church, we are taking some time to get in touch with our roots and reflect on the mission God has given to our church family, "To live that all may know Jesus." How can we accomplish this mission as a church family in these strange and challenging times? Being reminded of an event, which happened several years ago, we recall that when 66 members of our church met to create our mission statement, they also identified five core values for our church family: Love, Service, Commitment, Integrity, Honesty. It's worth remembering how these values maintain meaning for us today.

The apostle Paul wrote a letter to the church in Thessalonica to guide and encourage them to fulfill their mission when they faced challenges.

Paul encourages the members of the young church to respect the many leaders in the church who have said "yes" to God's call to serve: **"But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labor among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves."** 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

After asking the church family to respect those who lead, Paul reminds them to show patience and encouragement to those in the family of faith who struggle. It's a reminder that true Christian leadership is servant leadership. Leaders are called to support and bring along those who are new and struggling. 1 Thess. 5a;14 says, **"And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the faint-hearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them."**

It is better to travel slow with other people than to travel fast alone.

Throughout this letter to the Thessalonians Paul uses family language to describe the relationships among the members of the church. He calls them brothers and sisters to emphasize how we are a part of the family of God because of what Jesus has done for each of us.

Raising our son William has given me a new appreciation for giving people time. When someone is family, you don't cut them off when things don't go the way you want. You wait patiently. You start again fresh the next day.

One of the greatest gifts God gives us is our families. We learn patience there. The church family is another amazing gift from God. We learn patience here as well. We develop long-term relationships, relationships that are not transactional. Our family teaches us how to be patient, to forgive, to love. The church family teaches us to be Christians. Our church family teaches us to "live that all may know Jesus."

## Preparing For Worship

### Scriptures for the coming week

Monday	Jan. 18: Genesis 1:1-19
Tuesday	Jan. 19: Genesis 1:20-25
Wednesday	Jan. 20: Genesis 1:26-31
Thursday	Jan. 21: Genesis 2:1-4
Friday	Jan. 22: Exodus 20:8-11
Saturday	Jan. 23: Matthew 8:23-27

### Upcoming Worship Messages

Jan. 17: Living That All May Know Jesus: In The World  
Jan. 24: In the Beginning . . .

## Our Church Family

### Prayer concerns from our church family

Aura Tavernner, Judy Murray, Donna Rosiere, Jaccie Blaszczyk, Linda Riddle, Camden Garcia, Peggy Province, 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, Michelle Schubert, , Doris Grigsby's nephews, Matilda Agyemang's her husband William Gyau Baffour and her mother Comfort.

### Birthdays for the coming week

Jan. 17: Brenna Schmidli, Jim Dahman  
Jan. 19: Yashraj Airen  
Jan. 20: Genevieve Case, Haviland Woodson  
Jan. 21: Irene Miller  
Jan. 22: Ross Gostomski  
Jan. 23: Don Coleman

### New Members Named To Church Committees

As we begin a new year, we welcome new leaders in our church who have answered God's call to service in our church with love, commitment, integrity, and honesty. The following people will begin a three-year term of service on the following committees.

- \*Pastor Parish Relations Committee: Gabrielle Benedict, Ken O'Neal, Mike Quimby
- \*Trustees: Laura Chaney, Kelly Weinberger, Doug Christie, Steve Price; New chairman – Bob Muir
- \*Nominating Committee: Ellie Carter, June Mellinger, Ron Holmes
- \*Finance Committee: Dale Carder, Bob Boyd, Sue Evans, Doris Rogers

Please keep these Christian leaders in your prayers as they study scriptures and prepare to lead our church during these important years into a brighter future.

## Prayer Team Formed; Guidelines Created For Congregational Prayer Requests

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.

The group has formulated the following guidelines to guide us in making requests and to keep the prayer list up to date. 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.

The prayer team will be informed of the request, respond, and track how long each request is on the public prayer list. The most common prayer requests are for concerns. These include hospitalization, death of a family member, or being placed into a rehabilitation facility. Each of these requests will be placed on the public prayer list for two weeks.

For those who are moved into a long-term facility, their name will be posted once a month on the public prayer list. This practice will continue during residency at the facility.

Prayer requests for those who are diagnosed with cancer or other life-altering illness will be listed on the public prayer list for the first four weeks of the diagnosis, and then moved to a monthly inclusion until further notice.

Names of those who experience an accident will be placed on the prayer list for one week unless circumstances dictate differently.

An area that has not previously been included has been that of military deployment, which is common in our community. Prayers are not only for the service personnel but also their family. As they begin deployment, they are to be included for that week. The prayer team may extend this listing as needed.

Not all prayers are for concerns; some are to share joy and praise. Therefore, the prayer team will include special prayers of thanks for birth announcements, weddings, graduation, retirements, new jobs, and military transfers. These prayers will be posted for one week.

Life is never predictable; therefore, these guidelines can be modified as needed by the Prayer Team.

To protect the privacy and the HIPAA laws, public lists will include only the first names. This is especially important because screens are shared during the live-feed worship services. The newsletter will continue to print full names since that is intended only for the church family.

As we begin this new ministry, we open our hearts to our church family to share our concerns and our joys. Prayers are powerful. If you have questions, do not hesitate to email or call the church.



### 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)

#### Position Available

#### Praise Band Director

We are looking for a praise band director who loves Jesus and music. The praise band director will recruit and train the praise band to accomplish the church's mission. The praise band director will be self-motivated and able to prioritize duties. He/she will be able to coach a band to lead life-changing worship.

Resumes and references can be emailed to [contact@umcburg.org](mailto:contact@umcburg.org) or mailed to the church office at 141 E. Gay St. Warrensburg, MO 64093

## Jamaica Mission Meets Many Needs

Over its more than 20-year ministry, the Jamaica medical mission has provided much needed care for clients and just as much inspiration for those who go on the mission trip.

Dr. David Glover, who has been on the Jamaica mission over 10 times, explained that Jamaica has a form of nationalized health care that is very limited. Many of the people in Falmouth, the main location of the mission, simply can't afford medication even if they can get to a physician. Other care such as pulling teeth and simple surgeries are also not accessible to them. They have ready access to immunizations and prenatal care. Many of the residents use the clinic as their primary care for many common conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, and arthritis. The main medical need is medication; however, sometimes it's a wheelchair, crutches or shots. Dr. Glover has done a lot of joint injections for arthritis.

According to mission organizer Steve Mills, "Many residents depend on this volunteer clinic to supply medications for chronic medical conditions. Many clients return at regular intervals to monitor chronic conditions and refill their prescriptions. An extensive medical history has been developed over the years on the regular patients."

Regarding the medical staff who travel to Jamaica, usually there are three or four providers, at least two nurses, and sometimes a pharmacist or dentist. Dr. Glover said, "In addition, we use students or others with medical inclinations to help by doing vital signs, simple labs, short histories, help in the pharmacy and assist in minor surgeries."

The medical staff is definitely kept busy. The number of people seen depends on how many other groups have been there recently and how many providers are present. Dr. Glover said, "On some of our trips we have seen 700 or more over four or five days. Often it's many fewer. Success is not, however, measured by numbers."

Every person who has gone on the mission trip has been moved by the experience. Stephanie Culp said, "The Jamaica Mission means a lot to me. It allows God to use my nursing skills for His purpose in the Falmouth Clinic. I feel it is an honor and a privilege to serve the people of Falmouth, Jamaica."

Glover, whose first trip was with Guy and Jonna Albert with the youth group, said, "I had agreed to go if they ever made the trip with the youth thinking it would never happen. Best reluctant trip I ever made. There are a lot of joys. The Jamaican people are wonderful! The escape of paperwork and electronic dependence is refreshing. The relationships built during the mission are cherished. Most of all, as a physician and a Christian, it feeds my soul. I encourage everyone to go at least once on a mission trip. This one is routinely excellent. I must warn, however, that it is potentially addictive!"



Mary Elizabeth Weigand rides on the push cart which Dalton Mowatt and others use to transport goods for the team. Our closest Jamaican friends often accompany volunteers in town as shown with this shopping trip.

### Mary Elizabeth Weigand Reflects On Mission

Joy and gratitude fill my heart when I reflect on the two Jamaica Medical Missions I have served.

It's a huge undertaking--staffing and stocking the Falmouth Primary Care Clinic and serving rural clinics--and I'm so grateful to have been a small part of it. The experience has been not only educational and rewarding but humbling and inspirational. The end result--running a primary care clinic for one week--is an amazing accomplishment, and you can immediately see the impact on lives, but that is only one of many rewards.

The teamwork required builds new connections and friendships at home and abroad. The love and understanding that come from this process are priceless and spread beyond our respective communities. It's a great way to share our blessings and God's love.

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