

January 11, 2023

ClairChurch
UNITED METHODIST

CLAIR CONNECTION

NW District <http://www.northwest.moumethodist.org/>

Missouri United Methodist Conference <http://www.moumethodist.org/>

Starlight Group Holds Tea Party at January Meeting!



Our cups runneth over!

CLAIR CONNECTION

Charles Hill Retires from Open Door Food Kitchen



Charles Hill has retired. Really. His last day was Thursday, December 29. Clair Food Kitchen helpers prepared lunches that day at the Open Door Food Kitchen and then took him out to lunch. Charles has worked at the Open Door Food Kitchen for the last four years. That's how members of Clair have become acquainted with Charles. And he makes a mean sweet potato pie that you may have had the good fortune to taste at one of our Fellowship Lunches!

The New York City native grew up with five siblings. His two sisters and parents have passed away. His three brothers are living in Texas, New York and California. He plans to see them all this year. Charles has one daughter and his two grandsons live in North Carolina and Baltimore.

He was living in Houston, Texas, when Hurricane Harvey hit. At that time, Triumph Foods was in the Houston area recruiting for jobs in its St. Joseph plant. Charles has a bucket list item of visiting all 50 states. Missouri had not yet been checked off! Charles decided to move to St. Joseph (five years ago). He first began getting meals at the Open Door Food Kitchen and after leaving Triumph, began volunteering there. When there was a job opening at the Open Door, Charles began working there.

"For this size town, St. Joseph has a lot of homeless and low income people that need help," says Charles. "Prices are going up and a family of four cannot survive. It's good there's a spot where they can come to get a good meal, clothes and peace of mind for one and a half hours a day." Most people may not be aware that the Open Door Food Kitchen does offer free clothing. Charles states, "We have shirts, pants, shoes – warm coats that we give out." Donations of clothing items are always welcomed at the kitchen.

The Open Door Food Kitchen Program Director, Lisa Moser, stated that Charles has cooked, cleaned and helped out in any way needed. "He will be hard to replace," she said. And no one has been hired for that "position" yet.

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CLAIR CONNECTION



Sunday, Jan. 8 was a special day for me, personally, and for those of us who had the opportunity to renew our baptismal covenant. Scripture for the day focused on John's ministry of calling people to repent and to be baptized and on Jesus' baptism from Mt. 3:1-17. Even though Jesus had no need

to repent or to be baptized, it was important for him to get into the water with those who did as a sign of his solidarity with humanity. Emmanuel – God with us – is with us in all aspects of our life. Barbara Brown Taylor writes: "In him, (Jesus), God's being-with-us included God's being in the river with us, in the flesh with us, the sorrow of repentance and the joy of new life with us."

Two of the people who came to remember their baptism on Sunday told me the exact date of their baptism! Others, like me, who were baptized as infants, have no recollection of the specific event. But we continue to be grateful for parents and godparents who made promises on our behalf as the pastor sprinkled water over our tiny head.

In The United Methodist Church, we believe in "one" baptism, meaning that one baptism is enough for your lifetime. In baptism, it is God who is doing the acting – naming and claiming you as God's very own. Even though we may wander off, even turning our back on God, God doesn't go anywhere. God doesn't make mistakes. So, the love and grace poured out upon us at our baptism holds forever. However, remembering our baptism can be an everyday experience. In fact, one pastor I know encourages folks to remember each and every day as they stand in the shower – being grateful for baptism as water streams over their head. May you remember your baptism and be grateful today and every day.

Our benediction on Sunday included the Wesleyan Covenant Prayer. I include it here for your reflection.

I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside by thee.
Exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine.
So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
Let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

Friends, it is an honor to be your pastor!

Pastor Cindy

CLAIR CONNECTION

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Charles' past jobs have included being a Marine from 1972-1985. He was stationed mostly overseas – at his request. "There was too much prejudice in the states." He was stationed in Japan, Okinawa, Taiwan, Tai Pai and Cambodia. He achieved the rank of Staff Sergeant. He still wants to see Germany. Other jobs have included working in the oil fields in Louisiana and Texas and cooking for the New Orleans Saints!

The good news is he plans to stay in St. Joseph after retirement. He states he has been blessed. "I've enjoyed life, helping people and meeting people. I got to meet Clair folks and others." Charles plans to relax at his home in St. Joseph and pursue his hobbies: bowling, playing pool, horse racing, watching TV and seeing movies sometimes. He said to note that he's "looking for a woman." Will do, Charles. Will do.



CLAIR'S CALENDAR

January 12	New speakers to be installed
January 21	Men's Group 8 AM
January 29	Year in Review presentation
February 7	Deadline for Jan's Wish items
February 12	Fellowship Luncheon and <u>Souper Bowl</u>
February 13	Starlight 3:30 PM
February 14	AD Council 6 PM
February 18	Men's Group 8 AM

Bring Donated Soup to Clair by February 12!

CLAIR CONNECTION



What allows our elementary Children's Church class to use their imaginations and tell stories?

**Our new
flannel
board!**

Jan Abels has a wish: to help provide hats, scarves and gloves to families who need them! Help support Jan's Wish—thank you for your generosity!

Jan's Wish

Please bring new adult or child gloves, hats and scarves to Clair by Feb. 7 to help those in need



Save the Dates!

**KC MEN'S CHORUS AT CLAIR
ANNUAL FLOWER SALE**

**APRIL 2
MAY 6**

We will host the amazing KC Men's Chorus Palm Sunday afternoon. The proceeds benefit Voices of Courage Child Advocacy Ctr.!