

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

Look at all the possible spiritual gifts – maybe take a survey like Strengths Finder! Take a fresh look at the book of Mark where Jesus is asked what the greatest commandment is: “ Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind and strength” and adds, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” **Continued on Page 5**

CLAIR CONNECTION

Communion Holds a Special Place in Carole Scott's Heart



I grew up in the Chicago area. I am a cradle Methodist, attending Aldersgate Methodist Church. When I was a teen, I was told that I used to stand up in the church pew between my parents and belt out the hymns (at age 3).

I have worked in women's retail and enjoyed mixing colors and designs. I also worked as a para-professional at the high school level – teaching special education. I did train as a stockbroker (not my cup of tea). My Master's in Social Work was obtained in 1984 and I worked as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker for 35 years.

My marriage to a Methodist minister lasted 23 years. We have two children: Paul, a district judge in Des Moines, Iowa, and Deanne, a senior video specialist and creative cake and cookie decorator in Des Moines.

My five grandchildren are: Jake, age 30 in Los Angeles; Brady, age 27 in New York City; Caroline, age 26 in Chicago; Meredith,

age 24 in Des Moines and Burke, age 22, a senior at the University of Iowa.

St. Joseph became my home in 1988 and I transferred my membership to Clair in 1990. Harold Gold was the pastor. I was a teacher for the Crusaders' Class at Clair for several years; have been a delegate to Annual Conference and on the Nominations Committee.

I walk five miles a day and enjoy reading comical mysteries. I used to write poetry and still draw.

A "secret" of mine: Several years ago while living in the Chicago area, I was in a commercial with cowboy star Guy Madison. The product was Secret women's deodorant. Madison played a surgeon and came in to tell me my spouse had brain cancer. I was supposed to stay cool and dry (upon hearing that news) because I used Secret!

One favorite memory from Clair Church is the time I was a reader for the Tenebrae Service on Good Friday. The candles were put out one by one.

I am touched when we take Communion at Clair. It's a very special moment.



CLAIR CONNECTION



MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



Cindy Buhman



We are into the final two weeks of Advent. So far in this season of waiting, of anticipation, we have focused on hope, peace, and joy. During our Advent worship theme: The Inn – Housing the Holy, we have reflected upon preparing our church, our families, ourselves to welcome the Holy, house the Holy, and then to reflect the Holy back to the world – one heart, one life at a time.

Another interesting component of our Advent worship has been to learn about the background of favorite Christmas carols. Since a power outage shortened our worship this past Sunday, we didn't get to talk about "What Child Is This," a carol written by Chatterton Dix in 1865. Dix was an English businessman, unlike most clergy person hymn writers of the day. He asks the question, "Why lies he in such mean estate," referring to the stable. In the original second verse of the carol, Dix answers the question by connecting the humble, wooden birth manger to the wood of the cross "borne" at his death. Like other carols we have noted, the original verse is omitted from most hymnals today. Here are the words:

Why lies He in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.

True joy acknowledges the suffering of the world and invites all people, regardless of status, to claim Christ's grace and joy as salve for the soul. May we offer warmth and comfort to sooth a hurting world.

I hope you have checked out the Bread for Our Journey link each week during Advent. This website offers resources for additional reflection on our Advent themes and activities for children and adults. <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Advent-3-Bread-For-Our-Journey.html?oid=1138003871855&aid=CxuVt0qiunA> I share some of the activities during the "open house" time on Thursdays at Clair UMC between 4 and 7 PM. Stop in for an Advent "breather!"

I look forward to seeing you and your family for our Christmas Eve service of Carols, Communion and Candle-light, 4:30 PM on Friday, Dec. 24. Christmas blessings to you, my Friends! It is an honor to be your pastor!

Pastor Cindy

REJOICE!



CLAIR CONNECTION



We all are distressed and saddened by the loss of life and destruction caused by tornadoes through midwestern states early Saturday morning. You are invited to give to the UMCOR fund for tornado relief. UMCOR (the United Methodist Committee on Relief) is the relief agency of The United Methodist Church. Every penny you give will go directly to relief efforts. UMCOR is known for being the first on the disaster

scene and the last to leave. Indicate UMCOR on your gift and our treasurer will make sure it gets to the right place. I heard the mayor of Mayfield, Kentucky, say when asked what they needed, "In the long term, we need money. In the short term, we need prayers." We can do that! Dear God, may the people impacted by devastating tornadoes feel your presence during their grief and during the rebuilding process. Use us to help them have what they need today and into the future. Amen. *Pastor Cindy*



*Walk to the Manger with us
December 19 during worship.
Your offering goes to Inter-
Serv's Utility Assistance Fund*



CLAIR CONNECTION

Continued from Page 1—Spiritual Gifts

The author lists spiritual gifts that fall under four headings Heart, Soul, Mind and Strength.

Heart – Cherish the gift of personal relationship with the Creator. Dedicating one's time, talents and gifts to God through self-offering and service. To love your neighbor with your heart, desire abundant life for others. Practice outreach and compassion for those in need, sick, prison and offering hospitality to others.

Soul – To long for deeper communion with the mystery of the divine. Prayer, stillness, solitude, retreat, journaling. To love your neighbor with your soul is to foster closer connections with them.

Mind – Search for greater understanding of God's wisdom and will for the world. Daily Bible study or devotionals, scholarly research on theology – life of the church.

To love your neighbor with your mind, share with others in pursuit of God's wisdom and truth. Teaching, tutoring at-risk youth, music lessons, book club or game night with the congregation.

Strength - Embody prayer and praise in daily life. Exercise, eat right, take care of your body which is a gift from God. Take care of the earth – recycle – be responsible.

To love your neighbor with your strength is to devote your energy and will to the well-being of others. Service projects, repairing a house, clean water, open door food kitchen, etc.

The last gift – Gift of Worship. It all comes together here. Hearts united in prayer and praise, souls joined in song, minds receiving the Word, neighbors assembled under one roof.

Participation in public worship is the foundation upon which all the other practices and disciplines of faith are built, soil in which they are rooted and from which they grow to bear good fruit. We are glad you are part of our community at Clair! —**Debbie Wells**



Clair's Calendar

Dec. 2, 9, 16 & 23	Advent Open House - 4 to 7 pm
December 19	Adopted Families' gift deadline & Walk to the Manger Offering
	Blue Christmas at Ebenezer 5 pm
December 24	Christmas Eve Service 4:30 pm
December 29	Serve Open Door Food Kitchen
Jan. 12—March 9	Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University at Ebenezer 6:30 pm

CLAIR CONNECTION



ADVENT OPEN HOUSE

Thursday's 4PM - 7PM

December 2, 2021
December 9, 2021
December 16, 2021
December 23, 2021

ClairChurch
UNITED METHODIST

**BRING NEEDED
ITEMS FOR BESSIE
ELLISON KIDS!**

Plain underwear

(no characters) boys &
girls sizes 5T – 10

Plain socks boys & girls
sizes S, M and L

(kid sizes)

Pants boys & girls

Sizes 5T - 10

* Now through Jan. 16!



Be *Santa* in your heart.
Give so no *child* has to go without.

**Collecting items
through Dec 19th**

AFL-CIO Community Services 816-364-1131 helpmenow.org
1203 North Sixth St. St. Joseph, Mo. 64501

Adopt-A-Family

*This 9-week
course begins
January 12 at
Ebenezer!*

*Please Join Us
at 6:30 pm*

DAVE RAMSEY'S

FINANCIAL *Peace*
UNIVERSITY