

## CLAIR CONNECTION

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

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

# The Season of Lent Begins March 2



With the turning of the calendar page to March, we find Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the season of Lent on March 2. We will begin the season with a brief service that Wednesday evening at 7:00. Pastor Cindy also plans to offer a Lenten devotion at noon that day via Facebook Live. Stay tuned for details.

This year's Lenten series is "Good Enough" from Worship Design Studio. The Rev. Dr. Marcia McFee writes: *We live in a culture bent on definitions of a good life as continuous upward mobility—climbing ladders of prosperity with increasingly fabulous experiences that we can post to ever more-likable social media accounts. We may comb the shelves of the self-help section in search of just the right formula*

*to gain success. Perhaps we even gravitate towards spiritual leaders who promise great rewards if we only do "the right thing." But life happens, right? Most times we are not moving upward but trying to repair the rung we've just slipped from. So what if we stopped climbing and started fertilizing, watering, and blooming right where we find ourselves? Welcome to a Lent of affirming a faith in which we are blessed, regardless, and where we can lean into embracing our "good enough" lives.*

Be watching for opportunities to participate in daily devotions or a small group during the seven weeks leading up to Easter on Apr. 17.

## Sisters of Solace Shares Its Mission

February Starlight meeting welcomed special guest speaker Stacy Kerns, Founder and Executive Director of Sisters of Solace in St. Joseph, MO. Sisters of Solace is a ministry that offers hospitality and a space for women to heal from trauma and addiction. The women can expect support and guidance for setting goals and charting a course for achieving life skills, healing, and employment.



Stacy shared with us her story and inspiration to form a mission with a business. She saw a need where women survivors could find housing, food, and basic needs along with guidance to overcome their life challenges. The year-long residential program is built on three pillars: HEAL EMPOWER EMPLOY. **See Page 4**

## CLAIR CONNECTION

### Barb Elder Feels Blessed to be a Part of Clair Church



I am sixth in a family of eight children of Ralph and Vadonna Price, and I grew up in the small town of Gravity, Iowa. Gravity was mentioned in the recent Turbo Tax Super Bowl commercial. I attended the Gravity United Methodist Church from birth until I moved to St. Joseph.

I was employed for 47 years by Midwest Federal Savings & Loan and the last four years it became Farmers State Bank. I started out as a teller and was promoted up through the ranks to Vice-President. I retired in 2018.

Denny Elder and I were married in 1984 and have lived in the St. Joseph area ever since. We are dog lovers, and we are currently controlled by our Papillion, Sophie. We spoiled her so we have to deal with it.

I started coming to Clair around 1983 when I was invited by Buzz Nold, Patty Hartenbower's father. I was attending Ashland UMC at the time with my sister, but I found Clair to be the perfect fit for me. Denny started attending after we were married, and we eventually transferred our memberships to Clair around 1985.

One memory I have from Clair is when I was youth group leader. We had a skating party for the youth and long story short - trying to skate like I did when I was younger was not the best idea. I fell and broke my wrist while the boys stood around and laughed at me for falling. I didn't think it was all that funny!

***"I want the congregation to know how much  
I appreciate all the love and encouragement"***

Another fond memory was being a part of the fundraiser for Claire Weipert. It was amazing to see what we could do as a church and to exceed our goal by more than double. Then the softball tournaments for the benefit of Claire's foundation we had for several years after were a lot of work but very rewarding and built a lot of comradery.

I love this congregation! I especially enjoy my Sunday School class. They are a very loving group of friends that I know I could count on for support in any situation. I enjoy serving at the food kitchen and, yes, shopping for it with Sherry. Cindy touches my heart every Sunday! She is such a blessing to our church, and I believe God put her here at just the perfect time.

I enjoy a wide variety of things – reading, crafting and most recently I made my first quilt. Denny and I enjoy spending time at the Lake of the Ozarks boating and just relaxing at our condo. We enjoy travelling and have

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PASTOR CINDY BUHMAN



Our sermon series on stewardship, “Beyond the Offering Plate,” wraps up on Feb. 27 with a look at stewardship of money and finances. We have learned over the last six weeks that we are called to be good stewards of more aspects of our lives than just money. We have thought about stewardship of spiritual gifts, time, our work, our bodies, community, and the particularities of our individual incarnations. A common thread throughout the topics has been the role of relationship. We human beings are relational beings. So it is no surprise that our individual stewardship of personal aspects of our lives is impacted by the interdependent nature of our life together. The African word, “ubuntu,” sums it up well: “I am because we are.”

We closed last Sunday’s service with the hymn, “**Help Us Accept Each Other.**” The words are a reminder of the diversity among us. Be blessed, and perhaps, challenged, as you reflect upon the words once again:

*Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us; teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace. Be present, Lord, among us, and bring us to believe we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.*

*Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith. Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some, to love them as we find them, or as they may become.*

*Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved in living situations to do the truth in love; to practice your acceptance, until we know by heart the table of forgiveness and laughter’s healing art.*

*Lord, for today’s encounters with all who are in need, who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread, we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on; renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!*

*The United Methodist Hymnal, pg. 560. Words: Fred Kaan; Music: John Ness Beck*

**One more thing:** I am working on a plan for a confirmation / membership class. Please reach out to me if you are interested in baptism, becoming a member, confirmation, or transferring your membership. Pentecost Sunday, June 5 is the target date for a grand celebration!

*Pastor Cindy*

It’s an honor to be your pastor!



## CLAIR CONNECTION

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been many amazing places here in our country and in Europe. We still have a bucket list, but that has been put on hold by Covid! Hopefully we will be back on the road again soon.

I want the congregation to know how much I appreciate all the love and encouragement they show to not just me but to each other. And believe it or not, I enjoy serving my church by running the video and live stream each week. I am not computer wizard, but I always wanted to be and I try hard.

I am blessed to be a part of Clair United Methodist Church!!

Continued from Page 1—Sisters

Employment is a very important part they have become a mission with a the home. The women manufacture (MWSU) where their factory is port the home and give the women a Solace and their mission by ordering

Stacy shared the many challenges of The Starlight ladies have been

to the mission by volunteering, providing meals, and donating special needed items. You can help the homeless women find solace. Visit [Support - Sisters of Solace - St. Joseph \(sosstjoe.org\)](https://sosstjoe.org)



to restoring dignity. For this reason, business that offers employment within candles at the Kit Bond Incubator located. Sales of these candles help sup-paycheck. You can support Sisters of items online or at select retail locations.

these women and the success stories. brainstorming ideas to offer our support

**Roxyann Schreiber**

## Clair's Calendar

March 2	Facebook Live Lenten Devotion 12 noon Ash Wednesday Service at Clair 7 pm
March 8	Administrative Board 6 pm
March 14	Starlite (time TBA)
March 19	Men's Group 8 am
March 29	Serve Food Kitchen 9 am
April 9	Trivia Night at Ebenezer
April 17	<b>EASTER</b>
April 23	Safe Sanctuary Refresher for <u>ALL</u> VBS volunteers 10-12 noon at Clair
May 7	<b>FLOWER SALE!</b>

# CLAIR CONNECTION

Duane crowns Souperbowl Queen!



Souperbowl fun AFTER tailgating!

SOUPERBOWL SPOILS



240 food items and \$250 delivered to  
Inter-Serv!

