

February 9, 2022



CLAIR CONNECTION

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

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

Join Team Clair for Game Day February 13!



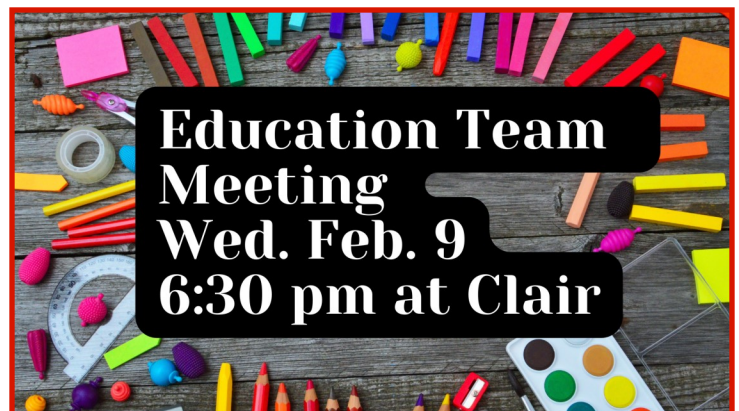
Wear your team gear and
bring your favorite tailgate grub
to our Fellowship Luncheon on
Sunday!

Don't forget your canned soup
for our "Souper Bowl" mission
project to benefit Inter-Serv!

Join us for our Stewardship sermon series; open your mind!

Join a team at Clair!

Education, Worship, Mission,
Prayer or Courtesy



CLAIR CONNECTION

Meredith Robbins Serves Clair's Children



I was born and raised on a farm about five miles east of the church. I attended Ebenezer UMC from birth through most of my college years, so I am just a “natural Methodist.” Ebenezer is where I feel that I officially got my faith start, in that I started playing the piano there for the church at the age of 12. I was very involved with the youth group so I have to give credit to them for shaping me to be the person I am today. Some of you may also know that I still help with a couple of their major fundraisers and functions they have (as COVID allows them to have their events). I have one brother, Michael, who is Senior Pastor at Avondale UMC in North Kansas City. Michael is not married and lives in an apartment in the Commerce Bank Building in Downtown KC. My sister, Melissa, lives here in St. Joseph and has three chil-

dren: Ayden, 16, is a sophomore at Central High School; JP, almost 7, is in kindergarten at St. Joseph Christian and Levi, 3, attends the Mother's Day Out Program at Ashland UMC. The joke in our family seems to be that Michael and I do the same line of work, except Michael has the official degree to be a church leader!

My husband, Conda, and I just celebrated our 20th Wedding Anniversary. We were married at Clair on January 26, 2002, by Rev. William Wasson. Due to my health concerns, we were told by doctors that we would not be able to have children. We are “fur parents” to two rabbits, six dogs and eight cats. We rescue troubled, abandoned and medically disabled animals and I spend much of my spare time training dogs for others as a hobby.

Conda and I both work for Choices of St. Joseph. Conda works Friday through Sunday and I work Thursday through Tuesday. We both care for disabled gentlemen who require 24/7 care. Our duties are meal prep, administering medications, household chores and just making sure their needs are taken care of to the best of our abilities. We hear a lot of “don't think I can do that.” It is challenging but I feel that it has made me a better person and it is truly rewarding. No two days are alike for sure for either of us.

I began attending Clair UMC in 1999, after accepting the role of Choir Director. That was an amazing experience and really taught me a lot more about music. I was also asked to be the pianist for “The River”, which was a Sunday night worship and praise service led by Rod Sander. Rod and Dustin Sander and Rev. Bill Wasson (hope I didn't leave anyone out) were the three guitarists for the service while I played the piano.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Cindy Buhman



As we turn the calendar to February, our worship series on stewardship continues. We have focused on stewardship of our spiritual gifts, time, work, and our bodies. Still to come: stewardship of community, privilege, and money and finances to wrap up the series. I hope your concept of stewardship has broadened as we consider ALL aspects of our lives as gifts along with the call to carefully and responsibly manage those gifts God has entrusted to our care.

Looking forward to:

Restroom Remodel will begin soon! Kieth Gerling is scheduled to start work this month on the restrooms at Clair UMC, improving accessibility to both the men's and women's restrooms.

Church Directory – Roxynn Schrieber, Karen Vulgamott, and I are researching options for an online church directory. We're excited about the possibilities and look forward to this upcoming project.

Membership and Confirmation – I'm really looking forward to working with our teens ready for confirmation classes and adults interested in official membership in the Clair UMC community. Be watching for details. And, if you want to learn more about membership, transferring your membership, and/or baptism, let me know.

Blessings, Friends. Stay safe and healthy. It is an honor to be your pastor! *Pastor Cindy*



Clair's Calendar

February 9	Education Team Meeting 6:30 pm
February 13	SOUPERBOWL Sunday and Tailgate Fellowship Luncheon
February 14	Starlite 11:30 am (bring a sack lunch)
February 16	VBS Meeting at Ebenezer 6:30 pm
February 19	Men's group at Clair 8 am
March 2	Lent begins!

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It was a great way to come, sing, praise, relax and just be in fellowship on a Sunday evening. Rod was also a big influence with my music and learning to grow stronger with my music.

Soon after returning, Conda began working for Acme Vending which required him to work Sundays. I do not drive so I was concerned my attending Clair would come to a screeching halt! I recalled attending a St. Paul UMC concert one time and recalled they had a church bus. It was available for me to attend church there. I was asked to be the substitute pianist, along

with joining the praise band. I was later asked to serve as the sound technician. After a few months, I had the opportunity to start attending a very small country church named Star Chapel at Empire Prairie. Attendance was usually 15 people. I served as the Worship and Song Leader there. Rev. Wasson had been appointed there. It was truly a blessing to yet grow and learn in another capacity of my faith and leadership.

After Rev. Wasson announced his retirement, we learned we would be receiving a pastor from the African Conference of Mozambique who spoke mostly Portuguese and not much English. Pastor Cindy played a huge part in Rev. Naftal being sent to serve Star Chapel. I continued to serve as the Worship and Song Leader. I was able to learn some Portuguese and sing it too. I was able to understand the pastor and able to help interpret for others. Star Chapel had some significant structural problems so it was not feasible to keep it open. The decision was made to close its doors and we learned the building would be torn down. What devastation! But all the opportunities at these other churches helped shape me for a much bigger task.

I decided to look around at other churches but not jump in feet first until I could find a church and really settle down to be of service. Shortly after Star Chapel closed, Pastor Cindy got the appointment at Clair UMC so I knew where I was headed. Our family knew Pastor Cindy from her appointment at Bethany UMC – where my brother served also. Cindy has always been a part of our family for sure! I am truly blessed to be a part of Clair UMC!

One of my greatest joys here at Clair is to be able to be of service in the capacity of Children and Youth Leader! When COVID came about, it came upon my heart to find a way to serve the children while we were not meeting in person. I sent out packets to our children and youth each week until we opened back up. That need seemed to continue when we came back in person – the children and youth needed someone to continue their ministry. I stepped up – never thinking I could do this. I am so honored and blessed to be able to teach and grow with each one of our children and youth. This truly has become a very strong passion of mine. I am usually in the church office on Wednesdays planning, studying and researching ways for growing and learning.

I heard a recent Missouri United Methodist Conference podcast that said “without children and youth, the church cannot grow” and I’m a firm believer in that! I spend much of my day planning (continued Page 5)



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upcoming lessons and ideas I can use in the classroom. I really cannot thank each one of you enough for sharing your children and youth with me each week. I hope they enjoy learning and I hope they see church as a meaningful part of their week.

2021 Vacation Bible School was an amazingly fun time last summer and I am truly looking forward to Vacation Bible School again this year – Food Truck Party! The planning stages are officially underway so stay tuned for ways that you can be part of this ministry. I am truly honored and blessed to be serving in this capacity for our church and for education. I am constantly looking at resources and curriculum to help become a better leader for our Education Department.

A couple of memories from Clair that stand out to me are John Anderson as greeter at the east door and also Harry Myers! As I returned in 1999, I was told if I needed anything or help, to just find Harry. He was the all-around helper and I remember him so well.

I am so honored and blessed to be able to teach and grow with each one of our children and youth.

I assisted in bringing the Kansas City Metro Men's Chorus to Clair for a fundraising concert to benefit the local children's advocacy center – now Voices of Courage. It was an amazing event! They are hoping to come back to Clair but have suspended all performances for now due to COVID concerns.

As you can see, I don't really have a lot of spare time as I work, train and care for animals and spend much time in reading and study time at the church. I love working word search puzzles, jigsaw puzzles and enjoy studying about our faith - continue to enjoy learning. I am always seeking devotionals, Bible Studies and other online classes and events. I study a lot with Adam Hamilton and the Church of the Resurrection. I am a COR nut! Outside of work and church, I don't have a lot of time for other things but I am devoted to the future of children and youth – that is my focus always. My biggest motto – "Children are our future and without our children and youth, the church will eventually die out." I work a lot behind the scenes with the Missouri Conference with children and youth studies. There will be more coming out about this in the future! Stay tuned!

Thank you Clair UMC for all your support, love and encouragement as I continue to grow! What wonderful "neighbors" you are to me!

