

March 23, 2022

ClairChurch
UNITED METHODIST

CLAIR CONNECTION

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

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



Starlight members are going to provide evening meals for women at the Sisters of Solace facility at 4:30 pm the second Tuesday of each month beginning April 12th. Three Starlight ladies will be delivering the food and enjoy the meal and fellowship with the ladies who live there. Lora Roberts is coordinating this “meal train” so please contact her if you would like to sign up to help with this mission!

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. Executive Director Stacy Kerns gave a presentation to the Starlight group at their February meeting. Sisters of Solace will also be selling their lotions and candles at Clair’s upcoming Flower Sale Saturday May 7!



The Missouri Conference has created a resource page for United Methodists who feel called to support the people of **Ukraine**, which includes a prayer, scripture, information and ways to give. Go to <https://www.moumethodist.org/resourcedetail/resource-for-learning-about-and-supporting-ukraine->

P
R
A
Y

CLAIR CONNECTION

Debbie Wells: The ... Rest ... of ... the ... Story



I grew up in Eagleville, Missouri (Harrison County). I attended one year at NWMSU, majoring in journalism and then married Larry Lovejoy from Pattonsburg. I found out later that Karen Vulgamott was at Northwest at the same time and had friends on my dormitory floor! I worked for Lovejoy Mobile Homes as my husband attended Missouri Western and then chiropractic college in Kansas City. We moved to Pattonsburg where Larry opened his practice in 1981. I worked at the Gallatin newspaper as a col-

umnist, ad sales and copy lay out person. Our son, Austin, was born in 1983 and we moved back to St. Joseph where Larry partnered with another doctor. I began work as a legal secretary. Cody was born in 1986. I went back to college at MWSU in 1988 part time. We divorced in 1990. I received my Associate Degree in Paralegal Studies in 1991 and my Bachelor's in Journalism in 1992. I began work as a paralegal at the Buchanan County Prosecutor's Office in 1993 and retired from there in 2020.

I married Bob Wells in 1996. I have two step-children: Brandon Wells and Carissa Crabb. Carissa is mom to our only grandchild, Oliver (7). We are very lucky Ollie lives here in town!

I sit on the Voices of Courage Child Advocacy Center's board, am a member of the Missouri Paralegal Association, Beta Sigma Phi and PEO. My hobbies are: star gazing, storm chasing, reading, writing, walking/exercising.

While I was working as a legal secretary with the general practice firm, Joy Sander was hired to work there. In the late 1980's, she encouraged me to visit Clair and I have been there ever since! I have served on the board, as lay leader, missions leader, sung in the choir and praise band, Sunday School teacher, and led a team to Joplin after the massive tornado. I currently produce this newsletter and am the Safe Gatherings coordinator for Clair.

One favorite memory from Clair would have to be the Joplin Mission Trip. It was such a unique experience. The team consisted of myself, my husband, Bob, Rod Sander (who was the first to volunteer), Harlyn Fritzson and from Ebenezer: Larry Reynolds and Jim Treat. I was outnumbered by gender but not by bossiness. We

Continued Page 4

CLAIR CONNECTION



Pastor Cindy Buhman



The season of Lent continues. Only four more Sundays until Easter! We are focusing this year on tending the gardens of our spiritual lives, developing the ways we are in relationship with God and with each other, and blooming where we are as beloved children of God. I have particularly enjoyed the time spent with our boys and girls during worship each Sunday. All of us learn from them, don't we?!

Week 1 we looked at sweet potatoes and learned that the "perfect" potato and the weird looking potato looked the same on the inside and both would be equally delicious. We don't have to be "perfect" in order to be a blessing to God and to those who love us. Week 2 had us thinking about disappointment. Miss Meredith had her heart set on planting plants, but then it began to rain, ruining her plans. But we found out a Plan B and flexibility can help challenges to be okay. And then Week 3 was kind of "stinky" as we learned about fertilizer – the stinky stuff that helps plants grow. Sometimes the hard things that happen to us help us to learn, to grow, and to be stronger.

These past lessons, the morning sermons, and the lessons still to come will challenge us to accept ourselves and each other as we are – to set aside the need for perfection – and to trust that we are enough to be a blessing to God and to those around us.

Peace to you, my Friends, as our Lenten journey continues. It is an honor to be your pastor.

Pastor Cindy

NEXT→GEN

Next Gen Ministries was the topic for the gathering of district children's ministry leaders and pastors at Clair UMC on Tuesday, Mar. 8. Next Gen focuses on the development of the "next generation" of disciples among us. Attendees enjoyed lunch together while having conversation with Rev. Angel Garcia from the Missouri Conference office. Topics included the challenges of children's and youth ministry, individual successes, opportunities for networking, and ways the conference can be most helpful to local churches. Meredith Robbins and Rev. Cindy Buhman represented Clair UMC.

CLAIR CONNECTION

Wells— from Page 2

stayed at a United Methodist Church near Joplin. Other teams were there also and we learned a lot from talking to them. They were veteran teams with many heart warming and sometimes sad stories. These stories helped me focus on why we were really there. We performed site clean up, electrical work, and heard stories from the residents about the horror of the May day that changed their lives. We each wrote entries in a journal during our stay and afterwards, each team member got a copy of that journal – to remember our mission.

WE are the church. Not the building.

Another favorite memory is when we had the Claire Fair fundraiser for Sherry and Wayne's granddaughter Claire Weipert. I have never seen such church and community support for a cause! We were able to raise over \$26,000 to help defray medical expenses. We also had annual benefit softball tournaments for years after that to benefit a foundation for juvenile cancer.

What touches my heart at Clair has to be the people. We are the church. Not the building. I look forward to coming to church every Sunday. I feel at home with the more rural feel of Clair since I grew up in a small town in a farming community. I just feel like we are all a family. We are so blessed to have a wonderful leader in Pastor Cindy. She has a heart big enough to hold us all. She continually shows us what it means to be a Christian and how to do God's work.

Clair's Calendar

March 29	Serve Food Kitchen 9 am
April 2	CHANCE TO DANCE fundraiser for Voices of Courage—Missouri Theater 7 pm
April 9	Trivia Night at Ebenezer
April 10	Palm Sunday and Fellowship Luncheon
April 11	Starlight 5:30 pm
April 12	Administrative Council 6 pm
April 17	EASTER
April 23	<u>Safe Gatherings Refresher for ALL VBS volunteers 10-12 noon at Clair</u>
April 29	DEBBIE WELLS' BIRTHDAY and Serve at Food Kitchen 9 am
May 7	FLOWER SALE!

SAVE THE DATE—VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: JUNE 22; JULY 19-21; AUGUST 3—EVENINGS!

CLAIR CONNECTION



Just Ask!

People interested in membership in Clair UMC are invited to be a part of a membership class to begin at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, Mar. 30. The class is open to students 6^{to}-12th grade, to adults interested in church membership or transferring membership to Clair UMC, to any adults wanting to learn more about Christianity and The United Methodist Church, in particular.

The group will meet from 6:30 to 8 PM for several Wednesdays between Mar. 30 and our membership event on Pentecost Sunday, June 5. (The schedule is yet to be determined.) Please be sure to let Pastor Cindy know you plan to join the fun!

FLOWER SALE

Clair Church

Saturday May 7

9 am - 2 pm

6 Hwy. - 1 mile east of Colony House

**Candles and Lotions
for Sale**

