

March 26, 2021

ClairChurch  
UNITED METHODIST

## CLAIR CONNECTION

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

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



### ***Holy Week at Clair***

This year we are going to do something different for Holy Thursday and Good Friday services. With the help of great tech people, we have had success with online services in the past. Most recently, our online Ash Wednesday service had over 120 views! That's many more than would have attended an in-person service.

I feel strongly that it is important to pay attention to the events of Holy Week. If we attend worship on Palm Sunday with its focus on Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and then come back to worship the next Sunday to celebrate the Resurrection, we are missing out on all that happened to Jesus on the days in between. We can't have Easter without Good Friday.

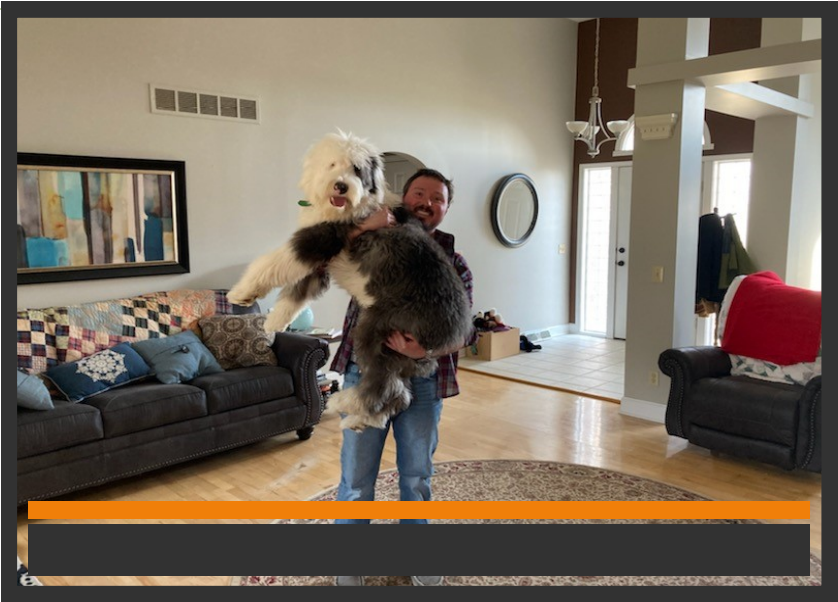
So... I hope you will take time some time on Thursday, Apr. 1 or on Friday, Apr. 2 to watch a special service online at our church website: [www.clairchurch.com](http://www.clairchurch.com). Several church friends will be reading scripture about the events of Holy Week. You are encouraged to light a candle and to have a small container of oil with you. It can be olive oil or another kind of oil from your kitchen or an essential oil with its beautiful fragrance. During the service you will have the opportunity to anoint yourself or those with you if your family has gathered. It is going to be a powerful service – remembering all that Jesus endured on our behalf. Again, the service will be ON DEMAND anytime after 10 AM on Thursday, Apr. 1. You can “attend” all at one setting or watch one part on Thursday and the second part on Friday. That's the beauty of online!

Blessings, Friends!

*Pastor Cindy*



# CLAIR CONNECTION



## Meet Board Member Dr. Phillip Frank

I grew up in Lexington, NC. It is a town of approximately 13,000 residents and moved to Saint Joseph 5 years ago to take a position at MWSU. I am Assistant Professor in Marketing at the University.

I have attended Clair Church for about 2 years. I had some personal changes in my life and was looking for a church family. Pastor Cindy met with me and she was a great help to me during that time.

I like the Sunday School Class. They have really taken me in and accepted me. I enjoy the conversations and learning together to strengthen our faith through dialogue.

I decided to serve on the board at Clair because it was a huge honor to be asked. I have been on boards before but never one affiliated with any church, so I was curious how I could help. So far, I have really enjoyed the opportunity serving on the Board. I am very excited about the youth ministry efforts. As a professor, I truly enjoy seeing young minds grow. I have been a little nervous because I only have experience with working with young adults (18+). So I am not sure if I can help the younger kids, especially in the complex aspect of growing in their Christian faith. However, I continue to be impressed with how much potential kids have. It always inspires me when you give a kid a challenge they can demonstrate so much more strength than you might think. And they come up with different ways at looking at tasks. I look forward to seeing how they develop their own place at Clair.

“Hondo” is my a 7-month-old Old English Sheepdog. He takes up most of my daily life. I also enjoy woodworking and making furniture. It is a skill set that I continue to learn. I even learned blacksmithing. Any chance to build something with my hands, I enjoy.

The church members really touched my heart when they made a prayer quilt for my mom about 2 years ago; shortly after starting to attend the church. My mom loves it and carries it with her in her wheelchair. She always says how thankful she is to know I have a good church family here in Missouri. Thank you for giving her comfort and for allowing me to be a member of this congregation.

# CLAIR CONNECTION

## Message from the Pastor

In the boat with Jesus...

During the benediction Sunday morning, I was drawn to the architecture of the church's ceiling. We had spent the morning talking about Jesus calming the wind and waves so that he and the disciples did not drown during a nighttime crossing of the Sea of Galilee. We were reminded that all will be well as long as Jesus is in the boat with us. And, here we were in a sanctuary with a ceiling built to resemble the keel of a boat! In fact, the boat has been a metaphor for the church for centuries.

I did some research and think you'll be interested in what I found. Joby Provideo has written:

"When we see the exposed beams, we are meant to see the keel (bottom) of a ship. Imagine a ship stripped of everything except the bottom structure, then turn it upside-down and stick it to the ceiling. That is what we are intended to see. Some churches have the exposed beams running the entire length of the church, and if not, it is usually found above the nave. The nave is the area where the pews are located. In large churches, the nave is flanked on the left and right by smaller aisles."

Provideo goes on to write, "The symbolism of the ship comes from one of the metaphors of the Church. In the story of the Great Flood in Genesis, only those who were in Noah's Ark were saved from death. It foreshadows the Church as an ark that 'navigates safely in this world' to bring those of faith safely to their destination of eternal life." It isn't surprising, then, that the boat became an early Christian symbol and found its way into church architecture and terminology.

As our friend Ryan Ruch likes to remind me, there are lots of boats and fishing stories in the Bible. Ryan is passionate about making nets, one of which is gracing our altar right now. Many episodes in Jesus' life are linked with boats. He called his first disciples from their fishing boats to come and follow him, to no longer catch fish, but people. During Sunday's worship we were reminded of Jesus' power as he calmed the wind and the waves. Even though the disciples were terrified, Jesus was in charge and would protect them. As long as Jesus is in the boat with us, we will be alright. That goes for our individual lives – inviting and including Jesus in every aspect of our daily life – as well as our life as Clair United Methodist Church. As long as we keep our eyes on Jesus, all will be well. We'll stay afloat in our life of ministry and service for and with and to our neighbors around us AND in our growth as Jesus' disciples.

Next time you are in the sanctuary, look up and be reminded of the symbolism of being in the boat with Jesus! Peace and blessings, Friends, as we look to Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter morning!

*Pastor Cindy*



# CLAIR CONNECTION

## Clair's Calendar

- Sunday March 28 **Palm Sunday**
- Monday March 29 Serve at Food Kitchen
- April 1-2 Holy Thursday/Good Friday Online Services
- Sunday April 4 Easter Sunday Ebenezer Parking Lot Sunrise Service 6:15 a.m. Breakfast  
**CLAIR:** Breakfast 9:30 a.m.; Easter Egg Hunt 10:30; Worship 11 a.m.
- Monday April 5 Board Meeting
- Sunday April 11 **Holy Humor Sunday!**
- Monday April 12 Starlite/Bible Study
- Wed. April 14 Bible School Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday April 29 Serve at Food Kitchen
- Monday May 3 Board Meeting
- Saturday May 8 **FLOWER SALE** at Clair
- June 27-July 1 **BIBLE SCHOOL**

### Items Needed!

We need to save certain household items NOW that will be used to build props for Vacation Bible School at Clair – evenings, June 27-July 1. See listing below. And also plan to attend the Bible School planning meeting on April 14, at 6:30 p.m. Thanks a lot!

Please save:

- Empty toilet paper and paper towel rolls
- Empty thread spools
- Plastic straws
- Newspaper plastic waterproof wrap



**Save the Date!**

**Vacation Bible School**  
**Evenings June 27-July 1**  
**Ages 2 thru 6th grade**  
**Rocky Mtn. Railway**  
**Jesus' Power Pulls Us**  
**Through!**