

## CLAIR CONNECTION

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

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



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an essential  
part of  
worship*

In January of 2021, Pastor Cindy, myself (Debbie Wells) and Michelle Clark committed to a year-long training program on Stewardship. Zoom sessions are led by Dr. Laura Murphy of the United Methodist Foundation and our “study group” is made up of other United Methodist churches which are like in size, etc.

The study group “meets” once a month for instruction and discussion. There is homework assigned at each session to be completed before the next meeting. Churches were given a list of books dedicated to the expression of giving within the church. Each church selected one to read and summarize.

I was not overly anxious about participating in this study. Stewardship has long been a hard subject to talk about and present. But I am glad I made the commitment. We are delving into what stewardship/giving really means. To say it means raising funds does the word and concept a great injustice.

Stewardship is an essential part of worship. A natural outgrowth of worship. The Crusaders’ Class is studying Adam Hamilton’s “The Walk – Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life.” Last Sunday we learned about service and that to serve the Lord, we need to serve others. Be the hands and feet of Christ. Hamilton states, “God created us to care for each other as members of the human family, to cooperate with him in sharing love, doing justice and practicing kindness. Interestingly, there is something about doing good works purely for others – and not for anything we might get in return – that actually blesses and heals us.”

I know writing a check or giving online to Clair might seem mundane and some of us may see it as a “duty” – giving money with no real enthusiasm. I challenge you to think differently. The generosity you are showing by giving will only be multiplied. Your offering may be help for fire victims, utility assistance for families, warm shelter for the homeless, buying Bible School materials to teach children about our Lord, teaching poor in other countries how to raise their own food and livestock, provide clean drinking water, provide shelter to disaster victims, and the list goes on. And NONE of it is possible without you – your generosity. I hope you understand what an impact you are making. You are not just donating funds. You are changing lives.

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## TALIA GUESS



I am a Master Sergeant in the Air National Guard. My duty position is contract specialist. I perform purchases for the 139th airlift wing for construction, architecture and engineering design services, supplies and services. This job entails market research, documentation and drafting contracts and post award management to include payment tracking, labor interviews, status tracking, document filing and close outs of projects. Alternate AOPC for the base credit card program. I manage card accounts, training monitor, card account setup, auditing and overall management of program to ensure compliance with the National Guard Program.

I am married with two children. My husband is Cody; our two sons are Brody age 4 and Brayden age 3. I have been a Clair member as long as I can remember. Some of my favorite memories include attending with my grandparents, parents and siblings. I enjoyed attending vacation bible school and knowing members who attended for all those years as I grew up. It's like another family to me.

I decided to serve on the Clair board because I want to be better about being more involved and hopefully set an example for my family. God has blessed me in so many ways and I feel I need to be better about making contributions, getting to know the church and seeking ways to show my faith.

My hobbies include going for walks and running (what I am able to do after having the boys)! Reading is my first love (hobby); gardening and just general home maintenance, cleaning and improvements. I love playing with my dogs and kiddos and finding things for my husband to do! I can keep myself busy and sometimes too busy! Would love to get the boys involved in volunteering and, hopefully, animal shelter work is in our future.

I like to keep busy and keep to myself, though I can be outspoken. But I like to feel like I serve a purpose. I mainly hope to set the same example for my kids that my grandparents and parents set for me - be someone they know will be there for them and someone to look up to.

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## *Message from the Pastor*

During worship this Sunday, Apr. 25, we will spend time focusing on children's issues, especially child abuse. Voices of Courage Child Advocacy Center has invited us to participate in Blue Sunday where churches of all faiths in the St. Joseph area are being asked to pray for the victims of child abuse and for those who rescue them. April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Blue is the color used to represent child abuse prevention. So, we will pray... and consider how we can work to make a difference in the lives of children.

This poem by Dorothy Lew Nolte has been in our home for 38 years. It is a reminder of our responsibility as adults and of the impact our words and actions have on the children around us.

### **CHILDREN LEARN WHAT THEY LIVE**

*If a child lives with criticism, He learns to condemn.*

*If a child lives with hostility, He learns to fight.*

*If a child lives with ridicule, He learns to be shy.*

*If a child lives with shame, He learns to feel guilty.*

*If a child lives with tolerance, He learns to be patient.*

*If a child lives with encouragement, He learns confidence.*

*If a child lives with praise, He learns to appreciate.*

*If a child lives with fairness, He learns justice.*

*If a child lives with security, He learns to have faith.*

*If a child lives with approval, He learns to like himself.*

*If a child lives with acceptance and friendship,  
He learns to find love in the world.*

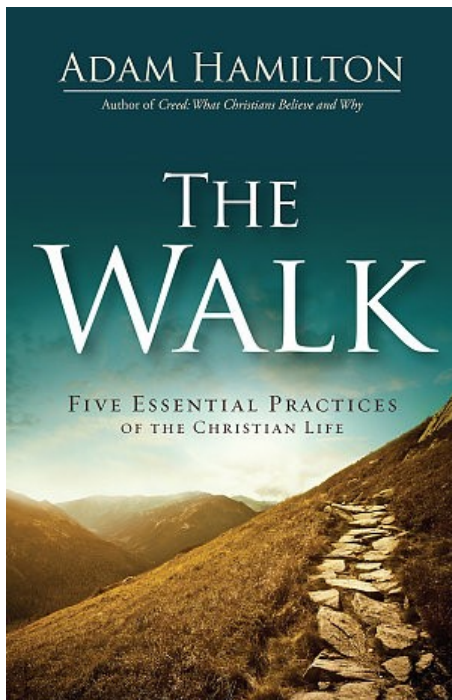
Children learn what they live. Peace and blessings, Friends...

*Pastor Cindy*

## CLAIR CONNECTION

# Clair's Calendar

Wednesday	April 28	Youth at Clair—6:30 p.m.
Thursday	April 29	Serve at Food Kitchen
Monday	May 3	Board Meeting
Saturday	May 8	<b>FLOWER SALE</b> at Clair
Monday	May 10	Starlite
Wednesday	May 19	Bible School Meeting—6:30 p.m.
June 27-July 1		<b>BIBLE SCHOOL</b>



The Crusader's Class is currently studying "The Walk" by Adam Hamilton. It covers the five essential practices of the Christian Life. We watch a short video followed by discussion, Bible verses and reviewing that week's book chapter. These five practices are: 1) Worship and Prayer; 2) Study (the scriptures); 3) Serve: Here I am Lord; 4) Give and 5) Share.

So far, we have been challenged to pray five times daily (upon awaking, at each meal and before bed); read five verses of scripture a day (to begin and then expand this); and to perform five acts of kindness a week. The lessons and practices go to the core of who we are as Christians. Please join us Sunday mornings at 9:30 as we continue this study and walk with Christ!