

June 1, 2022

ClairChurch
UNITED METHODIST

CLAIR CONNECTION

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

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



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

Let us know by June 5 if you can attend! Don't miss the fun, food and fellowship! Begins June 22!

Storm damage has been repaired!



CLAIR CONNECTION

Savanna will graduate from Sisters of Solace in July



Clair Church is assisting a soon-to-be graduate of the Sisters of Solace re-entry program with furnishing her apartment. Savanna will be moving from the SOS Shelter in early July upon completion of the one-year program. Sisters of Solace is a community of hospitality and healing for women survivors of trauma and addiction who have no place to call home. Their motto is Heal, Empower, Employ. Savanna is very grateful for the help coming from Clair UMC and recently sat down to be interviewed.

Savanna is a native of St. Joseph. She did not graduate from high school but received her GED. She has been an addict of drugs and alcohol since she was 17 years old. This lifestyle led to several arrests, jail and even prison. She landed in jail last year after having skipped out (absconded) from drug court supervision. In Buchanan County, some addicts are given a chance to complete the intense court drug treatment program rather than returning to jail or prison. Savanna absconded for

seven months before she was picked up. In jail this time, she was told by other female inmates about the Sisters of Solace program application. She filled out the application. Even if Sisters of Solace agreed to accept her into the program, the judge hearing her case would have to agree to release her from jail. It must have been a God thing because that's exactly what happened.

"I am clean. I have spirituality, self-love, self-worth, a support team, a network. You learn to love yourself"

Savanna has two children being raised by relatives in Ohio. Her 8 year old son lives in St. Joseph with his father. Her youngest child—born premature—passed away from staff infection. A complicating factor in Savanna's story was that she was behind on her child support and was not allowed to see her 8 year old son. A local attorney now performs pro bono legal services for those at SOS and assisted Savanna with making arrangements to start paying her child support and getting supervised visitation with her son. "He's an angel," says Savanna about the local attorney.

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CLAIR CONNECTION



Pastor Cindy Buhman



Joe and I went to the Memorial Day service at Maysville Monday morning. Other than being terribly windy, it was a beautiful day and a moving service of recognition for DeKalb County veterans who have passed away. White crosses covered the courthouse lawn. New crosses are added each year. This year there was one for Joe's uncle Gilbert Buhman and for my uncle Bill Vaughn. It is always powerful to find the cross with my dad's name on it – along with those of his brothers and for Joe's dad and his dad's brothers.

The speaker at this year's service was an active soldier who grew up around Maysville and graduated in 2001. Capt. Edward L. Litthell has served around the world, but told us he was honored to be back home among people who encouraged him, loved him, supported him, and shaped him during formative years. His message was powerful as he told of his life's happiest moment when his unit returned from deployment to Iraq to an airport full of men and women and children who stood to applaud and to say thank you for their service. His hardest moment occurred during that deployment when he had to pull a fellow soldier and friend from a bombed vehicle, load him into a medivac unit and give the report that he was Kilo India Alpha (KIA) Killed in Action. He also led us in applause for the Viet Nam veterans among us, saying they did NOT receive the kind of welcome home that soldiers in other wars experienced. Tears flowed from my brother-in-law's eyes as he stood to our applause – all of us knowing that what the speaker said was all too true.

Finally, Capt. Litthell commented on his reason for dressing in combat fatigues rather than his dress uniform. It seems, that of his 20+ year career, war has been the way of the world more days than not. So, it seemed sadly appropriate that he wear his fatigues as a reminder of the elusiveness and preciousness of peace.

And... do you know the difference between Armed Forces Day, Veterans Day, and Memorial Day?

Armed Forces Day is observed on the third Saturday of May to honor men and women currently serving in the military. **Veterans Day** is observed on Nov. 11 to honor all those who have served in the military.

Memorial Day is observed on the last Monday of May to commemorate all men and women who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. To all veterans and those who are currently serving—THANK YOU for your service. It's an honor to be your pastor!

Pastor Cindy

CLAIR CONNECTION

Continued from Page 2—Savanna

Sisters of Solace can house only eight women at a time. Savanna has seen women who initially were accepted into the program but chose to leave. Others were actually kicked out of the program for breaking the rules. SOS “has to protect the residents here and give (other women) an opportunity” so non-compliant residents are not allowed to remain there.

In the past, Savanna had been incarcerated and completed judge-ordered in-patient treatment programs. But they did not stick. She states that a person has to be ready and willing to treat the issues. When she was required to enter treatment before, she admits she was not ready.

What helped her most in turning her life around at SOS has been her spiritual awakening. “I woke up one morning here and I wasn’t the same person.” Savanna states she attends the regular Bible Studies at SOS. Residents are allowed to go to church and many do that on their own.

Many things are so different now for Savanna – as opposed to a year ago. “I am clean. I have spirituality, self-love, self-worth, a support team, a network. You learn to love yourself.”

Part of the SOS program is the requirement that addicts have to attend 90 NA (Narcotics Anonymous) meetings in 90 days. “The local NA Network here is growing. There are meetings every day all over town.”

Savanna is employed full time at Niche of Time Jewelry. In the past, she has ridden the bus to work, called a cab, asked for help from her NA sponsor or requested rides from those who partner with SOS to help residents there keep appointments. Her actual “graduation” (one-year anniversary) is July 8. But her graduation ceremony is being held June 4 along with another graduate, Misti. Ebenezer UMC is assisting Misti with setting up her apartment also! Luckily, Misti and Savanna will be neighbors in their new apartments – a good support system for them both.

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Join us for Pentecost Sunday June 5!

On Sunday, June 5, 2022, we will celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost with baptisms, confirmations, and welcoming of new members into our congregation. You won’t want to miss it! Wear something **RED and be ready to celebrate!**

CLAIR CONNECTION

Continued from Page 4—Savanna

Three traits/characteristics that Savanna has adopted for going forward include:

Loving Lavishly. When she arrived at SOS, she never used the “L” word. She now uses it daily. “We tell each other we love each other all the time.”

Feeling Worthy. “I have a reason to fight now. I was able to see the light at the end of the tunnel.”

Able to see there are solutions (to problems). “I go up to the courthouse to pay my fines and the court clerks know me. They all come to the window and tell me how good I look.” Paying all her legal fines is one of the treatment court requirements to help Savanna be able to move to unsupervised probation and ultimately complete the treatment court.

One of Savanna’s biggest concerns right now is how to move things to her apartment. (Hopefully, Clair UMC can help with that!) She will be receiving a free car from an organization called Chariots of Hope sometime in June!

Savanna believes her confidence comes from God, support of other people (who have succeeded) and being loved. She is looking so forward to having her own place to decorate, place furniture, arrange just like she wants, etc. Her mom lives two blocks away from SOS and Savanna sees her frequently now. Her mom is very proud of what Savanna has accomplished.

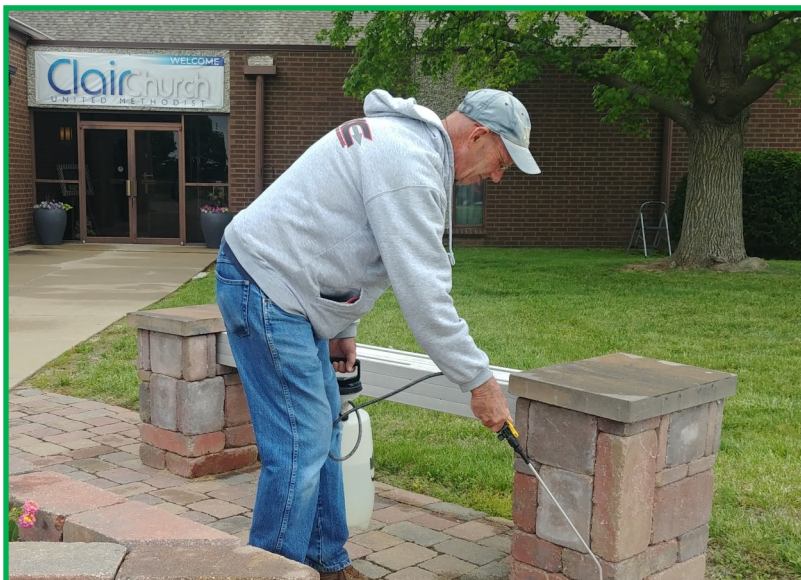
She recommends the SOS program to other women because “they love you where you are at, you are never alone, you are treated with dignity, grace and justice and they love you lavishly.”

Clair's Calendar

Now through

June 15	Membership classes— 6:30 PM each Wed.
June 5	Pentecost Sunday
June 12	Fellowship Luncheon
June 13	Starlight, 5:30 PM
June 14	Administrative Board , 6 PM Meal delivered to Sisters of Solace
June 15	Deadline for items donated to Sisters of Solace graduate—Savanna
June 18	Men’s Group 8 AM
June 22	Vacation Bible School, 5:15 PM to 8 PM at Ebenezer (evening meal is served)

CLAIR CONNECTION



The Clair Men's Group met Saturday, May 21 and accomplished a litany of chores around the church! Thanks to the men who helped that day, they were able to: power wash the mildew off the north side of the building; fix the down spouts and drainage on the west side gutter; clear out all the leaves and debris in the air conditioner containment area on the north side; trim the bush on the south side; cut down the weeds all around the church, trees, poles, and basketball court; spray vegetation killer on parking lot, basketball court, around poles, and some areas around the church; move a large desk from the crusaders class to another classroom and haul all the debris away!