

June 29, 2022

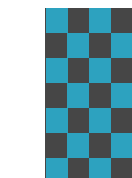
ClairChurch
UNITED METHODIST

CLAIR CONNECTION

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

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

VBS Kicks Off With Food Truck Party Theme!



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On a Roll With God at Vacation Bible School!



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In worship last Sunday, I shared an observation from a grandson's Saturday baseball game in Kansas City. It was hot and humid so spectators sat in lawn chairs wherever we could find shade – often intermingled with fans from the opposing team. I walked closer to the action when our grandson was up to bat, cheering for his line drive to center field. You can imagine my whoops of celebration! Then I noticed that those around me were not cheering! But they didn't turn around to jeer at me or call me names. They were quiet until the next batter was struck out and the inning ended. Then their cheers filled the air. I went back to sit with my kind!

That's how games go. We cheer for our own, the ones we know and love, the ones we have watched play all season long.

But, every once in a while, a player from the opposing team does something so extraordinary that everyone has to cheer. One such instance happened on Saturday when an opposing player hit a home run over the right field fence – quite an accomplishment for an 11-year-old. As he rounded the bases, skipping and jumping in celebration, we ALL cheered for him because of his special moment of accomplishment.

Of the four games Joe and I watched on Saturday, our grandsons' teams won three. At the end of each of the games, the players and coaches lined up, removed their hats, and said "Good game" to each of the other players as they filed down the line. Of course, the winning players were more enthusiastic in their greetings, but sportsmanship is one of the lessons taught and learned when you play on a team – hopefully.

Another observation from Saturday touched my heart, too. One of the players and Dad Coach on Grant's team are moving to Florida with the rest of their family very soon. In the post-game pep talk (this was the 2nd game of the day and the loss that eliminated them from further tournament play), there were many comments about how the team had become a family, good friends, how the boys had grown in their baseball skills, etc. More than one player and coach had tears in their eyes.

Relationships are key, Friends, whether we are on a baseball team, watching from under a shade tree, among our family and friends, in the workplace, on social media, or in church. As we were reminded yesterday, in the midst of differing opinions, let's treat each other with kindness, thoughtfulness, and respect.

Take care of yourselves and each other. It is an honor to be your pastor!

Pastor Cindy

CLAIR CONNECTION

Clair Takes a “Step” to Help Those in Need



Clair Church will once again be participating in the children's shoe drive for the AFL-CIO in St. Joseph- Soles for Christ. This will be the 20th year for this program, which offers shoes to children from pre-school to 12th grade living in Andrew and Buchanan in Missouri and Doniphan County, Kansas. Two additional counties will be added this year: Clinton and DeKalb counties in Missouri. Last year, 781 students received shoes.

We are asked to donate new tennis shoes (flip flops and slip-on shoes cannot be used in gym class). The sizes requested are: toddler 5-10; youth 11-6 and all adult sizes. The last date to bring shoes to Clair for donation will be Sunday, July 24.

Monetary donations are also accepted to allow the purchase of shoes when the AFL-CIO runs out of a certain size and for special needs children. Any donation is tax deductible. You can also volunteer your time on the distribution dates: August 2nd and 3rd at the Civic Arena. If you are interested in volunteering, please call 816-364-1131.

United Methodist Church Addresses Abortion



The following statement comes from the Social Principles section of The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church and is the official position of the denomination on abortion adopted by the General Conference in 2016:

The beginning of life and the ending of life are the God-given boundaries of human existence. While individuals have always had some degree of control over when they would die, they now have the awesome power to determine when and even whether new individuals will be born. Our belief in the sanctity of unborn human life makes us reluctant to approve abortion. But we are equally bound to respect the sacredness of the life and well-being of the mother and the unborn child.



We recognize tragic conflicts of life with life that may justify abortion, and in such cases we support the legal option of abortion under proper medical procedures by certified medical providers. We support parental, guardian, or other responsible adult notification and consent before abortions can be performed on girls who have not yet reached the age

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of legal adulthood. We cannot affirm abortion as an acceptable means of birth control, and we unconditionally reject it as a means of gender selection or eugenics (see Resolution 3184).

We oppose the use of late-term abortion known as dilation and extraction (partial-birth abortion) and call for the end of this practice except when the physical life of the mother is in danger and no other medical procedure is available, or in the case of severe fetal anomalies incompatible with life. This procedure shall be performed only by certified medical providers. Before providing their services, abortion providers should be required to offer women the option of anesthesia.

We call all Christians to a searching and prayerful inquiry into the sorts of conditions that may cause them to consider abortion. We entrust God to provide guidance, wisdom, and discernment to those facing an unintended pregnancy.

The Church shall offer ministries to reduce unintended pregnancies. We commit our Church to continue to provide nurturing ministries to those who terminate a pregnancy, to those in the midst of a crisis pregnancy, and to those who give birth.

We mourn and are committed to promoting the diminishment of high abortion rates. The Church shall encourage ministries to reduce unintended pregnancies such as comprehensive, age-appropriate sexuality education, advocacy in regard to contraception, and support of initiatives that enhance the quality of life for all women and girls around the globe.

The United Methodist Church affirms the sanctity of life in these two statements in the [Social Principles](#):

Our belief in the sanctity of unborn human life makes us reluctant to approve abortion.

But we are equally bound to respect the sacredness of the life and well-being of the mother and the unborn child

These statements, and others, place the United Methodist position on abortion firmly on the spectrum of life-based ethics rather than choice-based ethics.

Life-based ethics place life at the center of guidance regarding situations where there may be conflicts. Life-based ethics call for as much life as possible to be honored and preserved in such situations. Choice-based ethics place the sovereignty of a person's right to choose at the center of such arguments. United Methodists affirm the sanctity of unborn human life. We similarly understand that the pregnant woman is also a life of sacred worth, and that there are circumstances in which there may be "tragic conflicts of life versus life." This may happen to any pregnant woman, anywhere, at any time during her pregnancy.

Critical to preserving life is ready access to proper medical care. This includes access to medical care that may include abortion when that is the way to preserve the most life possible. That is why the Social Principles affirm that "in such cases we support the legal option of abortion under proper medical procedures by certified medical providers."

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Additional official statements of The United Methodist Church express the denomination's life-centered ethics.

- The United Methodist Church does NOT affirm abortion as a means of birth control.
- We also “unconditionally reject” abortion “as a means of gender selection or eugenics.”
- And we reject late-term abortions except where the mother's life is in danger, or in cases of severe fetal abnormalities incompatible with life

All Christians faced with such decisions are called to enter them with prayer, searching the Scriptures, and all other means of seeking God’s will, guidance, and wisdom. We also strongly encourage such persons to seek the counsel of parents, other family members, clergy, and professionals in both medicine and counseling. When addressing an unplanned or unwanted pregnancy, “We particularly encourage... the [option of adoption](#).” When a woman selects adoption as the outcome of her pregnancy, the Social Principles encourage churches to assist her with appropriate resources and support.

While we understand the need for women to have access to safe, legal abortions, we also “mourn and are committed to promoting the diminishment of high abortion rates.” We encourage ministries that reduce unintended pregnancies, such as sex education, access to voluntary family planning, contraception, and “initiatives that enhance the quality of life for all women and girls around the globe.”

Finally, United Methodists are committed to ministering with those who have had an abortion, providing support and encouragement. Whatever situation led to a decision to abort, there is always much loss, and much need for healing.

Clair's Calendar

June 29	Open Door Food Kitchen—9 AM
July 10	Fellowship Luncheon
July 11	Starlite—5:30 PM
July 12	Administrative Board—6 PM
July 16	Men’s Group—8 AM
July 19-21	VBS at Ebenezer—5:15 PM
July 24 shoes	Last Sunday to donate new Soles for Christ

Have a safe
and fun
Independence Day

**Bible School will be split up into five evenings this year: June 22,
July 19, 20 and 21; August 3!**