

August 11, 2021

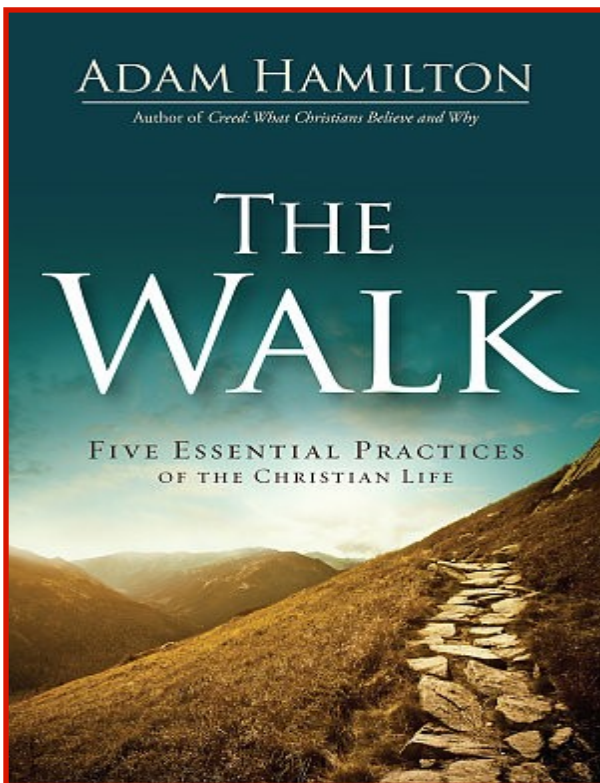


## CLAIR CONNECTION

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

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

## Walk with the “Come Together” Class August 22



Rod Sander's class will begin studying "The Walk" by Adam Hamilton on August 22 at 10 AM. It covers the five essential practices of the Christian Life. There is a short video followed by discussion, Bible verses and a review of that week's book chapter. These five essential practices are: 1) Worship and Prayer; 2) Study (the scriptures); 3) Serve: Here I am Lord; 4) Give and 5) Share. You may attend in person or by Zoom!



Every 2nd Sunday!

# Join us for Fellowship Dinners!

## CLAIR CONNECTION

### *Who Has Attended Clair for over 66 Years?*



**Norma Wallace**

Clair Member Norma Wallace grew up in this area and attended Cumberland Presbyterian Church at San Antonio, Missouri. She and husband Jim were married by Pastor Harvey August 4, 1951, at the White Temple Methodist Church in town. Jim passed away in 2012. They would have celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this August. They met in high school at Clarksdale .

Norma was active in sports including volleyball, track relays and was a softball catcher. Jim would attend the sporting events and eventually asked her out.

Norma worked at LaRon Meats after high school. She and Jim married later that summer at the ages of 17.5 and 19. Fortunately, Norma was later able to stay home and raise their two children, Kevin and Renee. When the kids were in high school, she worked at various places including Western Tablet and candled eggs at the local A&P Grocery Store (a lost art).

Norma's son Kevin has three children and two grandchildren. Daughter Renee has two children and two grandchildren. Norma had two dear pet dogs who are now gone—a dachshund—Dolly—and a shiatzu—Bailey.

But Pauline the pig took the cake. A runt taken in—from one of John Anderson's litters—was raised inside by Jim and Norma. Pauline was even housebroken. She would go out to relieve herself but RUN back to the house to get back inside. When Pauline left the Wallace household, she weighed a whopping 600 lbs.!

Norma and Jim began attending Clair Church in 1955. The pastor at that time, Pastor Wendland, had seen them at baseball games at Bessie Ellison and invited them to church. (Norma also mentioned that Jim's mom was a cousin to Pastor Cindy's great grandmother)!

Norma has fond memories of Clair including making the prayer quilts and helping Joyce Vogel with the preschool/kindergarten Sunday School class. In fact, one of her current favorite things at Clair Church includes listening to Pastor Cindy during story time for children.

## CLAIR CONNECTION

### MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



How can it be August already?! The summer has gone so quickly. I hope you have had an opportunity to take some time away from your regular routine, to do something fun, to relax, refresh, and renew, and to look forward to fall activities with an eager spirit!

Here are two events to keep in mind:

#### **Backpack Blessings: Sunday, Aug. 22 during 11 AM worship**

Bring backpacks, tote bags, duffle bags, briefcases – whatever it is you use to carry your “stuff!” As a congregation, we will bless these tools for school as well as the students, teachers, faculty, and staff.

#### **Back to Church Sunday: September 19**

This national emphasis focuses on the HOPE we can find in a community of faith, in the gospel message, in a relationship with Jesus. For nearly two years, our lives have been in a weird place. As Rev. Fred Leist preached at Annual Conference in June: “It’s been a year!” Even though COVID is still an issue, we are so ready to move forward. We will be working on plans to invite and to re-engage people in worship (in person and online), in small groups, in ministry and service.

*Pastor Cindy :)*

**Save the date: September 19!**

## Clair's Calendar

July 14-August 26	Bible Study: (Wed. nights 6:30 pm Ebenezer & Thurs. 1:30 pm Clair)
Aug. 22 Sunday	Backpack Blessing Rod Sander’s class begins In person and by Zoom
SAVE THE DATE:	SEPTEMBER 19 - Back to Church Sunday



## CLAIR CONNECTION

### Broken and Blessed Bible Study: Hope Beyond Brokenness



Pastor Cindy Buhman has been presenting a sermon series on the book “Broken and Blessed” by Jessica LaGrone. “The author lifts up issues the first families of Genesis struggled with – issues that are concerns for our families today: the need for control, trusting God, playing favorites, comparison, competition, sibling rivalry, jealousy, etc.” she states. The pastor is also leading a Bible study in conjunction with the sermon series. This study is offered both at Ebenezer and Clair on different days of the week (see calendar). About 15 have been attending at Ebenezer and seven at

Clair. Pastor Cindy states, “Combining a sermon series with a Bible study allows more in-depth study. There is so much more than can be covered in a 20-minute sermon! Conversations around the table help me in my sermon work and I hope are meaningful to those who participate.”



According to two people attending from Clair, the Bible study is hitting the mark. Karen Vulgamott says, “I didn’t realize some of the wrong choices they made and the consequences. We have dug deeper into the stories.” Roxyann Schreiber agrees. “Meeting together as a group for Bible Study and sharing each other’s stories has shown me a bigger picture of God’s love and work.”

So hope beyond brokenness. What could be better news? “The dramas of the Genesis families’ interactions are used to perfect His plan to save the world. We are shown God’s purpose prevails despite human opposition. God remains faithful to His character and gives blessing to all of us” says Roxyann. Pastor Cindy continues that thought, “Despite their brokenness (the families of Genesis), God chose to love and bless this family so that they might be a blessing. As we get to know each generation, noting both good and bad traits that were passed down, we will see that God worked for good in their lives for the good of the world. And we will see that God wants to do the same in our own imperfect families today, bringing blessing from brokenness.”



Karen adds, “This study has shown me how relevant the Bible is. Family dynamics haven’t changed much over the centuries.” And Roxyann states, “All families have issues. People in our lives often disappoint or hurt us. God is there to lean on and guide us just as he did with the Genesis family.”

This Bible study is a blessing. Roxyann concludes, “I am growing spiritually and being changed from the inside out. God sees all of our faults and loves us unconditionally. I know through the Bible study, I am blessed and will show others God’s blessings also.” **AMEN**