

## Soul Chat From Pastor Jenn

### A Resounding Yes Was Heard

#### Special Events

**Mon., July 11**—  
6:30 pm Council of  
Ministries

**Tue., July 12**—  
7 pm Ad. Board

**Wed., July 13** —  
5 pm Worship  
Design Team

**Sun., 24**—  
Plan to be here. Our  
District Superinten-  
dent Rev. James  
Simpson will be at  
CCUMC to preach  
and teach during  
worship and Sun-  
day School on the  
topic of connection-  
al ministries.  
This visit is to en-  
courage us as we  
continue to be a  
model of collabora-  
tion in our district.

For the past six months, I've been intentionally praying for the "yes" of our hearts to be a resounding acceptance of God's grace at work in and through this congregation. Something happened Sunday, June 19; a resounding "Yes" and "Amen" was heard from the corner of 57th and Wornall Road at Country Club United Methodist Church. From the hearts of many in the pews came audible affirmations and a clear show of hands that God is at work and with us, and we are with God.

In addition to that, these affirmations on Sunday came in an overwhelming flow of support and willingness to help in the form of conversations, phone calls, emails, and texts.

#### ***Alleluia and Amen!***

If you weren't at church, you might be asking yourselves, "What fire was lit?"

Well, I believe that it was one of those Pentecost moments when the Holy Spirit laid it on our hearts to publicly declare what we have already been practicing as a community of faith and to embrace one way that we are called to be "little Christs." That is this, to welcome all people as God's beloved children into a relationship with God.

#### ***Again, alleluia and amen!***

One way for us to do that means we formally align ourselves with the people of all sexual orientation, culture, and status and become a reconciling congregation. The support for us to do so is staggering!

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## Crusaders' Programming Plans for July

### All Adults Welcome

The class will continue with selections from the video series *The Spiritual Brain: Science and Religious Experience*. Various class members will lead topics such as Religion and Health, Religion and Mental Health and Near-Death Experiences and the Brain. All are welcome to attend at 9:30 Sunday mornings.

– Susan Fershee



### What Are Reconciling Congregations?

United Methodist Reconciling Congregations Are:

#### UNITED METHODIST

churches and groups which adopt public statements welcoming all persons as full participants in their church life, regardless of sexual orientation. Reconciling Congregations then strive to realize this welcome statement in their ministries.

**A NATIONAL NETWORK** of churches, groups and individuals which support each other in carrying out their Christian ministry of witness and outreach.

**PROCLAIMING AND LIVING OUT** the simple, powerful message of hospitality and love revealed by Jesus Christ to transform lives.

Since 1984, the Reconciling Congregation movement encompasses over 10,000 Reconciling United Methodists who publicly witness to "open the doors" of the church to the participation of all people, regardless of sexual orientation.

### Soul Chat - A Resounding Yes Was Heard (*continued*)

#### *So, Now What?*

"It seems silly to have to go through a formal process," said several congregation members at the end of service on Sunday. I agree and am so very thankful that you think so, just one more affirmation that this as God's natural way for us to be a faith community and share God's love with all God's children.

So, in the next few weeks, I will be meeting with several others to work with Reconciling Ministries and their suggestions for how to proceed forward through the process. As the group of persons meets, we do so with the intentions of formalizing the process with the entire congregation, so that our "yes" may be fully blessed by God. In our doing so we become one of a handful of reconciling congregations in the Missouri Conference and join other United Methodist churches and Conferences in the United States.

As John Wesley's Rule of Life states: "Do all the good you can, By all the means you can, In all the ways you can, In all the places you can, At all the times you can, To all the people you can." Thanks be to God!!!

I am so blessed and honored to be serving you at just such a time as this and am grateful for the "fire" that has been lit in our souls.

***Alleluia and Amen!***

– Pastor Jenn

# Putting our Faith into Action: It Is Time!!

Last October we completed the first phase of strategic planning with the process of developing a vision in line with our mission to “Make Disciples of Christ for the Transformation of the World.” Our vision statement is “Growing Together In Grace with God, with Others.” By year end, the Board identified, developed, and agreed to focus our church’s attention and efforts upon four pillars, or goals, for 2016. They include:

## Our Mission

### Growing Together In Grace with God, with Others

FACILITY	STAFFING AND TEAM MINISTRY	INVITE, FORM, SEND	STEWARDSHIP
<p>To continue focusing upon our facility and property to meet the present and future missional needs God is calling us to serve. For 2016, this includes the completion of exterior projects: a memorial garden (which is near completion), outdoor lighting, tuck-pointing, roofing, guttering, landscaping and drainage. Centennial Campaign funds and special gifts were used for expenses. Now we can start a complete indoor remodel of the entire first floor, (excluding the Sanctuary) for the sole purpose of updating it into a more radically hospitable and welcoming church home.</p>	<p>To staff for the future missional needs of the church. This includes our reviewing all paid staff job descriptions, and rewriting responsibilities, expectations, and compensation as needed. It also includes empowering church members to serve as servant leaders, in unpaid staffing positions, to meet the missional needs of the church. This is the charge of Staff Parish Relations and the Leadership Development Core.</p>	<p>To develop a clear path of discipleship for all persons inside and outside membership, through worship, formation, and service. This includes inviting and care ministries, stewardship and hands-on service. We are striving to put our church’s intentions into practice. This is the charge of the Pastor, Staff, Leadership Core, and Strategic Ministries Team.</p>	<p>To develop and implement stewardship as an essential part of being a disciple of Christ. Stewardship, in general, means taking seriously our vows of prayer, presence, gifts, service and witness, and truly committing ourselves to their being our habitual graces as “little Christs.” This is the charge of the Finance Team and Legacy Team and others.</p>
<p>Priority &amp; Legacy Teams</p>	<p>SPR &amp; Leadership Teams</p>	<p>All members and all teams</p>	<p>ALL members, Finance &amp; Legacy Teams</p>

## Putting our Faith into Action: It Is Time!!!

These four pillars are BOHAG, (Big Ol' Hairy, Audacious, Goals) and they are exactly what each and everyone one of us are called to be a part. This demands far more than lip service and desire -- but commitment and follow through. Even though there is a sense of urgency, it must be done with prayer, patience, and consistency for there to be long-term vitality in God's congregation known as Country Club United Methodist Church in Brookside.

God wants us to grow and reach the full potential of God's grace, which I know to be alive and well here. "The living water" of Christ is eager to spring up and overflow into this church. Yet, it cannot do so without each of us doing our part. **Our actions, from now on, have to be held to and grounded in our mission, vision and strategic plan in ways that are very specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely.**

How can you be a part of this? The first concrete action that each of us can take is to **be at church, in church, part of church.** We are being transformed into the very image of grace, and God calls us to be faithful in the process.

What God has begun, God will complete – that's a Scriptural promise. But, we have a part to play in God's work.

As your Pastor, I challenge each of you to **increase your monthly attendance by one Sunday for the remainder of this year.** The leaders of the church and I have discussed this simple but HUGELY IMPORTANT act, and believe that is a very doable and reasonable expectation for ALL OF US to be here. When you come to church, anticipate being met in the name of Jesus Christ. Meet and greet new people with the Grace of God -- many of whom may meet Christ for the first time through you and your smile, hand shake, and helpful greeting.

Your partner in building the "Kin-dom" of God, one life at a time,

– *Pastor Jenn*





Welcome home to your  
neighborhood church in  
Brookside

  
Country Club  
United Methodist Church  
in Brookside

Phone: 816 444-1616  
E-mail: office@countryclubumc.org  
Website: countryclubumc.org

## CURSILLO WEEKEND

### Regular Sunday Schedule

9:15 am Fellowship –  
Family Foyer

9:30 am Sunday School  
for all ages

10:45 am Worship in  
Sanctuary

### Wednesdays

10:30 am Prayer Group

### Thursdays

4–7 pm Music Academy

6:30 pm Women's Bible  
Study

### Church Office Hours

Mon.- Fri.

8:30 am – 12:00 pm

### The Connection

Country Club United  
Methodist Church

400 W. 57<sup>th</sup> • Kansas  
City MO 64113

Editor: Ann Vernon

Pastor Jenn, Rusty, Brother Bruce, Dawn, DJ and Kirk all took part in the latest Cursillo weekend. Midland United Methodist Cursillo (MUMC) #62 was hosted by the First United Methodist Church "On the Square" in Independence, MO.

This twice a year, weekend event is focused on faith, fellowship, sharing Christian ideals, God's love, and singing; Lord was there a lot of singing! We were blessed by the presence of ten new people attending this weekend. To make a Cursillo weekend happen there are lots of people to cook, clean, pray, present personal stories, manage, and coordinate the weekends events. In all I believe about 75 people had a hand in making the weekend fun but more important, a powerfully Christian fellowship. I can only hope, no pray, that everyone who has not attended will seriously consider partaking of a Cursillo weekend. And for those that have not attended in a while please consider signing up for the next weekend to be held January 26-29, 2017. This is the funnest thing you'll ever do while enjoying good Christian fellowship. Hope to see you in January at MUMC #63.



– Peace be with You, *Kirk Duncan*

### What is Cursillo?

Cursillo is a Spanish word meaning “short course” or a “little journey.” Thus a Cursillo in Christianity is a “short course in the Christian Faith” or a “little journey in Christian living.” Our format is presenting 5 talks each day of a 3-day weekend. For many people it is an uplifting renewal in a different way than their home church worship and ministries. Some even describe a mountain-top experience. The talks present a method of staying close to Christ and sharing love with others.