

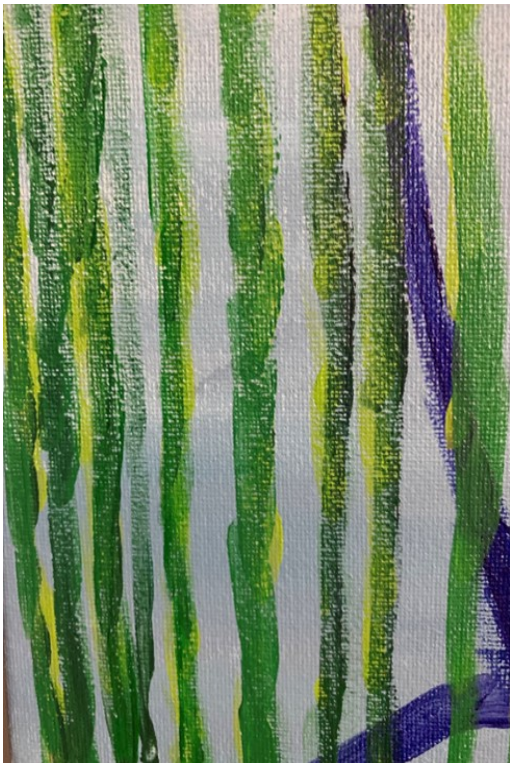
## Confessions of the Pastor's Wife: "Umm... I Didn't Tell You To Do That"

*I'll teach you well. Don't abandon my instruction.* Proverbs 4:2 CEV

*Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God.* 2 John 1:19 CEB

Awhile ago, I went with my Bible study group to a painting class. I have to tell you right now, art and I are not friends. As one artist sagely noted while grimacing at my misguided attempt to draw a beach scene, "Well, you have other gifts." Truer words have never been spoken, and yet, I signed up for a painting class anyway. It was a lovely scene, a graceful willow overhanging a still pond...dappled sunlight falling lightly through the leaves. I took one look at this portrait of sublime serenity and thought, *you've got to be kidding!*

90 minutes into the class, I was ready to be finished with the entire project. I had used all of my mental reserves to painstakingly craft a semi-shaded grassy embankment from which my graceful willow would spring. But, there were so many details involved in painting grass that I just did not have the energy or ambition to do anything else. And so, when it came time to create the wispy willows of the willow tree, I didn't do my best. To be fair, I *thought* the instructor said to make tiny dots along the canvas for the willow branches. However, I was restless and tired and didn't want to be painting willow leaves all night. So, instead of clarifying the instructions and copying the proper form, I did this.



When the instructor came over to inspect our work, his response was less than encouraging. In fact, when a friend repeated what we thought his instructions were, his response was, and I quote, "I most certainly didn't tell you to do THAT!" Instead of wispy willow branches lazily skimming the surface of a pond, I had Medusa's head on a purple tree trunk. In my rush to be finished with a task that was tiring, I ended up with a useless painting I'm too embarrassed to even throw into the trash.

As I contemplate my Medusa-willow, I can't help but reflect on the instructor's exclamation, and my own heedless desire to forego process for finished product. In my rush to be done, I did a poor job, and the instructor made it abundantly clear that my work should in no way be considered a reflection of his teachings.

How often, do you think, we Jesus followers rush through the process of living by faith and mistake or misrepresent Jesus' actual teaching? Do you feel like, sometimes, Jesus echoes the sentiments of the art instructor? Does Jesus ever say to us, "I most certainly didn't tell you to do THAT!"?

If we're honest, I think the answer is a resounding YES! The truth is, we all sin and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). The process by which we grow in our faith is long—a lifetime—and requires a lot of focus, a lot of effort, and a lot of intentionality. John says that when we run ahead of Christ, then we, in essence, run away from God. When we run ahead of Christ, we miss important details. The masterpiece of God's creation within us becomes a bit of a mess. And, while God can abso-

.olutely redeem and restore it, wouldn't it be better if we just followed instructions the first time? Proverbs tells us that God will teach us well, but we have to follow those teachings. But, how do we live that out? How to we go about living this Jesus life on a practical day to day basis?

First, I think we have to bathe our decisions in prayer, both the large and small. Most of us understand the need to seek God's wisdom when it comes to major life decisions. But, I believe that seeking God's wisdom in the small decisions can help us to better hear God's voice in the midst of those major decisions. For example, sometimes I ask God if I can have a cookie. I know, it sounds crazy. But, here's what I've found. If I go to God in prayer about a cookie, then he and I can have a conversation about the nature of the desire for the cookie. Is it really just about a cookie? Or is it about meeting a deeper emotional need? Going to God about a cookie can lead to deeper self-reflection and awareness. Moreover, if I can train myself to seek God for something as mundane and non-life-altering as a cookie, then I'm prepared to go to him when something truly life-altering comes my way.

Second, we need to clarify information by regularly reading Scripture. Scripture is God breathed. In the stories of faith, we find wisdom and guidance for our own faith journey. God's Word is a lamp for our feet; a light for our path (Psalm 119). God's Word shows us how to live. It reminds us that when we're really frustrated at inefficiency in a place of business, that those serving (or not serving) us are children of God whom we are called to love and snapping at them will not improve the service (or lack thereof). God's Word reminds us that we are to have compassion for the oppressed, not condemnation. We are to seek justice, even when the world seems unrepairably unjust. God's Word is instruction, and that instruction leads us on the pathway to life.

And so, my friends, this week I challenge you to seek God's input. Seek his wisdom in matters both big and small. Then, follow his instructions, even when you really just want to be finished with the whole process.

Blessings and Peace,

Sara





Ashley	Karin (Speitzer)
Les Case	Don McGowan
Sandy Case	Bob Necessary
Donna Casey	Don Raymond
Wade Davis	Steve Raymond
Janet Ford	Nancy Rowe
Winnie Fuerst	Larry Sparks
Harvey Geary	Cole Von Ohlen
Michael Hatfield	Dorothy Wilson
Chuck Holland	

Congregation  
de Mellier  
Heart and Soul  
Children's  
Learning Center  
All Ministries  
of the Church



Through **Festival of Sharing**, various Christian denominations and non-profit organizations have joined forces to respond to poverty, hunger and injustice throughout the world by providing funding and resource goods. In 2018, 89 agencies serving 54,000 people were the recipients of the Missouri Sharefest. This year you can participate in two ways:

1. Donate used prescription eyeglasses and reading glasses for the Merida Foundation to distribute to the Mayan community. These will also be collected at our Recycling Event Sept 7th.
2. We will also be assembling Missouri Personal Hygiene Packs. You can make a monetary contribution that will be used to purchase items in bulk and a team will assemble the Missouri Personal Hygiene Packs. **Or** you can purchase the specified items yourself and put together a pack. The estimated value of each pack is \$20 and they will be distributed in all areas of Missouri. There is a "sample" kit and a specific list by the Connections area in the church lobby. The kits include (1) 6oz or more fluoride toothpaste, (1) toothbrush in original packaging, (1) bath size bar of soap in pkg, (1) 8-14 oz skin lotion, (1) 11-14 oz shampoo, (1) deodorant, (1) comb or brush, (2) razors, (1) wash cloth and (1) hand towel. If you choose to make a donation, in the check memo or on your giving envelope, please indicate "**Hygiene Kits**".

**September 1st will be the last day we will be collecting donations or kits.**

**ONE MISSION ~ MANY COMMUNITIES WORKING TOGETHER**

# 2019 RECYCLING EXTRAVAGANZA



**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

Lake Lotawana Community United Methodist Church  
Gate 1 and Colbern Road

**SAT SEPT 7th 9:00 AM - Noon**

**Electronics - Clothing - Household Goods & MORE**

Visit our website: [llcumc.org](http://llcumc.org) for complete list

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Contact Alice Fuerst

## *Be an Angel*

*Come join this amazing group of women on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month @10am to make needed items for our community.*

*Everyone welcome to join the fun!*



*Join us for  
Yoga every  
Wed. at 6:15*

# UNLOCKING REVELATION

A MEN'S SMALL GROUP  
STUDY BEGINNING  
SEPTEMBER 5

CONTACT CHRIS  
@CHRISKSNYDER@GMAIL.COM  
FOR MORE INFO



Women's Small Group to Begin a  
NEW Study Wednesday, September 4



@ 7:15 P.M.

*Busyness drains our souls and harms our bodies. When you don't have a moment to be still, how can the still, small voice of God's wisdom and love speak into your life?*

*Shauna Niequist was in a season of extreme busyness that finally broke her enough to become desperate for change. In *Present Over Perfect*, Shauna shares what she's learned in her journey toward slower living, which has become more abundant, fruitful living. Come alongside to rest, play, and recreate. What you'll find there satisfies more than you can imagine.*

Contact Sara Snyder at [sstephenson.snyder@gmail.com](mailto:sstephenson.snyder@gmail.com) OR text to 417-343-1124 to sign up!

You can also order online here: [Present Over Perfect](#), book

# August/September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25 Services 8 & 10:00 am	26	27	28 Yoga 6:15	29	30	31
1 Services 8 & 10:00 am Donate Festival Of Sharing	2	3	4 Be an Angel Yoga 6:15 S/PPRC Meeting 7:30 Women's Small Group 7:15	5 Men's Small Group 7pm	6	7 Recycling Extravaganza 9:00 am
8 Services 8 & 10:00 am	9	10 Missions Meeting 7:00	11	12	13	14
15 Services 8 & 10:00 am	16	17 Church Council Meeting 7:00 pm	18 Be an Angel Yoga 6:15 Women's Small Group 7:15	19 Men's Small Group 7pm	20	21