



# NEWS from the Corner



First United Methodist Church—600 Wood Street, Clarion, PA 16214

Online at: [fumc-clarion.org](http://fumc-clarion.org)

March 2024 Edition

## Worship Services

Sunday mornings  
8:30 and 11:00am

## Sunday School

9:45am  
Classes for all ages

## Live Stream

Both services streamed  
live on YouTube



## Pastor Jodie's Jottings . . .

Dear Family in Faith,

As March begins, we are in the midst of Lent and so continuing to “Desperately Seek Jesus” through our scripture and sermons and in finding those Jesus figurines throughout the church. It does my heart good every time someone comes up to me and tells me, “I found Jesus.” That is always our intent, day in and day out to find Jesus where we live, where we work, in scripture, in mission and outreach, and in fellowship. I can’t actually remember any Easter sermons that I have heard over the years, but I have wonderful memories growing up of Easter egg hunts, Sunrise Services in the church cemetery, finding our Easter baskets carefully hidden by my parents and family gatherings for Easter dinner and, of course, the obligatory photographs of family members holding their Easter lilies!

As I look back, I think that services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday have been most meaningful and impactful, the darkness, the sadness, imagining what it would have been like for Jesus to be beaten almost nearly to death and then be nailed to a cross. I’m sure that you have some of those memories as well.

As I’ve considered those memories and what they mean, I think that the most important part of Easter is not necessarily Easter itself, but what comes before and what comes after that give meaning to the empty tomb of Easter.

The cross of Christ marks a moment of transition in our lives from darkness into light; from despair into hope; and even from past into the future. What comes during the transition is sacrifice. The cross of Christ represents the ultimate act of sacrifice based upon the selfless, redeeming love of Christ. When I think about us, First United Methodist Church, as a community of faith, I give thanks for the countless hours offered sacrificially in mission and service in the name of Jesus. I feel that God is bearing fruit through these efforts. All of this fruit is born from the toil and sacrifice on the part of servants like yourself, following in the cross-bearing footsteps of Christ. I hope you might consider honoring the sacrifice of our Lord that leads to new life and resurrection by offering yourself in one or more of the following three ways as the Lord leads you:

1.) Sacrifice your pride and invite a friend or family member to church, even if they might say no. We will have a Maundy Thursday Seder Meal and Communion Service beginning at 6:00pm on March 28; our Good Friday service will begin at 7:00pm on March 29. Since Easter Sunday is a fifth Sunday and one of our Celebration Sundays (and we certainly have much to celebrate on Easter), we will gather for a Sunrise Worship service at 7:00am, followed by breakfast and worship at 9:30am. It’s our prayer that whoever you invite will encounter Jesus through our worship.

2.) Consider a sacrificial gift to the church, above and beyond your regular tithes and offerings. You can use the attached envelope to make that gift or give online through our church website or via Venmo. The Easter offering will continue to fund our ministries and outreach activities.

3.) Most importantly, offer yourself “in prayer and thanksgiving as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God” (Romans 12:1).

Thank you so much for your support of the soul-saving and life-changing work of God through the missions and ministries of First United Methodist Church by your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

As Easter people, let us continue to share Jesus by Loving God! Loving Others!

Blessings, Prayers and Love,

Pastor Jodie

**CONSIDER GIVING TO  
THE MEMORIAL FUND**

When a loved one dies, keeping his or her memory alive is a way of honoring his or her life and finding comfort in your own life as a survivor. Consider contributing a gift to your church's Memorial Fund as a tribute to someone you loved or have known.

**Memorials January 16 - February 15, 2024**

**In memory of Rev. Arnie Rhodes**

- Given by Mary Brooks (Memorial Fund)
- Given by Merle and Janet Wetzel (Memorial Fund)
- Given by Randy and Sue Cathcart (Love Cupboard)
- Given by Tom and Becky Miller (Memorial Fund)
- Given by Kathy Painter (Memorial Fund)
- Given by Howard and Gwen Rhoades (Memorial Fund)
- Given by Dave and Linda Hauser (Memorial Fund)
- Given by Jody and Becki Weaver (Memorial Fund)

**In memory of Gib Sloan**

- Given by William and Dianne Brosius (Memorial Fund)



Our deepest sympathies go out to the family and friends of **Rev. Arnold "Arnie" Rhodes**. Pastor Arnie served our congregation from 2000-2007 and was also our beloved Pastor Emeritus until his passing on January 26.

Please call the church office for an address if you wish to send your prayers and cards.

**Trailblazers Sunday School Class Says THANK YOU!**

It has been two years since our last soup sale. I guess your satisfaction and demand for homemade soup was heard. Again we earned over \$1,000 in donations and over 100 quarts of soup were made and distributed. A small amount of soup remained at the end of day and the shut-ins received these goods. Yes, it is a lot of work but it shows when people pull together, good things happen. Please return jars to room 102 for storage and future use. The Trailblazers Sunday School class says THANK YOU for supporting this project. They in turn will invest in future projects and needs that are identified within our church.

I would like to thank my church family for all the prayers and cards I received for my painful journey with my chronic back pain. I feel your prayers have definitely helped.  
~Linda Hauser

Just a note of thanks for all of your cards and prayers during my recent hospital stay and continuing recovery.  
~Randy Reitz

## News from the Corner - March 2024

### Some Upcoming Dates for Clarion's United Women in Faith

#### **Women's Breakfast**

The United Women in Faith will be having our next meeting at **Perkins** on **Monday, March 25** at **8:00am**. We start with some short readings on fellowship, after which we will have a wonderful meal and great conversation. Come and enjoy the fun! **EVERYONE is welcome!**

Our monthly circle meetings are as follows:

**Naomi Circle** - Will meet on **Thursday, March 14** at **noon**.

**Ruth Circle** - Will meet on **Monday, March 18** at **6:30pm**.

The Northeastern Jurisdiction United Women in Faith **quadrennial meeting** will be held in Providence, RI, **April 19-21, 2024**. Great speakers, music, and fellowship with other United Women in Faith. Come join us. There's still time to register. Visit our website at [nejuwfaith.org](http://nejuwfaith.org) for more information or talk to Mary Brooks.

All women are invited to attend any and all of these meetings to learn more about the mission work of the United Women in Faith.

For more information, contact Mary Brooks, Karen Vandermeer, or Mary Jo Ford.

#### **Reserve Now for the Olmsted Manor Retreat in April**

For those wishing to attend our church retreat at Olmsted Manor in Ludlow on **April 12 - 14**, the registration deadline is Friday, March 15.

The full cost for the weekend includes lodging for two nights (Friday and Saturday) and meals (Saturday brunch and dinner; Sunday brunch):

- ◆ \$165 for single accommodations
- ◆ \$145 for double accommodations

To make a reservation, contact our church office and make your payment.

Half of the payment is due by March 15.

The full balance is due by April 1.

**Note:** When you register, let us know about special dietary needs. There is a maximum of 24 guests for the retreat, so we recommend that you make reservations early.

#### **Campership Sunday**

Campership Sunday will be on **March 10** at both services. Joe Illig, Executive Director of Wesley Woods, will be presenting on three camps: Wesley Woods, Camp Allegheny, and Jumonville.

#### **Easter Egg Hunt**

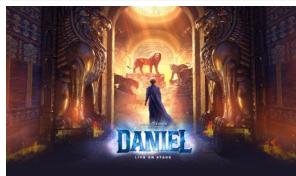
The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be on **Saturday, March 30**, from 11:00am to noon. We will meet at 10:45am in the church parking lot. The hunt will be at 11:00am followed by Fun & Games until noon.

#### **VBS**

Vacation Bible School will be **June 10 to June 14** from 9:00am to noon. This year's theme is "Camp Firelight." More information will be coming soon.



Once again donations of candies and prizes that will fit into the plastic eggs for the church **Easter Egg Hunt** are appreciated. Please place donations in the wooden box in the Gathering Area **before Monday, March 25**. The hunt will be on **Saturday, March 30**. Watch for details to come.



Mark your calendars for the next bus trip to  
Sight and Sound's production of

***Daniel***

October 9, 2024

Taken from his people, Daniel is exiled far from home in the powerful kingdom of Babylon. Now this faithful servant must navigate his new life inside a palace filled with golden statues and shifting empires. As royal pressures mount, Daniel is faced with a dangerous choice.

Will his trust in the one true God remain steadfast through every test of faith?

From the fiery furnace to the infamous den of lions, Daniel is a spectacular theatrical experience. Witness one of the Bible's most hope-filled stories as it comes to life in this brand new original stage production.

The trip includes Fullington motor coach transportation, theater ticket, and dinner at Miller's Smorgasbord.

**Cost:** \$230 to \$304, depending on number of participants.

For this trip to occur, at least 25 people are required. Costs will go down if larger numbers of people attend.

Final day for reservations and payment: **September 3**

Please submit a check for the full amount made payable to First United Methodist Church of Clarion, marking the payment for the Sight & Sound Trip. Include names and phone numbers for each person in the reservation. If the trip has to be canceled, you will receive a full refund from the church.

**7:00am** Depart Clarion (church parking lot)

**11:00am** Arrive at Kitchen Kettle Village

**Lunch** On your own & time for shopping

**2:15pm** Arrive at Sight and Sound Theater

**3:00pm** Showtime, *Daniel* (included)

**6:00pm** Dinner at Miller's Smorgasbord (included)

**11:00pm** (approximate) Arrive back in Clarion



**Pizza and a Movie: *David***

**Friday, March 8**

**Gathering Area**

Pizza served at 5:30pm

Movie at 6:00pm

**Reservations by Wednesday, March 6, please.**

Not every battle is won with a sword. Master Poet. Fearless Warrior. Anointed King. From still waters to shadowed valleys, David's ascent to the throne is filled with towering giants, wild animals, and Philistine soldiers. After unprecedented victories lead to devastating failures, this passionate warrior will face the biggest battle of all: the one within himself. Come alongside this young shepherd on his journey to become a man after God's own heart. With original music inspired by the Psalms, witness one of the most legendary Bible stories.



## News from the Corner - March 2024

### **Love Cupboard Food Pantry**

Once again we had a heavy turnout with good weather and compassionate helpers serving our neighbors and friends. Seventy-four returning households represented 160 persons made up of 28 children, 91 adults and 39 seniors over 60 years old. We also had 14 new households come for nourishment. These folks represented 34 persons made up of 10 children, 23 adults and 1 senior over 60. When you add up these numbers, we helped 194 people maintain reasonable nourishment, while also providing them with cleaning supplies and paper goods until our next distribution on March 20. Since July 1, 2023 we have signed up 200 families into our Love Cupboard program. I constantly repeat our gratitude: THANK YOU, THANK YOU for your continued food and financial support to keep our program advancing. Many hours a month are devoted. Yes, you can be part of this mission. Just call the church office and Darren can give you direction to volunteer or donate financial support.

The donation item for the month of **March** is **Four Pack Toilet Paper**. Please place your donations in the wooden box located in the Gathering Area.

**Please Note: Perishable items are now available.** Distribution occurs on the **3rd Wednesday of each month from 4:00pm-5:30pm.**



### Ten Questions to Ask Yourself as We Begin the Season of Lent

1. When I wake up on Easter Sunday morning, how will I be different?
2. Is there a habit or sin in my life that repeatedly gets in the way of loving God with my whole heart or loving my neighbor as myself? How do I address that habit over the next 40 days?
3. Is there anyone in my life from whom I need to ask forgiveness or pursue reconciliation?
4. What practical steps can I take to carve out time for daily devotions and prayer?
5. What spiritual discipline do I need to improve upon or want to try?
6. What are some things in my life that I tell myself I need but I don't?
7. Why am I giving up this particular thing?  
How does giving it up draw me closer to God and prepare me for Easter?
8. What am going to tell myself when self-denial gets hard?
9. Is it necessary/helpful for me to share the nature of my fast with others or should I keep it private?
10. What do the ashes mean to me this year?

### Four Fasts to Consider

1. Choose to make water your only beverage for 40 days.
2. Give up eating out for 40 days and donate the money you save to the food pantry.
3. Do a 40-day purge of all your excess stuff and donate the best of it to Goodwill or a local thrift store that benefits your neighbors.
4. Unplug—TV, Facebook, Twitter, Netflix, etc. This is perhaps the single best way to carve out some extra time for prayer.

## News from the Corner - March 2024

### March 1

Dylan Fox  
Donna Fulmer

### March 2

Nancy Dolby

### March 3

Neva Beichner  
Charles Uber  
Mary Weyer  
Kelly Wingard

### March 4

Logan Gabler  
Anna Shpakoff  
Barbara Smith  
Curtis Stiles  
Cory Theiss

### March 5

Christy Valimont  
Quinten Graham  
Kimberly Leith  
Marilyn McGuire  
Brian Stanford

### March 6

Amy Snyder

### March 7

Tyler Beck  
Mandy Curry

### March 8

Brooke Bailey  
Landon Leith

### March 9

Cindy Carroll  
Rev. John Harnish  
Julie Mackenzie  
Rebecca Miller  
Janice Murphy



### March 10

Lisa Bashline  
Robert Elliott  
Karen Frazier

### March 11

Reecie Boyles  
Myrna Kuehn

### March 12

Doris Jean Boddorf

### March 13

Jenny Guzikowski  
Ted Howard III

### March 14

Kayla Wayland

### March 16

Henry Baldwin IV  
Richard Douthit

### March 17

Everleigh Haibach

### March 18

Amy Arelt  
Gage Hunt

### March 19

Sydni Luderer  
Penny Schaffer  
Jenessa Tolejko  
Isaiah Trice

### March 21

Shawna Kuriger

### March 22

Frederick Foster

### March 24

Kendra Craddock  
Vivian Estes

### March 25

Lila Gourley  
James Hollingsworth  
Kari Kinney

### March 26

Brady Jewell  
Jeffrey Rudesyle  
Alaina Stanford

### March 27

Vic Amoroso

### March 28

Melissa Pappas

### March 30

David Hauser

### March 31

Ethan Acey  
Eric Funk Sr.  
Ruthie Niederriter



**Sunday March 3, 2024**

8:30am Commissioning of New Stephen Ministers  
 9:45am Grades 6-12 - Prepare and Eat Smoothies  
 11:00am Children's Chimes Practice  
 11:00am Kids2Kids Mission Group (K-5th Grade)  
 6:30pm Youth Group Meeting (Room 001)

**Monday March 4, 2024**

5:30pm Kiwanis (Room 102)

**Tuesday March 5, 2024**

10:00am Stephen Leaders Meeting (Room 102)  
 4:00pm Girl Scouts (Kitchen & Dining Room)  
 6:00pm Worship Committee Meeting  
 (Conference Room - 2nd Floor)  
 6:30pm Christian Education Meeting (Room 102)

**Wednesday March 6, 2024**

5:00pm Stephen Ministers Meeting  
 (Stephen Ministry Room)

**Friday March 8, 2024**

4:00pm Pizza and Movie Night Setup (Gathering Area)  
 5:30pm Pizza and Movie Night - David  
 (Gathering Area)

**Saturday March 9, 2024**

8:00am Men's Breakfast (Perkins Restaurant)

**Sunday March 10, 2024**

**Campership Sunday**  
**Deadline To Register for Lenten Lunch**

**Monday March 11, 2024**

6:30pm Membership Care Meeting (Room 102)

**Tuesday March 12, 2024**

2:00pm Fellowship Committee Meeting (Room 102)  
 6:30pm Trustees Meeting (Room 102)

**Wednesday March 13, 2024**

6:45am Youth Group Breakfast (County Seat)  
 9:00am Daughters of the American Revolution  
 Luncheon (Kitchen & Dining Room)

**Thursday March 14, 2024**

12:00pm United Women in Faith - Naomi Circle  
 (Room 102)  
 2:00pm Clarion Civic Group (Room 102)

**Saturday March 16, 2024**

9:00am Baby Shower for Karen Vandermeer's  
 Daughter-in-Law (Gathering Area)

**Sunday March 17, 2024**

6:30pm Youth Group Meeting (Room 001)

**Monday March 18, 2024**

5:30pm Kiwanis (Room 102)  
 6:30pm United Women in Faith - Ruth Circle  
 (Conference Room - 2nd Floor)

**Tuesday March 19, 2024**

12:00pm Lenten Lunch (Kitchen & Dining Room)  
 4:00pm Girl Scouts (Various Rooms)  
 6:30pm Finance Committee Meeting (Room 102)

**Wednesday March 20, 2024**

9:00am Trip To Mission Barn, New Castle, PA  
 4:00pm Love Cupboard Food Pantry  
 5:00pm Stephen Ministers Meeting  
 (Stephen Ministry Room)

**Saturday March 23, 2024**

10:00am Chancel Choir Cantata Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

**Sunday March 24, 2024****Palm Sunday**

8:30am Easter Cantata (Sanctuary, YouTube)  
 11:00am Arts and Crafts (K-5th Grade)  
 11:00am Easter Cantata (Sanctuary, YouTube)  
 6:30pm Youth Group Meeting (Room 001)

**Monday March 25, 2024**

8:30am Women's Fellowship Breakfast  
 (Perkins Restaurant)

**Thursday March 28, 2024****Maundy Thursday**

10:00am Second Harvest Delivery  
 10:45am Senior Food Box Pickup  
 6:00pm Maundy Thursday Service (Dining Room)

**Friday March 29, 2024****Good Friday**

7:00pm Good Friday Service (Sanctuary)

**Saturday March 30, 2024**

10:45am Easter Egg Hunt

**Sunday March 31, 2024****Easter Sunday**

7:00am Sunrise Worship Service (Memorial Garden)  
 8:00am Easter Fellowship Breakfast (Dining Room)  
 9:30am Easter Sunday Worship Service  
 (Sanctuary, YouTube)

**Regular and Weekly Meetings****Sunday**

8:30am Traditional Worship Service  
 (Sanctuary, YouTube)  
 9:45am Sunday School for All Ages  
 11:00am Contemporary Service (Sanctuary, YouTube)  
 6:00pm Community Choir Rehearsal (Wesley Chapel)

**Monday**

9:30am Disciple Fast Track - New Testament  
 Bible Study (Wesley Chapel)  
 5:30pm Adult Bell Choir Practice (Balcony)  
 6:30pm Boy Scouts Troop 51 (Various Rooms)

**Wednesday**

8:00am Journey for Men (Room 102)  
 1:15pm Recovery 'n Motion (Dining Room)  
 6:30pm Disciple Fast Track - New Testament  
 Bible Study (Wesley Chapel)  
 6:30pm The Messengers Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

**Thursday**

6:30pm Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)  
 6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 51 (Various Rooms)  
 6:45pm NA Setup (Room 102)  
 8:00pm NA Group (Room 102)

**Friday**

9:00am Sit 'n Stitch (Room 102)

**All dates are subject to change.**  
**Please check the website for current schedule.**





The Youth Group of First United Methodist Church of Clarion is a ministry for all youth ages 12 (7th grade) - 18 (senior year). We welcome church members and their friends to join our ministry. If you are interested in joining our Youth Group, please contact the Youth Director at [youthdirector@fumc-clarion.org](mailto:youthdirector@fumc-clarion.org).

Date	Event	Place	Starting Time	Ending Time
3 March	Regular Meeting	Youth Room at Church	6:30pm	8:00pm
10 March	No Youth Group			
13 March	Breakfast	County Seat	6:45am	7:45am
17 March	Regular Meeting	Youth Room at Church	6:30pm	8:00pm
<b>MARCH 17, 2024 - JUMONVILLE MONEY DUE \$100</b>				
24 March	Regular Meeting	Youth Room at Church	6:30pm	8:00pm
31 March	No Youth Group Tonight - Happy Easter			



The Youth Group will once again be participating in **Wreaths Across America**, which supports our local cemeteries. What an amazing way to remember those veterans we have lost and to benefit living veterans.

Did you know that WAA has given approximately \$20 million to organizations in order to provide assistance for our veterans? Forms are available in the church office or you can donate online by scanning the QR code on the left. We receive \$5 for every wreath sold.

**Youth Group Retreat at Jumonville**  
**Thursday, April 4**  
 (leave after baseball game)  
 through **Sunday, April 7.**  
 Cost is \$100, which is due by  
 March 17 to reserve your spot.  
 Specific details are available by emailing  
[youthdirector@fumc-clarion.org](mailto:youthdirector@fumc-clarion.org)  
 or calling the church office.

**Karen G. Luderer Memorial Scholarship Fund**

Karen Luderer lived her life as a devout Christian. Throughout her life, Karen epitomized the values of Christianity. She always looked past someone's indiscretions and valued the person. Karen spent years helping the less fortunate. Whether it was her prison ministry, 4th Avenue Adventure ministry, or any of the many committees in which she partook, she was always willing to listen, counsel and help. She never sought the spotlight. In fact, she went out of her way to avoid it. Helping others was her reward. In this light, the family of Karen Luderer established the Karen G. Luderer Memorial Scholarship Fund in 2018.

**Criteria**

- ◆ A high school GPA of 2.50
- ◆ SAT score of 800 or an ACT score of 16
- ◆ A member of the United Methodist Church, an active member of the Youth Group of the United Methodist Church, or a former member of the Youth Group
- ◆ Traditional and non-traditional students are encouraged to apply

**Selection Process**

Interested people will give a short presentation (PowerPoint or other presentation form) to the Selection Committee. In the spirit of Karen, the Selection Committee wants to learn of the person beyond a résumé. The presentation should provide the committee with sufficient information to get to know the person. Topics may include, but are not limited to: any hardships/challenges in life, the role of religion in their life, specific experiences of volunteer work, specific experiences of Youth Group/work camps, and/or any life experiences that will provide insight into the person.

The scholarship will not just focus on grades and accomplishments, but the person as a whole. The presentation should be about 10 minutes and no more than 20 minutes. An interview will follow the presentation.

**Award**

Recipients will receive a \$1,000 scholarship that will be paid directly to the recipient's institution. The scholarship is renewable for a maximum of 4 years, as long as the student maintains a GPA of 2.50. Every year in May, students will be required to present a copy of their grades to the committee prior to disbursement.

**Application**

An application form can be picked up at the First United Methodist Church Office, 600 Wood Street, Clarion, PA 16214 or may be requested via email at [churchoffice@fumc-clarion.org](mailto:churchoffice@fumc-clarion.org).

**Deadline**

All applications must be received by April 7, 2024. Selected applicants will be invited to provide the presentation/interview, occurring on a date to be determined—usually a Saturday in May. Interviews will be held in the Youth Room starting at 9:00am. The applicant will be notified by text or email. If for some reason an applicant is unavailable on this date, the committee will allow a Skype/Zoom presentation as long as the applicant meets all of the guidelines listed above.

The Franklin District Lay Servant Ministry Team is pleased to announce that registration is open for the **Spring Lay Servant School**. Classes will be held all four Sundays in April (7, 14, 21 & 28), 2:00-5:00pm. The classes being offered are The BASIC Class, Called to Preach, Conflict Resolution, and Spiritual Gifts. The deadline to register is March 25. A registration form can be obtained from the church office.

Lay Servant Ministries is a program to provide training opportunities and experiences to equip disciples of Jesus Christ to realize and respond to their personal call to ministry. Since each disciple is "gifted" with one or more spiritual gifts (skills given by the Holy Spirit for the express purpose of serving the body of believers and thereby God), Lay Servant Ministries strives to help disciples become aware of their particular gift or gifts by offering educational events to enhance and develop the skill level necessary for the full fruition of these gifts. It is an excellent vehicle for servant ministry skill development and has aided thousands of church members to be better servants of Jesus Christ, to become stronger church family leaders, and to more capably assist their pastors.



## News from the Corner - March 2024

### January 2024 Finance at a Glance

General Budget	Receipts	Expenditures
<i>Forecast</i>	<b>\$33,763</b>	<b>\$33,025</b>
<i>Actual</i>	<b>\$37,502</b>	<b>\$31,400</b>

Last month we reported in the newsletter that our offerings in January started off strong. Yes, and it ended well, also. Please note in the chart above that the receipts were strong and the expenses were under budget. That is the mix that is welcome each month. February has started off softer than expected. Hopefully we will end stronger. Please note the enclosed Easter Offering envelope will be a reminder of the importance of stewardship that the finance team is emphasizing. This Easter offering is part of the income that goes toward the budget for the month of March.

### The United Methodist Foundation of Pennsylvania

First United Methodist Church of Clarion has been a member of this foundation for decades. We presently have 19 funds invested and earning dividends and growing yearly as a result of good management. You can learn much about its programs and investments by going to [umfpagiving.org](http://umfpagiving.org). The following is their mission statement:

*The mission of the United Methodist Foundation of Pennsylvania is to build a foundation for thriving and faithful United Methodist churches and agencies in our region. We are here to support you in reaching your charitable goals. Reach out to our office for guidance on how to tailor your gift plan to impact mission and ministry in Pennsylvania.*

I want to share a success story of one of our funds named and set up with the endowment funds received from the estate of Joanne Haskell. This mission fund has the following designation usage: "**Joanne Haskell made known to Rev. Arnold Rhodes that upon her demise she would like the income from her bequest to the Church to be used for mission projects. USAGE: THE CHURCH MISSION COMMITTEE DESIGNATES DIVIDEND USAGE.**" Each year the mission committee of your church does indeed designate the usage. Over the last 20 years your church has supported dozens of missionaries and mission projects by well more than \$150,000. This is but one example, but visionary people can have a major impact on many programs and causes. Take a moment to research and look up [umfpagiving.org](http://umfpagiving.org) or talk to your pastor for directions and information about how you can impact many programs and lives in the future.

### Scholarships for UM Students through General Board of Higher Education & Ministry

In 2023, The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry awarded scholarships to 17 students from Western Pennsylvania for a total of \$28,450. Congratulations, students! The scholarship application period for the Fall 2024 semester is **open through March 13**.

Visit <https://www.gbhem.org/scholarships/scholarships/apply/> for more information.

### Scholarships for United Methodist Students through UM Higher Education Foundation

Applications are now open for scholarships from the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation. Every year, UMHEF awards \$2+ million to students planning to attend one of the 100+ United Methodist related colleges, universities, and seminaries across the country. Don't let finances get in the way of achieving your dreams of quality education! **Apply by March 1** at [umhef.org/apply](http://umhef.org/apply).

### The Caring Tree: Lenten Project for the Mission Barn

During Lent, the church is collecting relief supplies that help communities recover from disasters such as floods, tornadoes, and wildfires. Through the Caring Tree, donations are being requested for cleaning materials to fill buckets distributed by the Mission Barn in New Castle.

The Mission Barn is part of UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief), the humanitarian relief and development arm of the United Methodist Church.

The tree is located in Wesley Chapel. Select a tag, each of which lists items that can be purchased.

Return the tag, so we can put it on the tree again until the end of the campaign.

## News from the Corner - March 2024

### **New Church Office Management and Hours**

Beginning in January 2024 the church began a new office management process to support the changing needs of the church and to facilitate the transition to new staffing of the office with the consolidated position of Operations and Technical Administrator\* to be filled by Darren Mackenzie. In advance, Pastor Jodie, Staff Parish Relations, and the Church Council want to ensure the congregation is aware of the changes that will be taking place.

The goal of the new office management process is to provide the congregation and community improved access to resources and care by increasing the use of communication technologies, which will also enable staff to complete project-based tasks that further our ministry. In order to meet this goal, a significant change will be a modification of church office hours as follows.

#### **Important Change:**

- ♦ **New hours for the church office beginning January 2024: Monday - Thursday, 8:30am - 2:30pm; the office will be closed on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.** Persons who have needs that require assistance outside of these hours are asked to contact the church office to make arrangements.

Note: Pastor Jodie and the church leadership are committed to monitoring the effectiveness of these changes during the following weeks and months. If you have questions, please contact the church office, Pastor Jodie, Howard Rhoades, or Bill Bailey.

\* *The Operations and Technical Administrator position is a consolidation of the previous Administrative Assistant and Director of Communications and Technology positions.*

### **A part-time position open in our church—Director of Christian Education**

This part-time and paid position *averages* ten hours a week. This position was formerly held by Marlene Steiner. Initially retiring from teaching, Marlene found being director of education an ideal way to do something meaningful while serving her church. This opportunity is great for a person of faith who would enjoy sharing the gift of our faith with others, while also learning more themselves! Although you are welcome to help teach, teaching is not required. This position is primarily a coordinating and equipping position. You would work with and be assisted by our Education Committee and our Church Council. You would assist and help lead the Education Committee and our teachers in setting up the programs of Sunday School, Adult Education, and Vacation Bible School.

One of the key areas would be helping to identify and select study topics and curriculums, and help our teaching staff understand the curriculum strengths. You do not need to be a member of our church in order to apply. Feel free to share this opportunity and refer quality people our way. If interested, inquire through the office or contact Mr. Bill Bailey, chair of Staff Parish Relations Committee (our committee for paid personnel).

### **Staff Opening—Lead Nursery Coordinator**

Our Staff Parish Relations Committee is now taking applications from those interested in the position. The nursery, for infants and children through the age of 4, is open on Sunday mornings and on some special occasions. Those interested are encouraged to ask for a Job Description. Clearances are required before starting this job. Staff Parish thanks Carrah Campbell for serving so capably as interim coordinator.

We will be offering a **Confirmation Class** for any youth (ages 11-16) who has not yet "officially" joined the church. Classes will be held **April 21 - May 12** during Sunday School. The class will be received into membership on Pentecost Sunday, May 19.

Any adults wishing to join the church can let Pastor Jodie know or call the church office. A New Member class will be offered and will meet once. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Jodie.



## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

600 Wood Street · Clarion, PA 16214 · 814-226-6660

[www.fumc-clarion.org](http://www.fumc-clarion.org)

Email: [churchoffice@fumc-clarion.org](mailto:churchoffice@fumc-clarion.org)

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Newsletters and Pastor Jodie's sermons are now available online for you to view, listen to, and/or download. If you prefer to receive your newsletter by email instead of print, or if you have any questions, suggestions or information for our website, please email Darren Mackenzie at [churchoffice@fumc-clarion.org](mailto:churchoffice@fumc-clarion.org).

### PLEASE NOTE "MAILER" SCHEDULE

**Upcoming Mailers:** Items for the **April/May newsletter** need to be submitted by **Friday, March 15**.

Thank you!

**To submit information:** If you would like to submit information for the mailer, please contact the church office at 814-226-6660 or by email to [churchoffice@fumc-clarion.org](mailto:churchoffice@fumc-clarion.org).

We will soon be working on a **new church directory!**  
Photography dates will be: May 6, May 7 and May 22  
More information coming soon!

The **Adult Bell Choir** is looking for a few more ringers to join in on making a joyful noise unto the Lord. If you would like to ring or learn how to ring, please contact the church office or see one of the ringers. We meet **Monday evenings** from 5:30 - 6:30pm in the bell room behind the balcony.

### Acolytes and Liturgists

If you would like to be an acolyte at our 8:30 or 11:00 worship service or a liturgist at our 8:30 service, notify the church office with a date and time.



**HOSPITALIZED?** If you or a family member is going to be placed in the hospital, or have upcoming surgery, please notify the church office so that the church and pastor may come and minister to you. You may call the church office at 226-6660.