



NEWS from the Corner



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

Online at: fumc-clarion.org

November 2023 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 . . .

Thanksgiving is upon us and, of course, that begs the question, "What are you thankful for?" I hope that you won't see that as a rhetorical question, but something to seriously consider. So often, we focus on what's wrong and what we need, that we don't make being thankful our priority.

I would like to challenge you to do the following during the month of November. When you go to bed each evening, thank God for five things that happened that day. You can write them down if you wish, and you will see that by the end of the month you will have 150 things to be thankful for!

And of course we know that our thanksgiving should not be limited to one day a year that includes turkey, stuffing, pumpkin pie, etc. The Bible teaches us about thanksgiving in many places and in many ways. The word "thanksgiving" shows up throughout Scripture. In fact, that word and others related to it appear over 140 times in the Bible. To put that in perspective, the word "gospel" is used fewer than 100 times. That's not to say "gospel" is less important, but that "thanksgiving" is more important than most of us realize.

Why is thanksgiving so important? The Word of God gives thanksgiving a vital place in the life of the believer. The one who has a thankful heart is one who gives God the worship God deserves. So, thank God regularly. Worship God with thanksgiving and song. Thank God for the big things in your life. Thank God for the small. Thank God for the good and thank God even for the bad. More importantly, thank God day in and day out, not just on "Thanksgiving" day.

Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever (Revelation 7:12).

Be Thankful and Be Blessed!

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 September 11, 2023 - October 16, 2023

In memory of Patricia Austin

Given by Kay Curll (Memorial Fund)



Our deepest sympathies go out to Jill, Tony, Ben, and Anna Johns and their family on the loss of Jill's mother, **Carol Campbell**. Carol passed from this life on September 19.



Our deepest sympathies go out to Janet and Merle Wetzel and their families on the loss of Janet's brother, **Judd Wetzel**. Judd passed from this life on September 28.

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

I would like to thank our congregation for supporting the Youth Group's annual ALF parking fundraiser. We had our best year ever and raised \$3,246. A special thank you to Howard Rhoades for helping from setup to teardown. Thank you to all parents and youth who helped make our fundraiser a big success.

Thank you so much to our church family for all of the cards, calls, prayers and well wishes. We have so much enjoyed them.
Bill and Henrietta Kodrich

Dear church family,
Thank you very much for all your support. For the generous Karen Luderer Scholarship, the Carrier Seminary Scholarship, all of the wonderful care packages and cards, and all of your thoughts and prayers. It means so much to know that I have the support of my church family especially being so far away.
Thank you,
Rachel Howard

One Call Now

The church office is looking at ways we can better serve and communicate with all of the church family. In January 2024 we are going to be initiating a One Call system.

This system allows us to send voice messages and/or text messages from the church whenever there are special announcements, activities, emergency prayer requests, cancellations or other information.

This new communication tool will also enable the church office to contact members of specific committees to remind them of meetings or cancellations.

To be able to receive these calls or texts, your telephone number has to be included on the activation list. If you DO NOT want your number to be included, please inform Darren Mackenzie, Mary Jo Ford, or Pastor Nancy Zahn (coordinator of computer membership records) or call the church at 814-226-6660 **by December 12.**

We will enter your telephone number based on the first one listed in the church directory or the updated number given on your weekly registration card. Many have updated with cell phones, therefore, if we have both your landline and cell phone number, please let us know if you prefer the cell phone number to be used. If you were not in the directory, and wish to be on our list, please let the church office know.

All of the organizations and churches that utilize these types of calling services are very pleased with their effectiveness. Current users have acknowledged how beneficial automated calling is with regard to being able to communicate with everyone.

We are excited to begin utilizing the One Call system for the church.

As you all may have noticed over the past few years, the Chancel Choir's numbers have reduced for various reasons. We consider ourselves as a Christian Church Family. If you have the joy and ability to sing, we invite you to join our family. We practice on Thursday nights starting in September. If you are not quite sure about this commitment, come and try us out. We would love to have your voice in our group.

Your servant in Christ,
Randy Bowser, Director of Music

Saturday Men's Breakfast

We will be meeting again at Perkins on **Saturday, November 11** at 8:00am.

If you like to eat, talk, laugh or just get out of the house, you are welcome to join us. The more the merrier!

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, November 27 at 8:30am.** 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:

Thursday, November 9 - Naomi Circle

Monday, November 20 - Ruth Circle

The Northeastern Jurisdiction quadrennial meeting next spring:

April 19–21, 2024 in Providence, Rhode Island

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.

News from the Corner - November 2023



November 4

Abigail Foster
Dennis McGuire
Garrett Simpson

November 5

Gregg Myers
Alexandra Nau
Christopher Pappas

November 6

Victoria Vega

November 7

Mary Jo Bettwy

November 8

Ava Boyer

November 9

Graham Beckley
Diane Bennett
Ryan Pappas

November 10

Andrew Brubaker
Matthew Brubaker
Alice Hollingsworth

November 11

Logan Myers
Rocco Stefanos

November 12

Kimberly Girts
Jackson Pappas

November 13

John Hunt, Jr.
Timothy Stevenson
James Wolfe

November 14

Maxwell Krepps
Henry Pappas
Carolyn Wright

November 15

Paul Perry

November 16

Jack Kroh

November 17

Edward Duffy
Jeremy Reitz

November 18

Carah Campbell
Charles Seelbach
Alexandra Vega

November 19

Penelope Wetzell
Mary Wolf

November 20

Nathaniel Bowser

November 21

Lee Mortland
Helen Shaw
Marlene Steiner

November 22

Allison Acey
Sophia Burns

November 23

Randy Bowser
Carol Leas
Nancy Mills
Austin Myers

November 24

Kyle Bettwy
Sandra Fagley

November 25

Mark Bettwy
Jean Crawford
Mark Dehner
Riley Doan

November 26

Noreen Shirey

November 28

Josephine Boorech

November 29

James Wingard

November 30

Adam Gulnac
Holly Stitt

Carols Around the Table

Sunday, December 3

6:30 pm

Gathering Area

Join us on **Sunday, December 3**, in the Gathering Area to enjoy our annual **Carols Around the Table**.

There will be gingerbread, angel food cake, and other refreshments.

Special music will highlight the evening.

Join in the fun of singing your favorite Christmas Carols with your church family.

If you have musical talents that you would like to share that evening,
please contact the church office at 226-6660.

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.

Saturday November 4, 2023

9:00am Franklin District Lay Servant Classes
 9:30am Stephen Ministry Class (Room 004)

Sunday November 5, 2023**Daylight Saving Time ends**

9:45am Grades 6-12 — Cook & Eat Together
 11:00am Chimes Practice
 12:00pm 1st Sunday at First Church
 (College Students Home-Cooked Meal)
 3:00pm Community Choir Rehearsal
 (Wesley Chapel)
 7:00pm Charge Conference (Gathering Area)

Monday November 6, 2023

6:30pm Worship Committee Meeting (Room 102)

Tuesday November 7, 2023**Election Day**

11:15am Senior Food Box Pickup
 4:00pm Girl Scouts (Dining Room/Kitchen)
 6:30pm Christian Education Meeting (Room 102)

Wednesday November 8, 2023

10:30am DAR Meeting & Luncheon
 (Kitchen & Dining Room)

Thursday November 9, 2023

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

Saturday November 11, 2023**Veterans Day**

8:00am Men's Breakfast (Perkins Restaurant)
 9:00am Franklin District Lay Servant Classes

Sunday November 12, 2023

11:00am Kids2Kids Mission Group (K - 5th Grade)
 12:00pm Grab-and-Go Lunch! K2K Fundraiser
 (Hoagies & Desserts for Sale)

Monday November 13, 2023

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD BOXES DUE
 6:30pm Stephen Ministry Class (Room 004)

Tuesday November 14, 2023

5:45am Sight and Sound Trip
 5:30pm Trustees - Walk Through Facilities
 6:30pm Trustees Meeting (Room 102)

Wednesday November 15, 2023

4:00pm Love Cupboard Food Pantry

Thursday November 16, 2023

12:30pm Dulcimer Club (Dining Room)

Monday November 20, 2023

4:00pm Boy Scouts Hoagie Pickup (Dining Room)
 5:30pm Kiwanis (Room 102)
 6:30pm Stephen Ministry Class (Room 004)
 6:30pm United Women in Faith - Ruth Circle
 (Conference Room - 2nd Floor)

Tuesday November 21, 2023

4:00pm Girl Scouts (Various Rooms)
 6:30pm Finance Committee Meeting (Room 102)

Thursday November 23, 2023

OFFICE IS CLOSED - Thanksgiving Day

Sunday November 26, 2023**Thanksgiving Sunday**

11:00am Arts and Crafts (K - 5th Grade)

Monday November 27, 2023

8:30am Women's Fellowship Group
 (Perkins Restaurant)
 6:30pm Stephen Ministry Class (Room 004)

Tuesday November 28, 2023

6:30pm Church Council Meeting (Room 102)

Regular and Weekly Meetings**Sunday**

8:30am 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 Bible Study - Fast Track
 (Room 102)
 1:30pm Disciple Bible Study - Fast Track
 (Room 102)
 5:30pm Adult Bell Choir Practice (Balcony)
 6:30pm Boy Scouts Troop 51 (Various Rooms)

Wednesday

8:00am Journey for Men (Room 102)
 12:30pm Worship Service (Wesley Chapel)
 1:15pm Recovery 'n Motion (Dining Room)
 6:30pm The Messengers Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
 6:30pm Disciple Bible Study - Fast Track
 (Room 102)

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)

Saturday

7:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Room 004)

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



Kids Club (11:00 Children's Activity Hour)

The Fruit of the Spirit Word of the Month for November is: **Self-Control**

Sunday, November 5, SPECIAL MISSION SUNDAY - Kids2Kids will meet to pack Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes.

Sunday, November 12, Kids2Kids FUNdraising Sunday - After the 11:00 service, we will be selling hoagies and desserts for the Steelers game.

Sunday, November 19, Library Time

Sunday, November 26 - Children will stay in Worship service.

Sunday, November 5, Teens' Cooking Sunday - The teen class (grades 6-12) will be cooking breakfast and eating together. They also will be preparing the luncheon for our college students (1st Sundays at First Church).

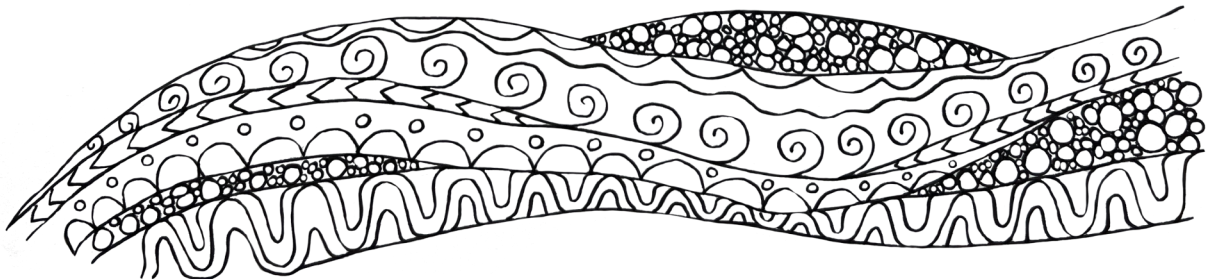
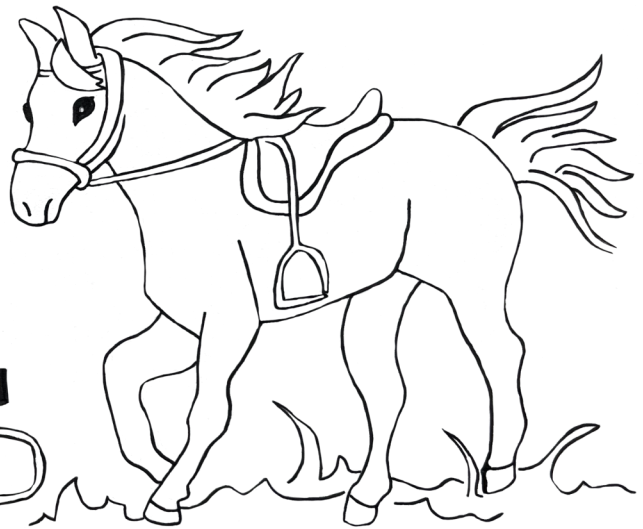
Care Packages: Please share the mailing information of all college students—local or not—so we can send them encouragement and good thoughts throughout the year! Please submit to the church office your child's name and address and we will add them to our list!

Volunteer Opportunities: Christian Education has a few great opportunities for anyone who loves to organize! Our Curriculum Center, the Christian Education supply closet, and the director's office could all use some tender loving care from someone with a heart for organizing! Please reach out to Joe Wolf or Michele Howard if you would like to help with these efforts.



**SELF-
CONTROL**

is restraint



**Holy
Spirit**

**Self
Control**

**the fruit of the
Spirit is love...
and self control.**

Galatians 5:22

News from the Corner - November 2023

On October 29, as part of our “**Celebration of the Saints**” worship service, we had the honor to remember and celebrate the saints of First UMC who have passed on to glory in the last year. It was a blessing to remember those who sat in our pews and participated in the ministry of our church. We are grateful for their faithfulness and commitment to their church. A candle was lit and a flower was given to family members who were present in worship. In the Apostles’ Creed we confirm our faith in the “community of saints”; that great cloud of witnesses, the millions of believers who have gone before us who each bear witness to the life of faith we now live. May we be inspired by the godly example they set for us during their lives on earth. Please continue to keep the families of these saints in your prayers during this time of loss.

Hazel V. Husted

Joined: December 16, 1973
Passed: November 11, 2022

Judith T. (Judy) McCartney

Passed: January 13, 2023

Vernon Hilyer

Joined: January 29, 1984
Passed: January 28, 2023

Mary Jo Livengood

Joined: October 23, 1994
Passed: February 2023

Scott H. Tepke

Joined: April 3, 2005
Passed: March 11, 2023

Penny Lynn Simpkins

Joined: October 16, 1983
Passed: April 1, 2023

Judy P. Grimm

Joined: June 8, 1952
Passed: May 24, 2023

Patricia L. Houben

Joined: November 12, 2006
Passed: May 28, 2023

Rev. W. LeRoy Jones

Served FUMC Clarion 1979-1987
Passed: June 17, 2023

Janet Harding Ruslavage

Joined: February 8, 1987
Passed: June 24, 2023

Jesse O. McKee

Passed: July 15, 2023

William “Bill” Joseph Roberts Mills

Joined: April 18, 2004
Passed: July 26, 2023

Earla McCall

Joined: April 30, 2023
Passed: August 14, 2023

Carol Anne Bylaska

Joined: July 22, 2001
Passed: September 6, 2023

Patricia Ann Austin

Joined: January 1, 1948
Passed: September 16, 2023

Rev. Keith Dovenspike

Joined: August 31, 2023
Passed: October 20, 2023

First Sunday at First Church - After church luncheon with the college-aged meets the 1st Sunday each month when PennWest Clarion is in session (November 5, December 3, February 4, and April 7). Anyone college-aged is welcome. You don't need to be a member and you don't need to be in college—you can be in the trades, in the military, working, etc. Bring a friend(s)! Join us after the 11:00 worship service for a home-cooked meal, fun, and fellowship.

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.

Come check out **Sit ‘n Stitch** on **Friday mornings** from 9:00 to 11:00am in room 102. It's a fun fellowship time to work on your own crafting project or work on a requested project. Anybody is welcome to join.



Do you have a heart for vulnerable children and want to do something but aren't sure how to help?

Join us at 6:00pm on **Stand Sunday, November 12, 2023**, at Trinity Point Church of God, where we will continue to bring awareness and share ways to live out our duty to serve the most vulnerable; "to look after the orphans and widows" James 1:27. We will stand together—many churches, many denominations, for one common goal . . . to serve our foster children and foster families in Clarion County.

**Grab-and-Go Lunch!
Sunday, November 12
Kids2Kids Fundraiser**

Plan to purchase your lunch on Sunday, November 12.
Kids2Kids will have hoagies available for a donation after the 11:00 service.

Funds raised will help support the many missions Kids2Kids actively pursue each month.
As always, we thank you for your support!

Our **Annual Charge Conference for 2023** is scheduled for **Sunday, November 5** at 7:00pm. A time of fellowship will begin at 6:30pm, so that we can welcome our new Franklin District Superintendent, Rev. Deborah Ackley Killian.

Everyone is invited to join us as we tend to the business of God's church. Church Council members are especially encouraged to attend. All church members have a vote. Non-members have voice, but not vote. We will be voting on setting salaries and electing officers and committees for 2024. It is not too late to let Pastor Jodie know if you are interested in serving in some capacity in the coming year.

Love Cupboard / Senior Food Boxes

Autumn Leaf Festival is over, but the need for food by our friends and neighbors remains high. The annual community food drive was shared with our church several weeks ago. Approximately 400 pounds of shelf stable goods were received. Each month we continue to see new households sign up for our food pantry. In October, 18 new households signed up. The total number of household members benefiting from our efforts was exactly 200. The mix of people affected were 46 children (ages 0-17), 104 adults (ages 18 to 59), and senior citizens (60 and over) for a total of 200. Eighty-eight neighbors visited, which made up this combination. On October 26, we received and distributed 45 senior food boxes from our Second Harvest distributor. This is the 2nd month of distribution and we continue to see new applicants qualify and sign up for this program. We are providing boxes to five additional new neighbors. Each person will receive approximately 30 pounds of goods, which includes a 2 pound block of cheese. This program is a new and additional source of food for those who meet the financial poverty guidelines set by the United States government. I expect this program to grow significantly in future months for persons 60 years of age and older. Our church does not experience any expense for this Senior Food Box program. We continue to work hard on the efficiency of our sign-in procedures, flow of shopping in the dining room, helping people return to their vehicles, and variety of goods available. I am very appreciative of all the persons supporting our program financially, those sharing their talents at each event, shoppers at local markets, truck unloaders, and those performing administrative duties or providing child care. Yes, you can be part of this mission and ministry. Just let the church office know of your interest to be part of this very rewarding experience.

The donation item for the month of **November** is **ALL PURPOSE CLEANER**. 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.**

September 2023 Finance at a Glance

General Budget	Receipts	Expenditures
Forecast	\$30,953	\$32,616
Actual	\$22,127	\$32,905

We experienced a shortfall in our offerings during the month of September. We are close to breakeven on our budget for the year and have no cushion for unexpected expenses. We are the family of Christ and need one another for nurture and support. What makes First United Methodist Church of Clarion special is the faithfulness of its members to our church and the community.

The **2024 Church Offering Envelopes** will be prepared for distribution and placed on tables in the Gathering Area before Thanksgiving. If anyone who does not currently have a box of the offering envelopes desires to have a set, please notify the church office so a box can be prepared for you. The use of the offering envelopes greatly helps with the Counting Committee and the Church's accounting work.

David M. Hauser
Financial Secretary

News from the Corner - November 2023

PIWPAUMC Mission Trip to Guatemala

November 4–12, 2023

Matthew 25:40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

Purpose: This event will primarily be a cultural trip where we will learn about the beauty of the country, some of the difficulties imposed by its colonial heritage, the successes and problems of the Indigenous community, and what steps can be taken to help this group deal with poverty. We also plan to do a distribution of 40 wheelchairs. We will be hosted by The National Primitive Methodist Church of Guatemala (IENMPG), one of the WPAUMC missional partnerships. This experience should be an "easy" trip with good hotels, good weather, and no swinging of hammers. Spanish language skills are NOT necessary.

Cost: Based on 8 travelers, the cost should be \$1,200 plus airfare, which may be up to another \$1,200. The price covers hotels for 8 nights, breakfast for 7 days, other meals for 5 days, in-country transportation, the VIM fee, tips, insurance, some tour fees, and a contribution to the Children's Nutrition Center. You will also need spending money (basically shopping), money for meals on the final 3 days, money for any optional tours (zipline?), and money for anything purchased at the airport. In the past, we have arranged the airfare so that it can be applied to your own credit card. Members of WPAUMC churches can apply for a partial scholarship.

Disclaimer: The itinerary is subject to change. The biggest unknown is the exact flights that will be available—the approximate airfare and itinerary are based on flights that are currently available.

For More Information: Contact Jodale Barnhart at jodalebarnhart@gmail.com or 724-753-2821.

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 the Education Committee of our church 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.

Join us to celebrate Mary Jo Ford's (end-of-the-year) retirement on **Friday, December 8** at 6:00pm in the Gathering Area. Mary Jo has faithfully served as our Administrative Assistant for eleven years. Her smiling face and welcoming and helpful demeanor will be greatly missed. Light refreshments will be provided. If you have questions, contact Bill Bailey, SPRC Chair or Pastor Jodie at pastor@fumc-clarion.org or 814-226-6660.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

www.fumc-clarion.org

Email: communications@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 communications@fumc-clarion.org.

PLEASE NOTE "MAILER" SCHEDULE

Upcoming Mailers: Items for the December/January newsletter need to be submitted by **Wednesday, November 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 communications@fumc-clarion.org.



Any items for the **Samaritan's Purse—Operation Christmas Child "Shoebbox"** ministry will be accepted at any time.

Also, monetary donations to help with shipping costs will be accepted at any time. Please clearly mark a monetary donation for shipping as "shoebboxes postage" and place it in the offering plate or drop it off at the church office.

Thank you for your support.



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.