



NEWS from the Corner



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

Online at: fumc-clarion.org

June/July 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
11:00am on 94.1FM

Dear Ones,

This time it's different. This is not a transfer. Time is moving so quickly toward my retirement date.

I remember my first job after college. My first week I received a benefit manual that declared my retirement date. I was twenty-one years old. Such an impossible date—so many years, so far away!

Now it's here. People ask me if I'm excited. Sure! Looking forward to it. But there is so much to do in finishing my time with you and a ton of retirement readiness paperwork to complete by various deadlines. What's it like? It's like senior year finals week and semester paper submission deadlines. Interesting that my time with you as pastor in a university town has been four years. Graduating! Into retirement.

Lynne and I have been online looking for a home to buy since October. We made a few trips to actually look at homes with the intention of perhaps buying. Knowing that our end date was coming and we needed to vacate the parsonage, we scheduled the moving company. They asked, "Where to?" I had to say, "Don't know." But now we do. Last week our offer to buy a home near Washington, Pennsylvania was accepted. It's not far from the juncture of routes 79 and 70. If you're coming near and have time, give a call—would be great to see you. My last Sunday in the pulpit is June 4, but our move date is not until June 28. We're using June to pack, to finish paper work, and to enjoy the balance of our Clarion experience. We are nearing the time when I hand the pastor's baton to my successor, the Rev. Jodie Smith.

Her first Sunday in the pulpit is July 2. It's nice that some of us have met Pastor Jodie during her tenure as our District Superintendent. It's been my observation that Pastor Jodie has a pastor's heart. She keeps her Bible close, prays, and shares meaningful devotions. I believe you'll find her a companion in Christ, ready to walk life with you, compassionate and loving. You already know that each of your pastors have been different in personality and in specialized knowledge. God has used each one to do aspects of God's will while here. I thank each of you for being part of our Clarion experience. In every church I've pastored there is much I have learned. Every church is different with different needs and different opportunities. I like to think there are also some things and some spiritual insights that I leave with you that you may continue to grow in Christ. Every one of you has had an important role in our time with you. Some of you have been Clarion guides, helping us learn the community. Some of you have been faith mentors and teachers to me and Lynne, as you have been to one another. Some of you have been encouragers. Some of you have wrapped us in your prayers. You have known and will remember me as your pastor. Lynne and I leave offering you friendship. Lynne and I will pray for you and Pastor Jodie. Each of you care and give your love to Pastor Jodie and her husband as you have to me and Lynne. Continue to love one another, and be even more intentional about it. Form membership care teams and make sure that EVERY person of the church is touched by your care as many times yearly as possible. Let no one just drift away. Be intentional about including them and making space for them and meeting their spiritual needs. It can't be just the pastor.

It is the task of the body of Christ. As you do so, be alive to the community about you. Care for your community. And invite to your small groups and to worship all those who show interest. Let them sing with us, play bells with us, serve in mission beside us. Always be prepared to tell one another, family, friends, and others all the wonderful things God in Christ and Spirit has done in your life. Praise the Lord!

With love and affection,

Pastor John and Lynne

Beyond Hello – Relational Evangelism

By Christine Zimmerman, Conference Evangelist

“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.” –John 15:12

It's amazing how a simple “hello” can brighten someone's day, but what if we take conversations one step further? What if we truly listened to people and heard their hearts? How could the Lord use this time to open opportunities to share His love? The following is a personal story of an encounter that changed the hearts of two grandmas.

While traveling in our RV from Pennsylvania to Florida we often stop overnight at Cracker Barrel and enjoy dinner and breakfast the next morning after we rest. The hostess, Lori, met us as we were seated for a late dinner. We said hello but she seemed kind of tired. In fact, my husband John whispered that she probably was not the best face for Cracker Barrel to have as their hospitality person. We had a good dinner and then retired to our RV to sleep in the parking lot. In the morning we went back in for breakfast and who was there to greet us but our faithful hostess, Lori, from the night before. I said, “Did you even get to go home?” She said, “Yes, but didn't get to sleep much.” Again, she looked tired and worn out, so I knew she must not have had much sleep. As she walked us to our table, we talked about her having a few days off this coming week, with her sister coming in for a visit. We could see her countenance brighten as she shared about time with family. She then mentioned that she had been battling cancer and just got back to work around Thanksgiving. She also shared that she has not been able to see her first grandson yet, who was five months old. With tears welling up in her eyes, she told us that her daughter bought her a ticket for Christmas and she would be flying to go see him.

As she left our table, tears also welled up in my eyes realizing how blessed I am with how often I see my granddaughters. Lori soon returned with pictures of him on her phone. Her smile grew and her countenance brightened even more when she shared the pictures. I then showed her a picture of my four granddaughters. As we were leaving, I was led to slip a “love gift” into her apron and we hugged. As I left, I knew that grandma hearts were joined at Cracker Barrel restaurant.

The Lord gives us opportunities daily, such as this, to connect with others. Here are some ways we can move beyond “hello” to establish the right to share our own personal stories of faith:



If we dare to go beyond the “hello,” you will be amazed how others are longing for a friendship. To learn more about Relational Evangelism you can contact: About Face Church Outreach Consultants at af180.org, Christine@af180.org, (814) 440-3556.

News from the Corner - June/July 2023

New Members welcomed to First United Methodist Church of Clarion

Nine new members have officially been welcomed into the family of believers at First United Methodist Church of Clarion.

Since 1889, when members first stood at the altar in this church, Methodists have gathered together seeking a higher understanding of God, the Bible, and the Christian way of life. We are grateful today for each one of you, that you have found your way here, and that you have decided to make a commitment to this faith community. We hope that as members of this church you will allow yourselves to know and to be known, to minister to and to be ministered unto, to love and to be loved, by this congregation.



Rev. Dr. Lt. Col. Jonathan Bell

Rev. Brock Beveridge

Earla McCall
by transfer from Sligo United Methodist Church

by Charge Conference Relationship



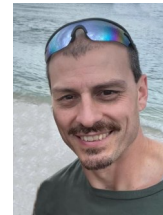
Anne Bell

Reed Bell

Jackson Bell

Asher Bell

by transfer from Good Shepherd United Methodist Church



Liza Kopp
by transfer from East Kane United Methodist Church

Tony Kopp
by Profession of Faith

Welcome Pastor Jodie Smith

Please plan to attend a reception between services on Sunday, July 2 at 9:30 - 11:00 am in the Gathering Area as First United Methodist Church of Clarion welcomes Pastor Jodie Smith and her husband, Jerry. This will be an opportunity to greet Pastor Jodie and enjoy a time of fellowship together.

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 in the fall. Our church year will begin with a picnic in late August, and then with practices 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



Youth Work Camp 2023

Each year the youth of our church identifies a project that we can tackle that demonstrates the mission emphasis that our church strongly believes in and supports. This year our special project is building a new garage for our pastor and family at our Wood Street parsonage location.

Many of you know that this project has been endorsed by our Trustees, Finance, and Church Council as one of our three major summer projects. The following steps are in progress to make this project happen.

A special fundraising campaign is in place, the demolition of the old garage is scheduled with a contractor, and the foundation-blockwork-cement slab will follow by the same contractor. This slab will be completed in early June and the site will be ready for the youth's carpentry phase on June 26. All building materials are ordered and will arrive in the last two weeks of June.

Here is where your prayers and support come into play. The trustees will arrive first—no extra help needed. The bulk of the building supplies will arrive on June 23—rain or shine. We definitely will need help here.

Six persons for approximately 1½ hours. The reconstruction of the new garage will start Monday morning on June 26 and conclude on Thursday afternoon, June 29. Yes, this is an aggressive schedule, but we have accomplished similar tasks in the past in this timeframe.

Here is where you can personally help. We need:

1. Assistance daily to prepare breakfast, lunch and supper (including cleanup).
2. Someone to deliver snacks to the worksite each day at 10:00am.
3. Helpers on site to keep all workers hydrated.
4. Go-fers . . . go for this and that--help keep worksite organized. Not heavy work but important.
5. Spectators---this is a perfect opportunity to bring your lawn chair and watch the workers and their daily progress.
6. We will share devotions each night around 5:45—join in and be part of our faith walk and growing experience.
7. Wednesday 5:45pm—work camp communion—special event in sanctuary—please be part of this time with us.

Show your interest and we will coordinate the schedule with you. As we get closer to the date, we will work with Darren for you to sign up through the church email system, which we have just updated with “an event option.”

The Youth Group is once again selling **C&A Trees Gift Certificates**. If you purchase flowers, trees, shrubs, or plants OR spend money in their gift shop, please purchase a certificate from the Youth Group. C&A Trees generously donates 20% of all proceeds to support our activities. The gift certificates must be used by June 30, 2023. The certificates are available Monday through Friday in the church office during regular hours. We will also do our best to be available from 9:15am to 11:00am in the Gathering Area or Wesley Chapel. If for some reason you cannot make it into the church, please email youthdirector@fumc-clarion.org and we will personally get the gift certificates to you in person or by mail. Thank you for not only supporting our ministry, but also supporting C&A Trees, a big supporter of our youth in Clarion.

The Youth Group continues to support our local **Wreaths Across America** in December 2023. It is not too early to sponsor a wreath, especially with Memorial Day right around the corner. Please go directly to our page <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/163866> and sponsor a wreath in honor or memory of someone or make a general donation for those veterans who do not have a direct sponsor. The wreaths are \$17 each. The Youth Group earns \$5 for every wreath sold. Order forms are also available in the Church Office. So far this year we have sponsored seventy-nine wreaths (including matching wreaths) and have earned \$205. You will support two great causes in one transaction. If you have questions, please email Shelly Rhoades at youthdirector@fumc-clarion.org.

Saturday June 3, 2023

5:00pm Farewell/Retirement Celebration
Light Refreshments (Gathering Area)
6:30pm Farewell/Retirement Celebration
Music and Tributes/Memories (Sanctuary)

Sunday June 4, 2023

6:30pm Youth Group Meeting (Room 001)

Monday June 5, 2023

5:30pm Kiwanis (Room 102)

Tuesday June 6, 2023

6:00pm VBS Meeting (Room 102)
6:30pm Christian Education Meeting (Room 102)

Thursday June 8, 2023

2:00pm Clarion Civics Group (Room 102)

Sunday June 11, 2023

6:30pm Youth Group Meeting (Room 001)

Monday June 12, 2023

9:00am-12:00pm VBS

Tuesday June 13, 2023

9:00am-12:00pm VBS
6:30pm Trustees Meeting (Room 102)

Wednesday June 14, 2023**Flag Day**

9:00am-12:00pm VBS
4:00pm Special Session at Annual Conference

Thursday June 15, 2023**Annual Conference**

9:00am-12:00pm VBS

Friday June 16, 2023**Annual Conference**

9:00am-12:00pm VBS

Saturday June 17, 2023**Annual Conference****Sunday June 18, 2023****Father's Day**

6:00pm Work Camp Meeting (Gathering Area)

Monday June 19, 2023**Juneteenth**

5:30pm Kiwanis (Room 102)

Tuesday June 20, 2023

6:30pm Finance Committee Meeting (Room 102)

Wednesday June 21, 2023

4:00pm Love Cupboard Food Pantry

Thursday June 22, 2023

10:00am Second Harvest Delivery

Sunday June 25, 2023**Work Camp Commissioning****Monday June 26, 2023****Work Camp**

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

Tuesday June 27, 2023**Work Camp**

12:30pm Clarion Dulcimer Club

Wednesday June 28, 2023**Work Camp****Thursday June 29, 2023****Work Camp****Friday June 30, 2023****Work Camp****Regular and Weekly Meetings****Sunday**

8:30am Worship Service
(Sanctuary, YouTube)
9:00am Chimes Practice (Room 212)
9:15am Bells Practice (Room 212)
9:30am Children's Singing Time (Room 200)
9:45am Sunday School Classes for All Ages
11:00am Contemporary Service (Sanctuary,
1300AM, 94.1FM, YouTube)
6:00pm Community Choir Rehearsal
(Wesley Chapel)

Monday

5:30pm Adult Bell Choir Practice
6:30pm Boy Scouts Troop 51 (Various Rooms)

Tuesday

10:00am Staff Meeting

Wednesday

8:00am Journey for Men (Room 102)
12:30pm Worship Service (Wesley Chapel)
6:30pm The Messengers Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday

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

Friday

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

Saturday

8:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Room 004)

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



Birthdays of the Month

June 1

Edward Hale
Abby Smith

June 2

Janet Finch
Cameron Meterko
Brian McIlwain
Brenda Nicely
Dylan Smith

June 3

Andrew Banner
Linda Book
Marjorie Henry
Cole Kinney
Susan Pellegrino

June 4

Derrick Cherico
Gretchen Hess
Melanie Lenk
Grace Matson

June 6

Kristin Klingler

June 7

Stephanie Beichner
Ethan Burns

June 9

Lindsay Banner
David Kiser
Tracy Milliron

June 10

Tina Gulnac
Brenda Smathers

June 12

Gracelyn Keener
Phyllis Morrow
Lisa Williams

June 13

Christian Anderson
Boone Dehner

June 14

Vaughn Curl
Michael Phillips
Victoria Horner

June 16

Sandra Foster
Haylee Roman
Chelsea Sierko

June 17

Benjamin Fleming
Lisa Scilla
Alice Marie Spindler

June 18

Deon Knickerbocker

June 19

Ann Allaman
Brianna Bennett

June 20

William Craddock
Jill Greenawalt
Michael McCormick

June 21

Alison Sexton

June 22

Shelley Allen

June 23

James Bolinger
Kelly Dotterer

June 24

James Arner
Ashley Isar

June 25

Debra Rankin
Becki Weaver

June 27

Patricia Austin
Eric Funk Jr.
James Kifer
John Moore
Derek Phillips
Deborah Whisner

June 28

Kathy Murphy
Susan Patton

June 29

Jodie Acey

July 1

Margret Lehnortt
Dana Rudesyle

July 2

Deborah Best
William Brosius
Dennis Palmer

July 3

Linda Pappas
Dylan Shekell

July 4

Stacy Kiser
Kenneth Minich

July 5

Erin Songer
Marsha Strattan

July 6

Raymond McBride
Marilee Phillips
Alexander Uber

July 7

Nathan Brosius
Dorothy Elliott
Mary Horner
Matt Long

July 8

Clara Belloit
Deborah Money
Chase Ponsford
David Schwab
Amy Wolbert

July 9

Douglas Evans
Jodi Kesner

July 10

Airic Casserly

July 11

Ethan Kellerman
Peggy Jo Staab
Matthew Wayland

July 12

Eunice Aaron
Heather Lechner

July 13

Brooks Bennett
Donald Niederriter

July 14

Matthew Barger
Dana Wolbert

July 15

Kathy Daugherty
Christian Holmes

July 16

James Reynolds
Kayla Wurster

July 17

Justin Anthony

July 18

Kayleigh Buskirk
Kyleigh Buskirk
Richard Elliott

July 19

Randy Stewart

July 21

Judy Curl

July 22

Raylene Gourley
Hunter Wayland

July 23

Jessie Keehn
Jovie Grabigel
Jesse Keen
Michael Patton

July 24

Mary Jo Ford
Benjamin Johns

July 25

Jacob Bohlander

July 26

Wyatt Dehner
Shirley Markle
Arrington Pollock
Steve Santus

July 27

Jason Brosius

July 28

Kristina Hilyer
Tricia Phillips
James Smathers

July 29

Jessica Kitchen
Gavin Sanders
Kelsey Wolf

July 30

Janelle Sloan

July 31

Kennedy Kopp
Jesse Lewis

Hi Kids!

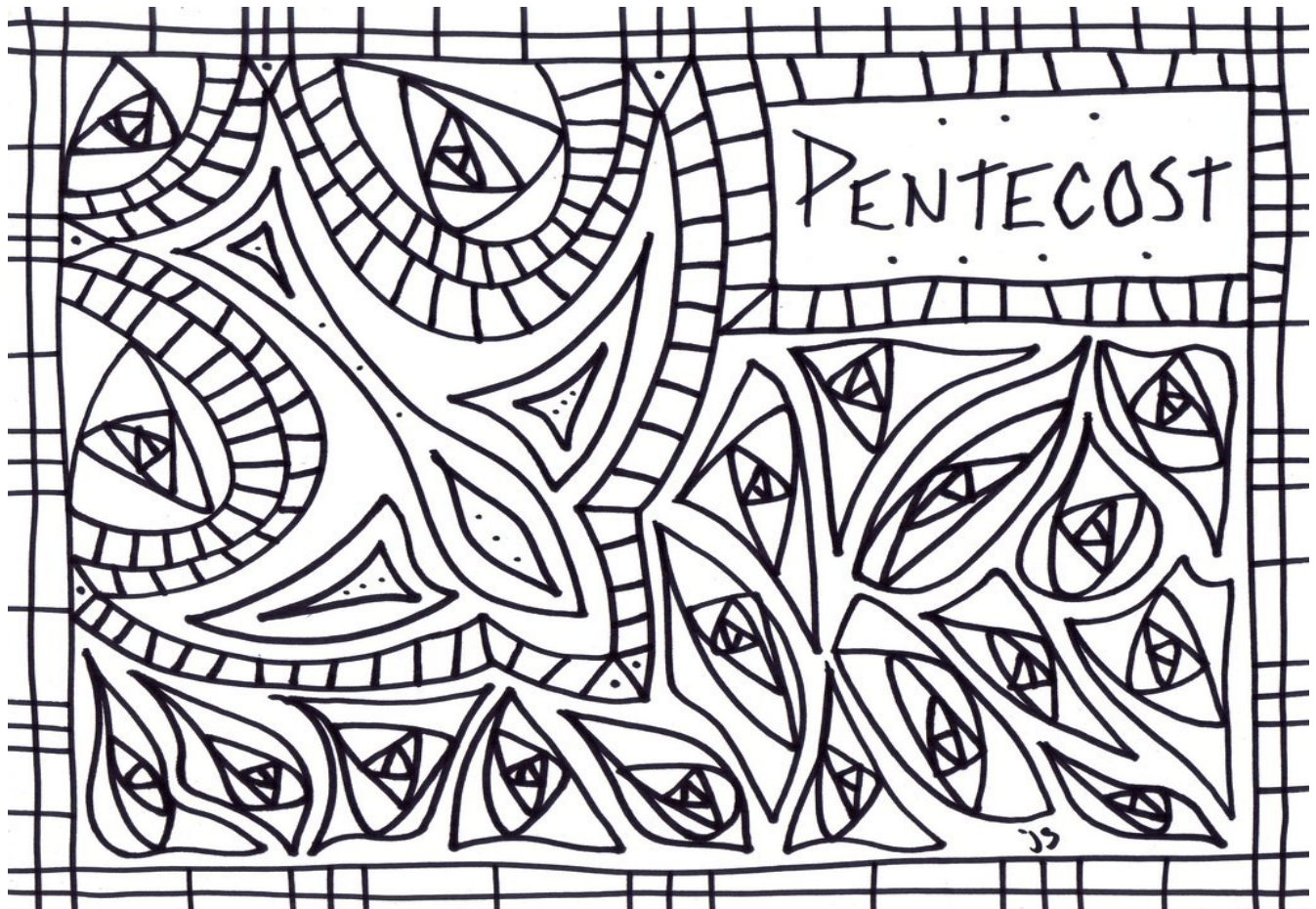
This mail comes to you differently this time. Instead of a special mailing just to kids, this page is now in the All Church Newsletter for all the people of the church to read and enjoy with you. Near the time you get this mail we will be celebrating a special Sunday we celebrate once a year called Pentecost Sunday. Many of our English words have their roots in other languages of the world, like "Pentecost." Pentecost comes from an old word from Greece and means "fifty." For Christians, pentecost reminds us that the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples of Jesus fifty days after Easter.

The Holy Spirit was a special gift Jesus promised would come to his disciples. They did not know just when the Holy Spirit would come. He said they should wait for it, which was probably so they would not miss the time of its coming. When the Holy Spirit came, it was amazing! There was a clear sense of power in the Holy Spirit. When the Spirit came it seemed to dance around them like fire, maybe like the lights of a flickering campfire. It was a happy, wondrous, amazing, can't miss it and don't want to miss it time. It is not a one time gift; it is a gift that stays with us.

Soon, in the early evenings, we will see flickering lights in the grasses and meadows around us. These lights happen near the same time every year in the Clarion area, not long after Pentecost. These flickering lights are also beautiful, wondrous, happy moments that bring amazement to children and adults alike. Although we know these lights as "lightning bugs," they can be a reminder to us of the special gift Jesus gave to his disciples. This same gift Jesus still gives to those who believe and open their hearts to Jesus. We open our hearts each time we pray, and when we are ready and the time is right, Jesus sends us the gift of the Holy Spirit.

When we see lightning bugs we can remember to give thanks to God for the beauties of creation. We can remember to open our hearts to God and Jesus in prayer. And we can remember that Jesus promises us the wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit. Wait for the moment with excited anticipation. The Holy Spirit will become a best friend for you. Thank you, Jesus.

Pastor John





**First United Methodist Church of Clarion invites you to be a part of
Twists & Turns: Following Jesus Changes the Game**

Children age 4 through those completing 6th grade are invited to come to an exciting week of Vacation Bible School (VBS) where they can be a part of a fantastical celebration of games of all kinds. From classic tabletop games to video games and more, kids will play their way through VBS while learning that Jesus guides them through all the twists and turns of their lives. They'll find that even when they mess up, it's never "game over." The children will explore Bible stories, participate in games and crafts, sing great songs, and of course, eat snacks!

Join us at 9:00am each morning in the sanctuary of First United Methodist Church as we begin our day with a gathering time for all ages.

The daily activities will end in the sanctuary at which time children may be **picked up at 12:00pm.**

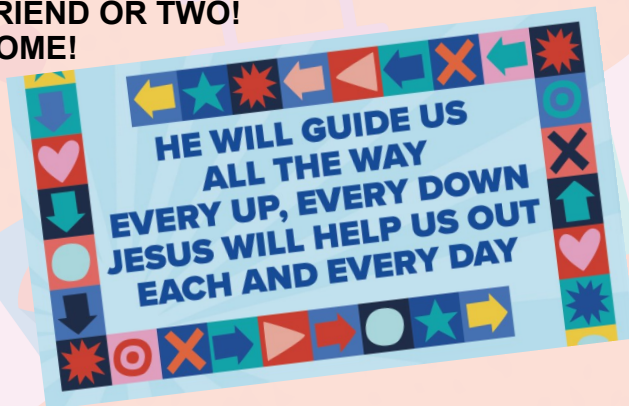
Everyone is asked **to enter First United Methodist Church through the main doors off the parking lot.** On **Monday, June 12**, please stop at the registration table to register your child(ren) or to pick up your child(ren)'s name tag(s).

After proceeding to the sign-in/out table, join the line to get a VBS photo taken before entering the sanctuary. Children will need to be signed in and signed out daily. Thank you for helping us in caring for your child(ren)'s safety.

This year's VBS mission will be donations for Clarion Free Library.

To register your child(ren) for VBS, please visit the church website and click on EVENTS or pick up a registration form from the church office. If you have additional questions, please call 814-226-6660.

**COME JOIN US FOR A GREAT WEEK OF FUN!
FEEL FREE TO BRING A FRIEND OR TWO!
ALL ARE WELCOME!**



News from the Corner - June/July 2023

Saturday July 1, 2023

Setup for Luncheon (Kitchen)

Sunday July 2, 2023

9:30am New Pastor Reception (Gathering Area)

Tuesday July 4, 2023

Independence Day

Wednesday July 5, 2023

5:00pm Youth Group Dinner

Sunday July 9, 2023

6:30pm Youth Group Meeting (Room 001)

Tuesday July 11, 2023

6:30pm Christian Education Meeting
(Conference Room - 2nd Floor)

6:30pm Trustees Meeting (Room 102)

Wednesday July 12, 2023

7:00am Youth Group Trip

5:30pm Garden Social (Memorial Garden)
Clarion Dulcimer Club Performs

Thursday July 13, 2023

2:00pm Clarion Civics Group (Room 102)

Sunday July 16, 2023

12:15pm Youth Group Lunch/Activities

Tuesday July 18, 2023

6:30pm Finance Committee Meeting (Room 102)

Wednesday July 19, 2023

4:00pm Love Cupboard Food Pantry

Monday July 24, 2023

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

Tuesday July 25, 2023

6:00pm Youth Group Movie Night (Room 001)

6:30pm Church Council Meeting (Room 102)

Thursday July 27, 2023

10:00am Second Harvest Delivery

Sunday July 30, 2023

12:15pm Youth Group Event

Regular and Weekly Meetings

Sunday

8:30am Worship Service
(Sanctuary, YouTube)
9:00am Chimes Practice (Room 212)
9:15am Bells Practice (Room 212)
9:30am Children's Singing Time (Room 200)
9:45am Adult Sunday School Classes
11:00am Contemporary Service (Sanctuary,
1300AM, 94.1FM, YouTube)
6:00pm Community Choir Rehearsal
(Wesley Chapel)

Monday

5:30pm Adult Bell Choir Practice
6:30pm Boy Scouts Troop 51 (Various Rooms)

Tuesday

10:00am Staff Meeting

Wednesday

8:00am Journey for Men (Room 102)
12:30pm Worship Service (Wesley Chapel)
6:30pm The Messengers Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

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

Friday

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

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8:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Room 004)

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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 most recently held by Marlene Steiner, who retired a year ago. Initially retiring from teaching, Marlene found being director of education to be 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.

Mark your calendars for the **Retirement/Farewell Celebration** for Pastor John and Lynne on **Saturday, June 3** starting a 5:00pm in the Gathering Area. Then at 6:30pm we will move to the Sanctuary for the remainder of the celebration.

Other dates to remember:

Sunday, June 4, 8:30 and 11:00am Services: Pastor John's last sermon at FUMC Clarion before retiring and Lynne's last Sunday at FUMC. Be present to show your appreciation for Pastor John and Lynne's faithful service.

Sunday, July 2, 8:30 and 11:00am Services: Pastor Jodie Smith's first sermon as the new pastor of our church. Join us in welcoming Pastor Jodie and her husband, Jerry.

Wednesday Evening in the Garden

Second Wednesday of the Month

July 12 (hosted by Saving Grace Sunday School Class with music by Clarion Dulcimer Club)

August 9 (hosted by Trailblazers Sunday School Class)

September 13 (hosted by United Methodist Men)

5:30 – 7:00pm

Plan to attend our popular summer evening gatherings in the Memory Garden.

The events will be hosted by small groups and Sunday School classes.

Watch next month's newsletter for a detailed list of hosts and treats!

The Naomi Circle of the United Women in Faith will not be meeting during the summer. We will meet again in September.

News from the Corner - June/July 2023

Love Cupboard Food Pantry

The donation item for the month of **June** is **DISH SOAP**.

The donation item for the month of **July** is **EGG NOODLES**.

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.**

May Love Cupboard Food Bank

The Wednesday evening was overwhelming this month with returning and new visitors coming into church for food, hygiene and cleaning items. Our community continues to show a real need for help in each of these areas. The following is a summary of the results for the month and the statistics since July of 2022.

The Love Cupboard accounting year runs from July 1 through June 30.

	Number of families returning	Number of new families visiting	Total Families (11 months)
Children up to age 17	31	6	95
Adults age 18 - 59	82	18	230
Seniors age 60+	34	4	71
Total Family Members	147	28	396

Yes, this was a record month with an increase of 16% over the previous month. Hats off to each volunteer who helped make this possible. Thank you.

More volunteers are needed to continue this fantastic mission your church is supporting.

Providing Access to Dental Care in Central America

Belinda Forbes came to our church in April to share her work in Nicaragua as a volunteer with AMOS Health and Hope, a clinic and training center in the capital, Managua. As a dentist serving more than 30 years in this country, she is fluent in Spanish and knows the extreme challenges many people face in access to healthcare. She teaches patients at the clinic about their dental health and trains rural health promoters to provide basic dental care and teach dental hygiene practices in the 23 isolated and remote rural communities they serve. Dental disease is a universal problem these dedicated workers see everyday, especially in children, and they want to learn more to help their communities.

On April 17, our Missions Team hosted a dinner for Dr. Forbes, followed by her multimedia presentation in the Sanctuary and a reception in the Gathering Area. Her mission to bring healthcare and hope inspired by Jesus' example to love one another was conveyed in her description of the workers and patients she serves.

Women's Breakfast

The United Women in Faith will be having our next meetings **at Perkins on June 26 and July 24 at 8:30am.**

We start with some short readings on fellowship, after which we had a wonderful meal and great conversation. Come and enjoy the fun! **EVERYONE is welcome!**

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.

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.

News from the Corner - June/July 2023

April 2023 Finance at a Glance

General Budget	Receipts	Expenditures
Forecast	\$38,196	\$34,103
Actual	\$29,819	\$33,918

A NOTE FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee reports that the fiscal health of First United Methodist Church of Clarion remains strong. There has been a slight but steady trend downward in giving to cover current expenses in March and April. The reason this trend is problematic is that during the summer months there has always been a dip in giving. We pray you remain vigilant in giving, so that Christ's message may be heard and that the strong support of community needs continues to be met. Your prayers, your presence, and your purse are needed. Let's resolve to maintain our commitments, while still enjoying the opportunities for respite that summer brings. Christ first in all things.

Dr. Tom Miller

Finance Chairperson

"Three Summer Projects" update

The three projects are replacing the crumbling Memory Garden retaining wall and refreshing the gardens (the wall is now complete), replacing the separating and raised parsonage concrete patio, and replacing the old parsonage garage, which had been at risk of falling. We are saving labor costs with volunteer labor when possible. In fact, the garage will be this year's summer mission work camp project, with a build date of June 25. The total cost for the three projects will be near \$60,000. We have \$40,000 already. Those who are able to contribute above and beyond your regular church offerings are encouraged to make a special gift to the church with "Three Summer Projects" in the memo line. Let's see if we can meet our goal by the end of June!

Greetings in the Name of our Risen Savior Jesus Christ!

As I write this, it is turning out to be a beautiful day in May. The kind of day where I would love to sit on the deck and read a book—I am on vacation after all. But no, this week of vacation is to begin the task of packing up our belongings. The dumpster in the driveway is a reminder that I've got lots of work to do in the next few days. We are beginning to be surrounded by boxes and as much as I dislike packing it is a good reminder of the change that is coming in just a few short weeks!

I don't think I can truly put into words how anxious I am to become the pastor of First UMC. After six years as a District Superintendent, I can say that it has been an amazing learning opportunity. I have been in challenging situations and have had to have difficult conversations. I have also got to know the pastors and congregations in the Franklin and Indiana districts in a much deeper way. But, my first calling is to the local church. When I went on the Cabinet, a colleague told me that one of the things I would miss the most is being called "pastor." I have missed the relationships that the name "pastor" implies. I truly hope that I will be a better pastor after being a District Superintendent.

Jerry and I are looking forward to getting to know all of you and getting settled in as part of the Clarion community. The owner of the moving company told me that moving is the third most stressful event in life—so, please join me in keeping Pastor John and Lynne in prayer and we would appreciate your prayers as well in this time of transition.

See you in July,
Pastor Jodie

News from the Corner - June/July 2023

SAVE THE DATE

The Church's annual church picnic will be held on August 27 at the Eagle's Pavilion.

Stephen Ministers

Stephen Leaders are planning a fall class for new Stephen Ministers. If you are interested in learning more about this ministry, contact any Stephen Leader or Stephen Minister at stephenministries@fumc-clarion.org



Bus Trip to Sight and Sound Production of *Miracle of Christmas* Tuesday, November 14

This holiday season, travel back in time to Bethlehem as the original Christmas story unfolds all around you. Journey alongside Mary and Joseph, a flock of surprised shepherds, and three wise men—along with their camels! There may be no room at the inn, but God has a lowly stable prepared as the angels announce the coming of the Messiah!

For more information: <https://www.sight-sound.com/shows/lancaster/miracle-of-christmas/2023>

There will also be a visit to the National Christmas Center, one of the largest collections of historical Christmas memorabilia in the United States. A treasure trove of the celebration of the birth of Christ—Christmas! Over 18,000 square feet of nostalgic Christmas décor in lights, trees, stores and more. Seventeen-foot-tall buildings replicate the streets of Columbia, PA, decked out in 1950s Christmas themes. Sights, sounds, and smells of Christmas tantalize the senses and awaken the memories of times gone by.

For more information: <https://www.stonegablesestate.com/national-christmas-center>

The trip includes Fullington motor coach transportation, theater ticket, museum ticket and noon meal at the River House Grill.

Cost: \$205 to \$275

At least 25 people are required for this trip to happen. Costs will go down if larger numbers of people attend; you will receive a refund from the church for the difference.

Final day for reservations and payment: September 8

Please submit a check for the full amount made payable to First United Methodist Church of Clarion, marking the payment for the Miracle of Christmas 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.

Tentative Agenda

6:00am - Depart church

Short restroom/snack break en route

10:00am - Arrive at National Christmas Center

12:30pm - Arrive at River House Grill for lunch

2:15pm - Arrive at Sight and Sound Theatre

6:00pm - Depart Sight and Sound Theatre

Short restroom/snack break en route

10:30pm - Arrive at church



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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www.fumc-clarion.org

Email: communications@fumc-clarion.org

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Newsletters and Pastor John'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 **August newsletter** need to be submitted by **Saturday, July 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.

During the month of **July—Wow Items!** (toys, balls, small books, craft items (no paint), yoyos, card games, cars, puzzles, flashlights (no batteries), small dolls or stuffed animals, coloring books, etc.) may be placed in the wooden box located in the Gathering Area.

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 or in an emergency you may call the pastor on his cell at 412-974-8260.