



NEWS from the Corner



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

Online at: fumc-clarion.org

September 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 . . .

Welcome to September! That always seems to beg the response, "Where did summer go?" As we all get back into "regular" routines with school and other organizations starting back up, I am anxious to be a part of all the additional activities here at First UMC.

Two of my sermons in August were about Joseph and his dreams. We all have dreams and sometimes, like Joseph, those dreams are derailed by some life event. But also like Joseph we are able to see where God has been working through broken dreams and difficult circumstances. Because of Joseph's faithfulness, God was able to save not only Joseph's family but thousands of others from starvation in the midst of a drought. In my sermon on August 13, I invited you to share with me your dreams for First UMC. Some of you have taken me up on the offer, but I'm still open and anxious to hear your dreams for your church. Send me an email or call me at the office to make arrangements with me, so that we can sit down in person. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Peace & Joy,
Pastor Jodie

"Dream Big" by Jason Li

Dream big, I mean really gigantic BIG.
Aim for the stars not ancient jars with lids.
God's with you, nothing is impossible,
You are invincible, so just dream, BIG!
Stop depending on the predictable
Stumble, tumble, or fumble if you must,
Just don't aim for what is manageable.
Or simply rely on what is visible.
Dream Big, I don't mean mansions, cars, top jobs,
nor any of those fancy worldly things.
Those dreams don't last, nor will it satisfy.
Dream with God, maker of heaven and earth
Dream to change the world with His love endures.
Dream to love your neighbors as yourselves.
Dream to make His Name known forevermore.
Those are the only dreams worth living for!

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Memorials June 10, 2023 – August 15, 2023

In memory of Rev. LeRoy Jones

Given by William and Dianne Brosius
(Organ Maintenance Fund)
Given by Dave and Linda Hauser (Memorial Fund)

In memory of Patricia Houben

Given by Phyllis Polliard (Memorial Fund)

In memory of Dr. Jesse O. McKee

Given by William and Dianne Brosius
(Organ Maintenance Fund)

In memory of William Mills

Given by Dr. & Mrs. Randy Cathcart (Memorial Fund)

In memory of Ronna Krinock

Given by Tom and Becky Miller (Memorial Fund)

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.



Our deepest sympathies go out to Janelle Chambers-Sloan, Bret Sloan and their families on the loss of Janelle's father, **Donald R. Chambers**. Mr. Chambers passed from this life on July 29.



Our deepest sympathies go out to Nancy, Archer and Forest Madison Mills and their family on the loss of Nancy's husband, **William "Bill" Joseph Roberts Mills**. Bill joined our congregation on April 18, 2004 and passed from this life on July 26.



Our deepest sympathies go out to Jonna and Bart Matson and the Matson family on the loss of Jonna's mother, **Ronna Krinock**. Ronna passed from this life on July 28.



Our deepest sympathies go out to Lisa Reay and her family on the loss of Lisa's mother, **Earla McCall**. Earla joined our congregation on April 30, 2023 and passed from this life on August 14.

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

Hi First United Methodist Church of Clarion,
Thank you for supporting missions in Guatemala, especially the women's microloan projects. May God bless all of you.
Rich and Lulu Mroczka

Dear Nancy (and Clarion UMC family),
Hi! I wanted to reach out and say thank you for the birthday & graduation cards and gifts! I get so happy when I see that I have received mail from you! I hope you are doing well! I am finishing up school and boards right now for dental hygiene and hoping to apply to dental school in the following spring. I actually just got back from a dental mission trip in Honduras! It was truly an amazing and humbling experience where I got to help those in need while doing what I love most. I hope you and Tom along with everyone at the church are doing well. Love and miss you, and thank you again for all you do.
Love, Ava Kiser

English Handbells at First United Methodist Church of Clarion

The original handbell choir in the First Methodist Church of Clarion was established in 1965. At the time there was an active girls chorus, but nothing for the boys. Hazel Blish proposed that a handbell choir might provide a good opportunity for the boys to join in the music ministry. Practices were begun in September for boys in grades five through nine. After a trial period with bells on loan, the boys showed great interest and through a \$1,000 donation by Mr. Norval E. Heeter, three octaves of Schulmerich Handbells were purchased. The boys were directed by Hazel Blish and chose the name Wesleyan Handbell Ringers. Through donations from the congregation, the necessary tables, foam pads, table covers, and music stands were also purchased.



The Wesleyan Handbell Ringers with Mrs. Blish, their leader, are a new addition to the Music Ministry.

By 1974, girls joined the handbell choir under the direction of Mrs. Elizabeth Ross. The group provided programs for churches in Callensburg, Lamartine, Knox, and Monroe. They also performed for the Civic Club, Eastern Star, and UMW as well as participated in the Fine Arts Festival at Clarion State College. Each member received a pin designating membership in the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers. In 1976, the Wesleyan Handbell Ringers celebrated the Bicentennial by ringing at historical sites and churches in Philadelphia, Valley Forge, Washington D.C., and Delaware. In the summer of 1977, the choir embarked on a two week tour of Missouri and Arkansas. Ringing at Disney World was the highlight of the choir's 1978 tour to Florida and South Carolina. During the three weeks on the road, the choir also performed at Cypress Gardens, Jellystone Park, and numerous locations in Myrtle Beach. 1979 brought another two week tour to Tennessee and South Carolina. That year a record album was produced with a run of 100 albums at a cost of \$6.00 each. A copy of the album on CD is available to borrow from the church library.



Album Cover

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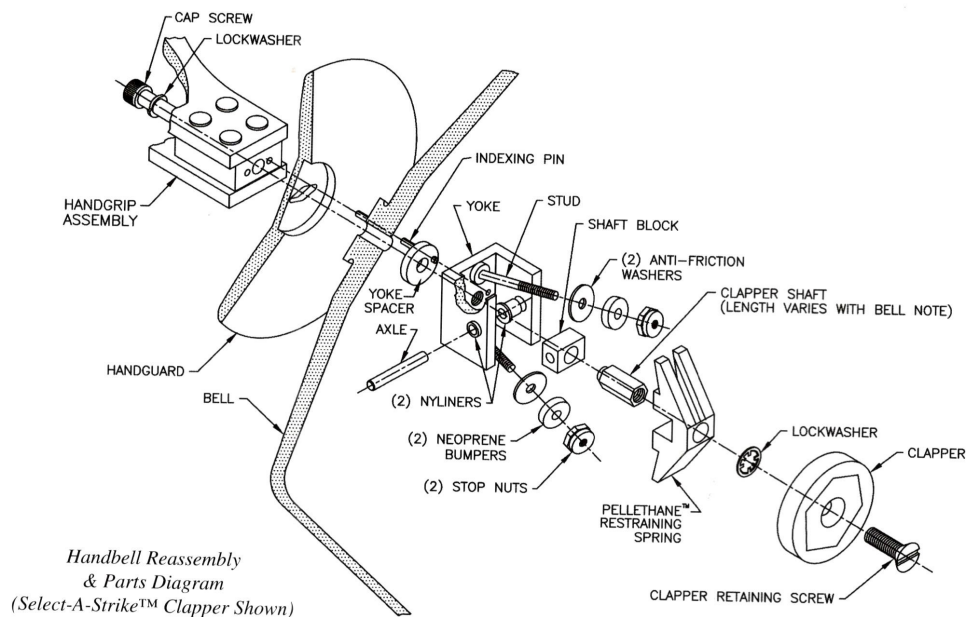
In 1980, a Ladies Handbell Choir was begun, directed by Doris McKissick. This group continued until 1987. From 1991-1993, another Youth Handbell Choir, directed by Rev. Stephen Ray and Jim Hollingsworth, was active. An adult choir was again established in 1993, directed by Fran Shope. And in 1995, the Youth Bells, directed by Fran Shope and Peggy Jo Staab, began ringing. Peggy Jo continues to direct the Children's Handbell Choir and Children's Chimers.

When Rev. John and Lynne Flower were appointed to Clarion in 2019, Lynne embarked on a mission to re-establish an Adult Handbell Choir. Due to Covid, the opportunity was delayed, but in 2022, through her perseverance and encouragement, the group began to bring the enjoyment of ringing to a new ensemble. Both the adult and children's handbell choirs welcome new members to join them!

The origin of handbells goes back to the ninth century, when they were first devised to help medieval ringers practice the art of tower bell ringing. Handbells were first brought to the United States from England in 1902. The popularity of handbells spread rapidly through New England in the early 20th century, even though virtually all bells had to be imported from England. By the early 1950s, handbell ringing was scattered across the United States.

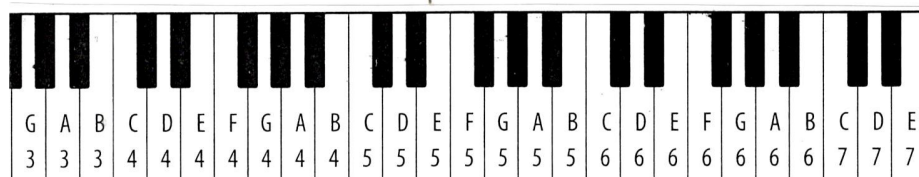
Schulmerich is the oldest manufacturer of English handbells in North America, having begun production in 1963. That means that FUMC Clarion owns some of the earliest bells manufactured in the U.S. Today, Schulmerich handbells are rung by more choirs than any other brand.

A look inside a handbell—much more than just a clapper!



Clarion's bells

The church's handbell set includes 46 bells from G3 to E7, as shown in this chart.



● Middle C Handbell Music – Handbells Sound Octave Higher Than Written

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The largest bell (G3) weighs just about four pounds, and the smallest in our collection (E7) only weighs 7.8 ounces. Originally, three octaves of bells, from C4 to C7, were purchased. Additional bells were added to the collection in the 1970s. To replace the bells today, the cost would be \$28,800.

As with any instrument, maintenance is required. In 1995, two octaves were reconditioned by a traveling technician. In 2006, the bells received factory maintenance.

Currently the bells (most of which are 58 years old) have been returned to the Schulmerich factory in Hatfield, Pennsylvania for a complete refurbishment. Through this process, the bells will be fully disassembled and the castings will go through a full factory cleaning and polish. Handles and interior clapper assemblies will be replaced—everything except for the bronze bell castings. The bells will then be reassembled with their new parts, checked for adjustments, tuning, and sound quality, and then shipped back to the church. The whole process is expected to take approximately two months. Bells should be ringing in Clarion again by the end of September.

References:

September 12, 1965 church bulletin

Methodism in Clarion 1808-1984 by Hazel and Melvin Blish

Historical notes by Renee Vowinckel

Schulmerich Bells publications

Come Ring With Us!

The Adult Bell Choir will resume practicing on **Monday, September 11**, at **5:30pm** in the balcony. This is a great time to join the choir, as we will be learning new music for the fall season. Jordonna Bowser will be directing the choir. We typically play about one time per month, usually at the 8:30am service or when there is a 9:30am combined service. The Bell Choir endeavors to provide music to enhance the worship service and looks forward to having a few new members!

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. 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

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, September 25 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 will begin again in September.

Thursday, September 14 - Naomi Circle (the second Thursday of each month at noon)

Monday, September 18 - Ruth Circle (the third Monday of each month at 6:30pm)

The annual meetings for the district and conference:

Saturday, September 23 - Franklin District UWFaith Annual Meeting

Saturday, October 21 - Western PA Conference UWFaith Annual Meeting

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.

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Birthdays of the Month

September 1

Josie Shirey
Braydyn Simpson

September 2

Joyce Himes
Randy Reitz

September 3

Bonita Bailey
Nicole Carey
Cheryl Douthit
Rebecca Emigh
Christopher Ingram, Jr.
Shawn Kiser

September 4

Tyler Lewis

September 5

Sally Byers
Terry Latour
Evan Uber

September 6

Cindy Fleming
David Horner
Kara Raehsler
Kirke Wise

September 8

Loretta Miller
Sarah Siegel
James Staab

September 9

Patricia Dolby
Lily Ann Kinney
Penny Mendenhall

September 10

William Fleming
Julie McCormick
Jennifer Pappas
Gabe Simko

September 11

Dick Beck
Jaci Stewart

September 12

Jeremy Kinney

September 13

Bryan Burns

September 14

Janet Wetzel
Sarah Williams

September 15

Sue Ann Boyles
Jacque Nuss
Bill Young

September 17

Brittany Bennett

September 18

Grace Schill

September 19

Laura Heasley
Taylor Ripple
Kristen Thompson
Mindi Verdill

September 20

Kay Curl
Lisa McClaine
Pamela Runyan
Carol Stolzenbach

September 21

Stephanie Brinkley
Mark Luderer

September 22

Olivia McCormick

September 23

Lawson Girt
Michael Kitchen
Michael Verdill

September 24

Wayne Chuculate
Amy Hurrelbrink

September 25

Bryce Brinkley
Becky Lengel
Jerry Spangler

September 26

Larry McFadden
Donna Scott

September 29

Connie Caro
Ellen Myers

September 30

John Bartley
Sandy Bowser
Tracy Cherico
Bo Hartzell
Spencer Shirey
Daniel Stitt III
Mattilynn Wayland

Friday September 1, 2023

Sight and Sound Deadline in 1 week
9:00am Sit 'n Stitch (Room 102)

Saturday September 2, 2023

7:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Room 004)

Sunday September 3, 2023

8:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary, YouTube)
9:45am Sunday School for All Ages
11:00am Contemporary Service
(Sanctuary, YouTube)

Monday September 4, 2023

Labor Day
OFFICE IS CLOSED

Tuesday September 5, 2023

DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY DEADLINE

4:00pm Girl Scouts (Dining Room/Kitchen)
6:30pm Christian Education Meeting (Room 102)

Wednesday September 6, 2023

8:00am Journey for Men (Room 102)
12:30pm Worship Service (Wesley Chapel)
1:15pm Recovery 'n Motion (Dining Room)

Thursday September 7, 2023

6:30pm Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)
6:45pm NA Setup (Room 102)
8:00pm NA Group (Room 102)

Friday September 8, 2023

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

Saturday September 9, 2023

8:00am Men's Breakfast (Perkins Restaurant)
 7:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Room 004)

Sunday September 10, 2023

8:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary, YouTube)
 9:00am Children's Chimes (Room 212)
 9:15am Children's Bells (Room 212)
 9:45am Sunday School for All Ages
 11:00am Contemporary Service (Sanctuary, YouTube)
 4:00pm Youth Group Annual Kickoff Rally (Rhoades' Camp)
 6:00pm Community Choir Rehearsal (Wesley Chapel)

Monday September 11, 2023

6:30pm Boy Scouts Troop 51 (Various Rooms)
 6:30pm Nominating Committee (Room 102)

Tuesday September 12, 2023

6:30pm Trustees Meeting (Room 102)

Wednesday September 13, 2023

6:45am Youth Group Breakfast (County Seat)
 8:00am Journey for Men (Room 102)
 10:30am DAR Meeting & Luncheon (Kitchen and Dining Room)
 12:30pm Clarion Dulcimer Club (Room 102)
 12:30pm Worship Service (Wesley Chapel)
 1:15pm Recovery 'n Motion (Dining Room)
 5:30pm Garden Social (Memory Garden)

Thursday September 14, 2023

12:00pm United Women in Faith Naomi Circle (Room 102)
 2:00pm Clarion Civic Group (Room 102)
 6:30pm Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)
 6:45pm NA Setup (Room 102)
 8:00pm NA Group (Room 102)

Friday September 15, 2023**SIGHT AND SOUND DEADLINE**

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

Saturday September 16, 2023

7:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Room 004)

Sunday September 17, 2023

8:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary, YouTube)
 9:00am Children's Chimes (Room 212)
 9:15am Children's Bells (Room 212)
 9:45am Sunday School for All Ages
 11:00am Contemporary Service (Sanctuary, YouTube)
 6:00pm Community Choir Rehearsal (Wesley Chapel)
 6:30pm Youth Group Meeting (Room 001)

Monday September 18, 2023

9:30am Discipleship Bible Study (Room 102)
 1:30pm Discipleship Bible Study (Room 102)
 5:30pm Kiwanis (Room 102)
 6:30pm Boy Scouts Troop 51 (Various Rooms)
 6:30pm United Women in Faith - Ruth Circle (Conference Room - 2nd Floor)

Tuesday September 19, 2023

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

Wednesday September 20, 2023

8:00am Journey for Men (Room 102)
 12:30pm Worship Service (Wesley Chapel)
 1:15pm Recovery 'n Motion (Room 205)
 4:00pm Love Cupboard Food Pantry

Thursday September 21, 2023

6:30pm Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)
 6:45pm NA Setup (Room 102)
 8:00pm NA Group (Room 102)

Friday September 22, 2023

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

Saturday September 23, 2023

9:00am United Women in Faith - Franklin District Annual Meeting (Oakland UMC in Dempseytown)
 7:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Room 004)

Sunday September 24, 2023

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)
 6:30pm Youth Group Meeting (Room 001)

Monday September 25, 2023

8:30am Women's Fellowship Group (Perkins Restaurant)
 9:30am Discipleship Bible Study (Room 102)
 1:30pm Discipleship Bible Study (Room 102)
 6:30pm Boy Scouts Troop 51 (Various Rooms)

Tuesday September 26, 2023

6:30pm Church Council Meeting (Room 102)

Wednesday September 27, 2023

7:00am Youth Group See You at the Pole (Your High School)
 8:00am Journey for Men (Room 102)
 12:30pm Worship Service (Wesley Chapel)
 1:15pm Recovery 'n Motion (Dining Room)
 6:30pm Discipleship Bible Study (Room 102)

Thursday September 28, 2023

10:00am Second Harvest Delivery
 11:00am Senior Food Box Pickup
 6:30pm Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)
 6:45pm NA Setup (Room 102)
 8:00pm NA Group (Room 102)

Friday September 29, 2023

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

Saturday September 30, 2023**Autumn Leaf Festival**

9:00am Old Time Fiddlers Competition (Sanctuary)
 7:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Room 004)

2023-2024 Academic Year: Children's Program

All children in grades K-12!

Sunday School will begin on **September 10**, 9:45am–10:45am

We have a great teacher team eager to meet with you to share God's teachings!

Grades K-5 will meet in room 203.

Grades 6-12 will meet in the tower room.

These classes may be split further as our enrollment grows.

11:00 Worship Hour Children's Time Schedule: (Grades K-5)

We will be exploring the Fruit of the Spirit this year in our 11:00 Children's Time.

- **Week One:** Children will stay in worship, communion
- **Week Two:** Kids2Kids Mission Group
- **Week Three:** Library Time
- **Week Four:** Arts and Crafts

Opportunities for Teens: (Grades 6-12)

We have lots of opportunities for our youth to serve and shine Jesus' light!

Some activities include:

- **Nursery Helper** (Sign up for one Sunday a month)
- **Kids2Kids Helper** (Meets the second week of every month)
- **Library Time Helper** (Meets the third week of every month)
- **Love Cupboard**—Help with setting up, unloading, packing, assisting clients, and/or registration (Meets the third Wednesday of every month)

It is wonderful to help with these mission opportunities . . . and it looks great on your college/work applications!

Please contact the church office (814-226-6660) for more information or to sign up for these mission opportunities.

Children's Chimers

A beginning bell choir for children in **first grade and older**. Meets Sunday from 9:00 to 9:15am in room 212. Practice begins on September 10 and 17. We will also practice on October 1 and 8.

Children's Bell Choir

A bell choir for children **third grade and above**. Meets Sunday from 9:15 to 9:30am in room 212. Practice begins on September 10 and 17. We will also practice on October 1 and 8.

Kids2Kids

Kids2Kids is our mission group for children in grades K-5th grade. Students in grades 6-12 are also welcome and encouraged to assist with these efforts. We meet the second Sunday of each month.

The children learn about global and local missions and how they can shine Jesus' light on those around them. Our focus for the 2023-2024 academic year is The Fruit of the Spirit.

In the month of September, as one of our activities, Kids2Kids will be preparing Love Cupboard back-to-school care packages. Specifically, these will be distributed to those families with children through age 12 and ages 13-18. We encourage and would be grateful for your donations for this effort.

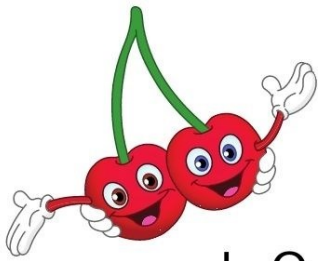
Thank you so much for your donations! We have received many of the items we are requesting for our care packages for the children of our Love Cupboard participants.

We are still in need of:

- 32 Spiral notebooks
- 17 Packages of colored pencils
- 5 Packages of markers
- 51 Pencil sharpeners
- 48 Rulers
- Packages of stickers

If you feel compelled, please consider donating these items for our first Kids2Kids mission in September. The children will be packaging the items on September 10th as part of their mission work.

If you would like to contribute monetarily, we will use the funds to purchase any needed items. Thank you again for your continued support of our children's mission work.



Fruits of the Spirit

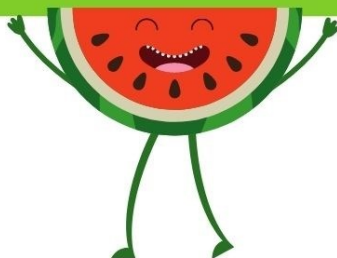


J Q U J T L D B P F T F S X
 O Q E F S E F N G U A O E I
 Y G C F J L A E L J R G L X
 X U M P A T I E N C E E F L
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 M N G Z C S W S Y U R N M P

LOVE
 PATIENCE
 FAITHFULNESS

JOY
 KINDNESS
 SELF CONTROL

PEACE
 GOODNESS
 GENTLENESS



2023



DATE	EVENT	PLACE	START TIME	ENDING TIME
Sunday, September 3	No Meeting Tonight Labor Day Weekend			
Sunday, September 10	Annual Kickoff Rally	Rhoades's Camp	4:00pm	????
Wednesday, September 13	Breakfast	County Seat	6:45am	7:45am
Sunday, September 17	Regular Meeting	Youth Room at Church	6:30pm	8:00pm
Sunday, September 24	Regular Meeting	Youth Room at Church	6:30pm	8:00pm
Wednesday, September 27	See You at the Pole	Your High School	7:00am	7:30am

The Youth Group will be selling ALF parking tickets starting on Sunday, September 17 for ALF Craft Day (10/06/23) and ALF Parade Day (10/07/23). The cost is \$10 each. Please consider purchasing a ticket to support our Youth Group. This event is our biggest fundraiser of the year. At times, we may have a table set up in Wesley Chapel after each church service. If we are not there, tickets will be available in the church office.

The Youth Group continues to support our local Wreaths Across America in December 2023. It is not too early to sponsor a wreath. Please go directly to our page <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/163866> to sponsor a wreath in honor or memory of someone or to 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 109 wreaths (including matching wreaths) and have earned \$355. You're supporting two great causes in one transaction. Any questions, please email Shelly Rhoades at youthdirector@fumc-clarion.org. If you are not interested in purchasing through our page, we have paper orders available in the church office.

First Sunday at First Church - After church luncheon with the college-aged meets the 1st Sunday each month that PennWest Clarion is in session (October 1, 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.

BREAKFAST

The 1st Sunday of each month kids will fellowship over
breakfast during the Sunday School hour!

Grades 6 - 12

Bring a Friend

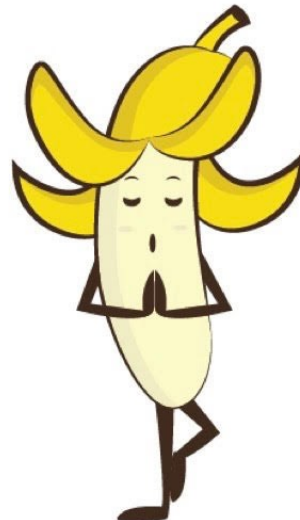
Church Kitchen
Ground Floor

Cook & Eat

Together

9:45 - 10:45

Oct 1	Surprise Meal
Nov 5	MONKEY BREAD
Dec 3	PANCAKES
Jan 7	BREAKFAST PIZZA
Feb 4	AVOCADO TOAST
March 3	SMOOTHIES
April 7	FRENCH TOAST
May 5	EGGS & BACON





**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 15

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

DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY WILL BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER

Would you like to understand scripture better, be more committed to reading your Bible, and have the opportunity to discuss and learn from each other? Then Disciple Bible Study is for you! There will be two identical classes, one on Mondays at 9:30am and 1:30pm and another on Wednesday evenings starting at 6:30pm. Each session will last from 1 hour to 1 1/2 hours. Feel free to attend either session and to switch back and forth depending on your schedule. We will be studying the Old Testament for this first session which **will begin on September 18 and 20** and finish on November 27 and 29. **Please sign up no later than September 5** by calling the church office, so that we can order enough books. The cost of the book will be \$17. If you have any questions, check with Pastor Jodie.

Love Cupboard Food Pantry

The donation item for the month of **September** is **Canned Fruit**. 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.**



Senior Food Box Program

This month we have initiated a new food assistance program at our church. It is called Senior Food Box Program and is designed to help our neighbors receive a 30lb box of food. Here are specifications of this program.

1. The program is run and distributed by Second Harvest of Erie.
2. The program is federally funded.
3. People 60 years and older are eligible.
4. Financial earning criteria is \$1,540 per month or less for a single person.
5. Once approved, applicants can pick up their box of food between 11 and noon on the **fourth Thursday** of each month in the church's parking lot.
6. Eligible applicants can only receive one box from any Second Harvest distributor.
7. This program is in addition to our Love Cupboard Food Pantry program.

You can get an application in the church office for yourself, your neighbor, or a friend if you feel the criteria is met. A qualified application needs to be processed by the beginning of the month to start receiving a box on the fourth Thursday of that month.

On the first signup day, August 16, we had 30 eligible applicants. We expect this number to grow steadily throughout the coming months. Word of mouth goes a long way. This fall we will be distributing flyers around town and through the assistance agencies in and around Clarion. As always, we are open to volunteers being part of both Love Cupboard and the Senior Food Box Program. You leave each event with a different sense of awareness of food needs out there and realize how blessed we really are with what we have.

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.

News from the Corner - September 2023

July 2023 Finance at a Glance

General Budget	Receipts	Expenditures
<i>Forecast</i>	\$32,521	\$32,928
<i>Actual</i>	\$36,519	\$34,247

September ALREADY!!!

Time's a comin' to start preparing for the 2024 Church Offering envelopes. If you would like to have a box of the envelopes for the remainder of 2023 and for 2024, please let me know. You can place a note in the collection plate or call the office at 814-226-6660. Please provide your name, address, and phone number.

David M. Hauser
Financial Secretary

We have all watched the horrific scenes from the **wildfires in Hawaii**. Lives have been lost, homes have been destroyed. **UMCOR** (The United Methodist Committee on Relief) is coordinating with the California-Pacific Annual Conference to process an initial grant for emergency supplies such as shelf-stable food, water, hygiene items, and tools to help survivors recover belongings. Please join UMCOR in prayer and by making a gift to this disaster.

WAYS TO GIVE

Online at <https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/901670>. (You can designate your gift specifically for Hawaii.)

By toll-free telephone call: 1-888-252-6174

By check made out to FUMC Clarion with "Advance #901670-Hawaii" written on the memo line.

Missions Meeting Sheds Light on Discipleship at Work in Nicaragua

On August 22, the Missions Team held an online conference with three of our Methodist missionary partners in Nicaragua. Ronnie Hopkins, an American missionary with TMS Global, and two of his Nicaraguan colleagues—Milton Torrez, the Children and Youth Ministry Trainer, and Harry Pena, Office Manager and Church Missions Trainer—presented their programs and the challenges of serving communities that extend from the capital city of Managua to remote villages in the highlands.

It can be hard to imagine the time and effort required to transport supplies to communities accessible only by river and overland where roads are poor and often nonexistent. The projects, including clean water sources and building construction, are those requested by the communities themselves, who assume responsibility for their operation and maintenance.

Business loans, financed with donation funds from individuals and churches like ours, provide the impetus for men and women to start small businesses. Examples include a seamstress who started with one sewing machine and built up to seven, hiring local women to work for her. A man was able to start a shoe store. These loans are paid back with proceeds from the businesses.

Education and training are a major focus. Classes include discipleship, youth leadership, English, computer skills, and marketable sewing skills. Training is offered for health promoters and midwives.

Missionaries trained in Nicaragua serve in countries across the world. These include countries such as Iran where Americans may find access difficult or impossible due to political conflict.

Donations are the lifeblood of this ministry. You can help.

- ◆ Donate by check payable to TMS Global, P.O. Box 936559, Atlanta, GA, 31193-6559, and specify "Ronnie & Angi Hopkins: Fund 0287" on the memo line.
- ◆ By church giving—make your check payable to our church. Include the same memo line as above and drop the gift in the offering plate or give it to our church financial secretary, Dave Hauser.
- ◆ Give online by going to TMS Global and click on "Give Now" using Ronnie & Angi Hopkins' names and fund number as indicated above.

News from the Corner - September 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 five 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 is based on flights that are currently available.

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

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.

Wednesday Evening in the Garden **September 13** (hosted by United Methodist Men) **5:30 – 7:00pm**

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

Stephen Ministers

Do you have a passion for bringing Christ’s love and care to people during their time of need? Stephen Ministers provide one-to-one Christ-centered care to people in our congregation and our community experiencing life difficulties.

Join us this fall for a Stephen Minister class, which will equip you with essential caring and relating skills. You will learn how to listen to, care for, and walk with those going through difficult times in life. Training will be led by Clarion First Stephen leaders during a 50 hour course.

To learn more about this Christ-centered ministry, contact any Stephen Leader or pick up a class application in the church office. Please return completed applications to Kimberly Girts **by September 30**.

Blessings,

Clarion First Stephen Leaders

Cindy Beck, Sandra Foster, Kimberly Girts, Suzan Hahnfeldt, Barb Krupnik

stephenministries@fumc-clarion.org



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
600 Wood Street · Clarion, PA 16214 · 814-226-6660
www.fumc-clarion.org
Email: communications@fumc-clarion.org
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org
Auto
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #139
Clarion, PA 16214

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 **October newsletter** need to be submitted by **Friday, September 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.

Please note, starting September 3rd we will no longer be broadcasting our 11:00am Sunday worship service on 94.1FM and 1300AM radio. If anyone would like any assistance in watching us live on YouTube, please call the church office at 814-226-6660.



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.