



# NEWS from the Corner



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

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

**October 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 . . .

I've always loved October; it is the epitome of the fall season and could be considered the most beautiful month of the year. People are decorating their homes with pumpkins, cornstalks, and all colors of mums. I have our pumpkins out in the front yard of the parsonage and still have some more decorating to do.

Autumn Leaf Festival is upon us, kids are starting to consider their Halloween costumes, and we're looking for coats and jackets to wear on cool mornings and evenings. It is a season of change, both in weather and within us.

So, the question becomes, can we slow down together for just a minute and look at how the images, decorations, and the overall feel of this busy season can point us back to Jesus?

Several times, I have used what can be learned from the pumpkin in our walk of faith as a children's sermon. It's messy, the kids love it, but it has a lesson for all of us regardless of age. In many ways, we are like a pumpkin. As members of Christ's Holy Church we are picked, even chosen, by God to be the bearers of light in this world. Remember when you pick your pumpkins this year that we too have been "picked" to be a part of God's Family and that comes with some life-changing responsibilities.

Part of those responsibilities is first allowing Jesus to clean out all of our gooey insides to help us look more like him. The dirt of sin and shame is washed off us and we are cleaned out by the Holy Spirit from the inside out. In much the same way, we clean our pumpkins on the outside and then do the slimy work of cleaning out the inside. As I said, it can be messy, but it is necessary for the pumpkin and for us. Because before light can shine through, the inside must be cleaned out.

We then can celebrate that the light of Christ now has a place and a purpose within us. It is a light that shines best in the darkness and illuminates the night. The light of Christ is attractive and inviting and draws people in. But it also helps point the way in the darkness. Are we people who are helping point the way back to Jesus in the midst of darkness?

"What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world." John 1:3-9

Let your light shine,  
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 August 16, 2023 – September 10, 2023**

**In memory of Rev. William & Patricia Houben**

Given by Anonymous (Technology Fund)



Our deepest sympathies go out to Jody and Becki Weaver on the loss of Becki's mother, **Mary Lee Lehman**. Mary passed from this life on August 21.



Our deepest sympathies go out to Paul Bylaska and family on the loss of his wife, **Carol Bylaska**. Carol joined our congregation on July 22, 2001 and passed from this life on September 6.



Our deepest sympathies go out to Raymond Austin and the Austin families on the loss of Raymond's wife, **Patty Austin**. Patty joined our congregation on January 1, 1948 and passed from this life on September 16.

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

Thank you to all the kind and caring people of our congregation for your thoughts, prayers, and cards at the loss of our loved one, Mary Lee Lehman. You mean so much to us. God bless you. Becki and Jody Weaver and family

Thank you for your prayers.  
Penny Schaffer

## News from the Corner - October 2023

**Celebration Sunday—October 29**  
**ONE Worship Service at 9:30am**

### **Fellowship Brunch**

Everyone is invited to brunch served in the Dining Room immediately following the worship service.  
Coordinated by the Fellowship Team.

Reservations requested by October 25.  
(If you make a reservation and find that you are unable to attend, please notify the church office.)

All food will be provided.  
A freewill offering will be accepted.

**Carols Around the Table** is scheduled for **Sunday, December 3**, at 6:30pm. Please mark your calendars for this annual Advent program. If you have musical talents that you would like to share that evening, please contact the church office at 814-226-6660.

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, October 23 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:

**Monday, October 16 - Ruth Circle**

**Thursday, October 19 - Naomi Circle**

The annual meeting for the district and conference:

**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.



**October 1**  
Loye Startzell

**October 2**  
Alexis McCormick  
Dorothy Reddinger

**October 4**  
Garret Whisner

**October 5**  
Olivia Kiser  
Thomas Libitzer  
Carson Money  
Janie Spangler  
Heather Stewart  
Shawn Stewart

**October 6**  
Cheryl Hilyer  
Milo Sloan  
Michael Smith

**October 7**  
Alexis Libitzer  
Douglas Stewart

**October 8**  
Michael Brosius  
Eric Hartzell

**October 9**  
Collin Roman

**October 10**  
Jim Lyle

**October 11**  
Janet Amoroso

**October 13**  
Kyleigh Craddock  
Addison Lechner  
Kathy Steele

**October 15**  
Logan Girt

**October 16**  
Lauren Brinkley  
Brittany Kowatch

**October 17**  
John Allen  
Jenifer Kaye  
Alaina Smith

**October 18**  
Mark Fox  
Marcie Hoover

**October 19**  
Jordan Anthony  
Barbara Funk  
Fred Keen  
Elijah Rudesyle  
Jackson Rudesyle

**October 20**  
Jack Martin

**October 21**  
Carolyn Frampton  
Wesley Sprankle -  
Kowatch

**October 22**  
Caleb Bailey  
Robin Lenox  
Mary Lou Spangler  
Mike Young Jr.

**October 23**  
Bethany Brosius

**October 24**  
Mark Miller  
Thomas Miller

**October 26**  
Benjamin Franklin  
Toby Johnson

**October 27**  
Amanda Girt  
Carrie Greco  
Bentley Matson  
Allie Songer  
Jared Songer

**October 28**  
Maggie Johnson

**October 29**  
Keilan Johnson  
Christy Meterko  
November Simko

**October 31**  
Joyce Startzell

**Stephen Ministers**

Our fall class for new Stephen Ministers is scheduled to begin October 23 through February 19. Classes will be held on Monday evenings from 6:30pm – 8:30pm, with two Saturday classes scheduled for November 4 and January 6 from 9:30am – 3:30pm. The cost of the class is \$49.95 for your books. Financial help is available if needed. Applications are in the church office and need to be returned to Kimberly Girts.

**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 date and time.



**Sunday October 1, 2023**

9:45am Grades 6-12 - Cook & Eat Together -  
Surprise Meal  
11:15am Children's Chimes Practice  
12:00pm 1st Sunday at 1st Church  
(College Students Home-Cooked Meal)

**Tuesday October 3, 2023**

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

**Wednesday October 4, 2023**

12:30pm Clarion Dulcimer Club (Room 102)

**Friday October 6, 2023**

**OFFICE CLOSED - ALF Craft Day**

**Saturday October 7, 2023**

**ALF Parade Day**

**Sunday October 8, 2023**

11:00am Kids2Kids Mission Group (K - 5th Grade)

**Monday October 9, 2023**

6:30pm SPRC Meeting (Room 102)

**Tuesday October 10, 2023**

6:30pm Trustees Meeting (Room 102)

**Wednesday October 11, 2023**

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

**Thursday October 12, 2023**

2:00pm Clarion Civic Group (Room 102)

**Sunday October 15, 2023**

11:00am Children's Library Time (K - 5th Grade)

**Monday October 16, 2023**

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

**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)

**Tuesday October 17, 2023**

2:00pm Fellowship Committee Meeting  
(Room 102)  
4:00pm Girl Scouts (Various Rooms)  
6:30pm Finance Committee Meeting (Room 102)

**Wednesday October 18, 2023**

4:00pm Love Cupboard Food Pantry

**Thursday October 19, 2023**

12:00pm United Women in Faith Naomi Circle  
(Room 102)

**Saturday October 21, 2023**

9:00am Western PA United Women in Faith  
Annual Meeting (Dutilh UMC,  
1270 Dutilh Rd., Cranberry Twp.)

**Sunday October 22, 2023**

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

**Monday October 23, 2023**

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

**Thursday October 26, 2023**

10:00am Second Harvest Delivery  
11:00am Senior Food Box Pickup

**Saturday October 28, 2023**

12:30am Prep for Celebration Sunday Lunch  
(Kitchen and Dining Room)

**Sunday October 29, 2023**

9:30am Celebration Sunday (Sanctuary, YouTube)  
12:00pm Lunch (Kitchen and Dining Room)

**Tuesday October 31, 2023**

**Halloween**

**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:**

The October Kids Club Theme is “**Fruit of the Spirit: PEACE**”

**Sunday, October 1**, children will stay in Worship: Be sure to pick up your Kids Club Activity Bag from the Kids Club Cart in Wesley Chapel. (Please return the bag and crayons after the service, so we can fill the bag for next month!) Children participating in bells/chimes will leave for a brief practice.

**Sunday, October 8**, Library Time \*Please note the change in schedule!

**Sunday, October 15**, Kids2Kids \*Please note the change in schedule!

**Sunday, October 22**, Arts and Crafts

**Sunday, October 29**, CELEBRATION SUNDAY!

**Please join us for our first breakfast hour:** Grades 6-12 will cook breakfast and eat together in fellowship. We will also participate in a mission opportunity to prepare a meal for our college student friends' luncheon, which will follow the 11:00 service.

**Samaritan's Shoeboxes:** Looking for volunteer(s) to lead this effort! Do you have a place in your heart for missions? Please consider leading the effort of gathering and organizing items for the Good Samaritan Shoebox mission. Our kids in grades K-12 enjoy packing these boxes each year. We have a great start, but need leadership and contributions for the boxes and postage. October theme is WOW ITEMS! Please consider donating your time or items to this worthy cause.

**NEW! Coffee and Conversation Group:** Are you a parent of kids (infants through grade 12)? You are invited to join with other parents for Coffee and Conversation during the Sunday School hour. We gather downstairs in the Dining Room for a stress-free hour of fellowship.

**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 student'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.

### **Calling all College Students!**

**1st Sundays at 1st Church:** Please join us for our 11:00 Contemporary Service! The 1st Sunday of each month when PennWest Clarion is in session—we would love for you to join us for a home-cooked meal and fellowship after the 11:00 Worship Service. Please bring your friends. This event is open to all those who are college-aged—whether in college, trade school, the military, or working—to meet others like you!

# PEACE

PEACE I LEAVE WITH YOU  
MY PEACE I GIVE TO YOU.

JOHN 14:27







**Karen Luderer Scholarship Recipient Announced**

Dr. Luderer and Mark and Matt Luderer are pleased to announce the 2023 Karen Luderer Scholarship Recipient is Lillian (Lily) Conoway. Lily is a student at PennWest University and is majoring in medical imaging with a concentration in ultrasound. Her hometown is in Logantown, PA where she works on a dairy farm and in an ice cream stand at local fairs and carnivals during the summer. She plays tuba in the marching band and symphonic band. During high school she was part of many clubs such as FFA, 4-H, Girl Scouts, and National Honor Society. The selection committee was Mark Luderer, Dr. Becky Miller, and Dr. Bart Matson. Mark stated that Karen would have picked Lily as the recipient as her heart was most like Karen's. Congratulations, Lily, on this accomplishment and good luck in your future endeavors.



**Youth Group ALF Parking**

Just a reminder the Youth Group will be parking cars on **Friday, October 6** and **Saturday, October 7** during Autumn Leaf Festival. Tickets are available in the church office and after church services on Sunday. The cost is \$10 each. Thank you in advance for supporting the Youth Group. This event is our biggest fundraiser of the year.

**Youth Group's Annual Corn Maze Trip**

On **Saturday, October 28**, we will be traveling to the Coolspring Corn Maze in Mercer, PA. We will leave the church around 4:00pm and return by 11:00pm. Cost is \$20 for entrance. Teens can also bring extra money to buy snacks at the snack shop if they want. We will eat dinner before going to the Corn Maze. Please contact Shelly Rhoades at [youthdirector@fumc-clarion.org](mailto:youthdirector@fumc-clarion.org) for more information. Please wear warm clothes and bring a flashlight.

**First Sunday at First Church - After church luncheon** with the college-aged meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday each month when 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.

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.

# BREAKFAST

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

## Grades 6 - 12

Bring a Friend

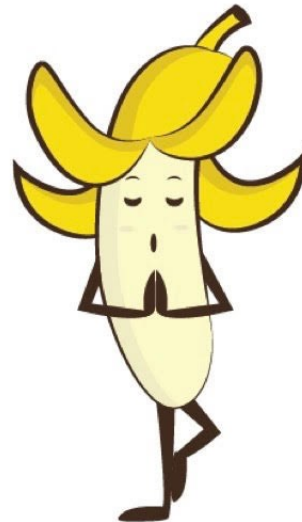
Church Kitchen  
Ground Floor

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



## News from the Corner - October 2023

The Franklin District is hosting its first Come Warm Your Heart Service on **Tuesday, October 10** at **11:00am** on the grounds of Christian Life Ministries at 870 River Ridge Rd. in Franklin. This is the grounds of the Sibley Mansion off Bredinsburg Road between Franklin and Seneca. We will worship first at the Chapel, the former Bredinsburg UMC. Lunch will follow, catered by the Country Grub. You are free to roam the grounds afterwards. Please RSVP by calling the District Office at 724-252-3198 **by October 3**.

### Love Cupboard Food Pantry

A special thank you to all of our dedicated volunteers who help stock, deliver, carry out and distribute the items each month for the Love Cupboard Food Pantry! In SEPTEMBER we were able to serve 85 households. Those households were made up of 95 adults, 46 seniors, and 45 children. The donation item for the month of **October** is **BOXED PASTA (penne, rotini, shells, farfalle, etc.)**. 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.**

### **First Methodist Church of Clarion Love Cupboard Food Bank**

- ◆ Mission: Serve nutritional needs of individuals and families in Clarion area.
- ◆ We promote our Christian principles through kindness, humility, respect, sharing, zero prejudice, and non-discrimination of race, color, national origin, age, sex, disability.
- ◆ The distribution on the third Wednesday of each month consists of nonperishable food items, cleaning aids, hygiene items, paper supplies and frozen goods.
- ◆ Our primary supply source is received monthly from Second Harvest of Erie, PA. Presently we have approximately 25 volunteers involved.
- ◆ Donations to support our program come from our congregation, food bank drives, and anonymous donors.
- ◆ We have been sharing community needs of food for over three decades.

### **August 2023 Finance at a Glance**

<b>General Budget</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Expenditures</b>
<b>Forecast</b>	<b>\$29,996</b>	<b>\$37,678</b>
<b>Actual</b>	<b>\$31,224</b>	<b>\$38,283</b>

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 - October 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.





## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

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

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

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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](mailto:communications@fumc-clarion.org).

### PLEASE NOTE "MAILER" SCHEDULE

**Upcoming Mailers:** Items for the November newsletter need to be submitted by **Sunday, October 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](mailto:communications@fumc-clarion.org).



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

During the month of **October**—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 "shoeboxes 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.