



# NEWS from the Corner



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

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

September 2024 Edition

## Worship Services

Sunday mornings  
8:30 and 11:00am

## Sunday School

9:45am  
Classes for all ages

## Live Stream

Both services streamed  
live on YouTube



## Pastor Jodie's Jottings . . .

Greetings!

*"From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love." ~ Ephesians 4:16*

It's August 26 as I write this and I'm still feeling the joy of Rally Day yesterday. I think we came pretty close to replicating the heavenly feast with all the delicious food, worship, and fellowship. Thanks again to Howard Rhoades and all who helping with the grilling, the Trailblazers class for their help, The Messengers for the music and to Darren Mackenzie for all of his work getting all the necessary equipment and supplies to the pavilion. It was also a joy to present Coleson Amsler and Grayson McConnell with their Bibles!

I drove yesterday evening to Cranberry Township to have dinner with my nephews—another blessing of the day; as I drove I thought about what Rally Day signifies to us as a church.

For me, Rally Day is:

- ◆ A day in the church where we rally together. (*We certainly did that—we rallied around worship and around the food tables!*)
- ◆ A renewed energy and joy as we begin the new program year. (*Sunday School, Kids2Kids, Youth Group, and Bible Study start their new year of programming in the coming weeks.*)
- ◆ As we return from summer, we renew our commitments and our joy. (*Maybe this is the time for you to commit to something new in the church—volunteering, Sunday School, Bible Study, Men's Group, Ladies' Breakfast, United Women of Faith, the Choir or Bell Choir—you are welcome to join whatever might interest you!*)

We celebrate all the things God is doing in our church and in our lives. (*I am so thankful to be your pastor and to see how God is using us as a church to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to Clarion, Pittsburgh, Erie and beyond!*)

As part of Rally Day, this renewal is also meant to energize us. As we work together and grow together as the Body of Christ, we need that energy! There are so many ways that we can join together. We join in service, in fellowship, in discipleship, in outreach. And sometimes we might feel overwhelmed with all this energized activity.

But don't worry, it's okay. Our Ephesians text reminds us that it's never one person alone in this life of Christ. We are all of us joined and knit together. And each doing our own part, each of us building and being built up in love.

So even for me, as I look over the busy season ahead, I find myself renewed and filled with joy. God is doing so much through us. And we are working together to share God's love with each other and with the world around us.

Thanks be to God!

Blessings and Prayers,

Pastor Jodie



**THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
PITTSBURGH EPISCOPAL AREA**

Western Pennsylvania Conference  
1204 Freedom Road  
P.O. Box 5002  
Cranberry Twp., PA 16066

**Cynthia Moore-Koikoi**  
RESIDENT BISHOP

**Reneé Mikell**  
ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP

June 12, 2024

To The People Of First:Clarion United Methodist Church,

I want to personally express my gratitude and give thanks to your congregation for faithfully paying 100% of your apportionment covenant in 2023.

Because of the commitment, faithfulness, and sacrifice demonstrated by your congregation, the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference was able to continue making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Alongside other congregations, you have supported new ministries, provided resources for both clergy and laity of all ages, and exemplified the love of Jesus Christ. Your gifts have blessed our United Methodist connection and have strengthened vital ministry and mission.

In 2023, your Conference staff and leadership focused on building our United Methodist connection, equipping church leadership, and supporting mission near and far. We embraced our connection by hosting the tri-conference educational event "Level Up" to resource congregations that are looking to reach new people in new ways. Participants included those that have been doing the work of congregational revitalization with the support of the Conference. Our global partnerships continued to thrive as we welcomed leaders from Zimbabwe for a reverse immersion experience and supported ongoing mission projects around the world. When disaster struck East Palestine in early 2023, the Mission Barn was able to immediately support those affected by distributing over 300 cleaning kits.

Recognizing the challenges faced by those in cross-racial/cross-cultural appointments, we hosted a retreat for racial-ethnic clergy, key leaders from racial-ethnic churches and churches served by racial-ethnic clergy. This was an opportunity for participants to build and make connections, while gaining practical insights into creating greater congregational vitality. Additionally, we continued to uplift our youth through Spark and confirmation events led by Conference program staff, and provided hands-on opportunities for youth to support local communities in mission.

With God's grace, together we can do abundantly more than we ever could alone. Your commitment through apportioned giving makes you an invaluable part of our connectional ministries and we celebrate your faithfulness. I give thanks for the ministries we have supported and the disciples being made because of your congregation. Praise be to God!

Blessings,

  
Cynthia Moore-Koikoi  
Resident Bishop

724-776-1499 FAX 724-776-1683

Bishop@wpaumc.org www.wpaumc.org

## News from the Corner - September 2024

I would like to thank my church family for all the prayers and cards during my recent health scare. All continues to go well with my healing and I continue to feel better with each passing day.  
God Bless,  
Valerie Stitt

I would like to thank the many people who sent me cards when I had my accident with the bees. At least I learned that there is a bees nest in the ground.  
Thank you!  
Kay Curll

First United Methodist Church Board Members,

During the past few months, the following improvements have been made to my apartment:

- A. The outside door was replaced with an energy efficient door.
- B. A storm door with a screen was added which made a significant improvement in the airflow through the apartment and brightened the entrance area.
- C. A problem which resulted in a small water leak in the basement was promptly corrected.
- D. Attractive exit stairs were added to improve building safety, and the hardware needed to hang a hummingbird feeder was installed.

These projects were completed by Mr. Howard Rhoades and Mr. Randy Stewart (and some helpful young volunteers). The work was excellent, and they were considerate of the needs and schedules of the residents. I greatly appreciate the support of the church administrators and everyone involved in making my apartment a pleasant place to live.

Thank you,  
Marilynn Mikolusky

**The Ruth Circle of the United Women in Faith** will have their first fall meeting on **Monday, September 16** at 6:30pm in the Upper Room. We will begin studying a new book, *Hello, Beautiful!* by Jeanette Levellie and Beth Gormong. Please let Mary Brooks know if you need her to order a book for you. All women are welcome. We would love to have you join us for an evening of good fellowship and learning.

The Butler-Franklin District of the United Women in Faith will hold their fall meeting on **Saturday, September 28** at West Middlesex United Methodist Church. The theme is "Reset, Refresh, and Renew," and a representative from Adagio Health will be speaking to us on children's health issues. Please contact Mary Brooks, Mary Jo Ford, or Molly Greenawalt for more information. It is sure to be a good day.

### **Christmas Projects**

This year, in lieu of collecting gifts for Operation Christmas Child, our church will be collecting gifts for 2 projects, one local and one in Pittsburgh.

Our local project will be to collect items to help the school nurses in our area.

The other project is to help those served by the United Methodist Church Daily Bread project. We have become connected to this project by providing meals to those individuals.

We would now like to support them with other items (clothing, toiletries, etc.).

More details about the types of items needed will be published in the October newsletter and in the bulletin. We will begin collecting these items in October.

## News from the Corner - September 2024

### Hunger Action Month

Many of you are aware that we partner with the Second Harvest Program in Erie. Through them we purchase grocery items of all varieties on a monthly basis. We never know until we look at their order book online as to what is available. However, there is always enough variety to satisfy the fourteen categories that we display in our "Shop By Choice" merchandising in our dining room. On August 21 we filled 92 orders, representing 200+ household members in their dwellings. We had an applicant in his mid 30s with zero income. We had an applicant who lived with a man who was soon to be put in jail. She had zero food for her or her child. These are tough situations, but these challenges are typical of the neighbors and visitors who we see on a monthly basis. It breaks our heart, but they need us. Compassion, kindness, safe sanctuary, love, and yes, food and supplies are what they receive from this loving church.

So, sharing this information leads to our special emphasis of "Hunger Action Month," which is being promoted by Second Harvest of Erie. Focusing on one concept for the month, we are going to put on a drive to promote the supplying of laundry detergent to help our visitors free up some of their funds for food. On the last Sunday of September, we would like to display all of the laundry soap that is brought in, including the detergent that is bought with the funds that are contributed through September 25. These items will be seen at the front of the sanctuary for our combined 9:30am service on September 29.

How do you go about supporting this ACTION MONTH? Three primary ways:

- (1) Through your e-giving you can choose to assign your gift to Love Cupboard.
- (2) Through your envelope you can assign your gift to Love Cupboard.
- (3) Place your laundry detergent on the table in the Gathering Area. It is highly recommended you use the present procedure of buying the laundry detergent at Dollar Tree or Dollar General. Their product selection is of reasonably good quality and more economical than that of the larger markets.

You can and do make a significant difference in the lives of the neighbors who visit monthly to our Love Cupboard Food Pantry. This mission program is going on right in the basement of our church. We distribute approximately 3,000lbs of goods a month.

The donation item for the month of **September** is **Laundry Detergent**. 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-5:00pm.**



### **Our First Family Comes to The Refuge**

A young mother and her eleven-year-old son have moved into the room we sponsor at the Erie United Methodist Alliance's (EUMA) homeless shelter where Pastor Jodie met them shortly after their arrival. Both are thankful for the safety and security that The Refuge provides. They were grateful to receive a freshly furnished room, school supplies to start the new year, and a gift bag of snacks and drinks.

On Tuesday, August 6, eight members from our Missions Committee and the church spent the day visiting The Refuge and volunteering at the EUMA's Rainbow Connection Thrift Store, where we sorted and hung nine bins of donated clothing—a record we were told. Our church was enthusiastically invited to come back anytime.

The room at The Refuge badly needed additional furnishings to make it more comfortable and user friendly, especially lighting, work space, and additional storage. To that end, a trip to two household supply stores in Erie garnered a desk, chair, two lamps, storage containers and several smaller items. In addition, donations from The Caring Tree were left for the family.

Many opportunities remain to help this family and those who follow. As one family moves out, another comes in. The room we sponsor will never be vacant for long.

Over the coming year, covered by our sponsorship, the Missions Committee will provide updates on the parents and children staying in our room. As holidays approach, ideas will be presented for ways the congregation can reach out to the family in residence.



## News from the Corner - September 2024

### **Wednesday Evening in the Garden**

Second Wednesday of the Month

**September 11 at 5:30 – 7:00pm**

The Seeking Grace Sunday School class will be hosting this last summer social. They will be serving apple crisp, ice cream and light refreshments.



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

### ***Daniel***

**Wednesday, October 9, 2024**

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

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

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

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

**Cost:** \$150

Final day for reservations and payment: **Wednesday, September 11**

Please submit a check for the full amount made payable to First United Methodist Church of Clarion, marking the payment for the Sight & Sound Trip.

Include names and phone numbers for each person in the reservation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



**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 Wetzell  
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  
Debbie Mills Krebs  
Becky Lengel  
Jerry Spangler

**September 26**

Larry McFadden  
Donna Scott

**September 29**

Connie Caro  
Ellen Myers

**September 30**

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



**ALF Parking**

On **Friday, October 4**, ALF Craft Day and **Saturday, October 5**, ALF Parade Day, the Youth Group will be selling parking tickets and will use the money to fund their Youth Group activities.

Starting on **Sunday, September 15**, tickets will be available in the Gathering Area between the hours of 9:15am and 11:00am. They are also available in the church office during regular hours. Please contact the Youth Director at [youthdirector@fumc-clarion.org](mailto:youthdirector@fumc-clarion.org) with any questions.

**Monday September 2, 2024****Labor Day - Office Closed****Tuesday September 3, 2024**

1:00pm Daily Bread Food Preparation (Kitchen)  
 4:00pm Girl Scouts (Kitchen & Dining Room)  
 6:30pm Christian Education Meeting (Room 102)

**Wednesday September 4, 2024**

8:00am Soup Kitchen (Pittsburgh)  
 6:30pm The Messengers Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

**Sunday September 8, 2024**

11:00am Library Time (K - 5th Grade)  
 3:00pm Community Choir Rehearsal (Wesley Chapel)  
 6:00pm Spurred to Victory Horseback Ministry Event (Clarion County Park)

**Monday September 9, 2024**

8:30am Second Harvest Delivery  
 9:30am Senior Food Box Pickup  
 6:30pm Nominations Committee Meeting (Room 102)

**Tuesday September 10, 2024**

6:30pm Trustees Meeting (Room 102)

**Wednesday September 11, 2024****Daniel Trip Reservations and Payment Due**

6:45am Youth Group Breakfast (County Seat)  
 10:00am DAR Luncheon & Meeting (Dining Room)  
 5:30pm Wednesday in the Garden (Memorial Garden)

**Thursday September 12, 2024**

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

**Sunday September 15, 2024**

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

**Monday September 16, 2024**

10:00am Bible Study: "Disciple Fast Track: Remember Who You Are" (Wesley Chapel)  
 5:30pm Kiwanis (Room 102)  
 6:30pm United Women in Faith - Ruth Circle (Conference Room - 2nd Floor)

**Tuesday September 17, 2024**

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

**Wednesday September 18, 2024**

3:00pm Love Cupboard Food Pantry  
 5:00pm Stephen Ministers Meeting (Stephen Ministry Room)  
 6:30pm Bible Study: "Disciple Fast Track: Remember Who You Are" (Room 102)

**Saturday September 21, 2024**

10:00am Kids' Mission Barn Trip (Newcastle, PA)

**Monday September 23, 2024**

8:00am Women's Fellowship Breakfast (Perkins Restaurant)  
 10:00am Bible Study: "Disciple Fast Track: Remember Who You Are" (Wesley Chapel)  
 6:30pm Event Planning Meeting (Room 102)

**Tuesday September 24, 2024**

6:30pm Council Meeting (Room 102)

**Wednesday September 25, 2024**

6:30pm Bible Study: "Disciple Fast Track: Remember Who You Are" (Room 102)

**Saturday September 28, 2024**

9:00am PA State Old Time Fiddler Contest (Gathering Area/Sanctuary)

**Sunday September 29, 2024**

9:30am Celebration Sunday Worship Service (Sanctuary, YouTube)  
 6:00pm Charge Conference (Dining Room)

**Monday September 30, 2024**

10:00am Bible Study: "Disciple Fast Track: Remember Who You Are" (Wesley Chapel)

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

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

**Monday**

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

**Wednesday**

8:00am Journey for Men (Room 102)  
 1:15pm Recovery 'n Motion (Dining Room)  
 6:30pm The Messengers Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

**Thursday**

6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 51 (Various Rooms)  
 6:15pm NA Setup (Room 102)  
 6:30pm NA Group (Room 102)  
 6:30pm Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)

**Friday**

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

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

## News from the Corner - September 2024

### **Spurred to Victory Ministry Sunday, September 8 - 6:00pm at the Clarion Community Park**

Giddy up! Grab a friend and a lawn chair and join your FUMC family as Spurred to Victory ministry teaches us how to live out the gospel of Jesus Christ by witnessing the relationship between live horses and trainers. Whether we watch a young horse being ridden for the first time or witness a finished horse doing high-level maneuvers, we will see the horses discover truths that parallel our own lives and relationship with God.

The Spurred to Victory ministry has traveled the country sharing the word of God, fostering live interaction with their horses, and delivering a powerful message from horseback. Be sure to meet Carmi, the mini pony!

**Bring a friend! Refreshments to follow. Lawn chairs are suggested.**



### **Sunday School classes will begin on September 8.**

Children pre-K to 5th grade will meet in room 203 from 9:45 to 10:45am.  
The TEEN class (grades 6 - 12) will meet from 9:45 to 10:45am  
in the Youth Group room in the basement of the church.  
Hope to see you there.

The **College Outreach Program** will be starting up with the 2024 fall semester. Our goal is to connect with our young adults who are:

- ◆attending school outside of Clarion
- ◆attending PennWest University and living in a dorm/apartment or at home
- ◆serving in the military

We send holiday cards, gift cards, devotional materials, and boxes of snacks throughout the school year. If you would like your young adult to be in our program, please send the following information to the church office:

- ◆name of student
- ◆school name and address or military address
- ◆birth date
- ◆any food allergies

If your child was in the program last year, please let us know if their address has changed.

### **Women's Breakfast**

The United Women in Faith will be having our next meetings at **Perkins** on **Monday, September 23** at **8:00am**. **Come enjoy the fellowship and bring a friend. EVERYONE is welcome!**





**SAVE THE DATES:**

**October 6** - Monkey Bread

**November 3** - Breakfast Burrito

**December 1** - Hot Cocoa & Cookies

**January 5** - French Toast

**February 2** - Breakfast Pizza

**March 2** - Toast Bowls

**April 6** - Yogurt Parfaits

**May 4** - Chef's Choice

**WHO:** Jr. High & Sr. High Sunday School

**WHEN:** 9:45 - 10:45am

**WHERE:** Kitchen on Ground Floor

**WHAT:** Cook, Eat & Pray

**Ministry Planning Meeting**

We find ourselves with all kinds of possibilities for ministry stretching out before us.

I believe it would be helpful for us to have a second planning meeting for ministry that will allow us to be more efficient and creative as we plan events for the near future.

The meeting will be held on **Monday, September 23** at **6:30pm** in Room 102. **This meeting is open to anyone in the church!** We want to hear your ideas.

Here's how to prepare for the meeting:

- ◆ Pray about and consider new possibilities for ministry—what would you like to see our church do in the near future? Where is God leading us?
- ◆ Pray about and consider what ministry/events have outlived their purpose and need to be set aside to allow us to do some new types of ministry.
- ◆ If your committee has set any dates for meetings and/or events, please bring those with you.

I hope to see you there,  
Pastor Jodie



## **News from the Corner - September 2024**

### **Charge Conference 2024 – Sunday, September 29 at 6:00pm**

Our annual Charge Conference, when we discuss and decide on the business of the church, will be held with our District Superintendent, Rev. Deborah Ackley Killian. I hope you will join us as we look forward to the future of the church.

One of the items of business is electing new officers and committees for 2025. If you are interested in serving on a committee, or if you are currently serving on a committee and would like to be on a different committee, let Pastor Jodie know. You may receive a call from the Nominations Committee asking to serve in some capacity. Please prayerfully consider if God is calling you to be actively involved in the life of the church.

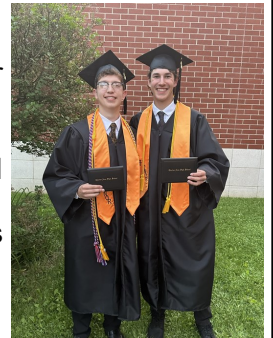
**The Nominations Committee** will meet on **Monday, September 9 at 6:30pm** to begin their work.

### **Karen Luderer Scholarship**

The Karen Luderer Scholarship was set up several years ago by her husband Dr. Luderer and their sons, Matt and Mark, to remember her passion for helping others and especially for giving people a second chance. Her ministry to those in the prison system was one of genuine love and care for all of God's children. Karen had an amazing soul—humble and kind were only two of her amazing traits and she had a heart for God. She used that heart to love others, the very thing that Christ calls us to do as Christians. For those of us lucky enough to have known her, our lives have been forever changed. Karen, you made us better people! So, with all of this in mind, the committee has selected two individuals who both have a passion for life and other people. The Karen Luderer Scholarship has been awarded to Bryce Brinkley, son of Jason and Stephanie Brinkley, and Jameson McIlwain, son of Brian and Trish McIlwain.

Bryce is attending IUP and majoring in sports management and Jameson will be attending Slippery Rock majoring in physical therapy. Both youth have been active in the Youth Group and participated in many community services throughout the years. We believe that they will continue to love other people and to give back in ways that mirror Karen's heart. Congratulations!

Thank you to the Luderer family for believing in the youth of our community and the future that they can bring to God's kingdom.



### **Summertime E-Giving Stewardship**

Make summertime giving a breeze by setting up recurring electronic gifts! Many of you support the congregation with your time, talent, and financial contributions throughout the year. But since many of our members travel or spend time visiting family and friends during the summer, it can be hard to keep up with weekly gifts. That's why we encourage you to set up regular, recurring donations.

It takes just moments to set up. Visit [fumc-clarion.org/donate](http://fumc-clarion.org/donate) and find our online giving page or speak with Dave Hauser or Darren Mackenzie in the church office (814-226-6660). Thank you for your continued support of our mission!

## **News from the Corner - September 2024**

### **Seeking a Christian Education Coordinator to Lead and Inspire!**

First United Methodist Church of Clarion is excited to welcome a dedicated and inspiring Christian Education Coordinator to lead our vibrant educational programs! In this part-time role (15 hours/week), you'll have the opportunity to shape the spiritual journey of our children, youth, and families by developing engaging curriculum, organizing impactful events like Vacation Bible School, and coordinating dynamic Sunday School programs. You'll recruit and support passionate volunteers, oversee program budgets, and build meaningful connections within our community.

If you have a strong faith, a heart for mentoring, and a vision for fostering growth, we'd love to have you join our team!

Interested? Call the church office at 814-226-6660 or send an email to [churchoffice@fumc-clarion.org](mailto:churchoffice@fumc-clarion.org)

**\*\*A full job description is available online or in the church office.\*\***

### **Director of Chancel Choir (Internal Posting, Open to Congregation Members)**

First United Methodist Church of Clarion is seeking a skilled musical professional from within its congregation to fill the Director of Chancel Choir position, effective January 1, 2025. This position is an internal posting open solely to members of the congregation.

The Director of Chancel Choir plans music for services and special programs, recruits new members, arranges soloists, rehearses, and directs the choir in performing Christian music. The Director works closely with the Pastor, Worship Committee, and the Staff Parish Relations Committee to carry out responsibilities.

To apply, submit a letter of interest, resume, and names and contact information for three references with knowledge of the candidate's leadership and music background. Application materials are to be submitted by September 27 to First United Methodist Church of Clarion, C/O SPRC Chairperson, 600 Wood Street Clarion, PA 16214.

A complete position description, including approximate hours and salary, is available by contacting the church office at 814-226-6660 or [churchoffice@fumc-clarion.org](mailto:churchoffice@fumc-clarion.org).

### **Retirement Celebration for Randy Bowser, Director of Music Ministry**

Save the Date: **Saturday, November 9**

**6:00pm** Light refreshments in the Gathering Area

**7:00pm** Program in the Sanctuary

We hope you will join us in celebrating Randy's more than 25 years of service to First UMC!

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.



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

Nonprofit Org  
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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 churchoffice@fumc-clarion.org.

**PLEASE NOTE "MAILER" SCHEDULE**

**Upcoming Mailers:** Items for the **October newsletter** need to be submitted by **Sunday, 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 churchoffice@fumc-clarion.org.

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

**Acolytes and Liturgists**

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



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