



NEWS from the Corner



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

Online at: fumc-clarion.org

November 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!

We gather around many tables throughout our lives: daily dinner tables, restaurant tables, communion tables, church fellowship tables. Perhaps the grandest table of all is the Thanksgiving table. We hope to gather with those who are nearest and dearest to us and look forward to those favorite foods we associate with the holiday.

In our minds, Thanksgiving is all about abundance—an abundance of people and an abundance of food. Unfortunately, for some it can be one of the loneliest days of the year and for others it can be a day where there are no resources for a grand dinner. So, I would encourage you to think of those who are lonely, those you might invite to your table, or those to whom you could help supply the food for their own table.

However, more often than not, those of us reading this devotion have left the tables at which we sit, full and blessed. Maybe, miraculously, the food stretched to fill the bellies of all who ate (with enough leftovers to feed us for a few days to come) or we who were gathered found the fellowship more fulfilling than the food. This year when you sit down at the table on Thanksgiving, take a minute to realize how much preparation went into the food and those gathered. The hands that prepared the dishes, the people who work in the stores where the food was bought, the farmers who grew and harvested the basic ingredients.

The generations that define our families and friends. I think you will soon realize that it all started in God. As we gather, God has blessed us with abundance, sending us forth into the community and world to share the grace that God has given to us. With God, enough always turns into abundance.

Have a Blessed Thanksgiving around your table!

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CONSIDER GIVING TO THE MEMORIAL FUND

When a loved one dies, keeping his or her memory alive is a way of honoring his or her life and finding comfort in your own life as a survivor. Consider contributing a gift to your church's Memorial Fund as a tribute to someone you loved or have known.

Memorials September 15 - October 15, 2024

In memory of Donna Taylor

Given by Clarion Chapter No. 267 Order of the Eastern Star (Memorial Fund)

In memory of Randy Reitz

Given by Dave and Linda Hauser (Mary McKissick Brooks Organ Fund)



Our deepest sympathies go out to the family and friends of **Randy Reitz**. Randy passed from this life on October 1.

Thank You from K2K!

Thank you so much for your donations for the Love Cupboard Back-to-School bags. Thanks to your support Kids2Kids was able to assemble **60 bags full of back-to-school supplies** for our Love Cupboard participants with school-aged children in their lives. They were very appreciative of your kindness and communicated that these would be valued by the children who would receive them. Your continued support of our children and our community is so important and appreciated. We will continue to build up our Hearts for Mission through our Kids2Kids program!

Dear Clarion First Congregation,

Thank you so much for the prayers for Randy over the last ten months. The concern and care you expressed meant a lot to him and to me. Thank you also for the comfort and support I've received over the last two weeks. You have really demonstrated that we are a family and I thank you!

Dawn Williams

First United Methodist Church of Clarion,

I'm very excited to start this next phase at Slippery Rock University to major in Exercise Science Pre-Physical Therapy and thank you for selecting me as a recipient for the scholarship! This scholarship will help further my education and help achieve my goals for my future. Once again thank you!!

Jameson McIlwain

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.

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Broadway Methodist Style

In 2005, Randy Bowser had an idea to raise money for new choir robes, and Broadway Methodist Style was born. It was such a hit that it became an annual event. The last one, though, was in 2018. It's time to bring it back, and what better way than to honor Randy as he retires as our Director of Music at First Church. Mark your calendars for **Saturday, November 9**. Broadway Methodist Style is back!

CHRISTMAS PROJECTS FOR FIRST CHURCH

For several years, our church has supported the Samaritan's Purse project Operation Christmas Child. This year, in lieu of that program, our church will be supporting two projects—one local and one within our Western Pennsylvania conference.

Our local project will be supporting the school nurses at both Clarion Area and Clarion-Limestone. Some of the items needed are sweatpants, leggings, socks, deodorant, and Kleenex. You will find these items and more listed on the fall leaf tags on the Caring Tree in Wesley Chapel. **Our other project** is to help those fed by the United Methodist Church Union Daily Bread program. We have begun providing meals at this program once a month, and now we can help in another way. Some of the items needed by those who are served by this Daily Bread program are hoodies, tee shirts, socks, razors and shaving cream, deodorant, shampoo, soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes (mostly for men). A complete list is on display in the Gathering Area. We will be collecting items for these two projects **until November 10**. It is such a privilege to give. Let's have two very successful projects this year.

Love Cupboard Food Pantry

The donation item for the month of **November** is **ALL PURPOSE CLEANER**. Please place your donations in the wooden box located in the Gathering Area.

Please Note: Perishable items are now available. Distribution occurs on the **3rd Wednesday of each month from 4:00pm-5:00pm**.



Women's Breakfast

The United Women in Faith will be having their next meeting at **Perkins** on **Monday, November 25** at **8:30am**. **Come enjoy the fellowship and bring a friend. EVERYONE is welcome!**

Carols Around the Table

Sunday, December 1
6:30pm
Gathering Area

Join us on **Sunday, December 1**, in the Gathering Area to enjoy our annual **Carols Around the Table**. There will be gingerbread, angel food cake, and other refreshments. Special music will highlight the evening. Join in the fun of singing your favorite Christmas carols with your church family. If you have musical talents that you would like to share that evening, please contact the church office at 226-6660.

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The November Caring Tree

Throughout November we will be collecting food items for children and teens in the Clarion-Limestone School District through the Backpack Program, which helps ensure students have food to eat during the weekends. We are participating in this program in partnership with the Clarion County Kiwanis Club and the Clarion Kindness Project.

Currently 101 C-L students get food bags weekly. Every Thursday these bags are delivered to the school and dispensed to the teachers, who distribute them on Fridays. There are no financial criteria for children getting into the program. The social worker identifies those who need to receive the bags.

In 2023, approximately 12% of children in Clarion County were identified as food insecure—that is not having access to sufficient food or food of an adequate quality to meet basic needs.

The backpack program relies on community support to provide foods that are “kid friendly,” easy for children to prepare and manage by themselves. The purpose is to supplement their diet from school lunch on Friday until their breakfast at school on Monday.

Check out the Caring Tree in Wesley Chapel for food items to be collected. Together we can work to reduce food insecurity among kids in our community and help them to succeed in school.

You Can Play an Important Role in Our Stephen Ministry . . .

. . . because you may know of a friend, neighbor, co-worker, or relative who is going through a difficult time and who could benefit from the focused care, encouragement, and support of a Stephen Minister. If you know of someone who is hurting, talk with one of our Stephen Leaders, Cindy Beck, Sandra Foster, Kim Girts, Barb Krupnik or Suzan Hahnfeldt. They can talk with you about how we can connect the person you know with one of our Stephen Ministers. It's a great way to show how much you care!

On **November 10** we will have an opportunity at both worship services to recognize our veterans. In addition, our fellowship time that morning will give us the occasion to bid farewell to Sam Mahle, who is leaving Clarion to live with his daughter near Butler. Sunday School will be held from 9:45-10:30am with fellowship time starting at 10:30am. Come and send off Sam with our best wishes and prayers. We will have a basket for cards if you wish to give Sam your good wishes on this new chapter!

The end of the year is approaching and I would like to comment on a few things for our church family.

The boxes of church offering envelopes for the year 2025 have arrived. I will be preparing them for distribution. I plan on having them placed in the Gathering Area by Thanksgiving Day. The individual boxes will be arranged in alphabetical order, not by number order.

Some Giving Account numbers from the 1000 series will be changed to the 1-360 series.

There are several ways to donate to the church. The boxes of church offering envelopes and the pew envelopes are the traditional way. Then there is the E-Giving and Venmo way of giving. All methods are recorded in the Giving Accounts of the donors. Also, there is the Loose Offering where cash is donated without knowledge of the individual donor.

The IRS allows the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from an IRA account to be donated to a Qualified Charitable Institution and avoid paying taxes on the RMD. The age threshold for this privilege is 73 years old for 2024 and 2025. This is another avenue for donations to the church. Our church is a Qualified Charitable Institution.

David M. Hauser
Financial Secretary




ALL CHURCH THANKSGIVING DINNER


SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23

5:30pm

in the dining room



**Turkey, dinner rolls and beverages will be provided.
Please bring your favorite Thanksgiving side dish or dessert.
Please register in the church office
no later than Sunday, November 17.**



Friday November 1, 2024**All Saints' Day****Sunday November 3, 2024****All Saints' Sunday****Daylight Saving Time Ends**

- 9:45am Grades 6-12 - Cook & Eat Breakfast Burritos (Kitchen)
- 11:00am Children's Chimes Practice

Monday November 4, 2024

- 5:30pm Kiwanis (Room 102)
- 6:00pm Staff Reviews (Room 102, Conference Room - 2nd Floor)

Tuesday November 5, 2024

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

Friday November 8, 2024

- 5:00pm Randy Bowser's Retirement Celebration Music Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Saturday November 9, 2024

- 6:00pm Randy Bowser's Retirement Celebration - Light Refreshments (Gathering Area)
- 7:00pm Randy Bowser's Retirement Celebration - Music, Tributes, Memories (Sanctuary)

Sunday November 10, 2024

- 11:00am Kids2Kids Mission Group (K - 5th grade)
- 11:00am Library Time (K - 5th grade)

Monday November 11, 2024

- 8:30am Second Harvest Delivery
- 9:30am Senior Food Box Pickup

Wednesday November 13, 2024**Daily Bread (Pittsburgh)**

- 6:45am Youth Group Breakfast (County Seat)
- 10:00am DAR Luncheon & Meeting (Dining Room)

Thursday November 14, 2024

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

Sunday November 17, 2024

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

Monday November 18, 2024

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

Tuesday November 19, 2024

- 4:00pm Girl Scouts (Dining Room/Kitchen)
- 6:00pm Mission Committee Meeting (Conference Room - 2nd Floor)

Wednesday November 20, 2024

- 3:00pm Love Cupboard Food Pantry

Thursday November 21, 2024

- 5:30pm Trustees Meeting (Room 205)
- 6:00pm Finance Committee Meeting (Conference Room - 2nd Floor)
- 6:30pm Ed Bailey Foundation Information Meeting (Conference Room - 2nd Floor)

Saturday November 23, 2024

- 5:30pm Church Thanksgiving Dinner (Dining Room, Kitchen)

Sunday November 24, 2024

- 11:00am Arts and Crafts (K - 5th grade)
- 12:00pm Hanging of the Greens

Monday November 25, 2024

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

Thursday November 28, 2024**Thanksgiving - Office Closed****Friday November 29, 2024****Office Closed****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

- 10:00am Bible Study (Dining Room)
- 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)
- 6:30pm Bible Study (Room 102)

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.



November 2
Pamela Larsen

November 4
Abigail Foster
Dennis McGuire
Garrett Simpson

November 5
Gregg Myers
Alexandra Nau
Christopher Pappas

November 6
Victoria Vega

November 7
Mary Jo Bettwy

November 8
Ava Boyer

November 9
Graham Beckley
Diane Bennett
Ryan Pappas

November 10
Andrew Brubaker
Matthew Brubaker
Alice Hollingsworth

November 11
Logan Myers
Rocco Stefanos

November 12
Kimberly Girts
Jackson Pappas

November 13
John Hunt, Jr.
Timothy Stevenson
James Wolfe

November 14
Maxwell Krepps
Henry Pappas
Carolyn Wright

November 15
Paul Perry

November 16
Jack Kroh

November 17
Edward Duffy
Jeremy Reitz

November 18
Carrah Campbell
Charles Seelbach
Alexandra Vega

November 19
Penelope Wetzell
Mary Wolf

November 20
Nathaniel Bowser

November 21
Helen Shaw
Marlene Steiner

November 22
Allison Acey
Sophia Burns

November 23
Randy Bowser
Caleb Flower
Carol Leas
Nancy Mills
Austin Myers

November 24
Kyle Bettwy

November 25
Mark Bettwy
Jean Crawford
Mark Dehner
Riley Doan

November 26
Noreen Shirey

November 28
Josephine Boorech

November 29
James Wingard

November 30
Adam Gulnac
Randa Staley
Holly Stitt



Saturday, November 9: Randy Bowser's Retirement Celebration, "Broadway Methodist Style"

Saturday, November 23: Congregational Thanksgiving Dinner; turkey, beverages and tableware will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Deadline to sign up is November 17.

Saturday, December 1: Carols Around the Table

Sunday, December 15: Presentation of *The Messiah* by the Chancel Choir and Community Choir

Tuesday, December 24: Christmas Eve Worship - 7:00pm



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

www.fumc-clarion.org

Email: churchoffice@fumc-clarion.org

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Newsletters and Pastor Jodie's sermons are now available online for you to view, listen to, and/or download. If you prefer to receive your newsletter by email instead of print, or if you have any questions, suggestions or information for our website, please email Darren Mackenzie at churchoffice@fumc-clarion.org.

PLEASE NOTE "MAILER" SCHEDULE

Upcoming Mailers: Items for the December/January newsletter need to be submitted by **Friday, November 15**.

Thank you!

To submit information: If you would like to submit information for the mailer, please contact the church office at 814-226-6660 or by email to 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.