

**OCTOBER 2016  
CLARION CONNECTION  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
201 3<sup>RD</sup> AVENUE NE  
CLARION, IA 50525**

**Pastor: Rev. Mike Gudka  
Church Phone: 515-532-2845  
Pastor Mike's cell: 515-835-7847  
Email: [pastormikegudka@gmail.com](mailto:pastormikegudka@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.clarionumc.com](http://www.clarionumc.com)**

Secretary: Jodi Kraft  
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon  
Email: [jodi@clarionumc.com](mailto:jodi@clarionumc.com)

Church Treasurer: Andy Schutt 532-3334  
Financial Secretary: Jodi Kraft  
Ad Board Chair: Carol Townsend

Custodian: Tim Wesenburg  
Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday - afternoons, Wednesday off

**October Hosts –**  
Traditional Service (8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.) – Shelley & Tim Fletcher  
Contemporary Service (10:45 a.m. – Noon) – Lynette, Max & Dan Smith

**October Liturgist –** Cathy Farwell

**COMMUNION STEWARDS for October:**  
Traditional service: Cindy Riley  
Contemporary service: Tana & Jerry Boyington

**SUNSHINE VISITS -**

If someone is ill or in the hospital and would like Pastor Mike to make a Sunshine Visit to them, please let him or the office know. We don't always know when someone is in need of him visiting.



United Methodist Women have NEW cards for sale in the Fireside Room. The cards are marked on the end of the box. You may leave your money with the secretary or put it in a pew envelope on Sunday morning, mark it as such and put envelope in the offering plate. Thank you.

**Your Giving Makes a Difference**

Last week: \$3,089 (9/19/2016), Needed weekly: \$3,928  
Year-to-date: \$121,988, Needed year-to-date: \$149,264



Life Serve of Iowa (blood drive) will be at the Clarion United Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, October 4 from 2-6 p.m. for a blood drive. If you can donate, please call 1-800-287-4903 to set up an appointment or come when you can as a walk in. Blood is always needed.



### October 2016 Newsletter

The Holy Spirit works in powerful ways through different Churches. And just like we as individuals are blessed with different talents and different callings to serve, different Churches also have unique talents and callings to serve.

For us at Clarion First UMC, one of the many gifts or callings that the Holy Spirit has given to us as The Body of Christ is our natural focus on mission. Being in mission and serving others is simply a part of our DNA. It starts with the ways so many members of our Church family simply help others in need. Whether it is helping someone rake leaves or providing financial support to someone in need, we just do it. We don't think "Oh, I need to do this in order to be in mission." Instead, it is simply a way of life.

And different people are called to be in mission to different groups in different places. Some are called to serve their next door neighbor. Others are called to work at the Beacon of Hope in Fort Dodge. While others might travel to a different State. And still others are called by God to be in mission in a foreign country.

Unfortunately, I have seen people who have a strong calling to serve in mission in a foreign country and then have their calling squashed by a few negative people. I have heard people say, "You cannot go there, it is too dangerous." Or, "We should only help people in our community." And then suddenly, these negative voices put down God's calling. And this is something we should never do! You may be called to support a certain group, but please, do not force your calling on another.

Another objection that I have heard is, "We shouldn't spend the travel money to send people, instead we should write a check for what we would be spent on travel and send it." I can remember the first time I was taking over 20 people on an international mission trip. You can imagine how expensive the travel was going to be. So I asked the local leader in the country we were going to let me know what he would prefer and I asked, "Should we send the team, or send the travel money." Without blinking an eye, he said, "Money comes and money goes, but relationship are forever. Send the team." And remember, Christ did not say, "Write a check and send it in order to make disciples." Instead, Christ said, "GO, and make disciples!" And finally, research shows that when a mission team actually goes and establishes personal relationships, the total giving increases by more than 20% over just writing a check. The reason is that people make lasting friendships and they make long-term commitments to help make a difference in the lives of people they have personally met.

Please remember, we cannot limit God's love to one certain group or one certain location. And we cannot limit where a person is called to serve. So if you are called to serve here in Clarion, then get excited and go out there and make a difference! If you are called to serve at the Beacon of Hope in Fort Dodge or travel to another State, then get excited and get out there and make a difference. And if you are called to travel half-way around the world, then get excited and get out there and make a difference.

Regardless of where each one of us is called by God to be in mission, let's support them, love them, pray for them, and encourage them. Let's celebrate that we are One Body with many different talents and callings!

At Clarion First UMC, we are actively working to serve in our local community, places in the State of Iowa like the Beacon of Hope, in places in the U.S., and around the world. Let's celebrate God's call to "Go and make Disciples of Christ" where ever that may be! Amen?

While we will continue to support mission work at the local, state, and national level, I am excited to announce an upcoming international mission trip! This will occur sometime next summer with the specific date yet to-be-determined. Most likely, it will be a two-week trip that will occur sometime between June and early August. Our Mission, Outreach, and Evangelism Team has been in prayer and discussion for several months looking to determine where we might send a team. And they have decided to send the team to the poorest country in the world, Malawi in Africa. One of the many reasons they chose this location is because I have been there many times. And because of my experience and contacts, it will help us plan for this mission trip with greater ease.

I refer to Malawi as my second home. The people there are so very gentle and friendly, the weather during the time of the year when we will be going is wonderful, the food is great (chicken, potatoes, rice, fresh vegetables, and some of the best pizza I have ever had), and the experience harkens back to both the early Christian Church (I ask the team members to read the book of Acts of the flight over, as they will see it come to life right before their eyes), and the early American Methodist Church when we were on-fire for the Lord and more of a movement than an institution. Over 90% of the people in Malawi have no access to electricity, about 90% are sustenance farmers and their primary crop is corn, over 80% of the Churches have no building (they meet under a tree), and wow can they sing and dance with so much joy! If you go, you will come back uplifted and filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit.

Now it will take many months to prepare a team to go. There will be many questions that will need to be answered and the team will need to prepare to enter into a very different culture. So we will have a kick-off meeting for anyone that interested to learn more. Whether or not you are certain you want to go, please plan to attend one of these initial question and answer meetings. After this, those that feel called to go will meet monthly in order to fully prepare them to go.

I would also invite those who do not want to go, but feel called to help prepare for this trip to come to one of these meetings. For instance, I have experienced an elderly lady who did not want to go, but each year she would sow dresses, pants, and shirts for the orphans. Or another person that did not want to go, but wanted to pray and help with the fund-raising events for the trip.

So if you are interested, if only slightly; or if you want to help; then please plan to attend one of the following two Q&A sessions (or you can attend both, because the questions will probably be different in each one):

- Sunday, October 9, 2016 from 5:30 to 7:30 PM
- Thursday, October 20, 2016 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM

So start with prayer and see if God is calling you to go on this trip. And if you think you might be called, even if you are not certain, then join us for some more information. You must be at least 16 years of age to go. And I have taken international mission team members that were from 16 years old, clear up to 85 years old.

Here are a couple of websites that will give you some more information on Malawi: <http://www.our-africa.org/malawi>; and <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/mi.html>.

So if you feel called, then "Go!" I know we can all make up many excuses why not to go. But if you feel called, regardless of your situation, God will get you there!

God bless,  
Pastor Mike



## Lay Leader Service –

In the past few months I have really been praying about my role as the Lay Leader of our Church and what God is calling me to do within this position. God has revealed to me that I need to make myself more available to the people and congregation of the church. One of the responsibilities of the Lay Leader is to represent the laypeople in the congregation by working with the pastor for the mission and vision of the congregation. So, I want to get to know you and hear from you! I will now be available at the church on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 9am-12pm in the library. Please feel free to stop by for prayer, to share your joys and concerns or if you are interested in any ministry program that is currently being supported or you would like to see supported! Thank you for your continued support! I hope to see some of your familiar faces in the upcoming weeks!!!

Seeking His Will,

Jody Johnson

[johnsonjody79@gmail.com](mailto:johnsonjody79@gmail.com) #515-293-0787

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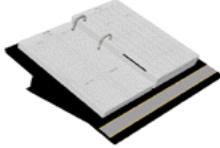


## October Birthdays and *Anniversaries*

- 1 – Nancy Duitscher, **Kim and Bob Ott**
- 2 – Marlin Klehm, Lynette Smith
- 4 – Paul Ahlstrom
- 5 – Sydney Friesleben
- 6 – Dorla Hill
- 7 – Carroll Hallagan
- 9 – Jennifer Mathis
- 11 – Pam Bradshaw, Carolyn Etter
- 13 – Zach Martin
- 16 – Makena Marker, Jorge Martinez, **Karianne & Jake Johnson**
- 19 – Marilyn Disney, Jan Murphy
- 20 – **Sally & George Boyington, Rose & Adolph Meinders**
- 21 – Chuck Etter, El Marie Nel, Rhonda Ray, Brenda Steenhard, Ian Wahl, **Helen & Ed Southard, Janice & Jim Morford**
- 22 – Rob Miller, Bud Young
- 24 – Susan Baker, Dennis Bowman, Amy Simonin-Denman
- 25 – Caleb Krueger, Elizabeth McOllough
- 26 – Jamie Wahl
- 28 – Sara Morford, Ashley Rauch, Steve Simonin, Carol Watts, **Mary & Norm Carlson**
- 29 – **Linda & Daryl Marker**
- 30 – Tim Fletcher

## Happy Birthday and *Happy Anniversary* to all!

Note: If your birthday or **anniversary** is not listed, or we have the date wrong,  
Please contact the church secretary.



## OCTOBER Calendar

Sunday, October 2 – Communion Sunday

8:30 – 9:30 a.m. Traditional Service

9:40 – 10:40 a.m. Sunday school (Confirmation meets during this time)

10:45 – Noon Contemporary Service

Monday, October 3 – 3:30 – 6:00 p.m. Hiz Kidz

Wednesday, October 5 –

8:30 a.m. Bibles and Bikes

3:30 p.m. CHICKS

3:30 p.m. G3

6:00 p.m. Youth Group Team meeting

6:00 p.m. Praise Team rehearsal

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal

7:00 p.m. Education Team meeting

Saturday, October 8 – 7:30 a.m. His Men

Sunday, October 9

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Traditional Service

9:40 a.m. – 10:40 a.m. Sunday school (Confirmation meets during this time)

10:45 a.m. – Noon Contemporary Service

5:30 p.m. Q & A session on Malawi Mission Trip

Monday, October 10 – 3:30 – 6:00 p.m. Hiz Kidz

Tuesday, October 11 – 7:00 p.m. MOE (Missions, Outreach and Evangelism) meeting

Wednesday, October 12 –

8:30 a.m. Bibles and Bikes Bible Study

6:00 p.m. Praise Team rehearsal

6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Youth Group

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal

8:00 p.m. Worship Team meeting

Thursday, October 13 – 7:00 p.m. SPPRC meeting

Saturday, October 15 – Newsletter Articles due

Sunday, October 16

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Traditional Service

9:40 a.m. – 10:40 a.m. Sunday school (Confirmation meets during this time)

10:45 a.m. – Noon Contemporary Service

Monday, October 17

3:30 – 6:00 p.m. Hiz Kidz

7:00 p.m. Lydia Circle

Wednesday, October 19

8:30 a.m. Bibles and Bikes Bible Study

2:00 p.m. Isabella Thoburn (The Meadows)

2:30 p.m. Grace Stockwell

3:30 p.m. CHICKS

3:30 p.m. G3

6:00 p.m. Praise Team rehearsal

6:30 p.m. Trustees meeting

7:00 p.m. Church Council meeting

Thursday, October 20 – 6:00 p.m. Q & A session on Malawi Mission Trip

Saturday, October 22 – 7:30 a.m. His Men

Sunday, October 23 –

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Traditional Service

9:40 a.m. – 10:40 a.m. Sunday school (Confirmation meets during this time)

10:45 a.m. – Noon Contemporary Service

7:00 p.m. Multiple Church Charge Conference

Monday, September 24 – 3:30 – 6:00 p.m. Hiz Kidz

Wednesday, October 26 –

8:30 a.m. Bibles and Bikes Bible Study

2:00 p.m. Outreach at The Meadows

5:30 p.m. Finance Team meeting

6:00 p.m. Praise Team rehearsal

6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Youth Group

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal

Friday, October 28 – 2:30 p.m. BINGO for Quarterly Committee  
Sunday, October 30 – 10:45 a.m. Kids sing during Contemporary Service

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**Interested In a Mission Trip to Africa?**

At our Church, we support God's commandment to "Go and make Disciples." And we do this right here in Clarion, at the State and National levels, and Internationally. Next Summer we will send a team to the poorest country in the world, Malawi. The specific date is yet to be determined. If you are interested in learning more, please plan to attend one of the following Q&A sessions: Sunday, October 9 from 5:30 to 7:30 PM or Thursday, October 20 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.

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A Fresh Wind Blowing, Come Soar with Us

United Methodist Women Conference Annual Meeting at First United Methodist Church, Decorah, Iowa  
October 8, 2016 (Registration due September 30)

Keynote Speaker: Bishop Laurie Haller

Coffee and registration: 9:00 a.m., meeting begins at 9:30 a.m., Choice of break-out sessions after lunch, closing worship at 2:30 p.m. (Lunch is \$7.00 per person).

Send lunch reservations to: Candace Arp (checks payable to United Methodist Women), 1344 Coon Creek Road, Decorah, Iowa 52101 (include name of unit, name of persons, number of lunches, child-care needed, if so how many and ages of kids.)

**CLARION FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES  
AUGUST 24, 2016**

The Church Council of the Clarion First United Methodist Church met on Wednesday, August 24, 2016 with seventeen members present: Ken Bernhardt, Carolyn Bowman, Dennis Bowman, Jerry Boyington, Tana Boyington, Pastor Mike Gudka, Janet Hennigar, Bob Herbst, Jake Johnson, Jody Johnson, Kelly Kirstein, Jodi Kraft, Nancy Nail, Andy Schutt, Carol Townsend, Kathy Watts and Bud Young.

Chairperson, Carol Townsend called the meeting to order. Bob read a devotion. Bud made a motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting. Second by Tana. Voted on and carried. Dennis made a motion to adopt the agenda. Second by Ken. Voted on and carried. Andy went through the Treasurer's Report. Janet made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Second by Jake. Voted on and carried.

Ken, Dennis and Jody reviewed Chapters 5, 7 and 9 in the book, "Not a Fan". Pastor Mike presented the list of nominations for the Church teams and reviewed the responsibilities of Team Chairpersons. Options were discussed regarding filling the Treasurer's position as Andy Schutt will be done January 1<sup>st</sup>. Nancy made a motion to have Jodi Kraft take over as Treasurer with a group of people who could count the offering each week. Second by Carolyn. Voted on and carried.

Jody Johnson and Pastor Mike discussed Jody as Lay Leader taking on some additional duties such as visitation and support for youth. These would be volunteer hours with office time. Bud made a motion that Jody proceed with setting up office hours to work on these duties on a volunteer basis. Second by Kelly. Voted on and carried.

Pastor Mike reported that forms are being worked on for Charge Conference which will be October 23 at 7:00 p.m. We will be hosting a multiple Church conference, so will need greeters, servers and provide coffee and cookies. This will be discussed more at our next meeting. It was brought up to get the youth involved and the quarterly church committee.

Pastor Mike brought up a survey that will be coming out in the next several months. He also brought up issues in the Methodist Church and asked permission to use his travel allowance to go to Chicago to get information

on the Wesleyan Covenant Association. The Council felt that this was appropriate and he should plan on going.

Discussion was held about having coffee available at the back of the Church prior to Contemporary Service. Members decided to not proceed with it. Pastor Mike reported that the Lion's Club Chicken Dinner is set for September 18. They usually have it at the school but another group has already spoken for the school. He asked if it was possible for the Lion's to have the dinner at the Church. Ken made a motion for the Lion's Club to be allowed to have their Chicken Dinner at the Church for this year. Second by Jake. Voted on and carried.

Bud reported on a program he just became aware of about helping parents discipline their children. The Council supported Bud following up on this plus take it back to his committee to check into further.

Education Team – Tana reported that they have teachers for all but one class. Activities are being planned for Rally Sunday and throughout the year. Students in third grade will be presented a Bible. Bud reported for the Mission, Outreach and Evangelism Team, a group went to the Beacon of Hope in Fort Dodge. Hannah McLaughlin had the Children's Mission group in the park. They are looking at an International Missions trip for next year. Board of Trustees – Ken reported that the leaks have been fixed. The sound booth was built, the basketball hoop was put up. They are planning on removing the two front pews in the balcony. Memorial Team – Janet reported that they have designated and undesignated funds. She will be ordering cards and envelopes. Younger Adults and Families – Jake reported they planned several events but probably need to look at restructuring the group. Dennis reported for the Finance Team, they are preparing a report for the congregation and also looking at the budget for 2017. Staff Parish Relations – Jerry reported that they met and approved a 2% increase for Pastor Mike. Worship Team – Kelly reported that she has received positive comments about the sermon series. Attendance has been up through the summer and the services are available on the website. UMW – Carolyn reported that they held a meeting today with an ice cream social after. A Bible verse has been put on the north wall in the Fireside Room with a gift from the Etter's. The Bibles and Bikes group is going to start meeting in the Fellowship Hall as they are too big for the library. Youth Group – Jody stated they had met and set some dates for upcoming events. They will meet as a large group for beginning activities then break down into small groups.

Pastor Mike reported that most of the equipment for the old sound system has found new homes. The old projector and screen will be placed in the Youth Room. The next meeting will be September 21<sup>st</sup>. Jody closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathy Watts, Secretary

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Upper Des Moines Opportunity, Inc. is preparing for their Annual Coats for Kids program. Starting September 12, tags will be available for adoption at the following banks in Clarion: First Citizen's National Bank, Wells Fargo Bank, First State Bank and Security Savings Bank. Community members can adopt a coat tag, purchase a coat for the child, and return the coat and tag to UDMO, 221 West Broadway, Eagle Grove by September 30. Monetary donations are also needed. Contact UDMO for further information at 515-448-3704.

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**Snowbirds** – Before you head to warmer climates, please make sure Jodi in the Church office has your winter address. If the address we have does not match the instructions you have provided the Post Office, items we send you will be returned (for example: your newsletters and/or end of year contributions statement).

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### **Haven't Seen Someone In Church Lately?**

The Mission, Outreach, and Evangelism Team is gathering names of people that we haven't seen in church lately. If you know of someone that could benefit from a call, please see Bud Young.

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### **Sunday Teachings are Now Online**

If you miss a Sunday, want to listen to a teaching again, or want to share a particular message with a friend, please check out our website at [www.clarionumc.com](http://www.clarionumc.com) Each Sunday's teaching is now available on our website.

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## **Quarterly Committee for October, November and December**

Chairpersons for October: Janet & Dennis Hennigar

Tana & Jerry Boyington

Chairpersons for November: Nancy Nail

Carol Townsend

Chairpersons for December: Carol Watts

Sue Mecham

### **Additional Committee persons:**

Dixie & Alan Beenken

Marlene Brown

Helen & Larry Golden

Cheryl Hilgendorf

Steve Simonin

Rose Ann Baumer

Marilyn & George Disney

Denise & Richard Hocraffer

Brenda Rauch

Emily & Mark Bernhardt

Bryce Davis

Maureen & Vern Elston

Linda & Daryl Marker

Janice & Jim Morford

Judy Olson

Pam Bradshaw

Bev Claude

Bob Herbst

Rose & Adolph Meinders

Bob & Elizabeth Murphy

Mike Bowman

Melissa & Terry Hackley

Dawn & Jim Rasmussen

Amy & Scott Wiezorak

Mari & Ken Bernhardt

Janet & Mark Disney

Lisa & Alan Hagie

Teryl Marker

Pat & Burton Tracy

Kendra & Miguel Chavez

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### **Interested in Bill Pay or Direct Deposit?**

Many folks cannot make worship service every week, or they may travel for extended periods of time. This makes it challenging from a cash flow perspective for our Church (we peak during Christmas and Easter, and then see low offerings during the summer). If you are interested in setting up Bill Pay with your Bank or Direct Deposit with your Employer, please see Jodi for more information.

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### **Please Record Your Attendance**

We have some new church software. As a result, we are beginning to track Sunday worship service attendance from the information that you provide on the Attendance Pads. This information will help us know when someone has not attended recently, then we can call them and see if they have any prayer requests. Please make sure and write all of the names of your family members in attendance and please write legibly. This makes Jodi's input job a lot easier.

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### **Hearing Assist Devices**

If the sound is too loud, then please use the free ear plugs on the back table. If you have trouble hearing, then please use one of the new Hearing Assist Devices located on the back table. If you use a Hearing Assist Device, you have a choice of a two different types of ear buds (use the one that best fits your ear). And if you want to keep one just for your use, then this is not problem. Please see Pastor Mike and we will make sure this label your ear bud. And in addition, if you have hearing aids with Blue Tooth capability, then there is a necktie-type-device that will sync with your hearing aids. Regardless of your hearing abilities, we want you to feel welcome and comfortable in our worship service!

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### **Facebook Page** <https://www.facebook.com/ClarionFirstUnitedMethodistChurch/>

Make sure and "like" this Facebook Page so you can stay up to date on happenings around the Church!

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