

**NOVEMBER 2015
CLARION CONNECTION
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
201 3RD AVENUE NE
CLARION, IA 50525**

**Pastor: Rev. Mike Gudka
Church Phone: 515-532-2845
Pastor Mike's cell: 515-835-7847
Parsonage: 602-6202
Email: pastormikegudka@gmail.com
Website: www.clarionumc.com**

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

Church Treasurer: Andy Schutt 532-3334
Financial Secretary: Jodi Kraft
Ad Board Chair: Carolyn Etter

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



If your email address has changed please email the change to the church office at jodi@clarionumc.com



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

GOD IS LOVE!

LITURGIST - November - Jeff Farwell

GREETERS:

November 1 - 8:45 a.m. - Dolores Bowman
11:00 a.m. - Brett Hansen
8 - 8:45 a.m. - Linda and Daryl Marker
11:00 a.m. - Sue and Mike Mechem
15 - 8:45 a.m. - Shelley and Tim Fletcher
11:00 a.m. - Shannon and Kelly Leist
22 - 8:45 a.m. - Cindy Riley and Joann White
11:00 a.m. -
29 - 8:45 a.m. - Lonny Barnes
11:00 a.m. - Jody and Darren Johnson



USHERS

November - 8:45 a.m. - Carolyn and Dennis Bowman
11:00 a.m. - Jody and Darren Johnson

COMMUNION STEWARDS: November 1 - 8:45 a.m. - Deb Keller and Donna Miller
11:00 a.m. - Jody and Darren Johnson



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.



Life Serve of Iowa (blood drive) will be at the Clarion United Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, November 3 from 1-6 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.

THE BACKPACK PROGRAM

The Backpack program is an ongoing program and the following items are needed to help supplement the nutritional needs in the home of these families.

Please take items to the United Congregational Church - west door.

Dry soup mix, microwave popcorn, granola bars or fruit/grain bars, cans of tuna, tuna helper, instant mashed potatoes, variety pack of cold cereal, individual pack of snack crackers, boxes of macaroni and cheese, pudding cups, fruit cups, peanut butter, jelly and ramen noodles.

There is also a need for personal care items: bar soap, shower wash, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant.

Thank you for any help you can offer.



From the **MINISTER** Greetings in the name of Christ!

I hope and pray that as you read this newsletter you can feel the love of God. There are so many great things happening in our Church and there are even greater things to come. I hope and pray that you can feel the power and love of the Holy Spirit all across our Church family.

If you are member of our Church, I want to encourage you to plan to attend our Church Charge Conference on November 8, immediately following the second service. Both our District Superintendent, Harlan Gillespie; and our District Field Outreach Minister, Katharine Yarnell, will be in attendance at both worship services and then Harlan Gillespie will preside over our Charge Conference.

So just what is a Charge Conference?

Well first, we need a little background. The Methodist Church was born during the American Revolution. It was a time when the concept of a democracy was brand new and Americans did not favor centralized control in one person, especially a King. So the structure of the Methodist Church reflects a democratic practice that is very unique. As a result of the Church structure that was put in place during the American Revolution, decisions in our Church are made in three different times when both clergy and Church members come together and “vote” to decide upon the direction of the Church.

The first time occurs at the local Church level. This is our annual Charge Conference. The Church Council has been hard at work putting together a ministry plan for 2016, reviewing our membership list, putting together a budget, making sure the right historical documents are in place, and getting volunteers to fill our committees. They will then bring their recommendations to the Church Charge Conference, where it will be voted upon and approved. If significant and certain things change during 2016, another Charge Conference would need to be called in order to approve specific changes to the documents that were approved in the annual Charge Conference.

The second approval process occurs at the Iowa Annual Conference. This is where about 1,000 United Methodist come together in Des Moines and review the Conference’s plans, budgets, etc. and vote to approve those plans or change them. Again, we were birthed during the rise of democracy, so the Iowa Annual Conference has an equal number of lay people and clergy. Based upon our Church size, we will be sending two people to the Iowa Annual Conference. Our Lay Delegate is Jody Johnson and I am automatically required to be there as clergy. During the Annual Conference, there will be much discussion looking at the pros and cons of issues, and then the Conference votes to make the final decision.

An interesting element of all of our Conferences is that Bishops have neither “voice” nor “vote.” (Again, we were birthed in a new democracy and we did not like centralized power.) The Bishop does preside over the meeting, follows the agenda, ensures the proper use of Robert’s Rules of Order and Church law, but he cannot voice an opinion and cannot vote on of the any issues.

The third and highest decision making body in our Church is the General Conference. This occurs once every four years when about 1,000 United Methodists from around the world come together. This is the only body that can speak for the Church and they set the rules found in our Book of Discipline. Each Annual Conference sends a number of delegates based upon their percentage of

the world-wide total United Methodist membership. In last year's Iowa Annual Conference, we voted upon the clergy and lay people who will represent us at General Conference.

During General Conference, there will be a large group of translators working with people who speak many different languages and come from all over the world. The next General Conference is scheduled to meet in Portland, Oregon on May 10-20, 2016. Although all of the Bishops are there, they must sit outside of the voting floor and have no voice or vote. But they do preside over the agenda of the Conference.

And now for a side note. Who can make recommendations for Changes in Church Policy and Law at the General Conference? These recommendations can come from many different places. First, if you are a member and want to submit a recommendation, you can do that. Recommendations can also come out of Annual Conferences and Church agencies.

For more information, check out the Iowa Annual Conference web site at www.iaumc.org. There you can find information about both the Iowa Annual Conference and the General Conference.

So this decision making process all starts with our local Church Charge Conference on Sunday, November 8 at 12:30 p.m.. If you are a member, I encourage you to attend. And the Church Council is even planning on having pizza during the Charge Conference. So lunch will be taken care of. But to make sure we have enough food, please sign-up indicating your attendance on the clipboard in the back of the Church or call the office.

So if someone asks you, "Who is in charge of the United Methodist Church?" You can say, "The members are in charge by voting at the three different Conferences."

Come and enjoy this uniquely Methodist, uniquely democratic experience on Sunday, November 8 at 12:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

God bless, Pastor Mike

November Sound Technician Schedule

November 1 -

8:45 a.m. - Sound - Kim Marker Computer - Kim Marker Camera - Maddox Konopasek
11:00 a.m. - Sound - Derek Conlon Computer - Tanner Abbas

November 8 -

8:45 a.m. - Sound - Judy Kirstein Computer - Judy Kirstein Camera - Maddox Konopasek
11:00 a.m. - Sound - Judy Kirstein Computer - Tanner Abbas

November 15 -

8:45 a.m. - Sound - Kathy Watts Computer - Kathy Watts Camera - Zack Leist
11:00 a.m. - Sound - Kim Marker Computer - Tanner Abbas

November 22 -

8:45 a.m. - Sound - Judy Kirstein Computer - Judy Kirstein Camera - Zack Leist
11:00 a.m. - Sound - Derek Conlon Computer - Tanner Abbas

November 29 -

8:45 a.m. - Sound - Judy Kirstein Computer - Judy Kirstein Camera - Zack Leist
11:00 a.m. - Sound - Zach & Alec Martin Computer - Tanner Abbas

November Calendar

- 1 - Communion
 - 8:45 a.m. Traditional Service
 - Between services the Memorial Committee will be meeting, Pastor Mike's office
 - 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
 - 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Service
 - 6:30 p.m. CHICKS Bible Study
- 2 - 9:00 a.m. Prayer Group
 - 3:30 - 6:00 p.m. Hiz Kidz
- 3 - 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Bible Study with Pastor Mike
- 4 - Early Out
 - 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Chicken/Biscuit Dinner with Bake Sale
 - 1:30 p.m. CHICKS
 - 6:00 p.m. Youth Group Team meeting
 - 6:00 p.m. Praise Team practice
 - 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir practice
 - 7:00 p.m. Education Team meeting
- 8 - 8:45 a.m. Traditional Service
 - 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
 - 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Service
 - 12:30 p.m. Charge Conference in Fellowship Hall
 - 6:30 p.m. CHICKS Bible Study
- 9 - 3:30 - 6:00 p.m. Hiz Kidz
- 10 - 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts
 - 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Bible Study with Pastor Mike
- 11 - 8:00 a.m. Bibles and Bikes Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
 - 6:00 p.m. Praise Team practice
 - 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Youth Group
 - 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir practice
 - 8:00 p.m. Worship Team meeting
- 12 - 7:00 p.m. SPRC Team meeting
- 14 - 7:30 a.m. UMM
- 15 - 8:45 a.m. Traditional Service
 - 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
 - 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Service
 - 6:30 p.m. CHICKS Bible Study
- 16 - 3:30 - 6:00 p.m. Hiz Kidz
 - 7:00 p.m. Lydia Circle
- 17 - 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Bible Study with Pastor Mike
- 18 - 8:00 a.m. Bibles and Bikes
 - 2:00 p.m. Grace Stockwell
 - 2:00 p.m. Isabella Thoburn at The Meadows (Tana B.)
 - 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. CHICKS
 - 6:00 p.m. Praise Team practice
 - 6:30 p.m. Trustees meeting
 - 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir practice
- 22 - 8:45 a.m. Traditional Service
 - 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
 - 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Service
 - 6:30 p.m. CHICKS Bible Study
- 23 - Early out - No Hiz Kidz

- 25 - No School
No Youth Group
No Church Council meeting
6:00 p.m. Praise Team practice - not sure of practice date this week
- 26 - Thanksgiving Day, Church office closed
Noon - Clarion Ministerial Association Community Thanksgiving Dinner at Clarion-Goldfield High School, eating at noon sharp
- 27 - Church office closed
2:30 p.m. BINGO for quarterly committee
- 28 - 7:30 a.m. UMM
- 29 - First Sunday of Advent
8:45 a.m. Traditional Service
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Contemporary Service
- 30 - 3:30 - 6:00 p.m. Hiz Kidz



Women's Fellowship

UMW Notes / November

The leaves are turning color and starting to fall. The farmers have been very busy with harvest and many are nearing completion. The rains fell at appropriate times this year and the harvest looks to be bountiful. The B&B's (Bibles and Bikes) are still meeting and a few are hardy enough to continue to ride on Wednesday mornings. When I got up this morning and looked out my patio door, I saw two of the brightest "stars" in the eastern sky. It turns out they were Venus and Jupiter in close proximity to one another. My thoughts went to Psalms 118:24: "This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it". We are truly blessed to live in such a beautiful land.

When you get this newsletter, we will be working hard to make the annual Chicken and Biscuit dinner and Bake Sale a success. Thank you to all who will participate. The proceeds from this dinner help us to carry on our commitment to Missions.

The church is humming with activity every month. We have programs for all ages. Youth programs, Bible studies, Book clubs, and Circle meetings are only a small sampling of things you can be involved with.

If you like to read, ask Nancy Nail to get you the book we are reading this month. We meet and discuss it and would love to have more "readers" join us.

Our weekly devotional group is having a Bible Study on Wednesday morning. We are doing a video study of some of the principal characters of Bible. Bible studies are always inspiring and help us to understand a little more of God's plan.

Plan ahead for our Christmas dinner and program. It will be on Wednesday, December 4 at 6:00 p.m.. It is always a great way to begin the Christmas Season. I hope you will be able to attend.

November is a time to "Count your many Blessings". Remember the world thank offering and give generously. Also remember to support the Ingathering.

The scripture for November is Ecclesiastes 4:9-10. What a great scripture for this month of ingathering and harvest.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10: Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. NRSV

Have a great month and in all things remember to: **Live simply, Love generously, Care deeply, Speak kindly and Leave the rest to God!**

Carolyn Bowman



November Birthdays and *Anniversaries*

- 1 - Dennis Murphy
- 6 - Abby Etter, Colton Warnke, Reed Abbas
- 7 - Austin Warnke
- 8 - Linda Klehm
- 9 - Joy Amonson, Madolyn Kelley, Dustin Rief
- 10 - Jon Drury, Leroy Jensen
- 11 - Jerry Boyington
- 13 - Manie Nel, Jr.
- 16 - Mari Bernhardt, Emily Harris
- 17 - Adelyn Howell
- 18 - Preston Gniadecki
- 19 - Bev Claude, Micki Disney, Joel Renteria
- 20 - Maggie Marker, Ashley Walton
- 21 - Jeff Friesleben, Denise Hocraffer
- 22 - Jenna Anderson, Jill Anderson, Evelyn Fibikar
- 23 - Evan Murphy
- 25 - Arnold Cook
- 26 - Sally Boyington
- 27 - Rilley Ring-Foss
- 28 - Darlene Borel, Judith Olson
- 30 - Brandon Schultz, Helen Southard, Jacqueline Kirstein, *Susan & Sid Baker*

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.

Spirit of Giving:

Each year, the Spirit of Giving Program helps to create a Christmas for children whose families do not have the resources to do so on their own. We do this by assisting with a holiday family meal and by providing gifts for the children in the home. Last year, through the support of the community, we assisted approximately 170 children in the Clarion and Goldfield areas.

Trees will be up in the community by November 15th. These trees will contain information regarding a child for whom a gift may be purchased. Gifts will be available, then, to the family on December 5.

Many thanks! Spirit of Giving Committee,
Jackie Loux, Angie Chapman, Jo Ann Kramer, Eric & Cindy Rector, and Deb Sebbly



KJYL Radio 100.7 FM Share-A-Thon - Our local Christian radio station is having their annual Share-A-Thon. And through your donations to missions, our church will be making a donation of \$500. This will be presented by Pastor Mike to the radio station on-air and live on Thursday, November 5 at 1:00 p.m. Pastor Mike will then be part of the Share-A-Thon program until 2:00 p.m. We will use our donation as a way to encourage other local churches to match it. So let's support the work of KJYL and encourage others to do the same.

Clarion First United Methodist Church Charge Conference 2015

This year's Charge Conference will be after Worship Service on Sunday, November 8.
Put on your calendar and please plan to attend.

Dedication of the Harvest November 8

Since farming is such an essential part of our community, we will have a Dedication of the Harvest on Sunday, November 8 during both worship services. If you are a farmer, I ask that you bring a handful of grain with you to this service. We will place this in a special basket during the offering and we will dedicate all of what God has given us to His service. If you have some friends that are farmers, invite them to come on this Sunday. And even if they cannot come, invite them to give you a handful of grain to place in the special offering basket.

Starting November 15, Melissa (Missy) Hansen will be leading a Sunday School class for young women in their 20's and 30's. She will be going over a book called *Sent: Delivering the gift of hope at Christmas*. It's a 5 week study of advent. If you want to be a part of this study or know other women in this age range who would like to attend, let Missy know at 1-816-383-3340 or Jodi in the church office at 532-2845.



Community FREE Thanksgiving Dinner

(sponsored by the Clarion Ministerial Association)

Thursday, November 26 at 12 p.m.

(we will be eating at Noon sharp!!)

At Clarion - Goldfield High School

(Menu: Turkey, dressing, potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce, rolls, pie and a drink.)

Pick up your FREE ticket at Clarion Super Foods by Monday, November 23rd

Free - will donations will be accepted but not required.



“Apron Strings”

**Homemade Chicken & Biscuit Dinner, salads and pies. Plus a Bake Sale
Wednesday, November 4
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Adults: \$8.00, Children (3-11): \$4.00, Under 3 are FREE. Carry-outs available, call 532-2846, you may call as early as 10 a.m., Dinners may be picked up between 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

What's your specialty? Apple Pie, Dinner Rolls, Fudge, Snack Mix? Whatever you enjoy making, start planning for the annual BAKE SALE taking place during the Chicken Biscuit Dinner on Wednesday, November 4, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.. Please bring items plated and ready to display. They will be priced on site.*



Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27
The Church office will be closed.
Have a blessed Thanksgiving weekend!

Book Club - The New Book is in, “The Round House”. Fiction this time. We will meet the first Wednesday in December (2nd) at 2:30 p.m. at the Clarion Public Library.

Christmas Concert with Pianist Jim Hendricks

Mark your calendar to come and hear this incredible Christian Concert Pianist! Jim Hendricks will be coming to our Church on December 20. He will play a short piece during both worship services. And then he will come back to the Church for a potluck in Fellowship Hall at 5:00 p.m. followed by a 70 minute concert in the Sanctuary. For more information, please see Jim’s website at www.jimhendricksmusic.com We will support Jim’s ministry through a free-will offering.

Friendly Reminder -

Pastor Mike is not in the office on Monday’s. Please respect his day off by waiting until Tuesday to contact him with church business. (If it is an emergency, I’m sure he wants you to contact him. If it can wait, call him on Tuesday.)

Also, Pastor Mike will be taking a week of vacation from Monday, November 16th to Monday, November 23rd. Time away from work gives us a chance to become recharged. May he return refreshed and recharged.

Bud Young, SPRC Chairperson

Winter weather Church closings: If we have winter weather on a weekday that requires us to close the Church and cancel all activities, please always remember, *“If the school district is closed then we are closed.”* So if the school district closed for weather issues, then ALL activities and committee meetings at the Church will be canceled. As for the possibility of canceling worship service on Sunday a.m., closings will be announced in two places. The first is on KJYL Christian Radio’s website at www.KJYL.org. The second is that you can listen to KQWC - Webster City (please note that they only accept cancellation phone calls on Sunday mornings after 9:00 a.m.). So the announcement will be a little later in the morning.

2015 Summer Camp report:

During the month of July I was able to attend Wesley Woods Camp in Indianola. The camp we stayed at was at the bottom of a hill. We slept on top of cots in army tents and cooked our breakfast and suppers over a fire. We constantly were digging around in the woods for sticks we could use that weren’t wet. One thing I learned though is wear bug spray, sunscreen, and carry your water bottle religiously.

On the second day we got up and started heading towards pack out at about 8 am after eating breakfast. Pack out is where we’d take all of our old food and garbage up in crates and give it to the people who worked there. At the end of the day we would go back to pack out to get our food and supplies for supper that night and breakfast in the morning.

After that we went to the main part of the camp. There we played a couple of games with the junior staff. Then we went to lunch and afterwards went to our journeys. Then we went to go swimming in the pool. After that my group packed up into a van and went into Indianola to Cici’s Pizza and then mini golfing. We headed back to camp where we learned about God in the stars.

On the third day we did the same morning routine. After pack out we headed to the main part of camp. Then we did lunch, journeys, swam in the pond, and showered. After that we head up the same place where pack out is because they also had the horse stables. There we rode horses which were very stubborn. Then we got our food for supper and headed back to camp. After supper we headed to one of the outdoor amphitheatres for chapel where we could pray with one of the councilors and sang. We also got attacked by raccoons again that night.

On the fourth day of camp we did our morning routine and then headed to the main part of camp to wait for the tractor. When the tractor came it took us down to go creek stomping where we had a mud war, girls against guys. We won. Then we went back and showered to get all the mud off. Then we went and rode horses again and then had supper. After that we did the high ropes course in the dark with no lights.

On the fifth day of camp it had rained the night before so most of our stuff had gotten soaked. So as soon as possible we headed to the main part of camp where we grabbed the cooler and water jug from the kitchen. Then we all piled up into a van and headed to Adventure land. We road just about every ride there and ate lunch there. We came back just in time for chapel at another amphitheater.

On the last day we went to pack out one last time. Then we went to the amphitheater and sang all our camp songs one last time. Then each group sang their camp song that they made up throughout the week. Then we ate, swam, played games and then showered. Finally the group got to meet our parents and we said our goodbyes to each other.

Again I would like to thank the Men’s group, the Women’s group, and church for helping me go to camp.

Makena Marker