

**APRIL 2016
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
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: Carol Townsend

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

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.

Your Giving Makes a Difference

Last week (3-20-16): \$3,181, Needed weekly: \$3,928
Year-to-date: \$41,733, Needed year-to-date: \$47,136

HOSTS – Changes have been made by the Worship Team. We will no longer have Greeters and Ushers but instead have Hosts. Therefore the hosts, will do the previous greeter and usher duties. Refer to the sheets at the back of the sanctuary for the duties needing done such as a count of all attendees, offering put into drop box, etc. If you have questions please ask Pastor Mike.

APRIL HOSTS: 8:45 a.m. – Roger Brooks
11:00 a.m. – Darren Johnson Family

LITURGIST – April – Bud Young

COMMUNION STEWARDS: April 3 - 8:45 a.m. – Carol Townsend
11:00 a.m. – Ania and Joel Renteria

We are in need of Communion Stewards for 1st Service from July thru December, 2016. Please look at your schedule and if you can fill in your name for one of the Sundays during July - December, it would be most helpful. For anyone who has not served previously, we have Stewards who are willing to provide assistance. Please call Carol Townsend if you have any questions, at 1-630- 334-9846. The sign-up sheet is at the back of the Sanctuary.



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, April 5 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.

Items that go in the duffel bags weekly include:

- Microwave popcorn - 1 box of 3
 - Cereal - 12 oz. box or variety pack
 - Granola bars - 1 box
 - Munchies Snack Pack ex: peanut butter crackers
 - Mac and cheese - 1- 6.5 oz. box
 - Fruit snack packs - ex. Peaches, pears, etc.
 - Instant mashed potatoes - 1 box
 - Dried pinto beans - 1 bag
 - Pudding snack pack
 - White rice - 1-16 oz. Bag
 - Canned chicken - 5 oz. can
- Please take items to the United Congregational Church - west door.
Thank you for any help you can offer.



the Pastor's Notes

April 2016

We are now in the Easter Season. Remember that Easter is not a single Sunday. Instead it is a period of 50 days. And we should be celebrating during this entire time. With all that happened on the cross, and getting our arms around the miracle of Jesus' bodily resurrection, and then walking around and speaking to over 500 people during this 50 day period, it just takes a long time to praise God for all that He did!

Here are some questions for you to contemplate:

1. What is the highest and holiest day on the Christian calendar?

- a. Every Sunday is the highest and holiest day! Every Sunday is a precious time to come together as The Body of Christ, be forgiven again, feel loved, be transformed, and experience the joy of worshiping Christ. We need this on a weekly basis to keep us on the narrow path.
2. Within all those Sundays, which period is the highest and holiest?
 - a. Easter is the highest and holiest period. It is the very focal point of what we believe in, what we trust in, and the promise that only belief in Christ can fulfill. So don't miss a single Sunday during the 50 day Easter period. Let's love on each other and give thanks to God!
3. What is the next highest and holiest day?
 - a. It is Pentecost. Pentecost occurs at the end of the 50 days of Easter. This year, Pentecost falls on May 15. Just a few days before Pentecost, Jesus ascended back onto the throne in Heaven. And when He did, the Holy Spirit began leading Christ's Church, and will continue to lead Christ's Church until He physically returns. Pentecost is the birthday of The Body! It is the Birthday of Christ's Church. Every Christian should be in Church on Pentecost and prepare themselves to experience the power of the Holy Spirit.

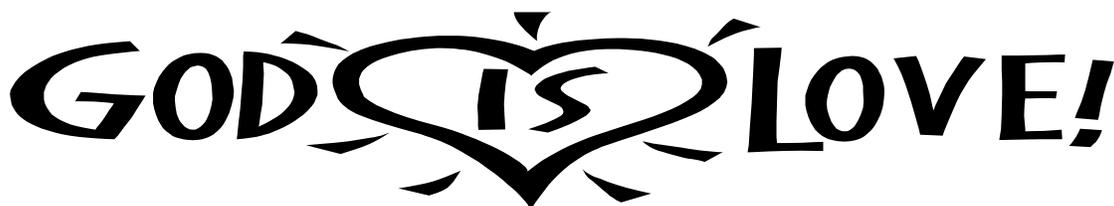
During the latter part of this high and holy period, I will begin teaching on the entire book of Revelation. During this season when we remember Christ's first coming, we also need to be ready for when He comes again. This sermon series will begin on May 8 and run through July 10. The Book of Revelation is not a scary book, and it is not that hard to understand. And it is critical for all Christians to have a clear picture regarding Christ's second coming. After all, it is what we pray for every time during the Lord's Prayer when we say, "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven." We are praying for Christ to return and have the same things going on here on earth that happen in Heaven. It is a prayer asking for God to take us all home, for all eternity!

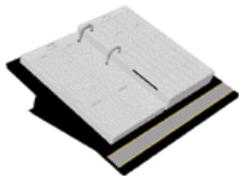
One of the reasons that I am doing this series over much of the summer, is that I want to encourage you to come to Church. Nowhere in the Bible does it say that we should take the summer off from Christ. After all, Christ does not take the summer off from being there for us. I know that many people take vacations during the summer, and I plan to do that too. But let's stay together as The Body of Christ. Let's stay connected to Christ and to each other all summer long.

God bless, Pastor Mike

Audio / Visual Project Approved!

Many, many thanks to all those who came to the Charge Conference on March 13 to authorize the new audio / visual project. It passed unanimously 62 to 0. This all started many months ago with a project team looking into the possibilities. It was then approved by the Trustees, Worship, and Finance Teams. It was then approved by Church Council. Then during February, we held several Q&A sessions and heard some words of witness, in support of the project over 4 Sundays. Then we held a pledge Sunday on February 28, 2016 where the project was FULLY FUNDED through pledges over 3 years. And today, we went through the final part of the approval process and that resulted in a unanimous approval by The Church Body. We will now proceed with securing the \$110,000 line of credit and get this thing going. *If you made a pledge for 2016, please begin to send that pledge into the Church. If you did not make a pledge, but still want to help out, that would be great too. Make sure and mark on your check "For Audio/Visual Project."* And always remember, that your tithe to help pay for the ongoing expenses of the church comes first. And this project is an "above and beyond" offering. Please pray that all of this project will be used to bring glory to God. Remember, this is not about electronics, instead it is about bringing people closer to Christ!





April Calendar

- 1-3 Chrysalis Flight Event at the First United Methodist Church
3 – Communion Sunday
 8:45 a.m. Traditional Service
 10:00 a.m. Sunday school
 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Service
 6:00 p.m. Young Adults and Families
4 – 3:30 – 6:00 p.m. Hiz Kidz
5 – 1:00 – 6:00 p.m. Blood drive at UPC
6 – 8:30 a.m. Bibles and Bikes
 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. CHICKS
 6:00 p.m. Youth Group team
 6:00 p.m. Praise Team practice
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir practice
 7:00 p.m. Education Team meeting
9 – 7:30 a.m. His Men
 9:00 a.m. Youth Group Spring Retreat
 7:00 p.m. Bob Colquhoun Concert (Sanctuary)
10- 8:45 a.m. Traditional Service
 10:00 a.m. Sunday school
 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Service
 Youth Group retreat through 3 p.m.
11- 3:30 – 6:00 p.m. Hiz Kidz
 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Tigers den meeting
12- 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts
 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Wolves and Bears den meeting
 7:00 p.m. Missions, Outreach and Evangelism Team meeting
13- 8:30 a.m. Bibles and Bikes
 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
14- 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Webelos
 No SPRC meeting
15- Newsletter Articles Due
16- 8:30 a.m. Trustee Work Day
17- 8:45 a.m. Traditional Service
 10:00 a.m. Sunday school
 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Service
18- 3:30 – 6:00 p.m. Hiz Kidz
 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Tigers den meeting
 7:00 p.m. Lydia Circle
19- 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Wolves and Bears den meeting
20- 8:30 a.m. Bibles and Bikes
 2:00 p.m. Isabella Thoburn Circle (Connie Hill's)
 2:30 p.m. Grace Stockwell Circle (Fireside Room)
 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. CHICKS
 6:00 p.m. Praise Team practice
 6:00 p.m. Finance Team meeting
 No Trustees meeting (next meeting will be May 18)

- 7:00 p.m. Church Council meeting
- 21- 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Webelos
- 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Young Adults and Families
- 23- 7:30 a.m. His Men
- 24- 8:45 a.m. Traditional Service
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday school
- 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Service
- 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Power Prayer Group
- 25- 3:30 – 6:00 p.m. Hiz Kidz
- 27- 8:30 a.m. Bibles and Bikes
- 2:00 p.m. Outreach at The Meadows
- 6:00 p.m. Praise Team practice
- 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Youth Group
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir practice
- 29- 2:30 p.m. BINGO for Quarterly Committee

Get ready....

YoUTh GrOuP's SPRING RETREAT is coming!

"A Hometown Adventure"

April 9th-10th @ Clarion UMC

All youth grades 7-12 welcome

MEET: 9:00am on Saturday, April 9th at Clarion UMC

RETURN: around 3:00pm on Sunday, April 10th

COST: \$20/person (includes 4 meals and transportation)

BRING: Bible, sleeping bag & pillow, change of clothes, toiletries, and FRIENDS!!

REGISTRATION: please turn in your signed permission slip and registration forms to a youth ministry volunteer (Emily, Jody, Karianne, Allison, Anna, or Tyler) **by Sunday, April 3rd!!**

Powerful FREE Christian Concert and Word of Witness by Bob Colquhoun

On Saturday, April 9 from 7:00 to 9:00 PM please come and hear a powerful word-of-witness and Christian Concert by Bob Colquhoun. It will be held in the sanctuary. Bob features contemporary Christian Music and an incredible word-of-witness. Invite all your friends and you will hear a message through testimony and music of going from the highest mountain, to the darkest valley in prison, and then how God led Bob out and into the light that only can come from belief in Jesus Christ. For more information about Bob and his ministry, go to livegodnow.org. Let's pack the house with folks from all walks of life, all ages, and all backgrounds!



Mark your calendar: SUNDAY, MAY 1 is YOUTH SUNDAY! 11:00 a.m. Worship Service
 Join us this Sunday as the youth lead worship, share testimonies, and display their wonderful God-given talents. We will also be honoring our graduates, awarding our memory work participants, and thanking our Sunday school teachers. And be sure to stay for an all-church potluck after the contemporary service. This will be a Sunday you won't want to miss!



April Birthdays and *Anniversaries*

- 3 – Max Smith
- 7 – Ben Morford
- 10 – Parker Gniadecki, *Jamie and Chance Wahl*
- 11 – Alan Beenken
- 12 – *Kristal and Gary Anderson, Whitney and Dan Carey*
- 15 – *Jodi and Roy Kraft*
- 16 – Louise Lester, Tanja Jensen
- 18 – Maureen Elston, Sue Mechem
- 20 – Jill Harrington
- 21 – George Boyington, *Cindy and Doug Riley*
- 22 – Jim Moore, Jr., Virginia Sadler
- 23 – Dixie Beenken, *Holly and Steve Martin*
- 24 – Bridget Warnke, Carol Townsend
- 25 – Mike Nail
- 26 – Pam Harklau
- 27 – Kay Brooks, Steve Jackson
- 28 – *Sharon and Terry Evans*
- 30 – Karianne Johnson, Robin Meinders

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.

April Sound Technician Schedule

- April 3 - 8:45 a.m. - Sound – Kathy Watts
Computer - Kathy Watts
- 11:00 a.m. - Sound – Kim Marker
Computer – Judy Kirstein
- April 10 - 8:45 a.m. - Sound – Kathy Watts
Computer - Kathy Watts
- 11:00 a.m. - Sound – Kim Marker
Computer – Judy Kirstein
- April 17 - 8:45 a.m. - Sound – Judy Kirstein
Computer – Judy Kirstein
- 11:00 a.m. - Sound – Kim Marker
Computer – Judy Kirstein
- April 24 - 8:45 a.m. - Sound – Kathy Watts
Computer - Kathy Watts
- 11:00 a.m. - Sound – Kim Marker
Computer – Stan Busick

New Men's Group - His Men

A new ecumenical men's group has started and the next meeting will be on Saturday, April 9 at 7:30 - 8:30 a.m. Come for a free breakfast and get fired up and challenged by watching and discussing the video series "Authentic Manhood." We meet on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays at 7:30 a.m. So bring your friends and your sons and let's talk about what it means to be a true Christian man.



Women's Fellowship

UMW Notes / April 2016

Palm Sunday is the first day of spring. The weatherman has certainly been good to us in the early part of March. I hope that when you read this the warm trend has continued.

I want to remind you of the social action Mission Projects we support as part of the North Central District of U. M. Women. They are:

- Shesler Hall in Sioux City, IA. Shesler Hall is a home for women with special needs.
- Bidwell Riverside Center in Des Moines. Bidwell builds hope for a positive future by helping those in need through their: Food Pantry, Child Care, Preschool, and Clothing Store.
- Hawthorn Hill in Des Moines. Hawthorn Hill establishes and operates housing programs for homeless with children. They help them obtain permanent housing and provide services to help families achieve economic self-sufficiency.

When we ask for support for these institutions, please give generously.

Have you ever wondered what happens to the health kits we put together for the Ingathering in the fall? We are going to be treated to a program by Carolyn Cook, Mary's daughter, about that very subject. She has had the opportunity to volunteer at the Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Chatham, IL, several times. We will be introduced to an amazing ministry by the MMDC. Carolyn will tell us how volunteers are a vital part of that ministry. I'm looking forward to a very interesting presentation. Please put May 11th at noon on your calendar. It is always a great way to get together with members from our church and special guests also.

Remember the reading program. Nancy has books at the Library.

We also have a devotional time on Wednesday mornings at 8:30 a.m. in the church library. Everyone is welcome to attend and when the weather is nice enough, we will be riding our bikes and then having coffee at Grounded. Please get those bikes serviced and ready to ride!

In all things remember to Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God! Enjoy Spring! Carolyn Bowman

A Message from the Finance Team (For April 1 Newsletter)

We are blessed to have so many people who tithe each and every month. Giving a tithe (or 10%) of your income is the only request that God makes that comes with a guarantee. In fact, God encourages you to challenge Him regarding your tithe in Malachi 3:10 "Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing." Tithing is not just about money. This is why God says [paraphrase], "When it comes to the tithe, try me. And if you are faithful to me with your tithe, then my blessings will overwhelm you." Jesus said in Matthew 6:19-20 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. And then in verse 21, Jesus says something very interesting, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." In other words, tithing is about what you believe in, what you have faith in, and what your heart is committed to being a part of.

One of the best ways to handle tithing is to view it as a regular monthly bill. And when you sit down to pay your regular monthly bills, the first check you write should be to the Church for your tithe, and then all the remaining regular bills come next. If you do this, you will be surprised how God always makes sure there is enough.

One of the challenges that most Churches face is that giving is very strong during Christmas and again during Easter, but drops off dramatically during the other months. Especially during the summer months. But unfortunately, the Church still has to pay regular monthly bills like utilities and payroll during these times when giving is down.

For some people, it works best financially for them to give a large amount at year-end or at other specific times of the year. And if this is your situation, we thank you and do not want you to feel like you need to change anything.

For others, it is an important part of their faith journey to physically place their offering in the plate on Sunday. And of course this is always greatly appreciated. Thank you!

For others they want to give on a regular basis, but maybe they stay at another location during the winter or summer, or take long vacations, find it hard to come to church during certain times of the year, or have jobs that allow them to only attend church on certain Sundays. For these people, we would like to encourage them to take a look at using their bank's bill pay process, or look into payroll deduction, or use direct deposit into the Church's account.

If you are not familiar with bill pay, it is a great way to pay bills on a regular basis and at most banks it costs you nothing. The bank will mail the Church a check on the regular date that you decide, and the bank even pays for the envelope and postage stamp. (So you do not have to use your personal checks that you have to pay for.) This can be a very convenient way to make sure your tithe comes into the Church on a regular basis. And it can help the Church even out our cash flow during the slower months. And best yet, it will help you show your faith in Christ's Church and you will keep on storing more treasure in heaven!

IMPORTANT NOTE: *If you use bill pay, payroll deduction, or direct deposit, it will automatically come into the Church as a general offering. If you want any portion to be designated into a specific Church fund, then you must let Jodi know in advance. Then when she receives the bank report, she can account for the funds as you have designated.*

For bill pay, if you already use on-line banking, then you may be able to set this up yourself on your bank's web site. Or you can go into your bank's office and they will help you. Here is the information that you will need to setup bill pay, payroll deduction, or direct deposit with your bank or employer:

1. For bill pay, payroll deduction, or direct deposit:

First Citizens National Bank

From (YOUR NAME) for Credit to "United Methodist Church Direct Deposit" (for security reasons, please contact Jodi for the bank routing and account numbers at 515-532-2845 or jodi@clarionumc.com)

P.O. Box 268

Clarion, IA 50525

2. And then pick the date you want the check sent and you are ready to go.

Whatever way is easiest for you to help continue Christ's work through tithing, we are most grateful. When it comes to giving, Clarion First UMC has it built into our DNA. And we rejoice in this spiritual gift of The Body! So thank you, thank you, thank you for all you give to Christ's Church through your time, talent, tithe, prayer, and witness! Through your faith, we will continue to grow and do even greater things for God's Kingdom.

Finance Committee Meeting

March 2, 2016 – 6:00 p.m.

Fireside Room

Chairman Bowman opened with a devotion based on Matthew 19:22. The theme was building "Treasurers in Heaven".

Andy Schutt reviewed the January financial report. The balance of over \$9000.00 was noted. It was also noted that there had been a significant increase in both church attendance as well as church giving.

The Capital Campaign numbers were discussed. Our total of \$112,000.00 in pledges was noted. There was some concern of what might happen if some pledges were not fulfilled. We also noted that increases of pledges in the coming weeks would increase our pledged totals.

It was moved by Kent Kirstein and seconded by Steve Hill that if there were an overrun of funds for this project, the extra funds would be set aside for other special projects rather than be added to the general budget. The treasurer could use only \$2000 of the special project funds for emergency purposes. Any other use would need to be approved by the Church Council. Any emergency funds would need to be repaid to the endowed fund by year-end, if possible. Motion passed and will be sent to the Church Council for final approval.

The Committee also discussed the use of direct payments for general giving as well as for the Capital Campaign. The payment plan will be ready to go by April 1. The funds will be deposited into the church account at First Citizens National Bank. It was noted that everyone who wishes to use this service should contact the Church Secretary to get the proper account information.

Pastor Mike closed the meeting with a word of prayer.

Trustee's Report -

First I would like to thank everyone who supported the audio-visual project in such a positive way. This shows what we can accomplish for God and our church when we put our minds together. The Trustees are having an "All Church Work Day" on April 16th. Please show up at 8:30 am and help for whatever time you can-even if it's a short time. There will be various jobs - some small - some bigger - but there will be something for everyone to do with all kinds of skill levels.

We will not have a trustee meeting in April - so the next meeting will be Wednesday, May 18th.

Ken Bernhardt, Trustee Chairman

Trustee Work Day Saturday, April 19 at 8:30 AM

The Trustees have lots of items that need to be repaired and we need your help! Everyone is invited to come and help on Saturday, April 19 at 8:30 a.m. And if you would like to help with a specific project, here is a list of the projects and the member of the Trustees that is leading each project. Please sign up on the clipboard located in the back of the sanctuary or contact the lead project persons listed below. Please come even if you just want to help out where ever you are needed! The Trustees will provide the materials for each project, but if you have tools, please bring them:

Led by Jan Murphy and Shannon Leist:

- Paint Red Welcome Sign in front of the Church (the one with small roof)
- Spot paint small areas where the new thermostats were installed and in the kitchen where the new windows were installed
- Take down small bug-infested tree in the backyard of the parsonage

Led by Ken Bernhardt:

- Outside doors that need adjusted to make sure they close all the way (Salad Room door, and two doors on the East side of church)

Led by Todd Sorensen and Doug Riley:

- Pre-K Kindergarten room coat rack and cupboard need small repairs
- Return air vent on West side and in the back of the sanctuary has been kicked in
- Replace current smoke detectors throughout the Church

Let by Craig Warnke:

- Change oil / spark plug / and gas and start the Church's emergency generator
- Put key hole cover on the door leading up to balcony
- Install automatic door closure hinges on six inside doors
- Reattach downspouts located on the back on the Church near the back parking lot
- Church owned snowblower for the parsonage will not start
- Clean gutters on parsonage and seal the seam leaks in the gutters

A HUGE Thank you to everyone who helped Move the Junk out of the church on Saturday, March 19. With many hands helping it made the work go smoother. Thank you to those who also offered the use of their vehicles and equipment to haul it all away. Thanks again Everyone!!



BAPTISMS

March 13 - Miguel Eliazar Chavez - Parents Kendra and Jose Miguel Chavez.

March 27 - Grayson Michael Weber – Parents Jordan Marker and Michael Weber.



"Save the date for VBS 2016! This year's Ecumenical Vacation Bible School program will be held Sunday, July 24th through Thursday, July 28th. The theme this year is "Surf Shack: Catch the wave of God's Amazing Love!" As with every year, we will need teachers, helpers, kitchen gurus, and snack-making extraordinaires. As we get closer to the date, we will pass around a sign-up sheet for our snack night as well as for providing bars or cookies for our final night meal. * Please note: If you are planning to be present at VBS, you will need to sign our Safe Sanctuary forms. These can be obtained from Pastor Mike, Jodi Kraft, or Nikki Conlon. If you have any other questions, or if you would like to teach or help at VBS, please contact Nikki at 532-2203. Thank you for your service to God and His children!"

QUARTERLY COMMITTEE (APRIL, MAY AND JUNE)

April Co-chairpersons

Mary and Norm Carlson	532-9128
Karianne and Jake Johnson	532-6818

May Co-chairpersons

Kay and Roger Brooks	532-2092
Sandra Larick	532-2294

June Co-chairpersons

Katy and Craig Warnke	532-2419
Pam Brockman	532-3661

Additional Committee persons:

Sara and Jeremy Abbas
 Evelyn Fibikar
 Brett Hansen
 Sarah Hansen
 Stacy Jackson
 Lois Leshar
 Jenna and Jillian Anderson
 Shirley Campbell
 Pam and Kent Harklau
 Marge Moore
 Ania and Joel Renteria
 Deb and Duane Adams
 Carolyn and Chuck Etter
 Kelly Leu
 Mandi and Clint Middleton
 Lynette and Dan Smith
 Joanne White

Joy Amonson
 Shelley and Tim Fletcher
 Melissa Hansen
 Theresa and Jeff Hansen
 Carol and David Leshar
 Linda and Kirk Rier
 Kristal and Gary Anderson
 Nikki and Tom Conlon
 Linda and Terry Jackson
 Mary Lester
 Jean and Jim Snively
 Laura Beenken
 Chantelle Kinnetz
 Linda and Scott McCormick
 Donna and Rob Miller

CLARION FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

FEBRUARY 24, 2016

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

Chairperson, Carol Townsend, called the meeting to order. Joys and Concerns were brought forward. Bob read a devotion and Pastor Mike offered a prayer. Carolyn reviewed the prologue from to the book "Not a Fan". Tana & Jerry Boyington reviewed Chapters 1 & 2. The agenda was adopted. Denny made a motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting. Second by Ken. Motion voted on and carried.

Andy presented the Treasurer's Report. Tana made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Second by Jake. Motion voted on and carried. Discussion was held about having supplies ready in the kitchen area. It was decided that the Chair of the Committee of the Quarter would be sure it was stocked at the end of each month, so it would be ready. Nancy made a motion that the UMW make a list of kitchen supplies that should be stocked. Second by Denny. Voted on and carried.

Pastor Mike passed out a form that needs to be filled out by anyone that works with the children. It needs to be completed for our Safe Sanctuary policy.

Pledges are coming in for the Audio/Visual project. Miracle Sunday is planned for February 28th. Carolyn made a motion to have a Charge Conference on Sunday, March 13th from 12:15 – 12:30 p.m. to approve the Audio/Visual project. Second by Tana. Voted on and carried.

Discussion was held regarding Easter Sunrise Service. Ken made a motion to not have the Sunrise Service or breakfast. Second by Kelly. Motion voted on and carried. Pastor Mike and Ken reported on the alarm system. There will be a second keypad by the back door. All doors will be rekeyed with a go live date of June 1st.

Jamie Wahl approached Pastor Mike about having a day where people could set-up and sell their products with a portion of the profits to go towards the Audio/Visual project. Second by Ken. Motion voted on and carried. All the lights have been replaced.

Carolyn made a motion to add Emma Conlon, Morgan Middleton and Jody Johnson to the Missions, Outreach and Evangelism team. Second by Nancy. Motion voted on and carried. The question was brought up as to what to do with the library as it is rarely used and many of the books are old. Janet made a motion to clean out the library with a notice put out that if anyone wants the books they can take them, then the rest would be disposed of. Second by Tana. Motion voted on and carried.

Clean out day will be March 19th. Anyone who can come help haul out is asked to come at 8:00 a.m. The Trustees are having a work day April 16th at 8:30 a.m. There are many small projects around the church that need to be completed.

Pastor Mike reported that a new video surveillance camera will be at the Main entrance door so Jodi can see who is coming in the Church. The Chrysalis Flight is scheduled for April 1-3 at our church. Denny made a motion to change the memorial donation process so that all memorials that come in will be given to the Chairperson of the Memorial team to deposit and record. Second by Kelly. Motion voted on and carried.

Pastor Mike reported that the Servant Keeper Software will be fully migrated in on January 1, 2017. The software tracks membership and donations. Jodi reported on the importance of having attendance books signed and people counted. It was reported that attendance and donations have increased.

Tana reported for the Education Team that she has looked at the curriculum "The Story" for next year and feels it is very well written. They are working on events, dates and memory work. Lynette Smith is the new Co-Superintendent. Nancy made a motion to add her to the Education Team. Second by Ken. Motion voted on and carried.

Memorial Team – Janet reported the information was covered earlier in the meeting.

Staff Parish Relations Team – Jerry reported that they have lined up speakers to cover when Pastor Mike is on vacation.

Worship Team – Kelly made a motion to add Alison Friesleben to her team. Second by Carolyn. Motion voted on and carried. She reported that they are using Host/Hostesses during the services. They will also be discussing the second service going over and service time for the summer.

Jake reported for the Younger Adults and Families Team – They are planning on meeting twice a month.

Finance Team – Denny reported that they will meet next Wednesday, March 2 to look at pledges and decide whether to proceed with the Audio/Visual project. He has also met with the bank to set-up a line of credit which will put a mortgage on the parsonage. They are also working on getting on-line donations set-up.

Mission, Outreach and Evangelism Team – Pastor Mike reported they are looking into Mission trips.

Board of Trustees –Ken reported the information was covered earlier in the meeting.

UMW – Carolyn reported that they are planning the May luncheon. She has talked to the kitchen designer. UMW will be in charge of the service on April 10th and will have a speaker from Bidwell-Riverside.

Youth Group Team – Jody reported that they have a retreat planned for April 9 – 10th. Several of the leaders will be attending a leadership retreat. A brunch on Palm Sunday is planned as a fund raiser.

The next meeting will be March 23rd at 7:00 p.m. Jody closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully Submitted by
Kathy Watts, Secretary



- *In loving memory of June Herbst, who was born on Easter Sunday, from Bob Herbst.*
- *In loving memory of Joel Renteria, Jr. (son), Todor Basarboliev (father), Marcos Estrada (foster son), from Ania and Joel Renteria.*
- *In loving memory of Blaine Nickles and Marlene Mosher, Harriet and Melvin Tysdal, Bob Tysdal, Ilo and Jennie Nickles, from Melvene Nickles.*
- *In memory of Donald E. Bowman, from his wife Dolores and his children and step children.*
- *In memory of LaDonna Speaker, Arthur Ruemmele, Larry and Dan Johnson, from Miriam and Leroy Jensen.*
- *In loving memory of Lila & Richard Amonson, Mike Riley & Will Johnson, love from the family.*