

**OCTOBER 2018  
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: Sam Moore  
Financial Secretary: Jodi Kraft  
Church Council Chair: Carol Townsend

Custodians: Aishel Goins and Carol Townsend

**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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**Sunday Teachings are Now Online**

If you want to see the past Sunday teachings on "The Story", please go to our website and click on "Teachings" at [www.clarionumc.com](http://www.clarionumc.com)

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**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.

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Life Serve of Iowa (blood drive) will be at the Clarion United Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, October 2 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

**Your Giving Makes a Difference**

Last week: \$2,760 (8-19-2018), Needed weekly: \$3,577  
Year-to-date: \$107,250, Needed year-to-date: \$121,718



## **October 2018 Newsletter Article**

Let's start out with a little fun. The following are some announcements that unfortunately made it through the proof-reading process without being caught, and ended up being printed in different Church bulletins:

- Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.
- Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.
- The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.
- Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00pm Prayer and medication to follow.
- The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.
- This evening at 7:00pm there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.
- Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10:00. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B.S. is done.
- The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.
- Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7:00pm. Please use the back door.
- The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7:00pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.
- Weight Watchers will meet at 7:00pm at the Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.
- The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: "I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours."

Well below are several very important announcements that we hope we have fully proofread. So please mark your calendars and invite others to attend!

**Saturday, November 3 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM:** We will be a host Church for this Wesley Covenant Association live simulcast. The Wesley Covenant Association is a group of thousands of Evangelical pastors, individuals, and Churches around the globe that are seeking to retain our Biblically orthodox Wesleyan heritage. Are you interested in hearing some powerful uplifting preaching from some of the best preachers in the world? Or how about some fun and exciting music? Or how about learning more about the conflict that is tearing the United Methodist Church apart, but hearing about it in a truthful and hope-filled way that encourages and empowers you to get involved? Or how about preparing yourself for the Special Conference that will occur on February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri where this divisive issue will be decided? This is a live simulcast that will be broadcast from Mt. Bethel United Methodist Church in Marietta, Georgia. And we will be joining United Methodist Churches from around the world in this a global event called, "Unashamed." We anticipate attendees arriving at our Church from all over upper Iowa. The cost for this all-day event is \$50 and you can register at <https://wesleyancovenant.org/unashamed/>. Lunch and snacks will be included in your registration fee. This will be shown on the large TVs in the Sanctuary. The registration fee for this event might seem high, but the costs to the Wesley Covenant Association to video record and transmit an event like this is enormous. Please know that this is one of the most a critical education events about the future of our Church that will occur in your lifetime. So if the cost is too high for you to attend, please see Pastor Mike about the possibility of getting some scholarship funds.

**Sunday, November 4 from 7:00 to 9:15 PM:** The Mission, Outreach, and Evangelism Committee will host an outreach event called, "Fight Night with Dr. Les and Leslie Parrott. A fun date night...A relationship game-changer. You'll laugh, learn, grow closer, and never look at fighting the same way." This simulcast is for couples of all ages and it will be shown on the large TVs in the sanctuary. There is no cost and childcare will be provided. So we will know how many volunteers to have in the nursery, please sign-up for this event on the

clipboard in the back of the sanctuary, or by calling the Church office at 515-532-2845.

**Sunday, March 24, 2019:** Okay, this date might seem like a ways off; but to make certain you can attend, you will want to mark your calendars now! The Mission, Outreach, and Evangelism Committee will be bringing in to our Church one of the top Christian comedians in our country. His name is Brad Stine. Guys, if you have attended a Promise Keepers event, then you heard Brad Stine. Brad will give his testimony (with a lot of laughs) during the 8:30 and 10:45 services. Then at 7:00 PM on this same day, Brad will present a comedy-hour that will have your sides splitting with laughter. These are all free events, but we will have a place for a free-will offering if you want to directly support Brad's ministry. This is an outreach and mission community-wide event that will bring people to Christ. So invite your family and friends and let's have some fun while deepening our relationship with Christ.

God bless,  
Pastor Mike

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**Friendly Reminder** from Staff Parish Relations Committee

Please remember that Mondays are the one day a week that Pastor Mike tries to save for rest and recuperation. In the event that an emergency, Pastor Mike would still like for you to contact him.

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**October Hosts –**

October 7, 14, 21, 28 (8:30 a.m.) – Shelley and Tim Fletcher  
(10:45 a.m.) – Theresa and Jeff Hansen

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**October Liturgist –** Jeff Farwell

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**October Communion Stewards:** 8:30 a.m. – Carol Townsend and Cindy Riley  
10:45 a.m. – Ania and Joel Renteria

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**Communion Steward Volunteers Needed:** If you are looking for a way to serve the Church in 2018, look no further. Communion Stewards are needed for the 8:30 a.m. Traditional Services in October and November, 10:45 a.m. Contemporary Services in November and December. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve the Church. If you have any question about the duties of a Communion Steward, please contact Carol Townsend, Deb Keller, Donna Miller or Ania Renteria. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the Sanctuary with the available dates.

## October Birthdays and *Anniversaries*

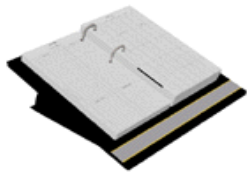
- 1 – Juliet Gudka, *Kim and Bob Ott*
- 2 – Marlin Klehm, Lynette Smith
- 4 – Paul Ahlstrom
- 5 – Sydney Friesleben
- 6 – Dorla Hill
- 9 – Jennifer Mewes
- 11 – Pam Bradshaw, Carolyn Etter

- 13 – Zach Martin  
 16 – Makena Marker, Jorge Martinez, **Karianne and Jake Johnson**  
 19 – Marilyn Disney, Jan Murphy  
 20 – **Sally and George Boyington, Rose and Adolph Meinders**  
 21 – Chuck Etter, Howard Miller, ElMarie Nel, Rhonda Ray, Brenda Steenhardt, Ian Wahl, **Helen and Ed Southard, Janice and Jim Morford, Melanie and Tom Riley**  
 22 – Rob Miller, Bud Young  
 24 – Dennis Bowman  
 25 – Caleb Krueger, Elizabeth McOllough  
 26 – Jamie Wahl  
 28 – Sara Morford, Ashley Rauch, Steve Simonin, Carol Watts, **Mary and Norm Carlson**  
 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.

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### October Calendar

- 2 – 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. Mom's Fellowship  
 1:00 – 6:00 p.m. Blood drive at UPC  
 3:30 – 6:00 p.m. Hiz Kidz  
 3 – 8:30 a.m. Bibles and Bikes  
 2:00 – 3:30 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  
 No Education Team meeting in October  
 5 – Noon – Impact for Women, contact Martha Martinez  
 7 – World Communion Sunday  
 8:30 a.m. Traditional Service  
 9:40 a.m. Sunday school  
 10:45 a.m. Contemporary Service  
 2:00 – 4:30 p.m. Charge Conference at Eagle Grove United Methodist Church  
 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. "Armor of God" Bible Study  
 6:00 p.m. DVD at The Meadows  
 8 – 6:00 p.m. Wolf and Bear Den meeting – Boy Scouts  
 9 – 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. Mom's Fellowship  
 3:30 – 6:00 p.m. Hiz Kidz  
 6:00 p.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> year Webelos – Boy Scouts  
 10 – 8:30 a.m. Bibles and Bikes  
 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Youth Group  
 6:00 p.m. Praise Team practice  
 6:30 p.m. Finance meeting  
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir practice  
 8:00 p.m. Worship Team meeting  
 11 – 7:00 p.m. SPRC  
 14 – 8:30 a.m. Traditional Service  
 9:40 a.m. Sunday school

10:45 a.m. Contemporary Service  
 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. “Armor of God” Bible Study  
 6:00 p.m. DVD at The Meadows  
 15 – 7:00 p.m. Lydia Circle  
 16 - 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. Mom’s Fellowship  
 3:30 – 6:00 p.m. Hiz Kidz  
 6:30 p.m. Trustees meeting  
 17 - 8:30 a.m. Bibles and Bikes  
 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. CHICKS  
 2:00 p.m. Isabella Thoburn at Assisted Living Dining Room  
 6:00 p.m. Praise Team practice  
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir practice  
 19 – Noon – Impact for Women, contact Martha Martinez  
 21 - 8:30 a.m. Traditional Service  
 9:40 a.m. Sunday school  
 10:45 a.m. Contemporary Service  
 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. “Armor of God” Bible Study  
 6:00 p.m. DVD at The Meadows  
 22 – 6:00 p.m. Wolf and Bear Den meeting – Boy Scouts  
 23 - 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. Mom’s Fellowship  
 3:30 – 6:00 p.m. Hiz Kidz  
 6:00 p.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> year Webelos – Boy Scouts  
 24 - 8:30 a.m. Bibles and Bikes  
 2:00 p.m. Communion at The Meadows  
 6:00 p.m. Praise Team practice  
 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Youth Group  
 No Chancel Choir practice  
 7:00 p.m. Church Council meeting  
 26 – 2:30 p.m. BINGO for Quarterly Committee  
 28 - 8:30 a.m. Traditional Service  
 9:40 a.m. Sunday school  
 10:45 a.m. Contemporary Service  
 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. “Armor of God” Bible Study  
 6:00 p.m. DVD at The Meadows  
 31 - 8:30 a.m. Bibles and Bikes  
 6:00 p.m. Praise Team practice  
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir practice

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**Upcoming Charge Conference date:** Sunday, October 7, 2:00 – 4:30 p.m. at Eagle Grove United Methodist Church, please plan to attend.

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## YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group is in need of volunteers to provide dinner to our youth. Each night we are asking for 2 people to bring the meal plus table service, so feel free to sign up with a friend! Please visit <http://signup.com/go/nyBiAvg> to sign up or contact Allison Warnke at 515-238-2285 or [allison.m.warnke@gmail.com](mailto:allison.m.warnke@gmail.com). Thank you!

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### **We Need Video Camera Volunteers**

We are in need of many more volunteers to run the video camera. And we need volunteers at both services. NO TECHNICAL SKILLS ARE REQUIRED and training will be provided! This is a great opportunity to help us get the weekly services out to The Meadows Assisted Living and onto the internet. If you can help out, please see Judy Kirstein, 515-851-0424, [kirsteinjudy@gmail.com](mailto:kirsteinjudy@gmail.com) as soon as possible!

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

**October Co-Chairpersons:** Janet and Dennis Hennigar  
Tana and Jerry Boyington

**November Co-Chairpersons:** Nancy and Mike Nail  
Mary and Norm Carlson

**December Co-Chairpersons:** Carolyn and Chuck Etter  
Sue and Mike Mechem

#### **Additional Committee members:**

|                                  |                           |                          |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Dixie and Alan Beenken           | Pam Bradshaw              | Marlene Brown            |
| Bev Claude                       | Helen and Larry Golden    | Bob Herbst               |
| Cheryl Hilgendorf                | Steve Simonin             | Brenda Rauch             |
| Rose and Adolph Meinders         | Marilyn and George Disney | Lisa and Alan Hagie      |
| Bob and Elizabeth Murphy         | Linda Marker              | Teryl Marker             |
| RoseAnn Baumer and Mike Bowman   | Melissa and Terry Hackley | Staci and Tony Miller    |
| Denise and Richard Hocraffer     | Amy and Scott Wiezorak    | Janet and Mark Disney    |
| Janice and Jim Morford           | Emily and Mark Bernhardt  | Kendra and Miguel Chavez |
| Elizabeth and Nicholas McOllough | Kim and Paul Gniadecki    | Carol and Leland Watts   |
| Dawn and Jim Rasmussen           |                           |                          |

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### **CLARION FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES AUGUST 22, 2018**

The Church Council of the Clarion First United Methodist Church met on Wednesday, August 22, 2018 with thirteen members and one guest present: Carolyn Bowman, Dennis Bowman, Jerry Boyington, Tana Boyington, Pastor Mike Gudka, Kelly Kirstein, Kent Kirstein, Jodi Kraft, Kim Marker, Daniel Murray, Kari Jo Murray, Carol Townend, Kathy Watts and Bud Young. Andy Young was the guest.

Chairperson, Carol called the meeting to order. Kent made a motion to adopt the agenda. Second by Bud. Voted on and carried. Denny made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting (March 21, 2018). Second by Kent. Voted on and carried. Kent presented the Treasurer's Report. We are doing good and much better than last year. The ACH deposits seem to be helping.

Kim offered devotions. Members discussed the research presented by Pastor Mike and the videos and the book regarding the Special Conference coming in February 2019 in St. Louis. Kim presented a report on Annual Conference and her experience there. Andy Young presented a Word of Witness on his thoughts and feelings about the Special Conference decisions that might be made. There will be a live simulcast by the Wesley Global Gathering titled "Unashamed" at our church on Saturday, November 3 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Bud made a motion to allow "Proteus" to use our church. Second by Tana. Voted on and carried. Proteus provides basic health care for migrant workers. Carolyn made a motion to accept the draft as follows: While on Church property, all outside groups that use the Church's facility must respect and remain in alignment with the Church's beliefs found in the Book of Discipline; must follow the established Safe Sanctuary Policy; and must have proof of liability insurance. Exceptions to having liability insurance may be granted in specific situations (e.g. birthday parties, graduation parties, one-time education events, etc.). Second by Kim. Voted on and carried.

Rally Sunday will be September 9. All are encouraged to invite other to come. Services for the unchurched are being planned with Missionary training on Sunday, October 7, at 6:00 p.m. A practice run will be at Pizza Ranch on Sunday, October 14 at 5:00 p.m. with the first gathering on Sunday, November 11, at 5:00 p.m. at Pizza Ranch. They plan to meet monthly. Pastor Mike reported there will be slight changes to the beginning of the traditional service. Some upcoming Outreach events are Sunday, November 4 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. "Fight Night: A Fun Date Night" and March 28 the Christian Comedian Brad Stine will be presenting at both services and have a comedy show in the evening.

Charge Conference will be October 7 at the Eagle Grove Methodist Church.

Tana reported for the Education team. Rally Sunday will be September 9. The two services will start that day. Pastor Mike will be teaching Confirmation. Third graders will be presented with Bibles. The Christmas program will be December 9. Chrysalis will be here April 5 – 7. May 5 will be High School Senior and Teacher recognition with the Youth in charge of the Contemporary Service. The last day of Sunday school is May 12. Lesa Fishburn is starting a fellowship class for young moms. A written report from the Memorial team was presented. Staff Parish – Jerry reported that they haven't met. Pastor Mike reported for the Worship team that Karen and Lloyd Hill will be visiting shut-ins. CHICKS – Kelly reported that they will be meeting the first Wednesday in September. She is planning a Bible Study with girls and women. She is doing a teen ministry using Instagram. MOE – Daniel and Kari Jo reported they met last Sunday. There are Bibles in English and Spanish to give out. They have sent funds to Malawi to finish the Church. They are planning "Fight Night" and Brad Stine as mentioned earlier. A BBQ is planned at Lantern Apartments on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Plans are to go to "Beacon of Hope" on March 30<sup>th</sup>. Board of Trustees – Pastor Mike reported they are working on a leak in the basement. They have worked on the front church steps. The west sidewalk and front step to the education wing. The elevator will be serviced. UMW – Carolyn reported that "Sister's Day" was cancelled due to lack of interest. They will be working on the Chicken and Biscuit Dinner and Christmas Dinner. Youth Group – They will be meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday's with a kick off planned on September 12.

The next meeting is September 26, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. Kim closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathy Watts, Secretary