

**OCTOBER 2020  
CLARION CONNECTION  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
201 3<sup>RD</sup> AVENUE NE  
CLARION, IA 50525**

**Pastor: Rev. Mike Gudka  
Pastor Mike's cell: 515-835-7847  
Church Phone: 515-532-2845**

**Email: [pastormikegudka@gmail.com](mailto:pastormikegudka@gmail.com)**

**Website: [www.clarionumc.com](http://www.clarionumc.com)**

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

Church Treasurer: Sam Moore  
Financial Secretary: Jodi Kraft  
Church Council Chair: Bud Young  
Custodians: Carol Townsend and Juliet Gudka

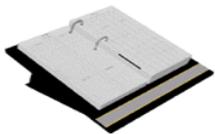
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If your email address has changed please email the change to the church office at [jodi@clarionumc.com](mailto:jodi@clarionumc.com)  
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**Keep up with Happenings in Our Church**

If you are a Facebook user, search for "Clarion First United Methodist Church" and join our page. That way you will keep up with current happenings at our Church. In addition, check out our website at <https://www.clarionumc.com> (no "f") and look at past teachings, see what is on the Church calendar, and lots more.

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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 CALENDAR**

Pastor Mike's newsletter article lists several upcoming events at the Church. Most other activities at the Church are canceled due to the COVID – 19 pandemic. Please keep updated by going to [www.clarionumc.com](http://www.clarionumc.com) there are activities listed on the calendar on the website (too many to change at this point).

- October 4, 11, 18 and 25, Sunday school, 9:30 a.m.
- October 4, 11, 18 and 25, Sunday worship, 10:30 a.m.
- October 6, 13, 20 and 27 – 3:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. - Whiz Kidz
- Wednesday, October 21, 7:00 p.m. Church Council meeting via Zoom

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**NEW! Way to Worship!**

We now offer three ways to join your Church family in worship. And our prayers are that you will stay connected with your Church home and find the worship service that works best for your situation:

- **In-Person Worship:** Sunday's at 10:30 AM with alternating worship styles - Social Distancing Policy is in place.
- **Recorded Worship:** This is available on our website by Tuesday of each Week at [www.clarionumc.com](http://www.clarionumc.com).
- **NEW! Live-Streaming Worship:** Join us live on our Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/ClarionFirstUnitedMethodistChurch/>.

Let's all stay connected. Let's lift each other up. And let's continue to be The Body of Christ!





## October 1, 2020 Newsletter Article

Our school district has already had four children test positive for COVID-19. So the reality is that some the children in our community are testing positive for the virus. On a personal note, it was determined that my son Matt was in close contact with one of the students that tested positive. As a result, he spent two-weeks at home in quarantine and using the on-line learning process established by our school. Fortunately, Matt did not contract the virus and he is back in school. And Juliet and I are also just fine and healthy.

We will be starting Sunday school and Confirmation Class on Sunday, October 4, 2020 at 9:30 AM to 10:40 AM. And as a result of these changing conditions and to support and keep safe all of our students, teachers, and adult volunteers; the Church Council has decided to put the following Sunday School policies in place regarding COVID-19.

### Sunday School Safe Distancing and PPE Policy:

- Nursery will not be offered. This is because the children at this age tend to put many things in their mouth and we are unable to keep the various toys sanitized properly.
- Masks are required for all students, teachers, and adult volunteers.
- Shields are required for all teachers and adult volunteers.
- Students will remain in the same seat throughout the class and distancing as much as possible.
- Hand sanitizer will be used before and after class.
- Each student will have his/her own labeled bag of supplies (the Church will provide these items).
- Student education materials will remain with the child throughout the school year and it will not be shared. These materials are to be left in the classroom each Sunday.
- Music will be held in each classroom and not in one large group.
- No attendance or offering will be collected in the Sunday school class. If students bring an offering, the teacher may take the offering and place it in the offering plate in the sanctuary.
- No food will be provided or shared during Sunday School. If a student desires a snack, he/she can bring it with them.
- The water fountains in the Church are closed. Each student may bring his/her own water bottle.
- As a reminder for Kindergarten students, the parents of the student must drop off/pick up their child at the classroom door, and sign their child in/out of the class.
- Some of the assigned classrooms that your child will be in may be different than in previous years. The teachers and adult volunteers will be available to direct you to the appropriate room.
- In the unfortunate event of our school district needing to shut down due to a COVID-19 outbreak, our Sunday School program will also be closed. And once the school district resumes in-person teaching, then our Sunday School program will also resume at this same time.
- If a child forgets his/her mask, there will be extra disposable masks available in the education area.

Have you ever noticed that children mimic what they see adults do? After much thought, discussion, and prayer, the Church Council has decided to align the wearing of masks during worship with what the children will be following in Sunday School. And we hope that you will help demonstrate to the children the safe practice of wearing masks during worship.

### Worship Service Safe Distancing and PPE Policy:

As a result of need to model good behavior for our children, and wanting them, and everyone else, to stay safe and healthy, effective October 4 masks will be required during worship service. Due to the longer separation distance, when the praise band is up front and singing they do not need to wear masks; and when up front teaching, Pastor Mike or whoever is preaching, does not need to wear a mask. But when any of these individuals are greeting or sitting in the pews, masks must be worn. If someone forgets a mask, there are extra disposable masks on the back table in the sanctuary.

### General Church Building Safe Distancing and PPE Policy:

Masks must be worn whenever anyone or a group is in the Church building. And it is critical to let our janitors know what rooms are used. This will help them in their sanitizing efforts. If someone forgets a mask, there are extra disposable masks available in the table in the back of the sanctuary.

Please keep the leaders of our Church in your prayers as they work to reflect upon their experience, work to represent this Body of Christ, and listen to the leading of the Holy Spirit. And if you have any additional input, they are always willing to listen.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues take many twists and turns. And the Church is seeking to adapt as information it becomes available.

And here is what I hope will be good news. With all of our efforts to stop the transmission of COVID-19 (washing hands, wearing masks, avoiding large groups, etc.), I believe that we will not only slow COVID-19, but I pray that these habits will reduce the number of cold and flu cases this Fall. So let's take what our fallen world has thrown at us, and turn it into a homerun for God!

God bless,  
Pastor Mike

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**Clarion First United Methodist Church  
Church Council Minutes  
August 26, 2020, 7:00 p.m.**

The Church Council of the Clarion First United Methodist Church met on Wednesday, August 26, 2020 per zoom (video conference) and telephone conference call with fifteen members participating: Carolyn Bowman, Dennis Bowman, Jerry Boyington, Tana Boyington, Cathy Farwell, Pastor Mike Gudka, Janet Hennigar, Jody Johnson, Kent Kirstein, Angela Lantzky, Ania Renteria, Joel Renteria, Carol Townsend, Kathy Watts and Bud Young.

Bud called the meeting to order and Cathy offered devotions. Cathy made a motion to adopt the agenda. Second by Tana. Voted on and carried. Janet made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Second by Carol. Voted on and carried. Pastor Mike reported that there has been a good number of people viewing the worship service on Facebook and the recorded one online.

Kent presented the Treasurer's Report. There is \$82,000 in the checking account plus \$20,000 in the reserve fund. Jerry made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Second by Denny. Voted on and carried.

Pastor Mike reported that Charge Conference will be November 8 at 2:00 p.m.

Pastor Mike presented the budget. He will not receive a raise in 2021 but has asked to take a 4 week Education leave in February that is allowed. Denny made a motion to support the 4 weeks education leave. Second by Tana. Voted on and carried.

Jodi has asked to continue to work Monday through Thursday and come in Friday if needed. Carol made a motion to accept Jodi working Monday through Thursday. Second by Carolyn. Voted on and carried. Denny made a motion to accept the budget. Second by Kent. Voted on and carried.

Janet reported the Memorial Committee approved a request from the Worship Committee for \$1,800.00 to replace the electronic drum set.

Discussion was held regarding when to allow Youth Group and Sunday school to start and if masks or face shields should be required. It was decided to follow our policy if school closes there will not be any Youth Group or Sunday school. Carolyn made a motion that we highly recommend masks for all church functions. Second by Cathy. Voted on and carried. Carolyn made a motion that Sunday school start but not before October 1 with no preschool or nursery. Second by Jerry. Voted on and carried. Carolyn made a motion to allow CHICKS, Bibles and Bikes and Cub Scouts to meet as long as they abide by our policy on masks. Second by Ania. Voted on and carried.

The Chicken and Biscuit Dinner was discussed. It was decided to leave the decision up to UMW.

Education – Tana reported nothing else besides what has already been discussed. Janet reported nothing else from Memorial, Jerry reported no other items for SPRC. Worship – Angela reported that the October Deep Encounters was moved back a week to avoid the dates the Praise Team will be attending their conference. She had applied for scholarships and received 5 tickets at \$25.00. Seven are planning on going with a possibility of one more. Cathy made a motion that the \$720.00 already approved to be used for any expenses related to the conference. Second by Janet. Voted on and carried. Pastor Mike asked if the Church Council members would be willing to fill the pulpit for the Sunday's Pastor Mike is gone in February. Youth Group – Nothing else to report. Finance – Kent reported 2 big gifts came in that will pay most of the Bell Tower expenses. They are working on forgiveness of the PPE loan. The line of credit approved at the last meeting has been taken care of. He is planning on addressing the congregation on September 27. MOE – Ania reported they are working on the September 26 simulcast. They sent \$1,400 to Malawi for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of college for the student they support.

Trustees – Pastor Mike reported they are working on their list. UMW – Carolyn reported Bibles and Bikes has been meeting in the park. Nominations – Pastor Mike reported that they have a list of names and will begin calling shortly.

The next meeting will be September 23, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Several joys and concerns were mentioned.

Cathy closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Kathy Watts, Secretary

## October, November and December Quarterly Committees

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

**November Co-Chairpersons:** Nancy and Mike Nail, Janice and Jim Morford

**December Co-Chairpersons:** Carolyn Etter, Linda Marker

Additional Committee persons:

Alan Beenken

Bev Claude

Cheryl Hilgendorf

RoseAnn and Mike Bowman

Denise and Richard Hocraffer

Amy and Scott Wiezorak

Janet and Mark Disney

Teryl Marker

Elizabeth and Nicholas McOllough

Kathy Watts

Lesa Fishburn

Pam Bradshaw

Helen and Larry Golden

Rose and Adolph Meinders

Marilyn and George Disney

Dawn and Jim Rasmussen

Emily and Mark Bernhardt

Lisa and Alan Hagie

Staci and Tony Miller

Kim and Paul Gniadecki

Mary and Norm Carlson

Todd Sorensen

Marlene Brown

Bob Herbst

Bob and Elizabeth Murphy

Melissa and Terry Hackley

Brenda Rauch

Trisha Barz

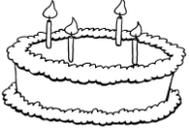
Sue and Mike Mechem

Kendra and Miguel Chavez

Carol and Leland Watts

Deb Hennigar

# Birthday and *Anniversary* calendar for October 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Juliet Gudka ~~~~~ <b>Kim and Bob Ott</b>	2 Lynette Smith	3
4 Paul Ahlstrom	5 Sydney Friesleben	6 Dorla Hill	7	8	9 Jennifer Mathis	10 <b>Beth and Jim Ott</b>
11 Pam Bradshaw Carolyn Etter	12 Carson Ott	13 Zach Martin	14	15	16 Makena Marker Jorge Martinez ~~~~~ <b>Karianne and                      Jake Johnson</b>	17
18	19 Marilyn Disney Jan Murphy	20 <b>Sally and George                      Boyington</b>  <b>Rose and Adolph                      Meinders</b>	21 Howard Miller El Marie Nel Rhonda Ray Brenda Steenhard Ian Wahl ~~~~~ <b>Helen and Ed                      Southard</b>  <b>Janice and Jim                      Morford</b>  <b>Melanie and Tom                      Riley</b>	22 Rob Miller Bud Young	23	24 Dennis Bowman
25 Caleb Krueger Elizabeth McOllough	26 Landon Fishburn Jamie Wahl	27	28 Sara Morford Ashley Rauch Carol Watts ~~~~~ <b>Mary and Norm                      Carlson</b>	29	30 Tim Fletcher	31

Happy Birthday and *Anniversary* to you all.

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

# Calendar of Events for October, 2020

Worship Services 10:30 a.m.

9:30 a.m. Sunday school

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Church office closed	3
4 9:30 a.m. Sunday school 10:30 a.m. Worship	5	6 3:30 – 6:00 p.m. Whiz Kidz	7	8	9 Church office closed	10
11 9:30 a.m. Sunday school 10:30 a.m. Worship	12	13 3:30 – 6:00 p.m. Whiz Kidz	14	15	16 Church office closed	17 7:00 p.m. Deep Encounters
18 9:30 a.m. Sunday school 10:30 a.m. Worship	19	20 3:30 – 6:00 p.m. Whiz Kidz	21 7:00 p.m. Church Council meeting via Zoom	22	23 Church office closed	24
25 9:30 a.m. Sunday school 10:30 a.m. Worship	26	27 3:30 – 6:00 p.m. Whiz Kidz	28	29	30 Church office closed	31