

**MARCH 2020
CLARION CONNECTION
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
201 3RD AVENUE NE
CLARION, IA 50525**

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

Church Treasurer: Sam Moore
Financial Secretary: Jodi Kraft
Church Council Chair: Carol Townsend

Custodians: Carol Townsend and Juliet Gudka

Keep up with Happenings in Our Church

If you are a Facebook user, search for "[Clarion First United Methodist Church](https://www.facebook.com/ClarionFirstUnitedMethodistChurch)" 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.

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.

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.



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

March Hosts:

8:30 a.m. – Nancy Nail
10:45 a.m. – Berning Family

March Liturgist: Nancy Nail

Communion Stewards:

8:30 a.m. – Cindy Riley and Janet Hennigar
10:45 a.m. –

As we look forward in the new year, we are in need of Communion Stewards for both services. Please sign-up on the Communion Stewards clipboard at the back of the Sanctuary. Thank you for prayerfully considering this need.

Your Giving Makes a Difference

Last week: \$2,060 (2-23-2020), Needed weekly: \$4,502
Year-to-date: \$16,292, Needed year-to-date: \$40,518



March 2020 Newsletter Article

Easter for me is a wonderful time. It reminds me of the coming of Spring, green grass, flowers, warm weather, and trees filled with leaves. And we have so many great symbols associated with Easter; such as colored eggs and baby chicks that represent new life and renewal.

We have been working through a twelve-part teaching series on "How to Love Like God." In this series we have focused upon the Great Commandment: **Matthew 22:37-38**: *And He [Jesus] said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the great and foremost commandment.*"

This series will culminate on Palm Sunday. I hope this series is inspirational for you and that you will allow the Holy Spirit to bring God's love into your soul and pouring all over your life. And I pray that many of us will bring this new found love of God into Holy Week. Can you imagine an entire Church filled with God's love as we enter Holy Week?

Holy Week begins on April 5 as we celebrate Palm Sunday in our two regular worship services. And then I encourage you to allow God's love to take you into the Holy Thursday service on April 9 at 7:00 PM. This will be a special service with our annual Cantata and we will celebrate Communion on this night, which is the same night of the week that the Disciples first experienced it. And you won't want to miss the Good Friday service on April 10 at 7:00 PM. Finally, this week of experiencing God's love will culminate on Easter Sunday, April 12 at both of our regular worship times. This year's special Easter Sunday services will focus on accepting all of the love that God offers, without hesitation, and without thinking that you need to earn it. It will be about how the powerful and beautiful new possibilities that understanding that God loves and enjoys you can bring into who you are and where you will go in this life.

And then after Easter, I will start a new teaching series where we will explore the Second Greatest Commandment: **Matthew 22:39-40**: [Jesus is speaking] *"The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."* This teaching series builds off of the love that God spiritually provides to us in order to love Him more, and it then allows us to be more like God in how we love others.

Be encouraged and finish up this teaching series. And more importantly, learn to love God more and more. Then let this get you ready to see in a new light, the greatest act of love ever given by God as we work our way through Holy Week. And then get ready to launch into the new teaching series and open yourself up to love others.

God bless,
Pastor Mike



Do You Want to Join Our Church?

If you would like to "place a stake in the ground" by becoming a member of our Church, please see Pastor Mike. While being a member will not get you a better place in heaven, it is certainly a powerful statement to declare Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and commit to finding ways to serve within our Church.

Going Deeper Spirit-filled Worship

This worship service is filled with powerful music, testimony, prayer, and a relaxed atmosphere to love God and love each other. Come and join us and leave inspired, refreshed, and uplifted. This service is offered on the second Saturday of each odd-numbered month at 7:00 PM.

Beginnings: Going Deeper

This is a small group that includes praise, worship, prayer, fellowship, fun, and Bible study. And if you want to bring a snack to share, that is great too. Whether you have never read any of the Bible, or read the whole thing a hundred times, this is a great place to be. Beginnings is always on the fourth Sunday at 5:00 PM at Judy Watne's home at 210 6th Ave NE in Clarion.

“Activate” seminar given by TMS Global will be on Saturday, May 16, 2020. Registration will be from 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. Class begins at 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with lunch provided. Participants must preregister no later than May 2. More information to come.

Face-to-Face is Coming to Belmond

Have you heard about Walk to Emmaus? Have you not been able to go because of having to sleep over night in a Church? Are you 60 years old or older? Are you interested in experiencing Walk to Emmaus? If you answered yes to all four of these questions, then a new version of Walk to Emmaus, called Face-to-Face, just might be a great Christian experience. Face-to-Face is held once per year at different locations around the state. And the next one will be at the Belmond United Methodist Church on May 27, 29, June 1 and 3 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM each day. The cost is \$50 and this includes lunch and snacks. Please consider signing up to attend this uplifting, positive, Biblically-based, fun, and enjoying experience with your friends and neighbors from the Clarion/Belmond area. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Mike.

Christian Retreat for Youth Ages 15 to 19

Many of you may have heard of the Walk to Emmaus for adults. The youth version is called "Chrysalis" and the next one will once again be at our Church. It starts on Friday, March 27 at 8:00 AM and runs through Sunday, March 29 at around 6:00 PM. It is for all youth from 15 to 19 years old. In the past we have had youth from all over Iowa, southern Minnesota, and southeastern South Dakota. If you have a youth that could benefit from this fun, fast-paced, and powerful Christian retreat, then please let Pastor Mike know. And he will work to get them registered to attend.

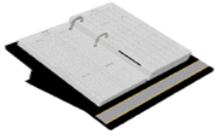
Winter Weather Closings

As a reminder, during the week, if the school closes due to bad weather, then the Church office is closed and all Church activities meetings are also cancelled. If we have bad weather on a Sunday, please check the Church's Facebook page and/or call the Church office for an announcement on the Answering Machine. But in any case, you know your situation best. So stay safe, warm, and blessed.

March Birthdays and *Anniversaries*

- 3 – Amy Krueger, Jeremy Abbas
- 4 – Dane Friesleben
- 7 – ***Marilyn and Karl Olsen***
- 9 – Ruth Bohy, Mary Lester, Noah Maxheimer, ***Elizabeth and Nick McOllough***
- 10 – Hannah Bernhardt, Melissa Hansen, Cole Kirstein, Cindy Riley, Olivia Walton
- 12 – Mike Mechem
- 13 – Martha Busick, Alec Martin, Adolph Meinders, ***Deanna and Kevin Lehman***
- 14 – Melissa Hackley
- 15 – Alison Rier
- 17 – Alexis Morgan
- 18 – Gary Anderson
- 19 – Alivia Kirstein
- 20 – Blake Jackson, Kelly Leist
- 21 – Marilyn Mechem
- 23 – Boone Ott, Zion Marshall
- 24 – Carolyn Bowman
- 25 – ***Pastor Mike and Juliet Gudka***
- 26 – Dean Kirstein
- 27 – Lisa Hagie
- 28 – Madden Johnson
- 29 – Kyle Disney, Codie Jane Warnke
- 30 – George Disney

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.



MARCH CALENDAR

- 1 – Communion Sunday
 - 8:30 a.m. Traditional Service
 - 9:40 a.m. Sunday school
 - 10:45 a.m. Contemporary Service
 - 6:00 p.m. DVD at the Meadows
- 3 – 1:00 – 6:00 p.m. Blood drive at UPC
 - 3:30 p.m. Whiz Kidz
- 4 – 8:30 a.m. Bibles and Bikes
 - 2:00 p.m. CHICKS
 - 5:00 p.m. Webelos Cub Scouts
 - 6:00 p.m. Praise Team practice
 - 6:00 p.m. Youth Committee meeting
 - 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir practice
 - 7:00 p.m. Education Team meeting
- 8 - 8:30 a.m. Traditional Service
 - 9:40 a.m. Sunday school
 - 10:45 a.m. Contemporary Service
 - 6:00 p.m. DVD at the Meadows
- 9 – Noon – “Impact for Women”, contact Martha Martinez
 - 5:00 p.m. Bears Cub Scouts
- 10 – 3:30 p.m. Whiz Kidz
 - 7:00 p.m. MOE
- 11 – 8:30 a.m. Bibles and Bikes
 - 6:00 p.m. Youth Group
 - 6:00 p.m. Praise Team practice
 - 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir practice
 - 8:00 p.m. Worship Team meeting
- 12 – 10:00 a.m. Communion at Assisted Living
 - 7:00 p.m. SPRC
- 14 – 9:00 a.m. Chrysalis Planning and Practice meeting
 - 7:00 p.m. “Deep Encounters”
- 15 - 8:30 a.m. Traditional Service
 - 9:40 a.m. Sunday school
 - 10:45 a.m. Contemporary Service
 - 6:00 p.m. DVD at the Meadows
 - 6:30 p.m. Trustees meeting
- 16 – 10:30 a.m. Proteus Clinic
 - 7:00 p.m. Lydia Circle
- 17 – 3:30 p.m. Whiz Kidz
- 18 – 8:30 a.m. Bibles and Bikes
 - 2:00 p.m. CHICKS
 - 5:00 p.m. Webelos Cub Scouts
 - 6:00 p.m. Finance Team meeting
 - 6:00 p.m. Praise Team practice
 - 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir practice
- 22 - 8:30 a.m. Traditional Service
 - 9:40 a.m. Sunday school
 - 10:45 a.m. Contemporary Service
 - 5:00 p.m. “Beginnings: Going Deeper”
 - 6:00 p.m. DVD at the Meadows
- 23 – Noon – “Impact for Women”, contact Martha Martinez
 - 5:00 p.m. Bears Cub Scouts
- 24 – 3:30 p.m. Whiz Kidz
- 25 – 8:30 a.m. Bibles and Bikes
 - 6:00 p.m. Youth Group
 - 6:00 p.m. Praise Team practice

No Chancel Choir practice
7:00 p.m. Church Council meeting
26 – 29 Chrysalis Flight
29 - Chrysalis Flight
8:30 a.m. Traditional Service
9:40 a.m. Sunday school
10:45 a.m. Contemporary Service
6:00 p.m. DVD at the Meadows
31 – 3:30 p.m. Whiz Kidz