

**OCTOBER 2019
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: Sam Moore
Financial Secretary: Jodi Kraft
Church Council Chair: Carol Townsend

Custodian: 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!

Sunday Teachings are Now Online

If you want to see the past Sunday teachings please go to our website and click on "Teachings" at www.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.

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, October 1 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: \$2,028 (9-22-2019), Needed weekly: \$3,942
Year-to-date: \$172,172, Needed year-to-date: \$153,738



October 2019 Newsletter

I was recently at a gathering of Christians and the speaker was talking about some of the Ten Commandments. And as he read each one, he would ask us to raise our hands if we were striving as individuals to fulfill each Commandment.

He started out with:

- "You shall not commit adultery." We all raised our hands.
- "You shall not steal." Again, we all raised our hands.
- "You shall honor your father and mother." And we all raised our hands.

And as he continued to read, we were all feeling pretty good about our desire to live like God wants us to live. None of us thought we were perfect, but we all were certainly striving to do the right things in the eyes of God.

Then he read the following:

- "Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy." And he went on to emphasize that this meant the entire Sunday should be spent resting, focusing upon God, and worshiping God.
- Needless to say, there was a lot of nervousness around the room.

So we begin to discuss what Sunday looks like for some of us in the room. One of my Pastor friends commented that in her town, the Church that she serves is located right next to the town emergency siren. And this siren is tested every single Sunday precisely at noon. She commented that regardless of where they are at in the worship service, when that siren goes off, the people leave.

So why does God put so much emphasis upon setting one day aside each week? Let me share with you one view of why this is so important to God.

Our Father loves each one of us so much. He loves us more than any person can. I know we have many people in our lives that completely love us. People like our human mother and father. But believe it or not, no one can out-love God. And the Father asks us to set aside one-day each week to focus upon Him and to come together as The Body of Christ. I can imagine Him watching over us as we work during the week. And He fully understands how important work is. Working hard is a Christian value.

And I can also see the Father anxiously and excitedly waiting to meet us on Sunday in His House. He yearns for us to come and be with Him in His House and be the Family of God. This is much like how a real father would be excited as he waited to see his children to come to his house for a set visiting time.

Do you come into God's House each Sunday anticipating experiencing the loving relationship of being with God and with each other? Juliet always reminds me that worship is a matter of the heart. Of course we want to learn things, but the primary focus is on the relationships and not on the mind.

Now the reality is that occasionally many in our congregation have to work on Sunday. And God understands this. And on occasion, some of our members have family-related gatherings that simply could not happen on any other day. And I think God understands this as well.

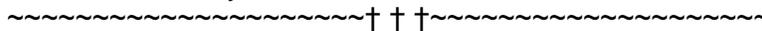
But here is my encouragement. I want each one of us, including myself, to take a look into our heart. Does your heart yearn to be in relationship with God and with the Body of Christ on Sunday? Do you come each Sunday seeking to hear God's voice and feel His love?

God bless,
Pastor Mike

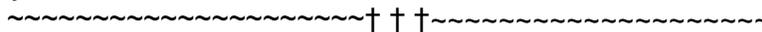
GOD IS LOVE!

October Hosts –

8:30 a.m. – Shelley and Tim Fletcher
10:45 a.m. – Lynette, Dan Smith and Family



October Liturgist – Carolyn Bowman



October Communion Stewards:

8:30 a.m. – Shelley and Tim Fletcher
10:45 a.m. – Ania and Joel Renteria

We are in need of Communion Stewards for November and December Traditional Service. Please sign-up on the Communion Stewards clipboard at the back of the Sanctuary. Thank you for prayerfully considering this need.



October, November and December
Quarterly Committees

Chairpersons for **October**: Janet and Dennis Hennigar, Tana and Jerry Boyington
Chairpersons for **November**: Nancy and Mike Nail, Janice and Jim Morford
Chairpersons for **December**: 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	Rose and Adolph Meinders	Bob and Elizabeth Murphy
RoseAnn and Mike Bowman	Marilyn and George Disney	Melissa and Terry Hackley
Brenda Rauch	Trisha Barz	Denise and Richard Hocraffer
Dawn and Jim Rasmussen	Lesa and Matt Fishburn	Mary and Norm Carlson
Amy and Scott Wieszorak	Emily and Mark Bernhardt	Janet and Mark Disney
Lisa and Alan Hagie	Staci and Tony Miller	Deb Hennigar
Linda Marker	Teryl Marker	Kendra and Miguel Chavez
Kim and Paul Gniadecki	Elizabeth and Nicholas McOllough	Carol and Leland Watts
Kathy Watts		

Open Part-Time Janitor Position

The Church has an open flexible part-time janitor position. The average work week is five hours. This person will work with the other part-time janitor and help cover the times when the other person is not available. The maximum amount of time is ten hours per week if the other janitor is not able to work at all. This position will handle most of the heavier janitorial duties, such as vacuuming the carpeting and cleaning floors. In addition, honorariums are paid by wedding parties and from the funeral home for the extra hours needed to support these events. This is a very flexible position and the hourly wage is between \$10 to \$12 per hour, depending upon skill level and experience. If you are interested, please see Jodi Kraft in the Church office for an application. **The deadline to submit an application to the Church office is Sunday, October 6.** All of the applications will then go to the Staff Parish Relations Committee and they will make the final hiring decision. Clarion First United Methodist Church is an equal opportunity employer and proof of the right to work in the U.S. is required.

“Beginnings: Going Deeper”

Our once per month gathering called "Beginnings" is moving in a new direction. **First**, we have changed the gathering time to the fourth Sunday of each month at 5:00 PM. **Second**, the purpose has changed. This is now a Life Group led by Pastor Mike. It is open to EVERYONE, as we worship through music, prayer, and sharing. In addition, during this casual small group meeting we will have a Bible study lead by Pastor Mike. **Third**, the location has changed. It will now be held in homes. To know where we will be meeting each month, check out our Facebook Page called "Beginnings: Going Deeper." So if you have been to Emmaus or Chrysalis, and would like to join a small group, then this is your invitation. If you are just interested in being in a small group where you can share, ask questions, learn, and be loved, then this is your invitation. If you don't know Jesus or if you have known him all of your life, then this is your invitation. If you don't like to speak in large groups, then this is your invitation. If you just want to come and check this out, then this is your invitation. And if you can (this is not required), everyone is invited to bring their favorite snack to share as we learn and grow together.



YOUTH GROUP

Calling all 6th – 12th Grade Students Fall Youth Retreat, October 4-5, 2019

Come enjoy. Worship. Speakers. Games. Campfire. Friends. Fun and Food!

Questions: Contact: Kelly Kirstein 515-851-8332

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Youth Group dates for October are the 9<sup>th</sup> and the 30<sup>th</sup> (moved from the 23<sup>rd</sup>).

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**"Deep Encounters" Spirit-filled Worship Service**

Our first "Deep Encounters" worship service was a powerful Spirit-filled experience. It was well accepted that the Worship Committee has decided to offer this worship service on an ongoing basis. "Deep Encounters" will be on the second Saturday of the odd-numbered months at 6:00 PM. And we will start the regular offering of this worship service on November 9. Anyone can attend this incredible worship experience. You don't have to come to our Church; you don't have to come to any Church; so invite your friends and neighbors.

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**All-Church Potluck on Sunday, November 10 (Change of date)**

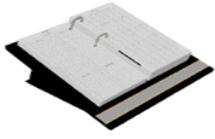
We will hold an all-Church potluck immediately following the second worship service on November 10. The reason will be to celebrate the completion of the Kitchen Remodel Project and to bless our remodeled kitchen to do the work of Jesus Christ. So come and let's celebrate all that God is doing in our Church!

## 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 Mathis
- 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, El Marie Nel, Rhonda Ray, Brenda Steenhard, 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 – Landon Fishburn, Jamie Wahl
- 28 – Sara Morford, Ashley Rauch, 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.



## OCTOBER CALENDAR

- 1 – 1:00 – 6:00 p.m. Blood drive at UPC  
3:30 – 6:00 p.m. Whiz Kidz
- 2 – 8:30 a.m. Bibles and Bikes  
2:00 – 3:30 p.m. CHICKS  
5:00 p.m. Webelos Cub Scouts  
6:00 p.m. Praise Team practice  
6:00 p.m. Youth Group Committee meeting  
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir practice
- 6 – Communion Sunday  
8:30 a.m. Traditional Service  
9:40 a.m. Sunday school  
10:45 a.m. Contemporary Service  
2:00 p.m. “SOULutions: A Disciple Group for Teens”  
6:00 p.m. DVD at The Meadows
- 7 – Noon “Impact for Women”, contact Martha Martinez
- 8 - 3:30 – 6:00 p.m. Whiz Kidz
- 9 - 8:30 a.m. Bibles and Bikes  
6:00 p.m. Praise Team practice  
6:00 p.m. Youth Group  
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir practice  
8:00 p.m. Worship Team meeting
- 10 – 10:00 a.m. Communion at Assisted Living  
7:00 p.m. SPRC
- 12 – 9:00 a.m. Chrysalis Planning meeting
- 13 – 8:30 a.m. Traditional Service  
9:40 a.m. Sunday school  
10:45 a.m. Contemporary Service  
1:00 p.m. Debrief “Living Waters”  
2:00 p.m. “SOULutions: A Disciple Group for Teens”  
6:00 p.m. DVD at The Meadows
- 14 – 5:00 p.m. Proteus Clinic  
5:00 p.m. Bears Cub Scouts
- 15 – 3:30 – 6:00 p.m. Whiz Kidz
- 16 - 8:30 a.m. Bibles and Bikes  
2:00 – 3:30 p.m. CHICKS  
2:00 p.m. Isabella Thoburn (Assisted Living Dining Room)  
5:00 p.m. Webelos Cub Scouts  
6:00 p.m. Finance meeting  
6:00 p.m. Praise Team practice  
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir practice
- 20 – 8:30 a.m. Traditional Service  
9:40 a.m. Sunday school  
10:45 a.m. Contemporary Service  
2:00 p.m. “SOULutions: A Disciple Group for Teens”  
6:00 p.m. DVD at The Meadows  
6:30 p.m. Trustees meeting  
7:00 p.m. MOE
- 21 – Noon “Impact for Women”, contact Martha Martinez
- 22 – 3:30 – 6:00 p.m. Whiz Kidz
- 23 - 8:30 a.m. Bibles and Bikes  
6:00 p.m. Praise Team practice  
No Youth Group, moved to October 30  
No Chancel Choir practice  
7:00 p.m. Church Council meeting
- 24 – 6:30 p.m. Pack meeting for Cub Scouts
- 25 – 10:00 a.m. Proteus Clinic

2:30 p.m. BINGO for Quarterly Committee  
 27 - 8:30 a.m. Traditional Service  
 9:40 a.m. Sunday school  
 10:45 a.m. Contemporary Service  
 2:00 p.m. "SOULutions: A Disciple Group for Teens"  
 5:00 p.m. "Beginnings: Going Deeper"  
 6:00 p.m. DVD at The Meadows  
 28 – 5:00 p.m. Bears Cub Scouts  
 29 – 3:30 – 6:00 p.m. Whiz Kidz  
 30 – 8:30 a.m. Bibles and Bikes  
 6:00 p.m. Praise Team practice  
 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Youth Group  
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir practice

**CLARION FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
 CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES  
 AUGUST 21, 2019**

The Church Council of the Clarion First United Methodist Church met on Wednesday, August 21, 2019 with fourteen members: Carolyn Bowman, Dennis Bowman, Cathy Farwell, Pastor Mike Gudka, Bob Herbst, Kelly Kirstein, Kent Kirstein, Jodi Kraft, Angela Lantzky, Daniel Murray, Kari Jo Murray, Todd Sorensen, Carol Townsend and Kathy Watts.

Todd made a motion to adopt the agenda. Second by Cathy. Voted on and carried. Todd made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Second by Denny. Voted on and carried.

Cathy offered devotions. Pastor Mike presented the Treasurer's Report. Pastor Mike reviewed the changes to the Safe Sanctuary policy including signing in of students in kindergarten and younger. Carolyn made a motion to adopt the Safe Sanctuary policy. Second by Cathy. Voted on and carried.

Pastor Mike reviewed the documents needed for the Charge Conference. Todd made a motion to approve the documents. Second by Kent. Voted on and carried. Pastor Mike updated the council on the State of the Methodist Church in general.

Kent, Carolyn, Todd and Denny updated the members on the kitchen remodel. \$58,000 has been pledged for the remodel. The floor has been completed in the fellowship hall and kitchen. They are waiting for the overhead plumbing and wiring to be completed before finishing the ceiling. Once that is completed the rest of the cabinets will be installed. Two new stoves have been purchased. They are still working on the new dishwasher.

Pastor Mike presented a list of all the opportunities for participation in events being planned through our church. Hiz Kidz is renamed Whiz Kidz. It was decided to leave the kitchenette unlocked. An all church potluck will be held on September 15 and another the end of October.

Education – Pastor Mike reported that the curriculum is here. Rally Sunday is September 8<sup>th</sup>. Memorial – Jodi and Pastor Mike reported there was over \$68,000 for the kitchen remodel and some of the bills have been paid for plus there is \$10,000 in undesignated that could be used. SPRC – Pastor Mike reported salaries were reviewed. Worship - Angela reported they have many opportunities planned for people to have a deeper relationship with God. CHICKS - Kelly reported she is planning a retreat in October at Dumont and her Instagram following is growing. Kent made a motion to approve the youth having the retreat scheduled off site. Second by Carolyn. Voted on and carried. Finance – Kent reported the budget was approved and pledge cards for the kitchen remodel keep coming in. MOE – Kari Jo and Daniel reported that plans for the Christian concert are being finalized. A mission trip to the Philippines is being planned. They continue to support Malawi. They will also go to the Beacon of Hope and finish the door. Trustees – Pastor reported that the door overhangs will be sealed to help prevent damage. They have contacted the city to see if when the city is asphaltting they could do along the south side at the same time as it would be more cost effective than doing just the small amount we need done. Some of the handicap parking has been removed along the west side and east side of the main entrance plus a couple along the south side as they are rarely used. Work was completed in the basement bathroom of the parsonage after damage from the spring flooding. UMW – Carolyn reported they will plan a clean-up day after the kitchen is finished and put everything back in the kitchen. It is set up so people can use their credit card for the Chicken and Biscuit dinner. The Christmas Dinner will be in December. It has been decided to not have the Salad Luncheon in May due to decreasing attendance. A Spiritual Mission Day will be held in April. Youth – Kelly and Kent reported that kick-off is September 15<sup>th</sup>. They usually have a great turn out at start and then the numbers drop as students get involved in school activities. They plan on meeting twice a month. They are looking at separating into High School and Middle School.

Next meeting will be October 23 as Charge Conference is Monday, September 30. Cathy closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Kathy Watts, Secretary

**“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, 2020. More information to come.