

December 12, 2019



#### Next Week's Scripture Readings:

Sunday: Psalm 126:1-6

Pray and shout joyful praise to God!

Monday: Joel 2:21-27

Pray and rejoice in the great things God has done!

Tuesday: Matthew 11:1-11

Pray and report to others all that God is doing in your life.

Wednesday: James 5:5-7

Pray to stand firm for the Lord is coming near.

Thursday: Micah 5:2-5

Pray for the strength and peace of Christ to be yours.

Friday: Romans 5:6-11

Pray to receive God's love and mercy through the cross of Christ.

Saturday: Luke 1:39-56

Pray, rejoice, and glorify the Lord your Savior!



Christmas Eve is coming... and I can't wait to experience it all for the first time here with you!

Preparations are well underway for our special Christmas Eve services. The building has been decked out with the sights and symbols of the season. Music is being planned and practiced. Coffee, candles, and connections are being readied. Scriptures, stories, and messages are being thought out. We'll be ready for Christmas Eve and the coming of Christ anew!

The only thing that is missing is your invitation for others to join you for the Candlelight Christmas service of your choice at 4:00 or 7:00 p.m. This is one of those times of the year, when people you know who aren't currently connected to Christ and the church are more open to your invitation to join you for worship. And now is the time to make those invitations!

There are lots of ways to do that. Face-to-face works great! You can use a Christmas Eve invitation card we've made available to help with that. Pick some cards up in the church office or on Sunday. A phone call works well too. You can always write a personal note, send a text, or share a Facebook invitation using Tuesday's Christmas Eve post on the Clinton UMC page (<https://www.facebook.com/UMCCClintonMO>).

No matter how you choose to make it, please know that partnered with the power of God's grace, your invitation has the potential to be life changing for the person you invite and for you!

And I'm looking forward to gathering with you for worship this Sunday morning at 8:15 or 10:30, as we continue our Advent journey of "Setting the Table for the Savior." See you then!

Your partner on the journey,

Pastor Steve

## Sunday Assistants

Office Host:

Mike & Brenda Kiely

Altar Flowers:

Poinsettias!

Gathering Music:

8:15—David Cummings

10:30—Marnie Bellamy

8:15 Acolytes

Eli & Eleanor Lewis

8:15 Ushers:

Greg & Carlene Lowe

8:15 Greeters:

The Zink Family

The Himes Family

Children's Time:

Steve Blacksher

Fellowship Time Hosts:

Kent Cable

10:30 Ushers:

Larry & Eunice Wright

10:30 Greeters:

Ralph & Linda Sites

Nancy Fleming & Mary Miller

Bus Driver:

Don Turner



## Christmas Eve Information

You are invited to experience the Christmas Eve candlelight service of your choice on Tuesday, December 24, at 4:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. Join us, and others from our community, to celebrate Christ's birth long ago in Bethlehem's manger and the coming of Christ anew into our world today!

Here are some things to expect on Christmas Eve with Clinton UMC:

- Come early, sip a warm cup of coffee or hot chocolate in the Green Room, and then find your way into the sanctuary to enjoy the sights and sounds of the season before the service begins.
- Holy Communion will be offered before each service in the sanctuary (3:00 - 3:45 p.m. and 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.), and after each service in the Chapel which is just a few steps from the sanctuary entrance.
- Each service will last about an hour and will include plenty of Christmas music including: singing Christmas carols, the Chancel Bell Choir at the 4:00 p.m. service, and the Chancel Concert Band and Chancel Choir at the 7:00 pm. service. The services will also include hearing the Christmas story and message, as well as a traditional ending with candle lighting.
- Children are welcome to be with their families in the Christmas Eve services at Clinton UMC. In addition, childcare for children up to age 5 will be available in the nursery just down the hall from the sanctuary entrance.

We look forward to seeing you on Christmas Eve! For more information, contact the Clinton UMC office at 660-885-5597.

## Prayers are needed for:

Patrick Bernard,  
Don Eaton,  
Bill Burgess,  
Michael Cole Scott,  
Darrell Martin, Briana Hall,  
Margaret Miller, Tom Ross,  
Danny Miles,  
Melvin Dennis, Helen Finks



## Red Sweater Sunday and Youth Bake Sale

Sunday, December 22nd at both services, the youth will have a bake sale and we will fill the sanctuary with as much red as possible as we continue the tradition of Red Sweater Sunday.



Don't have time to bake some Christmas treats? The youth and their families will do it for you! Help generously support the youth by purchasing goodies that day! This annual bake sale will help fund their 2020 summer youth mission trips.



United  
Methodist  
Women

**UMW to  
Meet**

It's the holiday season! Everyone is invited to the next United Methodist Women's meeting tomorrow, Friday, December 13 at 9:00 am when we'll enjoy our own Ukuladies perform. They are sure to brighten your spirits. The UMW are encouraged to bring Christmas treats to share. Come and hear how the ladies have improved and bring your singing voices.

### **Blankets for Christmas Cheer**

It's not too late  
to give!

Money is  
needed for the  
blankets that  
are given to



people at Christmas Cheer. Blankets are \$8 each and our goal is \$6000, (but you can give any amount you'd like!) Help keep people in this area warm this winter! Mark your check with "Blankets" in the memo.

### **2020 Offering Envelopes**

If you are an envelope user, please pick up your 2020 envelopes in the Green Room. If you don't see a box for you, let the office know and we'll get a box for you.



**Carols in the  
Chapel  
This Sunday!  
December 15  
at 4:00 p.m.**

Join Elias &  
George Hook,  
Frank  
Hastings, and

Sam in the Chapel to sing your favorite carols and have a relaxing moment during this busy Advent and Christmas season.

### **Children's Christmas Program**



Next Sunday,  
December 15th at the  
10:30 service, the  
children will present  
their annual Christmas  
program—you won't  
want to miss this! They've worked  
hard preparing for you!

### **Christmas Dinner**

On Christmas Day at 1:00, we will gather for a Christmas Dinner. The church will supply the ham, brisket, and rolls. Bring a side dish or dessert to pass.



### **Coming Up!**

#### Sunday, December 15th

8:15—Early Worship

9:00—Fellowship Time

9:30—Sunday School

10:30—Worship with

Children's Christmas  
Program

4:00—Carols in the Chapel

#### Monday, December 16th

5:00—Ukuleles

5:15—Pickleball

5:15—Learner Bells

6:00—Chancel Bells

#### Tuesday, December 17th

8:30—Pickleball

#### Wednesday, December 18th

Noon—Prayer Group Meets

3:00— Youth

3:30— Angelus Choir

5:00—Youth

6:00—Chancel Band

7:00—Chancel Choir

#### Thursday, December 19th

8:30—Pickleball

#### Friday, December 20th

1:00—Friday Social Group  
Meets

Call the church office at  
660-885-5597 for more  
information about any  
calendar items!



## 2020 Flower Chart

Thank you to everyone that supplied flowers for the altar this year. The chart for next year is up on the wall across from the library and ready for people to sign up for a special date or just any date! You call a florist (and they deliver!) or you bring your own flowers. Let the office know what sentiments we can put in the bulletin about the flowers.

### Rainbow Network



Students at school.



Jose in his store



Dr. Dali seeing a patient



## Christmas Offering

This Christmas Eve, you will have an offering envelope with 2 options: one is for local assistance for utilities and one is for our partnership with a Rainbow Network village in Nicaragua. You will be able to designate which one you want to support or how you would like to split it between the two outreach programs.

Here's some information about each of these opportunities:

The Samaritan Center informed us that it's hard to believe that so many families are in need in one county, but they see it daily, people losing their homes due to not being able to pay the rent, not having the money to pay their electric or water bills. Most of these homes have either children or elderly living in them. These families must decide to either feed their families or pay their bills and it is a tough decision to make. Most have a story, medical issues, layoffs from work or finding it hard to find a job that pays enough to cover all the bills. That is why it is imperative that we continue to seek donations and grants to help the people who are struggling in Henry County. We may not be able to help everyone, but it is a true blessing to the ones we are able to help.

The staff at Rainbow Network tell us that this year, our church has made it possible for El Cabano to have 2 medical clinics each month with follow ups for special needs patients and distribution of vitamins and anti-parasite medications. 27 community members have participated in the microloan program where with business training they have developed small home-based businesses such as small stores, making and selling bread, selling nacatamales and buying and selling small grains. 5 young persons have received scholarships for tuition, supplies and transportation to attend high school. Perhaps the greatest thing we provide is a meal each day for the elementary children when they come to school. Malnourishment has physical, mental and emotional effects. Our partnership with the community leaders is helping them help themselves out of poverty with education, healthcare, and economic development.

God is at work in Nicaragua despite their current struggles and the people of El Cobano feel His love because of our congregation. Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership in this life-changing work and also for your caring and generous hearts.