

December 19, 2019



CLINTON  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



### Next Week's Scripture Readings:

Sunday: Psalm 96:1-13

Pray and celebrate with heaven and earth in the coming of Christ.

Monday: Luke 1:57-80

Pray for the light of the coming Christ to break into your world.

Tuesday: Isaiah 9:2-7

Pray for Emmanuel God to be with you in the Christ child given to us.

Wednesday: Luke 2:1-20

Pray and receive the Good News that Jesus Christ is born!

Thursday: John 1:1-14

Pray to receive the light and life that comes in the Word that is Christ.

Friday: Titus 2:11-14

Pray for the grace of God to appear in and through Jesus Christ.

Saturday: Luke 2:21-38

Pray and embrace the hope, peace, joy, and love found in Christ.

This past Sunday morning was a *joy* to experience with Clinton UMC!

We soaked in the *joy* of the sanctuary's sights with lights, poinsettias, candles, and more. We lit the candle of *joy* as we continued our Advent journey together. We sang in *joy* and adored Christ the Lord.

We discovered through the Scriptures that real life-impacting *joy* comes when God redeems, reclaims, and brings people home... AND when we are a part of that. You can listen to more online at <https://www.mykdkd.com/united-methodist-church/> (December 15 service and sermons).

We were reminded in the children's Christmas program, how special a *joy* it is to have a part in Jesus' story. Their music, singing, and re-telling of the Christmas story was marvelous! I look forward to our children's musical gifts and leadership talents being part of our worship for years to come.

Sunday was a *joy*, but there's more to come as we continue "Setting the Table for the Savior!" Check out the details on "Red Sweater Sunday," the youth group bake sale, and more in this edition of the Tower News.

And we're less than a week away from our Christmas Eve services on December 24 at 4:00 and 7:00 pm! Just a reminder that this is one of those times of the year when people 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!

Do you know how stubborn God is? See you Sunday morning worship at 8:15 or 10:30!

Your partner on the journey,

Pastor Steve

## Sunday Assistants

Office Host:  
Bob & Susan Hutcherson

Altar Flowers:  
Poinsettias!

Gathering Music:  
8:15—Peggy Arthur  
10:30—Janet Parks

8:15 Acolytes  
Kaysen Nold and  
Audrey Harrison

8:15 Ushers:  
Greg & Carlene Lowe

8:15 Greeters:  
The Zink Family  
The Himes Family

Children's Time:  
Larry Dawson

Fellowship Time Hosts:  
Youth

10:30 Ushers:  
Larry & Eunice Wright

10:30 Greeters:  
Ralph & Linda Sites  
Nancy Fleming & Mary Miller

Bus Driver:  
Don Turner

## For Sunday, December 29th

Office Host:  
Rocky & Kathi Austin

Gathering Music:  
8:15—Frances Harvey  
10:30—David Cummings

8:15 Acolytes  
Jocelyn Himes & River Duncan

Fellowship Time Hosts:  
Duane & Carolyn Harms

## 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.

## Red Sweater Sunday and Youth Bake Sale



This Sunday, December 22nd at both services, the youth will have their bake sale and we'll have our tradition of Red Sweater Sunday (or a red shirt!)



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.

## 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





## 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.

## 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.

## No Newsletter Next Week

With Christmas in the middle of the week, we won't have time to send out a newsletter, but Kathy in the office wishes you and your family a very blessed Christmas. I've included extra days in the calendar sections to let you know what's happening after Christmas.



## 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. Let the office know if you are attending, so we have enough food prepared.

### Coming Up!

Sunday, December 22nd

**Red Sweater Sunday**

**Youth Bake Sale**

8:15—Early Worship

9:00—Fellowship Time

9:30—Sunday School

10:30—Late Worship

Monday, December 23rd

5:15—Learner Bells

6:00—Chancel Bells

Tuesday, December 24th

**Christmas Eve**

Office closes at Noon

3:00-3:45—Communion

4:00—Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

6:00-6:45—Communion

7:00—Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

\*Communion after both services in the Chapel

Wednesday, December 25th

**Christmas Day**

Office Closed

1:00—Christmas Dinner

### Coming Up the Following Week!

Sunday, December 29th

8:15—Early Worship

9:00—Fellowship Time

9:30—Sunday School

10:30—Late Worship

Monday, December 30th

5:15—Learner Bells

6:00—Chancel Bells

Tuesday, December 31st

**New Year's Eve**

Office closes at Noon

Wednesday, January 1st

**New Year's Day**

Office Closed

Thursday, January 2nd

8:30—Pickleball

Call the church office at

660-885-5597 for more

information about any calendar items!



## 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.

## Year End Giving



It's that time of year again to make any year end gifts. Please have them turned in on or before December 30th. Mailed checks should be postmarked by December 30th. You can also give electronically with Vanco, either through the webpage tab "How to Give" or using the GivePlus+ app.