

March 26th, 2020



“Don’t remember the prior things; don’t ponder ancient history. Look! I’m doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don’t you recognize it? I’m making a way in the desert, paths in the wilderness.” (Isaiah 43:18-19, CEB)

Just as the prophet Isaiah reminded our ancestors in the faith, we need to be reminded not look back, but to look around and ahead for the new thing God is doing... the new thing God is asking us to be a part of! You can read more about God and new things on my blog (<http://www.clintonumc.net/pastors-blog> March 23 blog post).

Moving deeper into life with Coronavirus, it’s really tempting to look back at what we feel we’ve lost and project that onto our future. But God calls us to look beyond the past. We’re called to look around and ahead to see where God is... what God is doing... how the “new thing” of God can transform us!

When I look around in our congregation, I see all kinds of ways God is doing a new thing. I see people calling to check on others... people volunteering to help others... people asking for prayer, praying for others, and being prayed for. I see people stepping up, trying something new, and taking on new responsibilities... people stepping up in their jobs and leadership roles in our community in new ways. And I see people trusting in God’s provision as they continue giving back to God through their financial generosity to our congregation.

Thank you for how you are looking for, and saying “yes” to the new thing God is calling you and us to be a part of. Thank you for your partnership in our mission “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!” God has always promised to make things new! And God will continue to make things new on into our future. Just watch!

And speaking of new things... this Sunday we will be streaming worship online through Facebook Live at 8:15 a.m. You do not need a Facebook account to view the service through Facebook Live. Just search for @UMCClintonMO on Google or Facebook to find the Clinton UMC Facebook page, then scroll down on the page until you find the online stream of the service.

Whether you join us at 8:15 on Sunday morning for worship live online or on radio station KDKD (95.3 FM), we’ll join together to praise God, connect with each other, and listen for more “Echoes from the Cross,” words of Jesus we need to hear today! I look forward to connecting with you then!

Your partner on the journey,
Pastor Steve



Next Week's Scripture Readings:

Sunday: Ezekiel 37:1-14
Pray for the breath of God to
renew your life and our world.

Monday: Romans 8:6-11
Pray for the spirit of the one
who raised Christ from the dead
to live in you.

Tuesday: John 11:1-45
Pray to know Jesus Christ more,
the resurrection and the life.

Wednesday: Psalm 130:1-8
Pray and wait for God's promise
and faithful love.

Thursday: Genesis 13:1-18
Pray and trust in God's
promised provision, regardless
of the situation.

Friday: Luke 8:40-42, 49-56
Pray, don't be afraid, and have
faith.

Saturday: Colossians 4:2-6
Pray that your words will be
gracious and seasoned with the
salt of Christ.



Church Office Update

Although this will be
lonely, in these times
of social isolation
and lock downs, our

new policy is important to adhere to:
“**until further notice the church office is
open for phone calls only (no walk-in
visitors)**”. Feel free to call Kathy with
prayer concerns, questions, or anything
else that needs attention. If we all iso-
late ourselves physically, we'll get through
this a lot quicker and healthier (we hope
and pray!)

Contacting Church Staff

Here's how to get in contact with the
church staff so we can help you! Steve,
Jennifer and Sam are working from
home.

Office—Kathy Garnett—660-885-5597
office@clintonumc.net

Pastor Steve Blacksher—660-525-4422
steveblacksher@clintonumc.net

Sam Lucas—660-351-4555
samlucas@clintonumc.net

Jennifer Kiely—660-924-3926
jenniferkiely@clintonumc.net

Coming Up

All church activities
are suspended
until further notice!

Tune into KDKD FM
(95.3) at 8:15 or

Facebook live

NEW!

(@UMCClintonMO)

on Sunday mornings for
our worship service!

Call the church office at
660-885-5597 for more
information!



Scholarships— It's Not Too Late!

The Clinton United Method-
ist Church will be offering
twelve one thousand dollar
scholarships to church mem-
bers who are continuing their
education. 2020 High gradu-
ates and those students already
in a post high school programs
may apply. Call the office at
885-5597 to have the applica-
tion emailed to you. They are
due April 17th with two rec-
ommendations.

Prayers are needed for:

Doug Ratcliff, Kathleen Smith, Maxine Evans, Ted Bolich,
Melinda Fulton, Melvin Dennis, Tom Ross,



Building Project Update

Progress on the demolition continues through this rainy spring weather. Westport has a small but dedicated crew working to do the final disassembly of the utility connections for plumbing and electrical as well as stripping out the drywall and studs that made up the office spaces and classroom on the ground level. Our goal is to have the space completely opened up and ready for the new utilities to be run by mid-April. So far we've filled two dumpsters and separated out part of a trailer load of metal to recycle from ceiling grids and metal stud walls. At least one more to go!

We'll try to keep sharing images regularly as the view is changing fast... today the view is standing in the middle of the Green Room looking toward the gym. You can see the gym doors and soon the stud walls in the foreground will be removed as well so you'll see the effect of having visibility from the Green Room stairs all the way through the center of the building. In the end this will help guests visualize where things are and how they can get from place to place in the church.

Lots of mess yet to come but we've walled off the opening by the Green Room stairs to contain the dust in the construction zone. We are actively looking for opportunities to reuse materials that we can, many of the light fixtures and our new drinking fountain will be reused in the new space to help us save money on the overall project. Hope you are all staying safe, we will share more images as things continue to change.



Helen Finks Turns 102!

Helen turns 102 on April 2nd—isn't that amazing? Since she can't have visitors at this time, let's help her celebrate by sending her a note or a birthday card! Her address is:

Helen Finks
Jefferson Gardens
509 W. Rogers St.
Clinton, MO 64735

Giving Tithes & Offerings

We appreciate so much your continued support of our congregation. We know that many of you are doing what you can to support the Lord's church, and its mission, even as we are unable to meet on a weekly basis. This includes your financial generosity. See the information below for ways to do that in this time when we are not meeting for worship on Sunday.

One easy way is to mail your check in—still using the same address as 601 S. 4th Street.

Another way is to use your bank's online bill payment system.

Also, giving to the church online through our website is fast, easy, and secure. To make an online donation:

1. Visit our website at www.clintonumc.net.
2. Locate the "How To Give" tab at the top of the page.
3. Click the "Give" button.
4. Follow the directions to make a donation.

You have options to give to the General Fund or the Building Fund! Create a login and you can go back and add or change donations! For questions, call Kathy at the church office at 660-885-5597.