

April 30th, 2020



CLINTON

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

One thing is for sure during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, things are different.

But some things never change. John Wesley was the 18th century founder of the Methodist movement in England that has become the worldwide United Methodist Church. Wesley's extremely successful strategy for spiritual renewal was what we would call a small group ministry. He had three rules for anyone in those early Methodist small groups: 1) do no harm, 2) do good, and 3) participate in the ordinances of God (public worship, Holy Communion, Scripture, prayer, etc.)

This part of our Methodist DNA is just as vital now as it was 250 years ago; maybe even more so now. What better way to live into our faith in this COVID-19 world than to seek to do no harm, do good, and participate in the ordinances of God.

And that includes what we will do in the next several weeks as a congregation to re-open our church building to Sunday morning activities. We will do that in a way that first and foremost will do no harm. We will do that in a way that is safe and good for all those who gather with us. And we will seek to help everyone worship God, experience the hope of Christ, and be changed by the Holy Spirit.

We are currently assessing our Sunday morning situation carefully. We are in contact with, and receiving information from, our local health officials. Next week we will receive further direction from our Bishop and the Missouri Conference of the United Methodist Church. When we know when and how we will re-open our building for Sunday mornings, we will communicate that out to you in advance.

In the meantime, I look forward to virtually gathering with you for Sunday worship on the radio or online as we continue our "Ordinary Faith" sermon series. Anybody out there ever lost your car keys? Anybody ever need some grace? I'll see you Sunday!

Your partner on the journey, Pastor Steve

Next Week's Scripture Readings:

Sunday: John 21:1-14
Pray for the wisdom to know the risen Lord Jesus Christ.

Monday: I Kings 18:20-39
Pray to know the power of the living God in your life.

Tuesday: 1 Peter 2:21-25
Pray and be thankful for the healing power of the cross of Christ.

Wednesday: Acts 2:42-47
Pray for God's unity and power to be found in the church.

Thursday: Psalm 23:1-6
Pray to know the presence of our faithful providing God.

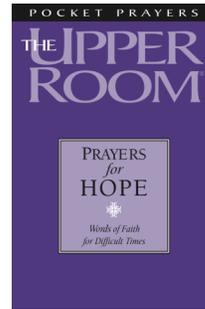
Friday: John 10:1-10
Pray to know the voice of the Good Shepherd.

Saturday: 1 Timothy 1:12-17
Pray and be thankful for the salvation found in Christ.

Upper Room Online Tool

During the COVID-19, the Upper Room publishers have made the May/June Upper Room available for a free download on their website. (thanks to some generous donors!) They are also offering some pocket prayer booklets to download as well.

One of the prayer books is title "Prayers for Comfort—Words of Faith for Times of Pain". Another one is "Prayers for Hope—Words of Faith for Difficult Times". Check these out on their website at the following link: <https://www.upperroom.org/special-editions/?path=covidblog> (I'll link this in the email too)



If you need a paper copy of the Upper Room, we still have some May/June Upper Room devotionals left! Since we aren't going to the church building on Sundays, you can pick one up at the church office porch at 602 S. 3rd Street. They will be in a plastic bin on the porch during church office hours and evenings during the week. Take one for yourself and take another to give to a fellow church member that isn't getting out or for a friend.

"Ordinary Faith" Sermon Series Continues This Sunday

In this time of the COVID-19 restrictions... away from the normal weekly rhythm of physically gathering for worship, fellowship, and ministry as the Clinton UMC congregation... how can God's life-changing presence be experienced?

Join us this Sunday for another message in our series called "Ordinary Faith." We'll learn that in the overlooked moments and routines of our "socially-distanced" lives, we can become aware of, and impacted by, God's presence in surprising ways! Find out more at www.clintonumc.net.

Contact Us

Thanks everyone for "keeping the distance". We are here to help, so please contact us if you need anything!

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
sam lucas@clintonumc.net

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

Archived Sermons

Did you miss watching or listening to a Sunday worship? Did you know that we archive just the sermons on the website? Go to our website—www.clintonumc.net. (no need to login!), go to the Worship tab and choose Sermon Archive and you can watch Steve's sermons—just pick the week you missed (or want to watch again 😊). KDKD keeps many weeks of the full service on their website. Links to these can be found in the email.



Prayers are needed for:

The family of Randy Taylor in the death of his step-mother Stella Taylor,
Wylie Brown, Melinda Fulton, Melvin Dennis, Tom Ross



Building Project Update

There is a limited amount of work taking place on site for the next week or so... one of the items we have completed is the asbestos survey to assure we're adequately protecting the workers and also to eliminate potential exposures in the future. While we expected to find traces in the 1955 structure piping and floor tiles we also had detection in some of the floor tile in the 1977 building. We have the remediation scheduled for early May to have that taken care of and then the rest of the floor cuts for the new kitchen and restroom can proceed.

Check out Steve's Blog!

Every Monday and Thursday, Steve posts an inspirational message on his blog. You can find it on our website, www.clintonumc.net and clicking on the Pastor Steve's Blog tab. Several weeks worth of entries will be there for you to read and think about!

Thanks for your Offerings!

Wow! Thanks to everyone who has taken the time to mail in their offering, drop it off, or gave online. We are truly blessed to have a congregation with a giving heart during this time while we aren't gathering on Sundays!

Remember, please make separate checks for your regular giving and building fund offering.

One easy way to give 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 and they will issue a paper check directly to us!

If you want to make an online donation:

1. Visit our website at www.clintonumc.net.
2. Locate the "How To Give" tab at the top.
3. Click the "Make a Donation" 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. Thank you everybody!

Sewers Needed—A few Masks left!

Since the CDC recommends that you wear a mask to the store and other outings, we are trying to help! Masks are easy to make out of a bandana or some fabric and 2 rubber bands or shoe laces! Use Google to find instructions.



If you can't make one, we do have a really small selection of masks here at the office. Call the office first (885-5597) to check on availability and Kathy will save you one or two for pickup.

Sewers, our supply is very low, so if you are willing to make some more, please let the church office know!

Our Easter Offering is a Blessing to Our Community

During the last month, we've received over \$3,724.00 in donations for our Easter Offering! This money will be given to the Samaritan Center to help local families

who are struggling to pay their utility bills. Our church is truly a blessing to our community!

