



To do our part in keeping our congregation and community safe during the current surge of COVID-19, a few weeks ago we decided to close the church building to “in-person” gatherings. We based this decision on public health officials’ recommendations, Jesus’ command to love our neighbor, and John Wesley’s rules for Christian living.

Bishop Robert Farr, the leader of the United Methodist Church in Missouri, has also guided us in this decision. The Bishop’s letter reads in part:

“As we live into our first General Rule of doing no harm, I strongly encourage that in-person worship services be suspended until further notice for congregations located in counties with a critical status related to the COVID-19 pandemic. I fully recognize that this means worshipping physically apart from one another during the Thanksgiving and Advent seasons, including Christmas Eve and other large group gatherings. I believe this is the most responsible action at this time to preserve the health and wellbeing of our laity, clergy and neighbors.”

In light of the continuing COVID-19 concerns in our community, Clinton UMC indoor in-person activities will remain suspended at least through December. This includes our Christmas Eve services. I know this is disappointing for many of you; as it is for me. Thank you for your continued understanding in this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know (660-525-4422, steveblacksher@clintonumc.net).

I’m excited to share that “drive through” Christmas Eve Communion will be available. You’ll also be able to gather for Christmas Eve worship online and on the radio. Find out more in this edition of the Tower Views.

Ever think about God experiencing life as you know it? I look forward to gathering with you Sunday morning online or on the radio.

Your partner on the journey,
Pastor Steve

Prayers are needed for:

Rodney Bybee, Brady Porta, Vera Graham, Tom & Shirley Bell, Caroline Wilson, Melvin Dennis, and friends and family of Tom Ross.



Next Week’s Scripture Readings:

Sunday: Isaiah 40:1-11

Pray to know how to prepare for the coming of Christ anew in your life.

Monday: Leviticus 19:32-37

Pray to hear, understand, and be obedient to God’s word.

Tuesday: Revelation 2:8-11

Pray for courage and endurance in your hardship.

Wednesday: 2 Peter 3:8-14

Pray for the faith to live holy lives as you wait for the day of the Lord.

Thursday: Psalm 85:1-13

Pray for God’s forgiveness, restoration, and peace.

Friday: Mark 1:1-8

Pray, repent, and be ready for the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.

Saturday: Acts 1:1-11

Pray to be a witness for Christ as you wait for his return.





Drive Thru Communion This Sunday!

We will be celebrating Holy Communion this Sunday, December 6th, using our "drive-through" Communion experience from 3:00-4:30 p.m. Please join us for this special time.

Mark your calendars for some Christmas music!

Christmas Caroling—all Wednesdays have been cancelled except for Wednesday, December 23rd (weather permitting). Listen from your cars or wrap up in a blanket and sit in a lawn chair and enjoy some Christmas carols on December 23rd at 6:00 PM. (bring your coffee or cocoa too!)

Sam's organ Christmas concert this Sunday has been cancelled, but watch for a special event coming soon!

At this point, we still plan to have the Chancel Band perform outside twice! Enjoy shopping late on the square Thursday, December 10th and hear the band play from 5:45-6:15 PM outside of Cummings Men's Wear. And on Sunday, December 13th at 4:00 PM, the band will perform outside with some Christmas carolers under the church tower, so listen from your cars or bundle up and sit on lawn chairs too.

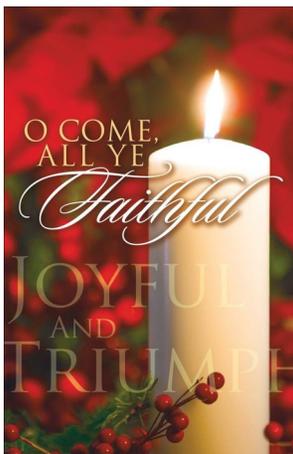
Christmas carols sure are a tradition at Clinton UMC! We miss hearing our choir and band performing live, so we hope you will enjoy hearing some Christmas carols in December with them. Tell your friends about these events too! Keep an eye on our Facebook page for special music as well (@UMCClintonMo)

Christmas Eve Plans

Because of continued COVID-19 concerns in our community, our Christmas Eve events will be different. We will not be having in-person worship. We will be having our Christmas Eve worship at 7:00 PM online on our Facebook page and on radio station, KDKD. Prior to the service, from 3:00-6:30, we will be having drive-thru communion along our luminary-lit driveway.

We sure wish we could spend Christmas Eve together. Spend some time listening on

Christmas Eve—maybe turn down the lights, light a few candles, bundle up in a blanket, sing along with the songs and hear the Christmas message from the comfort of your home!



Sunday, December 6th

8:15 Sunday Service on KDKD and Facebook

9:30 Virtual Sunday School on Facebook / Website

Tuesday, December 8th

6:00 Church Council

Thursday, December 10th

5:45 Chancel Band on square in front of Cummings Men's Wear.

6:00 Trustees Meeting

7:15 Thursday Night Live with Steve

Sunday, December 13th

Pledge Card Dedication

8:15 Sunday Service on KDKD and Facebook

9:30 Virtual Sunday School on Facebook / Website

4:00 Christmas Carolers and Chancel Band outside under church tower

All outdoor events subject to weather cooperation!





Red Sweater Photos Needed!

Sunday, December 20th will not be the same without all of you in the sanctuary in those red sweaters! This year, for fun, we thought we'd have you put on a red sweater, take a picture and send it to us. Smile, wave, hold a sign, be silly—just send a picture! We'll have a slide show at the end of the service with all the red

sweater pictures. Text red sweater pictures to Kathy Garnett at 660-351-1268. Please help us out on this fun project! Deadline is Thursday, December 17th to be included.

Blue Christmas

You're invited to gather on our Facebook page, for a "Blue Christmas" service on December 21st at 7:00 pm.

We'll acknowledge that God's presence is for those who mourn, grieve, and struggle. This will be a quiet service of

Scripture, music, silent reflection, and prayer for those whom this holiday season is anything but

bright and joyful. On this longest night of the year, we'll be reminded that God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness.



Contact Us

Here's how to get in contact with the church staff so we can help you!

The church office will remain staffed and the door may be locked but please ring the doorbell and Kathy will come to the door to talk to you, pick up your offering or help you with something. Please wear a mask.

Office—**Kathy Garnett**—
at 602 S. 3rd Street
660-885-5597
office@clintonumc.net



Church Building Project Update

[Check out an extra special Building Project update](#) on our Facebook page (@UMCClintonMo) or on our website in the Events—Current Events tab. Dave Garnett gives you an in-depth walkthrough of the building and explains what it is turning into! See everything up close without getting dusty shoes!

Advent Virtual Sunday School!

Don't forget about our virtual Sunday School kids at 9:30 am on Sundays! We are in Advent and have some special treats for you! Get ready to sing along so check out Facebook and/or website Sunday mornings for this fun video! If you miss it Sunday mornings at 9:30 am, you can watch it anytime during the week!



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. *Please make separate checks for your regular giving, building fund, any special giving or memorial fund giving.*

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 and they will issue a paper check directly to us!

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.
3. Click the "Give" button.
4. Follow the directions to make a donation.

You have options to give to the General Fund, the Building Fund, the special giving or memorial funds. 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.

Join Steve for "Thursday Night Live!"

This Thursday (and continuing on each Thursday) Steve will have a short, inspirational message for you on Facebook Live at 7:15 P.M. Hop on our Facebook Page and check it out. (@UMCClintonMO)



Pledge Cards

You should have received your minty green pledge cards recently. We will be dedicating those cards virtually on December 13th, so please don't forget about turning your card in as soon as possible. Thanks to everyone that has mailed their cards in already! You can mail your cards to 601 S. 4th Street or drop them off at the church office on 3rd Street.



UMC CONNECT

660-851-1341

Connect with us! On Sundays, radio listeners can text messages to this number and let us know they are listening, and opportunities to respond to Steve's thoughts and questions via text messages will arise during the Sunday service. Also, send in prayer requests at any time to this number!