



Christmas Eve with Clinton UMC is coming!

But with our community currently in the high-risk COVID-19 category, this Christmas Eve will be different. To help keep our congregation and community safe, we'll be gathering in new ways. We'll share in "drive-through" Holy Communion and experience our Candlelight Christmas Eve service virtually on our church's Facebook page, website, and radio station KDKD.

Preparations are underway. Music is being planned and practiced. Scriptures, stories, and messages are being thought out. Technology is being checked. We'll be ready to gather virtually for Christmas Eve and the coming of Christ anew!

Now we need your help! 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 an invitation to join you for church activities. This year, people don't have to commit to entering the church building. That can be a difficult step, if it's been a while since you've been in church. Instead, they can participate in the privacy and security of their own home.

Even in the midst of a pandemic, there are lots of ways to make your invitations. Maybe it's a "masked up" and "socially distanced" conversation. A phone call works well too. It could be a written invitation via email, text message, or snail mail. It can be as simple as sharing a Clinton UMC Facebook post about Christmas Eve.

Thanks in advance for your help. Please know that with God's help, your invitation has the potential to be life changing for the person you invite and for you!

How can you know who God really is? Just think Emmanuel! I'm looking forward to gathering with you for Advent worship this Sunday online or on the radio.

Your partner on the journey,
Pastor Steve



Next Week's Scripture Readings:

Sunday: Isaiah 61:1-11

Pray for God's good news, healing, freedom, and joy to be sent.

Monday: Luke 4:14-21

Pray to believe that Jesus is God's good news, healing, freedom, and joy.

Tuesday: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Pray, give thanks, and be open to the Holy Spirit.

Wednesday: Psalm 126:1-6

Pray for God to do great things and rejoice.

Thursday: Leviticus 23:9-14

Pray and offer your first and best to God.

Friday: Revelation 2:12-17

Pray to listen to the Holy Spirit and repent.

Saturday: John 1:6-8, 19-28

Pray to know and humbly accept God's call and purpose for your life



Prayers are needed for:

Friends and family of Martha Cummings, Friends and family of David Saddoris,
Rodney Bybee, Lezlee Talbot, Melvin Dennis

Mark your calendars for some Christmas music!

Christmas Carols with Sam and David—this Friday night at 5:00 PM (and later) You are invited to a concert with David Cummings and Sam Lucas! Turn your Christmas tree lights on, dim the room lights, maybe light a candle, and close your eyes to enjoy. You will be transformed back into the sanctuary - that lovely place we miss so much this Christmas time. You can come back here to Facebook and play it again and again! Enjoy the magic of our two talented musicians! We'll leave this up through the end of the year.



Christmas Caroling—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!)

Slight change in plans—Enjoy shopping late on the square Thursday, December **17th** and hear the Chancel band play from 5:45-6:15 PM outside of Cummings Men's Wear. And **this 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.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for special music as well!
(@UMCCClintonMo)

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 or our website and also 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, get some candles ready for the lighting of the candles, sing along with the songs and hear the Christmas message from the comfort of your home!

And like Steve said on page 1—invite a friend to watch our Christmas Eve service! We'll be posting some reminders on Facebook that you could share on your page or send in messenger to someone you know.



Friday, December 11th

5:00 Christmas Carols with Sam and David on Facebook (watch later too!)

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

Monday, December 14th

6:00 Building Committee Meeting

Thursday, December 17th

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

7:15 Thursday Night Live with Steve

Sunday, December 20th

Red Sweater Sunday

8:15 Sunday Service on KDKD and Facebook
9:30 Virtual Sunday School on Facebook / Website

Monday, December 21st

7:00 Blue Christmas Service on Facebook

All outdoor events subject to weather cooperation!





Red Sweater Photos Needed ASAP!

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 or message it to our church Facebook page. Please help us out on this fun project! Deadline is Thursday, December 17th to be included.

Christmas Offering



This year our Christmas offering will be donated to the Samaritan Center for utility assistance. The need is great in our community—we get calls everyday for help and we are glad to have the help of the Samaritan Center to administer this program for us. Make checks payable to the Church and put Christmas in the memo. You can also give through our website using Vanco.

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.

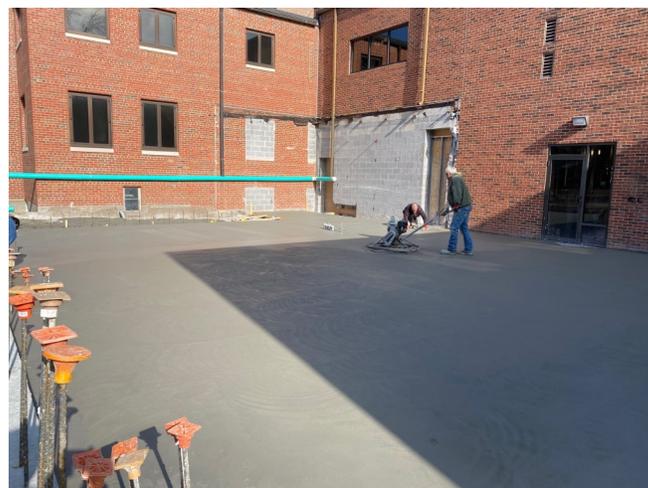
Office—**Kathy Garnett**—
at 602 S. 3rd Street
660-885-5597
office@clintonumc.net

Church Building Project Update



Another milestone.... Concrete floor for the Worship Hall was placed on Monday. Starting to feel like a room, steel for the roof supports will be the next step on the outside, installation of the heating and AC ductwork and electrical rough ins are taking place inside.

If you haven't already, check out an special Building Project update on our December 3rd Facebook post (@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 shoes dirty!



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!



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)

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, Christmas offering 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 Christmas Assistance Fund 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.



Pledge Cards

Pledge card Sunday is this Sunday December 13th, but please, still send them in, even if they are late! 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!