



CLINTON
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Merry Christmas everyone!

As I sit down to write, this Christmas week “like none other” is just beginning. By the time many of you open this newsletter, Christmas day will be past. So, what now?

When I was growing up, I had an aunt and uncle with some interesting holiday customs. After dinner on Thanksgiving Day, they put up their Christmas decorations... tree, outside lights, and all. Their family Christmas gathering was on Christmas Eve night. The next morning, Christmas Day, they took all their decorations down and stored them away for another year. When asked about it, they’d say that for them, Christmas was over on December 24; it was time to move on. As a kid, I always wondered about that.

Fact is, in the church, December 25 does not mark the end of the Christmas season. It marks the beginning! The “twelve days of the Christmas” run from Christmas day through Epiphany on January 5. It’s to be a time of praise and thanksgiving for the Incarnation, the coming of God “in the flesh” in Jesus Christ. It’s a time to revel in the coming of Emmanuel, God with us, that we have waited for all Advent long.

I look forward to gathering with you for worship on this first Sunday of the Christmas season, as we celebrate together the coming of Christ anew! And by the way, it’s all about the light.

Your partner on the journey,
Pastor Steve



Next Week’s Scripture Readings:

Sunday: Psalm 148:1-14

Pray and join all of creation in praising God.

Monday: Hebrews 1:1-4

Pray to know the glory and light of Christ, the Son’s, coming anew.

Tuesday: Isaiah 52:7-10

Pray to receive the peace, good news, and salvation of Emmanuel God.

Wednesday: Galatians 4:4-7

Pray for the forgiveness and freedom that comes in Christ.

Thursday: Luke 2:22-35

Pray to see God’s salvation prepared for you in Christ.

Friday: Luke 2:36-40

Pray and look forward to redemption that comes in Christ.

Saturday: Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3

Pray for God’s righteousness and praise to grow in our world.



Prayers are needed for:

Bob Wright, Kloi Austin, Larry Robinson, Marilyn Fantz, LouAnna Eckhoff, Lezlee Talbot, Melvin Dennis

Join in the Christmas Carolers **Tonight!**

Christmas Caroling December 23rd—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!)

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 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 as Steve has said, invite a friend to watch our Christmas Eve service! We'll be posting some reminders on Facebook. An easy thing for you to do is to share it on your page or send the post in messenger to someone you know.

Christmas Worship this Sunday!

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light!" (Isaiah 9:2)

Yes, Christmas Day is Friday, but on Sunday we will be in the middle of the Christmas season. So, gather with us virtually for Sunday morning worship at 8:15 on KDKD or on our Facebook page then and later. We will celebrate the meaning of Jesus birth, with all the sights and sounds of Christmas!

Virtual Sunday School!

Don't forget about our virtual Sunday School kids at 9:30 am on Sundays! We have some special treats for you! You might get some popsicle sticks and glue ready! 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!



Wednesday, December 23rd

6:00 Christmas Carolers in front of church doors

Thursday, December 24th

Office closes at Noon

3:00-6:30 PM Drive Through Communion

7:00 Christmas Eve Service on KDKD, Facebook and www.clintonumc.net

Friday, December 25th

Office Closed

Sunday, December 27th

8:15 Sunday Service on KDKD and Facebook

9:30 Virtual Sunday School on Facebook / Website

All outdoor events subject to weather cooperation!

Christmas Offering



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.

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.

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

2021 Offering Envelopes

For those who use offering envelopes, you can pick them up at the church office at 602 S. 3rd Street from 8AM-3PM...or... pick them up on December 24th when you come for drive-through communion between 3:00 and 6:30 PM. You can also help us by picking up boxes for your friends and neighbors!

Last Day for 2020 Giving

The office will need your 2020 giving in the office no later than December 29th to get it processed and to the bank. Thanks for your help in this matter!



Ho Ho Ho!

The Building Project is hoping that Santa brings all the supplies needed to finish off this project soon. Kitchen equipment is ordered and cabinetry is ordered. We are getting closer and closer to a move back to offices!

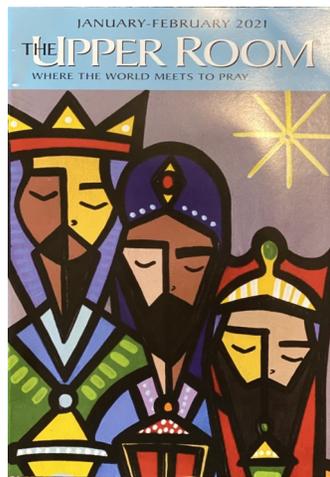


If you haven't already, check out an special Building Project update on our December 3rd Facebook post

(@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!

January/February Upper Room

The new Upper Rooms are available—pick them up at the church rental house office at 602 S. 3rd Street. They'll be on the porch during the week. **Otherwise, come to the drive through communion on Christmas Eve from 3:00-6:30 and pick your Upper Room up there!**



Pledge Cards

Pledge card Sunday has passed, 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!

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the cards, memorials and flowers honoring our mother. Your presence at her service either in person or online was much appreciated. Our gratitude to Pastor Steve, Sam Lucas and Dave Garnett for their part in the lovely service.

Carla Moberly, David and Steve Cummings and families