



## CLINTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2020 was filled with unexpected events, changes, and loss driven mostly by the COVID-19 pandemic. We have always sought to make decisions regarding our church's response to the pandemic based on:

\*Jesus' command to love our neighbors as ourselves.

\*Methodist founding father John Wesley's rules for Christian living to 1) do no harm, 2) do good, and 3) stay in love with God.

\*Recommendations from our national, state, and local public health officials.

Keeping these principles in mind, after reviewing the current COVID-19 situation in our community, Clinton UMC leadership has made the decision to re-open the church building to in-person gatherings beginning **January 10**. Face coverings will continue to be required in the church building. Appropriate social distancing will need to be maintained as well. For worship services this will mean sitting in every other pew, which will have pew pads.

For the time being, there will only be one "in-person" Sunday worship service at 8:15 a.m. The service will continue to be available virtually on our Facebook page (@UMCClintonMO) and on the radio (KDKD, 95.3 FM and 1280 AM).

Please continue to be in prayer for our congregation, our church leaders, and our people. Pray for each other. Pray that as 2021 begins, Clinton UMC will continue to live into our mission "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

I look forward to gathering with you for worship in-person, online, or on the radio this Sunday morning at 8:15! We'll begin a new sermon series called "Tough Love." When it comes to God, how tough could love really be? Think about the cross.

Your partner on the journey,  
Pastor Steve

### Next Week's Scripture Readings:

Sunday: Luke 3:15-22

Pray for the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life.

Monday: Acts 8:4-17

Pray and believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.

Tuesday: Psalm 29:1-11

Pray to receive God's blessing, strength, and peace.

Wednesday: Isaiah 43:1-7

Pray and put your trust in the care of the Lord your God.

Thursday: Revelation 2:18-29

Pray to be examined by the living Christ and found faithful.

Friday: Psalm 72:1-7

Pray to know how to work for God's justice and peace.

Saturday: John 14:25-29

Pray for the peace of Christ to be known and received.



#### Prayers are needed for:

Bob Wright, Kloi Austin, Larry Walthall, Larry Robinson,  
Marilyn Fantz, LouAnna Eckhoff, Linda Courtney, Melvin Dennis



### New Sermon Series

What do you think of when you hear the word “tough?” Perhaps something hard, solid, firm, resilient, unbreakable, rigid, tenacious, rugged, or unyielding comes to mind. Tough can describe something in a positive or negative light. A tough person might be seen as one who’s very dependable or very challenging.

Have you ever thought of God’s love as tough?

Yes, God’s love for the world and us is tough; it’s solid, resilient, and unbreakable. Thank goodness! But how hard, rugged, and unyielding are the things God has had to do and be to love a world that is sinful and broken? How tough is it for God to love us?

You’re invited to join the Clinton United Methodist Church January 10 – February 14 for Sunday worship and a sermon series called “Tough Love.” Looking at Scripture, we’ll seek to better understand, receive, and live out the tough love of God found in Jesus Christ.



### Drive Through Communion

Join us for communion this Sunday, January 10th from 3:00-4:30 PM in the front drive of the church—you will receive the blessing of the Lord in your car or as you walk up!

### Children’s Sunday School

With the church opening up this Sunday, January 10th, we will start offering Sunday School class from 9:15-10:00 on Sunday mornings, in-person. We look forward to seeing the children once again! We will also be showing the last Sunday School video on Facebook at 9:30, so watch it when you can!



### Sunday, January 10th

8:15 Sunday Service in-person, on KDKD and Facebook  
9:15 Sunday School in-person  
3:00-4:30—Drive Thru Communion

### Monday, January 11th

7:00 Building Committee Meeting

### Thursday, January 14th

6:00 Trustees Meeting

### Sunday, January 17th

8:15 Sunday Service in-person, on KDKD and Facebook  
9:15 Sunday School in-person

## 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!

### 2021 Offering Envelopes

For those who use offering envelopes, you can pick them up at the church after service or during the week at the office at 602 S. 3rd Street from 8AM-3PM. You can also help us by picking up boxes for your friends and neighbors!

### Building Project Report

Many things are changing in our building... spaces are being transformed to bring us closer to the ministry and help us open connections to the community that we didn't have before. It's taking lots of planning, waiting, adjusting and doing but this is not the Church... it's just a building. While we've all suffered the ache of absence during this year of not being together as a family we can take comfort that it will end. We will return to the traditions, the comforting and the celebrations.



## Contact Us

### 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](mailto:office@clintonumc.net)

We would like to send our heartfelt thanks to our church family for the prayers, concern & friendship extended to us as we dealt with our granddaughter Kloi's COVID complications and 12-day hospitalization at Children's Mercy. Her recuperation continues as she returns to school this week.

Sincerely,

The Austin Family, Kathi & Rocky, Lance, Kloi & Molly, Jason, Kristi & Kenadie

Thank you to David Cummings and his crew of Carolyn Harms, Kent Cable, Don Turner, Larry and Eunice Wright, Denise Moore, Jennifer Kiely, Debbie Sieger and Sam Lucas for helping with putting up and taking down the Christmas decorations. Their efforts this year made the sanctuary so beautiful and enhanced our video streams so much!

Through our Christmas offering this past month, we are able to give the Samaritan Center \$3,368.26 for their assistance program to help people in need in our community. We get many calls here at the church and we are glad that we have partnered with the Samaritan Center to help administer this program.

*Thank you*