



COLONA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

November 2019 NEWSLETTER
Sunday Worship 8:00 am & 10:30 am
Sunday school 9:10 am
1709 Cleveland Road - Colona, Illinois 61241
(309) 792-1661
E-mail: colonaumc2@mchsi.com
Office Hours: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm M-F

WE'RE INVITING

Book Club – November 12th – *The Christmas Pearl*

We will be meeting November 12th at 10:00 am to talk about *The Christmas Pearl*, by Dorothea Benton Frank. "Still spry at ninety-three, Theodora has lived long enough to see her family grow into an insufferable bunch. Having finally gathered the whole bickering brood together for the holidays at her South Carolina home, the grand matriarch pines wistfully for those extravagant, homey Christmases of her childhood. These days, where is the love and the joy . . . and the peace? But this is, after all, a magical time. Someone very special has heard Theodora's plea—and is about to arrive at her door with pockets full of O'Gullah magic and enough common sense to transform this Christmas into the miracle it's truly meant to be." There will be no Book Club meeting in December. Next meeting will be January 14, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. to talk about *Dearly Beloved*, by Cara Wall.

United Methodist Women – November 21st

Colona United Methodist women met on October 17. Peggy Emmert was hostess and Joylin Clark gave the program on Persistence in Prayer. Plans for Breakfast with Mary & Joseph were discussed. Seven boxes have been packed for college students. The price for cookies at the December 14 Cookie Walk was raised to \$8.00 per pound. Proceeds from the Cookie Walk will go to a Haitian mission. There will also be a bazaar that day. All women are invited and welcome at our meetings.

United Methodist Men

Thanks to those who bring their cans in regularly and to those who supported the Aluminum can drive. Money from the cans all year covered the cost of the meat for Trunk 'n Treat.

Thursday Prayer Vigil – November 7th

Please stop by for our Prayer Vigil on Thursday, November 7th from 8:30 am to 8:30 pm. This is a good time to close out distractions and share in a time of prayer for our community, our Church and personal requests from the congregation. All are welcome to fill out a prayer request to be included the day of the Prayer Vigil. Prayer Request forms circulate the Sunday before the Vigil. You can also pick up a Prayer Request in the office.

Wednesday Quilting

The quilters are still active on Wednesdays from 8:00 am – 2:00 pm. Anyone who has a quilt top and would like to have it hand quilted should see Barb Searle or Carol McCarty. The money raised by the quilters will fund the kitchenette in the addition.

Pack Candy Boxes – December 10th

All are welcome to join us for a potluck at 6:00 p.m. and packing candy boxes afterward.

CHARGE CONFERENCE
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH 6:30 PM
Moline Riverside UMC



MYF Soup Cook-Off – November 10th

Donate a pot of soup – sample all the soups and vote for your favorite with your \$\$\$\$. This is your chance to win the Golden Ladle. There will be a pie and cake auction (or any type of dessert) to be auctioned off on Sunday, November 10th after the second service.

NEW MEMBER'S CLASS – November 17th

**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

Are you interested in becoming a member of Colona UMC? Pastor Mark will host a New Member class on Sunday, November 17th following worship. This 90-minute session, which includes lunch, will help you understand some of our United Methodist traditions, what becoming a member of the church is all about and the opportunity to ask the pastor any questions that you may have in mind. If you're interested in becoming a new member please contact the office so we can adequately prepare lunch that day.

STEWARDSHIP BRUNCH – November 17th

Our Stewardship Campaign, "The Gift that Keeps On Giving," begins Nov 3. Estimate of Giving Cards will be in the bulletins on Nov. 3 & 10. We encourage everyone to fill out a card, even if you just put your name on. Cards are due back to church by Nov. 17. They may be placed in the offering plate, left in the office, or given to Judy Smith. On Sunday, Nov. 17 we will celebrate with a Stewardship Brunch beginning at 9:15 am. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please fill out a reservation card which will also be in the bulletins on Nov. 3 & 10 so we have an attendance estimate.

Breakfast with Mary and Joseph – December 7th

Come join Mary & Joseph for a fun morning of breakfast, crafts, and stories. Welcoming ages kindergarten thru 6th grade on December 7th from 8:30am to 1:00pm if staying for lunch. Only 24 spots are available. A registration sheet will be on the Welcome Desk starting October 13th until November 24th. Volunteers are needed as well, see sign-up sheet for open positions. For more information please contact Peg at 309-231-2657.

UMW Cookie Walk & Bazaar - December 14th

30th Annual Cookie Walk

Saturday, December 14th – Doors open at 9:00 a.m.
 Cookies - \$8.00 per lb. – Free coffee

WE'RE GROWING

Worship Schedule

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| November 3rd | Ephesians 5:1-2, 8-9 <i>"The Power of One More Dollar"</i> | Holy Communion |
| November 10th | 2 Corinthians 8:1-9 <i>"Making a Commitment"</i> | |
| November 17th | 2 Corinthians 8:1-9 <i>"Keeping a Commitment"</i> | Commitment Sunday |
| November 24th | Colossians 1:11-20 <i>"Show Us the Way"</i> | |

All Saints Sunday – November 3rd

On Sunday, November 3rd during our 10:30 worship service we will lift up and remember our church family and members of our own families who in the last year have gone on to join the Church Triumphant. We want to have those names listed in our worship bulletin. Please contact the office and let us know the name and date of your loved one's passing. We will also have a time of prayer for those who we remember and whose memory we carry in our hearts.

Choir

Junior Choir welcomes children of the Church from 4 years old and up to 8th grade. They meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. Senior choir welcomes anyone from 9th grade and up; they meet on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 – 7:45. Supper is served prior to choir practice at 5:30 pm for all who want to come and enjoy. If you have any questions please contact the church office at (309) 792-1661.

Christmas Cantata – December 22nd - Messiah Heaven's Glory

Long ago, a Baby was born in Bethlehem that would change the world. He came as our Messiah, to redeem and deliver us. Come spending an evening listening to the choir sing and enjoy a light supper after. The evening will begin at 5:30 pm. Bring family and friends and begin the week of Christmas with a fun filled evening.

Children's Christmas Program

Children's Christmas Service is on Sunday, December 15th. Second practice is Wednesday, November 17th at 6:00 pm to 6:45 pm. Supper will be served at 5:30 pm. If you are interested, but cannot attend, please contact the office or Susan Koska.

Acolyte's needed

Happy fall everyone! This is a little update on our acolyte schedule. If your child is interested in being an acolyte we would like to welcome them to the program. The main requirement is that they be able to reach the candles!!! We will be putting together a schedule for the next six months for both 1st and 2nd service. Please let Jo Anne Hillman (309) 314-2073 or the office know if your child is interested as soon as possible. May we all work together to bring the light of Christ not only to our worship service but out into our world as well. God Bless!

Sunday School News

Everyone is welcome to join a Sunday School class. We offer classes for all ages from 3 years and up. Our next Sunday School gathering will be on November 10 at 9:50 am.

Heifer International – November 10th – Picture of Payton Hillman placing the 50th heart. This will be our last Heifer collection this year. We received our 50th HEART pledge for our “Cover Me With Love” campaign! 50 hearts=\$5000. We have collected \$4946 thus far. \$5000 buys an ARK, which is 2 animals of each kind they offer. Bring your dollars and change on the 10th and let’s fill the ARK!



Monday Morning Bible Study

Join us & make time to study the Word! Coffee and donuts provided, just bring your Bible! We will meet on the November 4th & 18th at 10:30 am!

Advent Bible Study

This Advent Season join us as we prepare for Christmas with “All Earth is Waiting” by Katie Z. Dawson. All Earth Is Waiting invites readers to explore the familiar Advent themes of hope, preparation, joy, and peace with the heavens and earth in mind. This 4 week bible study begins the week of November 24. There are sign-up sheets on the welcome center for groups available. If God is calling you to lead a group, please see Judy Smith.



A Cup of Joseph in the Upper Room –

The mission of CUMC states; *Invite - Grow - Serve*. Therefore, consider this an invitation! To all men, join us Mondays, November 11th and 25th at 6:00 pm in front of the Fellowship Hall fireplace for one hour. All men are invited, bring a friend! A cup of “joe” will be available.

WE'RE SERVING

November Servants

Head Ushers 8:00 am – Ted Anderson 10:30 a.m. – Gordson Westlund

Acolytes 8:00 am – Payton Hillman 10:30 am - Harper Tapscott

| Date | 8:00 Liturgist | 10:30 Liturgist | 10:30 Greeter |
|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| November 3rd | Curt Frerichs | Brad Thomas | Marilyn Schaab & Doug Morris |
| November 10th | Logan Loitz | Ruth Gowan | Wendy Baker |
| November 17th | Mary Loeffler | Jamie Matthews | Judy Schadt |
| November 24th | Karin Barrett | Wendy Baker | Judy Smith |

Weekly Servants

It is that time of the year again. We are looking for ushers, greeters, liturgists, nursery helpers, acolytes and helpers, trustee’s helpers (lawn care, weeding help, general church pick-up) and money counters for 2020. If you have not been asked in the past and would like to serve or serve in a different capacity, please fill out a “servant volunteer” sheet from the welcome desk and return to the “in box” in the office.

MISSION CORNER

Colorful Classroom Contributions

The Colorful Classroom Contributions has wrapped up. Thank you for all the donations of items that the teachers at Colona School and within our congregation asked for. They are greatly appreciated.

Cubs VS Cards Food Pantry Series

Thank you to all who participated in the Food Pantry Series! The Indians won with a total score of 1228. The Cubs came in second with 761 and the Cardinals were in third with a score of 239. A total of \$1350 and over 500 items were collected for the food pantry. Thank you!

Christian Care

Thank you to the volunteers who cooked and served a meal at Christian Care on October 27th. This was the last scheduled serving date for 2019. Thank you to all the volunteers who cooked and served in 2019. Look for 2020 dates coming in January.

Colombia Missions 2020

Brisas Del Mar, San Onofre, Colombia

Help Hannah Molina Make a Difference Abroad – July 11-18

Twenty-five years ago, the small village of Brisas del Mar, Colombia suffered a population deficit due to the hands of drug cartels. Because of this tragedy, an entire generation has been missing from this community. Grandparents are raising twenty year olds, and the twenty year olds are raising the children and infants. The Colombian Methodist Church has paired up with other Methodist churches to provide refuge for these families. The Colombian Church takes part in organizing the schools, medical clinic, and providing a feeding program for the students.

High School students from the Armstrong Chapel Church in Ohio, along with our church member, Hannah Thomas Molina, will be traveling a week to help construction on the local church and school, work within the clinic, and spread the ministry with the Brisas del Mar community.

All donations will be used to help fund the construction material, travel expenses and equipment needed in the local clinics. Checks can be made to Hannah Molina or she has a "Go Fund Me" page.

Eagle Ridge PEP Store – November 10th

Noisy Offering during first and second services to benefit the Eagle Ridge PEP Store. The Eagle Ridge PEP Store is a huge benefit to the school where students can turn in their points that they have earned for good behavior, assisting in the classroom, and keeping grades up. They can use their points to purchase prizes throughout the year. Missions is donating \$75 and whatever contributions you give will go to purchase prizes.

Thanksgiving Baskets

Do you know of a family in need this Thanksgiving season? You can surprise them with a Thanksgiving Basket filled with all the Thanksgiving essentials and remind them that they are loved and that giving is the reason for the season. Pick up a form in the Narthex and be sure to turn it in on or before November 17th.

Brown Bags for Thanksgiving

Pick up your Brown Bag from the Welcome Center. Fill brown bags with can goods, paper products, baking goods & items for Thanksgiving Dinner. Place full bags on the altar on before the 17th of November.

Angel Tree – November 17th

The 17th the Angel Tree will be up. There will be Angel tree helpers near the tree that Sunday if you need help finding the type of Angel you would like to buy for. Angel Tree gifts are due back unwrapped on December 8th.

In case your tag happens to go missing, the most important information on it is the Family number and the age and gender of the child. Laura has a complete list of all the tags. If you have that information, she can tell you what was requested on the tag. As always, for those who do not like the thrill of the Christmas season shopping rush, Laura would be more than happy to do it for you. Just have the tags and the amount of money you would like to spend and she will get it done for you! Doesn't get any easier than that, no need to drive around in blizzard conditions trying to find that wish tag item that no one seems to have, it will magically show up to church ready to go. From Missions, we wish you a Happy Thanksgiving!!

Reverse Advent Bags – December 1st – 24th

Pick up a Christmas decorated yellow bag from near the Angel Tree.

Starting December 1st, place a non-perishable food item in the bag every day until December 24th. On Christmas Eve bring the bag back to the church and place under the upside down tree. Filled bags may be returned and placed under the tree at any time. All donations will go to the Colona Food Pantry.

Colona Food Pantry

Help feed those in need right here in your community! 100% of your donation goes to the Colona Food Pantry and helps provide food for a family in need. We donate on the first Sunday each month. Place your donated, nonperishable food item(s) in the grocery cart in the Narthex. Cash donations are also accepted.

Day Light Savings Time – November 3

Please remember to change your clocks back. Also, remember to change the batteries in your smoke detectors. If you need help to change the batteries, please let the office know and we will arrange for someone to help you.

INFORMATION / NEWS**Finance Team****January - August 2019**

| | <u>Income</u> | <u>Disbursements</u> | <u>Difference</u> |
|---------------------------|---------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| General Operating Budget: | \$119,160.51 | \$118,586.84 | \$ 573.67 |
| Mortgage Payment: | \$ 25,149.36 | \$ 22,385.44 | \$ 2,763.92 |

September 2019

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| General Operating Budget: | \$17,319.49 | \$13,499.38 | \$ 3,820.11 |
| Mortgage Payment: | \$ 2,448.36 | \$ 2,798.18 | -\$ 349.82 |

The mortgage payment fund has been gradually losing ground all year, currently we are below the single month payment mark. Please consider a gift to this fund to continue to build the reserves. Many thanks to those who support our ministries even when not present in worship.

The Gift of Hospitality

Do you enjoy the time between Sunday school and the 10:30 church service? We call it Fellowship Time, because it has been a successful effort to get to know more of our church family.

If you would like to be a host/hostess, please talk to Barb Searle. The snacks can be very simple and someone will be available to help you. There have been almost 8-10 people who have been generously supplying goodies. Some of our faithful cooks have passed on or moved away.

There is a sign-up sheet in the kitchen so that we know each week is filled and we don't double up. If hospitality is one of your gifts please help. Thank you, Barb Searle

Trustees

If you notice a maintenance issue the Trustees need to address please write it down and put it in the Trustee's mailbox. Thanks to those who help keep the property and building looking neat and clean. Fall cleanup date November 2. Many hands make for light work. Thanks for your participation.

Building Completion Team

Thanks to those who continue to donate to the "finish addition fund" and thanks to those who have supported the building project and mortgage and continue to do so. Carpet has been laid, the partition wall is installed, cabinetry is being installed, and plumbing is underway.



A big thank you to all who visited me, brought food, sent cards, phoned me and more. As the song goes, "It's A Long Time from May to September"...surgery that failed, another surgery, complications. I am feeling much better and will see you at church soon. Special thanks to Pastor Mark for his visit and prayers. Darlene Baum

Welcoming our new Administrative Assistant

We welcome our new, seasoned administrative assistant, Helen Michels. She was born and raised in Colona. Helen moved to Chicago many years ago and returned to the area to be with her family. She has many years' experience working with managing senior partners of major law firms and executive management of privately-held companies. If you are in the building during the morning, please stop in the office to introduce yourself.

November Birthdays

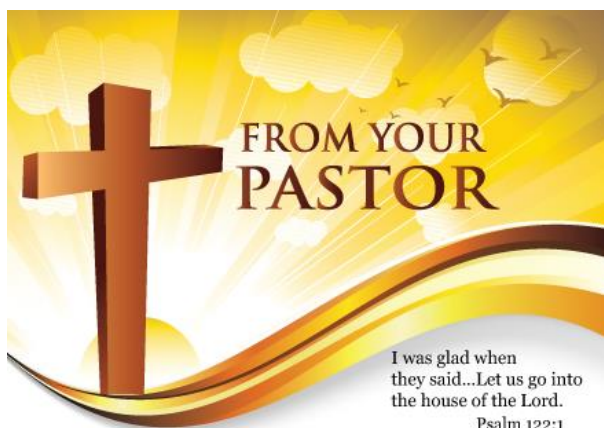
Jessica Myers 11/01
 Adam Martens 11/01
 Joel Corso 11/04
 Jillian File 11/05
 Dennis Roberts 11/08
 Olive Schofield 11/08
 Corla Swan 11/10
 Shannon File 11/10
 Kyzik Smith 11/11
 Don Bunnell 11/12
 Gayla Scott 11/12
 James Matthews 11/12
 Darlene Baum 11/13
 Skylar Swan 11/13
 Makenzie King 11/13
 Makoy King 11/13
 Cullen Myers 11/13



Ed Skelton 11/16
 Laurie Loitz 11/16
 Nadine Garbett 11/17
 Chris Barkema 11/17
 Laura Smith 11/22
 Jackie Snook 11/23
 Barbara Parker 11/23
 Kurt Sullivan 11/24
 Marge Sullivan 11/24
 Logan Loitz 11/24
 Carolee Munoz 11/25
 Cassi VanHoutte 11/25
 Dan Haley 11/27
 Cameron Olson 11/27
 Blake Searle 11/28
 Jamie Martens 11/30

November Anniversaries

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------|----------|
| Tom & Laurie Loitz | 11/03 | 35 years |
| Tony & Joanne Lieving | 11/17 | 29 years |
| Bill & Joylin Clark | 11/19 | 53 years |
| Jim & Nancy Sullivan | 11/23 | 63 years |



Long before I was born my Grandmother Horn made a quilt for each of her grandchildren. She made eight. I was the first-born grandchild of what would one day become – you guessed it, eight grandchildren.

For many years, that quilt was used on Chris and my bed. That is until one day we began to notice that in places it was becoming frayed. Not wanting to see it become further damaged, we put it away for safekeeping while trying to figure out how to take the necessary steps to make it usable again.

Our denomination has become so frayed over the years that we are in danger of no longer continuing as UNITED Methodist. We can't place the denomination into a container for safekeeping and only pull it out for special occasions. The Church of Jesus Christ must always function in the daily lives of the people.

I have heard of as many as nine (9) possible proposals to the upcoming General Conference (May 2020) that may formally lead us to become separate denominations. Some of the proposals are coming from very diverse theological groups that in the past worked hard, very hard at trying to form a compromise around the issue of human sexuality that has not been resolved for the last 40 years.

Where does this lead us as a local congregation known as United Methodist Church?

We may have to make a decision about our direction such as which option will we follow? There may be, depending on which plan as amended is adopted, the choice to be known as a traditional church, a progressive church, or a centrist church. That as of today appears to be our possible options. What those three options mean I will try and give you a brief description. Because at this point in time all these options will remain just proposals which are subject to change through the legislative process of General Conference.

First, and in no order of importance is the traditional option. It would retain the current wording in our Book of Discipline regarding human sexuality. Which states that pastors in open, same sex relations will not be ordained. Pastors will also not be permitted to perform same sex weddings, either in the church or at some other location. Those that do will be subject to charges and possible loss of clergy credentials.

Next, the progressive option would eliminate all prohibition against same sex marriages being officiated either in our churches or at any location by UM clergy. It would also eliminate the language about clergy being in same sex relations. Part of the proposal may also lead to an exit strategy for some congregations who feel they may no longer 'fit' into the United Methodist Church.

Also, another proposal, and one that seems at least to me somewhat extreme is the advocacy of the denomination splitting into four (4) distinct theologically centered churches all while remaining under the United Methodist umbrella. Meaning we would still have our general church agencies such as UMCOR, Discipleship Ministries, Wespath and other agencies.

Where may that leave us? Great question.

With several of these proposals allowing for local congregations to have and/or make an exit either entirely from a new United Methodist Church or aligning ourselves with a new form of the denomination it becomes incumbent that we prepare for any and all possibilities. So, this is what I am taking steps to do to see that we as the Colona UMC are as prepared as we can be come next May.

I have asked several of our folks to begin to meet and at this time discuss these current proposals. These proposals are the ones that will be considered since the deadline for any legislative items passed on September 18th. While I have asked a group of folks to be part of this process that does not mean what we are doing is being done in private or secret. Anyone who wishes to be part of the discussion is certainly welcome to attend any or all the gatherings. I will make certain each of our gatherings are publicized as to meeting time and place. Your input is always valued.

Our denomination is frayed, and we are reminded that you 'can't pour new wine into old wineskins.' God is always doing a new thing. It may be that we have reached a new time. The One who can take a remnant and turn it into something new is at work among us today as well as yesterday and certainly tomorrow.

Grace & Peace, Pastor Mark



| November 2019 | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 8:00 am – 12:00 pm Fall Work Day at Church – Inside & Outside Jobs Rain or Shine |
| 3 Daylight Saving Time Ends Thanksgiving bags go out All Saints Sunday Holy Communion 5:00 – 7:00 pm MYF | 4 9:00 am Staff meeting 10:30 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Praise Team | 5 2:00 – 4:00 pm ERFP 6:30 pm Trustees 6:30 pm Education meeting | 6 9 – 2 pm Quilting 5:30 pm Supper 6 – 6:45 pm Junior Choir 6:30 – 8 pm Cub Scout committee meeting 7 – 8 pm Adult Choir | 7 8:30 am – 8:30 pm Prayer Vigil | 8 | 9 |
| 10 Heifer Collection 9:50 S.S. gathering MYF Soup cook-off | 11 Veterans Day – Office Closed 6:00 pm Cup of Joseph 6:30 pm Praise Team | 12 10:00 am Book Club | 13 9 – 2 pm Quilting 6 – 6:45 pm Children's C-mas Program Practice 5:30 – 6:30pm Bear Den 1 7 – 8 pm Adult Choir | 14 6:30 pm Charge Conference @ Riverside UMC | 15 December newsletter deadline | 16 |
| 17 Thanksgiving Bags returned 9:15 am Stewardship Brunch Angel Tree goes up 5:00 – 7:00 pm MYF | 18 9:00 am Staff meeting 10:30 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Missions meeting 6:30 pm Praise Team | 19 2:00 – 4:00 pm ERFP 6:00 – 9:00 pm Cub Scout Pack meeting Thanksgiving Baskets go out | 20 9 – 2 pm Quilting 5:30 pm Supper 6 – 6:45 pm Junior Choir 7 – 8 pm Adult Choir | 21 9:00 am UMW meeting | 22 | 23 |
| 24 Second Service Baptism Blood Pressure Checks 5:00 – 7:00 pm MYF Conference Special Offering – UM Student Day | 25 6:00 pm Cup of Joseph | 26 | 27 9 – 2 pm Quilting | 28 Thanksgiving Day Office closed | 29 | 30 |

Issues of The Daily Bread and Upper Room daily devotionals are available!

Pick up your copy at the Welcome Desk!