



COLONA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1709 Cleveland Rd.
Colona, IL 61241
309-792-1661
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Web: colonaumc.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:10 AM

Happy Holidays!

MISSION CORNER

CUMC Missions

Angel Tree gifts are due back unwrapped on December 3rd.



We are looking for volunteers!! If you'd like to be part of a team of volunteers who meet twice a month to help pass out food to those in need at a nearby school, we need you! We need volunteers who can meet the distribution trucks to unload and shelve the food, someone to pick up fresh produce and volunteers to order the food and distribute to families at the school. All jobs will be during the

daytime hours, twice a month. Serve God by serving others! Please contact the office for more details and we'll notify you of the upcoming dates!

UMCOR Sager-Brown Mission Trip is being planned for 2018 in Baldwin, Louisiana. This is an opportunity that impacts the world through putting together relief-supply kits. Are you interested in helping or have questions? Contact Peg Emmert at 309-231-2657.

Colona Food Pantry

Bring in non-perishable food items or paper goods to help support your local food pantry on the first Sunday of each month. Place your items in the "grocery cart"! Cash donations are also welcome!



GROWING

Education

- Church Camp – ages 5-10 yrs. Meet in the education wing after the 10:30 service Children's Time.
- Sunday school – classes for kids and adults. Meet every Sunday at 9:10 am! Come & grow with us!

If you are not part of a Sunday school, we offer 4 adult classes and have classes for ages three through high school. Come check us out!

Be in the Sanctuary at 9:10 am for Sunday school opening. We will recognize birthdays for December and any that were not recognized in November. We will sing a few songs, raise up prayers and get the latest Sunday school news.

Worship

December 3rd – Isaiah 64:1-9 *“Making a List” – Advent / Communion*

December 10th – Isaiah 40:1-11 *“Checking It Twice”*

December 17th – John 1:6-8, 19-28 *“Gonna Find Out”*

December 24th – Romans 16:25-27 *“God’s Greatest Gift”* Luke 2:1-20

December 31st – Luke 2:22-40 *“Not an End – We are Just Beginning”*

*Come worship
with us!*

WE'RE INVITING

Cookie Walk & Mini Bazaar

**The United Methodist Women Annual “Cookie Walk” is quickly approaching
Saturday, December 9th doors open at 9:00 am!**

Cookies- \$6.00 per lb. – Free coffee!

The United Methodist Women would appreciate your donation and/or participation for this year’s annual Cookie Walk. Bazaar items will also be available!

Donations may be brought to the church on Friday, December 8th till 5 pm *or* on Saturday at 8 am.

Proceeds from the cookies will be used to start a breakfast program at the Christian School of Trouin, Haiti. Many of these children walk an hour through the mountainous terrain to go to school in this poor community. Nourishment to start the school day will fuel the body as well as the brain.

The ladies of the United Methodist Women thank you!



Christmas Eve Services

Bring your family and friends to this blessed time of gathering together and worshipping the birth of Jesus Christ.

Candlelight Services at 7:00 pm and 11:00 pm, Sunday, December 24th.

Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 17th at 4:30 pm

All are welcome! Light dinner to follow.

Thanksgiving Bags

We had another successful year with our Thanksgiving Bags! We collected over 40 brown bags and handed out 12 baskets! We were able to also donate a large amount of food to the Colona Food Pantry! Thank you to all who participated in this blessing during the holidays!





2017 Children's Christmas Program

Calling all children and youth to participate in the 2017 Christmas Program! This year the program will be held on Sunday, December 10th at both the 8 & 10:30 services. The last two practices are December 5th at 6pm & Saturday the 9th from 9:00 - 10:30 am.

There is also a need for adult help during practices & program day. Needs are costume fitting & dressing, set

design & moving, script prompting, reading parts on practice days, sound & lights & staging (helping the kids get where they need to be when they need to be there). If you have any questions, please see or call Susan Koska at 796-0667.

Bible Studies

Monday morning Bible Study – Meeting at 10:30 am on the 1st & 3rd Mondays of each month. Studying the Book of Luke. Join together and make time to study the Word. Any questions or interest in joining please contact Linda Marcus.

Prayers

Please stop by for our Prayer Vigil on Thursday, December 7th. Doors will be open so come any time between 8:30 am and 8:30 pm. If you would like to add a prayer request, please pick one up in the church office.

We also have two prayer chains that lift others up in prayer as needed. If you feel that God is nudging you to be involved in a prayer ministry, please contact the office.

Family Ministries Donut's and Jammies Holiday Chill

Everyone is invited! Come join us for some time set aside especially for you and your family. Relax, enjoy some hot coco, and enjoy the smaller moments during this busy holiday season. Fun activities are being planned for all ages! Please contact Amy Swan if you have any questions!



Save the Date: Saturday, December 16th 8am – 12pm

What to Bring: You and your loved ones...friends, extended family, and grandparents are welcome too!

Methodist Youth Fellowship

Thank you to everyone who brought soup and/or donated a dessert for the Soup Cook-Off and Dessert Auction. We greatly appreciate your support and what a fun afternoon of fellowship was had! Our Christmas outing is December 3rd and the plan is to leave the church by 3:30 pm. There will be no MYF meetings until January 7th! We'll be having a movie night so don't forget to bring a snack!

Chancel Choir

Welcome to all of you who wish to make a "joyful noise unto the Lord!" Practice is from 7:00-7:45pm. We sing on the first and third Sunday of each month. There is a place for everyone and we can't wait to see you there!

Junior Choir

'Calling all voices 4 years old thru?' Come and sing all our praises to the Almighty One!! A meal is served prior to practice at 5:30 so come early and enjoy a meal with your friends. If you feel you've out grown

junior choir but still want to be involved there's ALWAYS a need for extra helpers!! Thank you in advance for being a part of this wonderful opportunity to sing praises to our Lord! Can't wait to see and hear you!!

Heifer 2017

Grand total sent: \$3,127.29, thanks to all who have donated!



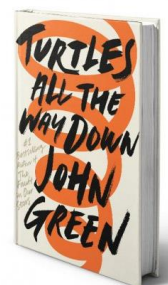
55 Plus

2018 is right around the corner! If you have any activity ideas you would like to do please contact Deb Johnson or Peg Emmert!

Our pre-holiday craft day was enjoyable, thanks to all who shared the evening! Some of the created items are donated to the UMW Christmas Bazaar or the suggested ideas were taken home. We are looking forward to more future gatherings and events. Have a very Merry Christmas!

Book Club

Book Club will not be meeting this month, it will return the first of the New Year and we'll be discussing "*Turtles All The Way Down*" by John Green, #1 best-selling author of "*The Fault in Our Stars*".



United Methodist Men

UMM and friends took on the task of repairing and general maintenance on a property the Workcampers were not able to complete. We did some painting and siding. Check out the photos below, submitted by Arthur Ash.



All men are welcome to join us at our next monthly UMM breakfast gathering, Saturday, December 2nd at 8:00am. We enjoy devotion time, breakfast, and some great fellowship.

United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women met on November 16th with Peggy Emmert as hostess and Nadine Garbett gave an introduction to the new program book, Sacred Spaces. The December 9th Christmas Cookie Walk and UMW Mini Bazaar were discussed and is in the process of being planned. Anyone who is available and would like to help paint the holiday cookies then please join us on December 5th at 9:00 am. Donations for the bazaar are appreciated; craft and sewing items, baked goods and candy! The UMW ladies thank you in advance!

Fourteen college students and service personal boxes were packed and sent or delivered.

The Christmas pot luck was held on November 30th. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us and brought a dish to share. We enjoyed the delicious foods and warm fellowship.

Paper products and personal products will be gathered to give to Eagle Ridge families on December 19th. If you have any questions or can donate, please contact Joylin Clark at 309-944-8841.

Please join us for our next United Methodist Women's meeting on January 18th at 9:30 am with Judy Schadt as hostess.

Health News

SICK VISIT \$50

"CASH & CREDIT CARD ONLY"
Plus Screenings if Needed!
(Strep, Pregnancy Test, Urinalysis, etc...)



**Under the Weather? No Doctor?
Can't get into your regular Doctor?**

Need a Family Nurse Practitioner?

Josefina - Kewanee
(309) 852-5272

Jennifer - Colona
(309) 792-4011




Henry & Stark County Health Depts. * Prices subject to change

Henry and Stark County Health Department

The local Health Departments are here to serve all your health needs! Get your immunizations up to date or be prepared for the winter season by getting a flu shot! The Health Departments also offer Well Child Clinic, Family Planning Services and WIC Nutrition Education. Call them for all your health needs. They serve us locally here in Colona and also in Kewanee.

Blood pressure checks- December 31st in the Fellowship Hall.

"Thank you to all my church family for the prayers, cards and food during my recovery from surgery."

*God Bless all of you,
Phyllis Ash*

Did you know?

- There are donated greeting cards available in our Church office! Stop by if you need to encourage a friend or maybe celebrate a milestone! There are many to choose from!
- There are also great books that you can check out in the Church library!

From the Building Team

Thanks for your understanding during the construction.

We are close to completing the list of tasks from the Building Inspector that are needed to issue our Occupancy Permit. The church key you have should work in any outside door except the addition. Thanks to those who have participated on workdays, there will be more opportunities to help coming, watch for details.

Trustees News

Memorial Committee purchased one; Trustees purchased another portable coat rack. If you notice a maintenance issue that the Trustees need to address, please write it down and put it in the Trustees mailbox. Reminder, if you unlock a door, turn on lights or reset a thermostat; please put it back in the condition you found it when you are done, thanks.

Narthex Dedication

November 26th, 2017. Thank you to everyone who donated time, talent, treasure and witness to lay the foundation, build the walls, cover with roofing. Now to complete the space. Thank you to our building committee of Bob Anderson, Ted Anderson, Sharon Bloomberg, Sarah Browning, Dale Hillman, Susan Koska, Gene Posey, Rod Searle, Judy Smith, Laura Smith and Mark Vink.



*Our mission is:
To invite all to know Jesus
as we grow in faith
and serve.*





*LifeTouch Photography is coming to our church!
January 18th, 19th and 20th
Reserve your session today at www.colonaumc.org*



INVITE – GROW – SERVE

Our Church's motto! Are you serving? We are so grateful to the many people that serve here at Colona United Methodist Church! It takes a great number of people to cover all the bases! We have faithful servants who greet each weekend, serve as ushers and assist the Pastor by praying and reading Scripture during service times. We would like to thank you, encourage you to continue serving and invite others to share their gifts. Please contact or stop by the office to volunteer for 2018!

There are many opportunities to serve! Please check out our Serving Brochure to find a place that God has nudged you to serve in: **Choir, Congregational Care Ministers, Congregational Care Shepherds, Greeters & Welcome Area Helpers, Ushers, Hospitality, Liturgist, Nursery Helper, Office Help, Praise Team, Sunday School Teacher, and Tech Loft!** There is a place for everyone!

DECEMBER WEEKLY SERVANTS

INVITE – GROW – SERVE

Head Ushers

8:00 am – Rod Searle

10:30 am – Lindy Anderson

| Date | 8:00 Liturgist | 10:30 Liturgist | 10:30 Greeter |
|-------------|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 12/03 | Barb Searle | Amy Swan | Lindy Anderson |
| 12/10 | Children's Program | Children's Program | Diane Biellier |
| 12/17 | Sarah Browning | Deb Johnson | Deb Johnson |
| 12/24 | John Browning | Peg Emmert | Tony Rokis |
| 12/31 | <i>10:00 am Service Only</i> | Peg Emmert | Tony Rokis |

***Parsonage Open House
Saturday, December 16th
2:00 – 4:00 pm***



Pastors Corner

“Joy to the world”, it is getting to be that time. As the body of Christ, we are preparing our hearts and homes to receive the good news that Jesus Christ is born. Most of us will admit that we can’t wait. So many things to do to be prepared for the celebration.

In my youth Christmas was so exciting. It is hard to remember what I looked forward to most of all. Was it the presents? In some aspects, yes, but we never received what I would say were large amounts of gifts. Even today, I so enjoy the keep it simple aspect of Christmas. I have told our children that I would rather see them give the grandkids more or simply spend it on themselves.

No, I think the big thing was all the comings and goings. There were the family gatherings that meant spending time with the cousins. Most of whom we got along with quite well and really looked forward to spending time with. Christmas Eve for many years was spent with Grandma and Grandpa on the farm. I recall many nights long after the festivities were over and we piled into the car for the ride home back to Galesburg. The crunch of snow under the tires, the foggy windows inside the car, the starry night which seemed at once both colder and brighter than normal and under my watchful eyes as I tried to catch a glimpse of Santa and his sleigh absolutely huge. It seemed as if the night sky had no limits on this night of nights. As we arrived back in Galesburg, Main Street was quieter, only a few cars were on the road and NO stores were still open. Most of the homes were dark as dad turned the car onto the street leading us home. Was it just my imagination or did the snowman we made earlier in the day have a bigger smile on his face then when we left just hours earlier? It must of have been the dim street lights that made it seem that way or was it because it was Christmas?

There was the rush from car to bed with no hesitation since tomorrow morning meant unwrapping the hoped-for gift we had written Santa about ions ago. We just knew that he had gotten our request.

Our tree was beautiful, wrapped by a red and green paper chain my brother, sisters and I made by cutting huge numbers of paper cut into strips and hand colored with red and green crayons. Our hands becoming numb to the endless task before us. Silver tinsel seemed to drape over every branch and because I was the oldest, most years I was given the precious opportunity to place on the tree the plastic globe with the manger scene nestled on a blanket of cotton. That globe still graces our tree so many, many years later. I am still a kid again every time I look at it. Lights of red, green, blue, and white that you didn’t dare touch because they were so hot and when you squinted your eyes they seemed to have grown in numbers. On top of our tree was a beautiful lighted angel. The only thing that seemed unusual about her was the brown spot on her wings left there from the plastic becoming too hot from the white Christmas light stuck to her backside.

You know I could go on and on about my special memories of Christmas. My hope is that you will take an opportunity to reflect upon your special memories of this most special of days.

I have been given so many gifts over the years. Some I still remember. Some, I best not share; well, okay, you talked me into sharing one. My mom’s parents would hang our stockings by the fireplace. These were our first gifts to open on Christmas Eve. They were filled with fruit, nuts, candy, and gum. I had a habit of taking the gum and quickly unwrapping all the pieces and chewing them all at once. I accomplished this before

all the other gifts were passed out. Here was this little boy with a wad of gum bulging in his cheek, trying to chew and talk and swallow the juice of the gum all at once. I always got a chuckle from my grandparents and THE look from my mother that told me if the gum didn't get stuck in my throat, I was as good as dead somewhere along the ride home. I am still glad today that she got over those moments rather quickly.

This year as we prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ I thought I would let you know of the great gift I have already received. I and Chris are so blessed to be serving among all of you. You are all a true blessing to us. From our first days among you, you have made us feel right at home. We enjoy doing ministry together with all of you. We know that best is yet to come for Colona UMC because God is continuing to do a new thing in us and through us to make a lasting impact on our community and the world.

I am looking forward to what 2018 has in store. My prayer is that you are ready for the ride. With God leading the way, it will be a great journey.

My prayer is that as you and your families gather this Christmas that Jesus Christ will be the precious of gifts that resides in your heart. May the greatest joy be with you and me this Christmas.

Grace and Peace

Pastor Mark

Sunday, December 24th

8:00 and 10:30 services

9:10 Sunday school

Join us for the Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at

7:00 pm and 11:00 pm

Sunday, December 31st

9:00 am Sunday school determined by each class

One service at 10:00 am

*God Makes All Things
New*



December Birthdays

| | |
|--|---------|
| Lindy Anderson | Dec. 2 |
| Dick Baum | Dec. 3 |
| Peg Emmert, Aaron Schofield, Justice Schofield | Dec. 4 |
| Shawn Wilkinson | Dec. 6 |
| Mandi Guyer, Sandy Skelton | Dec. 7 |
| Faith Ayers | Dec. 8 |
| Ted Anderson | Dec. 10 |
| Payton Hillman | Dec. 11 |
| Wendy Loitz | Dec. 12 |
| Glenn Ruud | Dec. 14 |
| Colton Boyles, Michelle Buchholz | Dec. 15 |
| Lila Snook | Dec. 17 |
| Payton Martens | Dec. 19 |
| Ray Teager | Dec. 20 |
| Karoline & Kenzie Hasson | Dec. 21 |
| Judy Smith | Dec. 22 |
| Dave Medley | Dec. 24 |
| Alex Kugler, Dwight Medley | Dec. 27 |
| John Browning, Marian Edmund-Paulson | Dec. 28 |
| Mike King | Dec. 29 |
| Jo Anne Hillman, Tere Holmes, Levi Schofield | Dec. 30 |
| Craig Anderson | Dec. 31 |



December Anniversaries

Mike & Martie Eves Dec. 16

19 yrs.

Happy
Anniversary



New Member Class

Are you interested in becoming a member of Colona UMC? Pastor Mark will host a New Member class on Sunday, December 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. Then on Sunday the 24th, during the morning worship sessions, those folks who have attended the New Member Class will be received into membership. Contact the office so we can adequately prepare lunch that day.

KEEPING TRACK

Check out our most up to date Church calendar on the website, colonaumc.org!

CUMC Mission Statement

To invite all to know Jesus as we grow in faith and serve.

INVITE-GROW-SERVE

| December 2017 | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|------------------------------------|-----------|---|
| ◀ Nov 2017 | | | | | | Jan 2018 ▶ |
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 8:00 am UMM |
| 3 Food Pantry Holy Communion Angel Tree Gifts Returned First Sunday of Advent 3:30 pm MYF | 4 6:30 pm Webelo 1 & 2 6:30-7:30 pm Praise Team | 5 9:00 am Cookie Deco. 6:30 pm Trustees 2:30 – 4pm Eagle Ridge 6:00 pm Prog. Pract. 7:00 pm Building Completion Comm. | 6 9:00-2:00 Quilting 5:30 pm Supper 6:00-8:00 pm Choirs 6:30 pm Pack Comm. 7:00-8:00 pm SWAA | 7 8:30-8:30 Prayer Vigil | 8 | 9 9:00 am Cookie Walk & Mini Bazaar 9 – 10:30 Prog. Pract. 1:00 – 7:00 pm Smith FH |
| 10 Children's Program 9:10am SS meet in Sanct. Church Council Retreat (pastor's house) | 11 6:30 pm Webelo 2 & Lion 10:30 am Bible Study 6:30-7:30 pm Praise Team | 12 6:00 pm Christmas Fellowship Potluck | 13 9:00-2:00 Quilting Children's choir Party 7 – 8 pm Adult choir | 14 | 15 | 16 8am – 12pm Family Ministries Donuts and Jammies Holiday Chill 2:00 – 4:00 pm Parsonage Open House |
| 17 4:30 Christmas Cantata | 18 6:30 pm Webelo 1 & Lion 6:30-7:30 pm Praise Team | 19 2:30 – 4pm Eagle Ridge | 20 9:00-2:00 Quilting 6 – 8 pm Pack Meeting | 21 6:00 pm Missions | 22 | 23 |
| 24 Christmas Eve 7:00 pm & 11:00 pm service | 25 Christmas Day Office Closed  | 26 Newsletter Deadline | 27 9:00-2:00 Quilting | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 New Year's Eve 9:00 am Sun. school 9:45 Blood Press Chk 10:00 am Worship | Notes: | | | | | |