



COLONA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JANUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER

Sunday Worship 8:00 am & 10:30 am

Sunday school 9:10 am

1709 Cleveland Road - Colona, Illinois

(309) 792-1661

E-mail: colonaumc2@mchsi.com

Office Hours: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm M-F

WE'RE INVITING

Book Club – January 14, 2020 – The Dearly Beloved

Next meeting will be January 14, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. to talk about The Dearly Beloved, by Cara Wall. "A thoughtful, beautiful multigenerational novel about love, God, jealousy, and friendship." The phrase, most familiar from Christian marriage liturgy, comes from St. Paul's letters, and it conveys a tenderness that is simultaneously private, as when a husband says it to his wife, and public, as when an officiant says it to the congregation that witnesses their union. That dual economy is at work throughout the novel, which focuses on two ministers and their marriages: one to an atheist who wants nothing to do with the church, the other to the daughter of a minister who is happy to live in the rectory and lead the choir.

United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women met at Barb Searle's for the Annual Christmas Pot Luck Lunch on December 5th. The Cookie Walk and Bazaar on December 14th was successful in raising money for Mission work. The next UMW meeting is January 16th at 9:00 a.m. at the church. All women are invited to attend.

Thursday Prayer Vigil – January 2, 2020

Please stop by for our Prayer Vigil on Thursday, January 2 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.

Choirs

Just a little note to keep everyone on the same page. The Junior Choir will be taking a brief time off during January. The Junior Choir will resume practice on February 5, 2020 and will sing "I Am a Promise" on February 9th. If you have any questions, please contact Jo Anne Hillman at (309)314-2073.

The Adult Choir will practice January 8th and 29th, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. We are always eager to welcome new members.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

THURSDAY PRAYER VIGIL – JANUARY 2, 2020

8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

BOOK CLUB – JANUARY 14, 2020

January 14, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

The Dearly Beloved, by Cara Wall

UMW MEETING - JANUARY 16TH

9:00 a.m. at the church.

All women are invited to attend

MISSION TEAM'S PANCAKE BREAKFAST – JANUARY 25TH

7:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Pancakes, sausage, eggs, biscuits & gravy, etc. All you care to eat.

Free-will offering. Proceeds to aid local food pantries.

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY – February 2, 2020

Mark your calendar...February 2nd - SOUPER BOWL

Our goal is 400 cans of soup collected that day!!

Purchase a can of soup each time you are at the store during January.

WE'RE GROWING

Worship Schedule

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>	<u>SERMON TITLE</u>	<u>THEME(S)</u>
1/5/20	Romans 13:11-14	"Keeping the Proper Focus"	Epiphany Sunday - Communion
1/12/20	Deuteronomy 31:9-13	"God Remembers Us"	Reaffirm Baptism
1/19/20	John 1:29-42	"What Are You Here For?"	
1/26/20	Mark 4:12-20	"It's Not A Seed Issue"	

Acolytes needed

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 in the Sanctuary at 9:50 on January 12th.

WE DID IT....Congratulations and nice job. We reached and exceeded our goal for Heifer. A total of \$5,226 was collected this year. Thank you to everyone who donated to this Sunday School project. Many families around the world or here in the U.S. will be blessed from the animals that are in an Ark package.

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 January 6th & 20th at 10:30 am!

A Cup of Joseph in the Upper Room

Our purpose can be summed up by Philippians 3:10. "That I may know Him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his suffering...." The men in our congregation gather on an alternating Monday evening in front of the Fellowship Hall fire place. Consider joining us and "get to know Him."

WE'RE SERVING

January Servants

Head Ushers 8:00 am – Nadine Garbett 10:30 a.m. – Jack Gowan

Acolytes 8:00 am – Charleigh Campbell 10:30 am – Ayden Scott & Jocelyn Matthews

Date	8:00 Liturgist	10:30 Liturgist	10:30 Greeter
January 5th	Curt Frerichs	Brad Thomas	Corla Swan
January 12th	Mary Loeffler	Linda Marcus	Wendy Baker
January 19th	Logan Loitz	Jack Gowan	Jack & Judy Schadt
January 26th	Barb Searle	Cassi VanHoutte	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

As we close out 2019, Missions would like to thank you all for your support this year! We have done so much for the community and world! We cannot do this alone, all of your support such as, item donations, monetary donations, and donations of your time are so important. We don't always see the difference we are making, but it is happening. We have done so many new things this year, Forty Items collection for Lent, Cubs/Cards Food Pantry Series (just a reminder that the Cleveland Indians have claim to the Golden Bat Trophy for 2019. Cubs & Cards may want to start spring training early this year!), Colorful Classroom Contributions; plus, our events we do yearly, Angel Tree, Cans of Change, Join Hands Day, Thanksgiving Baskets, Brown Bag Sunday, Christian Care, and many more. We have new

members joining the Missions team this year, and we hope new ideas will be happening. We already have a couple ideas coming up for spring, stay on the look out to "Start Your Engines". Thanks again for your support in 2019, let's make 2020 just as Great!!

Christian Care

Thank you to all the volunteers who cooked and served in 2019. Look for 2020 dates coming this month.

Angel Tree

Thank you to all that helped with the Angel Tree this year! Another huge success this year. We helped 35 Colona School Children and 15 Hillcrest residents. We were able to brighten many Christmas morning's this year!

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.

Outreach T-Shirts

We will be selling the blue Outreach T-shirts and Sweatshirts the end of January. This is not a fundraiser; we are selling them at cost. We just think this is a great way to promote our church while on outreach projects. This way community members begin to recognize us when out doing church related projects and it doesn't have to be Missions projects only. Look for more information in the bulletin in the coming weeks.

Little Fits

We had a great time on the 8th, eating pizza and getting Christmas Crafty with hands on Missions! We made cards, little Fits, cookies, decorating bags, and enjoying snacks. The entire staff at Colona Grade School, Eagle Ridge, and some UTHS staff were very happy to receive their Christmas Gift bags from us. They put a smile on people's faces and a gave them a laugh with the little fits. It was a good way to brighten the end of the semester. Thanks to all who showed up to help us out!!

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.

2020 Schedule of Lay Servant Ministries Classes

All Classes are open to anyone. For those on the lay servant or lay speaker tracks, Basic is required as a first class. After Basic, there are six specific classes required to become a certified lay speaker. Those classes are noted and are also open to anyone. A lay servant needs to take one advanced class after the Basic to receive certification as a lay servant. Contact Claudia Emken, Spoon River District Lay Servant Ministries Director at cemken@mymctc.net with questions or to register for these classes. All classes will be posted on the IGRC calendar on the Lay Servant Ministries page at the conference website, igrc.org.

Saturday, Feb. 8, 2020 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Deadline to register: 1/18/20

Galva Grace, 108 SE 2nd St, Galva, IL

*Title: Life Together in the United Methodist Connection (Polity, this is one of six required classes toward certified lay speaker.)

Saturday, April 25, 2020 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Deadline to register: 4/4/2020

Kirkwood UMC, 215 S Kellogg St

*Title: Leading Worship (open to anyone. This is one of six required classes toward certified lay speaker.)

*Title: Public Prayer (Open to anyone.) This is one of six required classes toward a certified lay speaker.)

Saturday, Sept. 19, 2020 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Deadline to register: 8/29/2020

Maquon UMC, 322 East Street, Maquon

*Title: Called to Preach (Open to anyone. This is one of six required classes toward certified lay speaker.)

*Title: Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts (open to anyone. This is one of six required classes toward certified lay speaker.)

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INFORMATION NEWS

Finance Team

January - October 2019	<u>Income</u>	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Difference</u>
General Operating Budget:	\$150,996.58	\$146,249.65	\$ 4,393.18
Mortgage Payment:	\$ 29,643.98	\$ 27,981.18	\$ 2,414.10
November 2019			
General Operating Budget:	\$14,142.43	\$14,970.97	-\$ 353.15
Mortgage Payment:	\$ 2,245.01	\$ 2,798.18	-\$ 751.92

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.

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. If you change a thermostat setting, please remember to undo the change when you leave. All areas of the church are set up with 7-day timers, which regulate the temperatures when the spaces are normally occupied.

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. Counter tops are coming next, then the plumbing will continue.





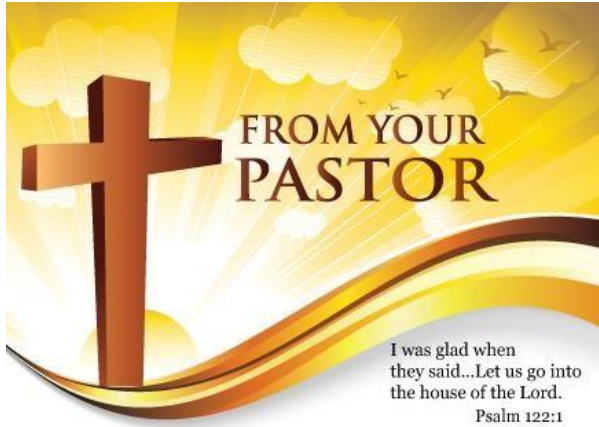
January Birthdays

Janet Duncan	1/3	Lola Odendahl	1/20
Muriel Lenth	1/7	Marilyn Snook	1/20
Barbara Roberts	1/7	Lorenzo Campbell	1/21
Ryan Westlund	1/7	Scott VanHoutte	1/22
Joylin Clark	1/8	Matthew Darnall	1/23
Tessa Cuypers	1/8	Sarah Barrett	1/26
Kaylee Floming	1/8	Joan Elsbury	1/26
Jennifer Hillman	1/12	Sheila Westlund	1/28
Terri Skelton	1/12	Ruth Gowan	1/30
David Berg	1/16	Vic Loitz	1/31
Joci Hasson	1/16		
Austin Myers	1/16		

January Anniversaries

Joseph & Bailey Swan	1/02
Scott & Cassandra VanHoutte	1/06
Arthur & Phyllis Ash	1/10
Robert & Melinda Anderson	1/11
Vic & Maxine Loitz	1/29





A Moment with You.

“Look, I am making everything new!” (Rev. 21:3)

I didn't want to rush the final days of the year, but it was necessary to meet the newsletter deadline. For years now, I have had to write an article to celebrate the New Year days before it ever arrived. A lot can and will change before the old has passed away and the new arrives.

The year 2020 promises to be wild and uncertain and I am not even including politics or our

upcoming denomination's General Conference. Every year is always filled with wild rides and uncertainty.

With all that may come before us, here is what I am praying for that I hope will bring some sense of certainty.

First, I am praying for you! My prayer each day is that God will grant you clarity of thought and action. That he will give you strength in the journey, the right people to guide and direct you. That He will keep you from harm and in good health. I will also pray that your spirit is growing closer to Him that gives life. May peace reign in your heart each day.

Second, I am praying for our community. That as a community we will continue to grow to love our neighbor as our self. That the people of our community will continue to serve one another and others as God moves among us. That our community will be seen as a welcoming place so the table of fellowship continues to add seats for new folks.

Third, I pray to lead others to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. To plant seeds of faith, to go into the world teaching and baptizing just as Jesus asks us to do.

And that we will no longer talk down to one another. The rancor of politics and disdain have for too long held favor. Let us pray that we will move to find common ground in all things.

Our Bible begins with the creation story. In the closing chapters of the last book of the Bible, Jesus tells us: “I am making all things new.” Most books we read have at their end some type of closure. A mystery is solved; they live happily ever after. Our God reminds us that he is making all things new. I pray for that and so much more for you and me.

Happy New Year,

Pastor Mark



January 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2 8:30 am – 8:30 pm Prayer Vigil 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	3	4
5 Epiphany Sunday Holy Communion 5:00 – 7:00 pm MYF	6 10:30 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Cup of Joseph	7 2:00 – 4:00 pm ERFP 6:30 Trustees meeting	8 9-2 Quilting 5:30 – 6:30pm Bear Den 1 7 – 8 pm Adult Choir	9	10	11
12 9:50 S.S. Gathering 5:00 – 7:00 pm MYF	13	14 10:00 am Book Club –	15 9-2 Quilting 6:30 – 7:30 pm Lion Den Meeting	16 9:00 am UMW meeting 6:00 pm Missions meeting 6:00 Bible Study	17 February Newsletter Deadline	18
19 Conference Special Offering – Human Relations Day 5:00 – 7:00 pm MYF	20 Martin Luther King Jr. – Office Closed 10:30 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Cup of Joseph	21 2:00 – 4:00 pm ERFP	22 9-2 Quilting 5:30 – 6:30pm Bear Den 1	23	24	25 7:30 – 10:30 am Pancake Breakfast
26 Blood Pressure Checks 5:00 – 7:00 pm MYF	27 6:30 pm Worship Team meeting	28 5:00 – 9:00 pm Cub Scout Pack meeting # 136 6:00 pm – Finance Committee Meeting	29 9-2 Quilting 7– 8 pm Adult Choir	30	31	

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

Pick up your copy at the Welcome Desk!