

November 15, 2023

ClairChurch
UNITED METHODIST

CLAIR CONNECTION

NW District <http://www.northwest.moumethodist.org/>

Missouri United Methodist Conference <http://www.moumethodist.org/>



All Saints Sunday



*Honoring Saints of our
past and future!*

Calendar

November 18 Men's Group 8 AM

November 26 ADVENT STARTS (1 week early since Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday)

November 29 Serve Open Door Food Kitchen

November 29; December 6, 13 & 20 Advent Study 6:30 PM

NO DECEMBER MEETING—STARLIGHT

December 3 Deadline for shut-in gifts

December 3, 10 and 17th Gift Collection for adopted families and individuals

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Clair's Members "Abel" to Make Move a Reality



Clair will again adopt families and individuals for Christmas from the AFL-CIO program. Tags of needed items will be available at church to select starting November 26th. Money can donated for food baskets also. New, wrapped items will be collected December 3rd-17th.

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

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We focused on gratitude and thankfulness during Sunday's worship, using Paul's letter to the Philippians as our text for the day.

We touched briefly on Paul's words in chapter 4, verse 6: "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank God for all he has done." Don't worry. Don't worry. Do not worry! Easier said than done, right?

The Rev. James Howell offers some reflections about worry, anxiety, and thankfulness. "Paul must be mixed up. It's supposed to be that we file our requests, and if God complies, then we give thanks. Right? NO! "With thanksgiving let your requests be made known." We begin with gratitude. Jesus invited the crowd to be rid of anxiety by pointing to the birds of the air and the lilies of the field. They are arrayed in beauty. God provides for them. (Read Matthew 6:25-34.) Notice what God has done, feel the blessings you neglected to pay attention to (which is probably why you got into the anxious mess you're in...). Could it be that gratitude is the antidote to anxiety?"

Howell goes on to say, "My personal observation is that it is impossible to be anxious and grateful at the same time. Something about gratitude – and not merely feeling thankful but actually expressing it in a note, a phone call, whatever – calms and even reverses anxiety, at least in the moment.

"That's when the joy comes in: 'Rejoice always.' How? By not being anxious. How? By sharing your requests with God – with thanksgiving. And then, when this becomes habitual and natural, we get to the goal of the thing: 'Peace.'"

Philippians 4:7 – "Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus."

Blessings, Friends, as we enter the Thanksgiving season. May we adopt an attitude of gratitude not just for the season, but for every day of every season to come.

It is an honor to be your pastor! *Gindy*

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HOT OFF THE PRESS!!

Plans are progressing on the capital improvements project. Several have begun fulfilling their pledges, building up the Building Fund! It isn't too late to make a pledge or to make a gift toward the campaign. The total pledged as of Nov. 13, 2023 is \$85,840!

Here's what is happening:

- + RS Electric – Materials have been ordered for the lighting project on the sanctuary chancel and the outdoor project which includes lighting for the Clair Church sign in the yard, the cross on the east end of the building, and the American flag. Hopefully, work will begin this month.
- + Pioneer Materials has been given the go ahead to install a new security door at the east entrance of the building and to repair the door to the education wing. Again, work should happen soon.
- + Brendon Clark and Pastor Cindy met with Contractor Don Clark last week for a walk through of the building and the work we are planning. Don is getting his specialty people together and will meet with us later this month.
- + The AED unit has been set up and is ready to go. (We hope we never need to use it!) A training event will be scheduled with Nick Eade to get us up to speed on what to do in case of a medical emergency.
- + The OWL has arrived and has already been an asset for us. You will remember that the Rev. Laura Murphy from the Missouri United Methodist Foundation was with us in October to present a \$2500 grant for technology. The OWL is a tool to make hybrid meetings more functional. A hybrid meeting is one where some people attend in person while others attend online. People online are able to hear, to see, and to participate more fully in the meeting. This will be a great tool for us in terms of meetings, small group sessions, Bible studies, etc.