

April 17, 2024

CLAIR CONNECTION

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

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

Reverend Crystal Karr Will Lead Clair July 1!



Reverend Crystal Karr has been in pastoral ministry for 14 years. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Communication from Iowa Wesleyan College in 2006 and her Master's in Divinity from Saint Paul School of Theology in 2010. Crystal was ordained as an elder by Bishop Robert Schnase in the Missouri Conference in 2015.

Crystal has been serving as a pastor in the Missouri Conference since 2010. She has served churches in the Kansas City metropolitan area as well as rural churches in the Northwest District. From 2019 to early 2024, Crystal served as a hospital staff chaplain in the Kansas City area. She obtained her chaplain education from Mosaic Hospital and finished her residency at St. Luke's Health System on the Plaza.

Crystal is an Iowa native. She grew up in Maquoketa. She raised and showed sheep and rabbits in her youth. Crystal married Charles of Davenport, Iowa in 2006. She has a son, Johnathan (Johnny), a high school student. She also has a pug named Odie. Crystal enjoys traveling, babies of all kinds and the Golden Girls.

Working together and establishing connections within the communities she serves are important ministry cornerstones for Crystal. She is a loyal United Methodist, she is outgoing and she is very energetic. Crystal is very encouraging to her church members and welcomes everyone as if they are family, because that is what we are as United Methodists and Christiansone big family!

WELCOME!



BACKPACKS NEEDED!

We are collecting backpacks for all ages for the Foster Care division of the Children's Division. Please put a comfort item in the backpacks - toy for younger kids or pens, toothbrush, etc. for teens.

Due June 30th!

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“Often, when you’re at the end of something,
you’re at the beginning of something else.” – Fred Rogers

Joe and I attended a retirement seminar in Columbia last week. We spent the morning hearing about how retirement works regarding pensions and insurance and other technical stuff. Then in the afternoon a colleague who retired three years ago talked to us about his journey – the challenges, the surprises, the joys. We came home with a better idea of what to expect as July 1 draws nearer and a new chapter of our life begins.

One of the big takeaways for me is that I have been living into my calling to ministry, really, all of my life – first as a lay person, then as a student, a local pastor, a provisional elder, and then as an elder in full connection. While my status will change on July 1 to retired elder that doesn’t mean my calling is complete. I will need to take some time to figure out what the next part of my calling looks like. However, our Bishop was quick to remind us that we are still a part of the Missouri Conference and will still be under his supervision!

In reference to Mr. Rogers’ quote from above, I am nearing the end of something, not only my appointment here at Clair and Ebenezer, but also the end of my status as active clergy. It seems that everyone I talk to these days asks if I’m ready or if I’m excited. I tell them YES, but also add that I know I will be a puddle of emotions when the day comes. It’s not realistic for me to expect otherwise!

Those of you who are retired have your own stories of how you felt, how you adjusted and transitioned, your challenges and your joys as you have learned to live into the something new that is retirement.

As a congregation you all are coming to the end of something, too – the season in which I have been your pastoral leader. It’s been a good season, I think. We have accomplished many things in the last six years. There have been challenges, too, of course, but I am proud of us and the congregation we are today. I remember something a clergy colleague mentioned a year or so ago when we were all concerned about getting back to where we were before COVID. How much more helpful to concentrate on being the best congregation we can be right now. That has been my emphasis. I think we are stronger now than we have been before. And that’s a very good thing!

As my time with you draws to a close, something new awaits – your season with Rev. Crystal Karr. We have important things to do to help the transition be smooth. That’s my intent and my goal for these next weeks.

Blessings upon you, Friends. And, as always, it is an honor to be your pastor!

Cindy

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A sister act was necessary to remove all library books so that construction can begin May 6! Sherry Weipert and sister Linda Thompson worked tirelessly until the job was done. Thank you ladies! Grab as many books as you want—we have plenty!



FREE BOOKS!
FREE BOOKS!

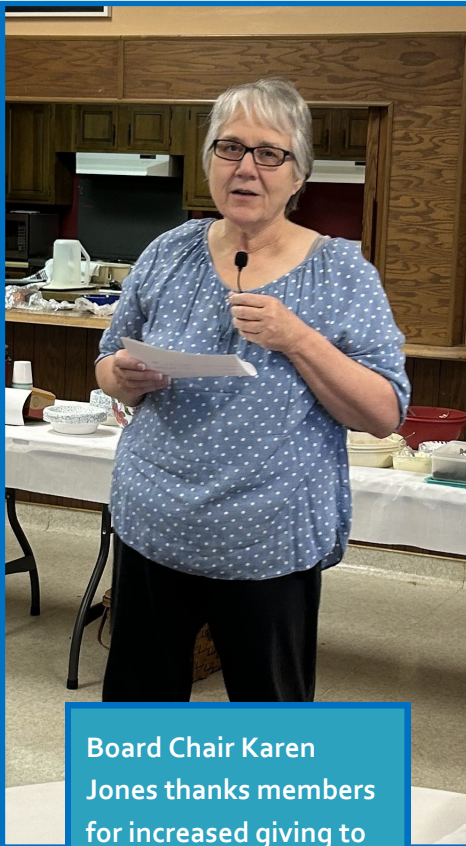


Starting May 6



CLAIR CONNECTION

Clair Enjoys Fellowship Luncheon on Second Sunday!



Board Chair Karen Jones thanks members for increased giving to the General Fund. KEEP IT UP!!



FLOWER SALE!
SATURDAY MAY 4
9 AM - 2 PM
CLAIR CHURCH
1 MILE EAST OF COLONY HOUSE

An advertisement for a flower sale. It features several illustrations of potted plants and flowers in various colors (red, yellow, pink, purple, white). The text is centered and bold. The background is light purple with faint floral patterns.

CLAIR CONNECTION

Can I Get a Witness? Just Be Yourself!



*We are all
qualified
to be
witnesses!*

Now through May The Chosen Study Series 6:15 PM—Wednesdays at Clair

- April 20 Men's Group 8 AM
- April 29 Serve at Open Door Food Kitchen
- May 4 FLOWER SALE 9 AM—2 PM
- May 6 CONSTRUCTION BEGINS!!
- NO FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON ON MAY 12—MOTHER'S DAY!!
- May 13 Starlight Group 6 PM
- May 14 Administrative Council 6 PM
- May 18 Men's Group 8 AM
- May 29 Serve Open Door Food Kitchen 9 AM

Calendar

SAVE THE DATE: June 23 - Pastor Cindy's last sermon at Clair & Retirement Celebration
June 30 Due date for backpacks collected for foster kids