

November 30, 2022

ClairChurch
UNITED METHODIST

CLAIR CONNECTION

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

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

Learn About Angelic Messengers—Then and Now



We explore the angelic visits surrounding the birth of Jesus with Zechariah, Mary, Joseph and the shepherds in a four-week Advent experience. We will explore the visits and dive deep into the history of the angel Gabriel and other angels of the Bible. The messages of the angels hold meaning for listeners both then and now. Join us!!



Follow the
star to
Clair on
December
17!

Experience the little town of Bethlehem on the Starry Night Jesus was born

- Register at the city gate.
- Pay your tax (with coins we supply!)
- Visit the village shops.
- Make a souvenir to take home.
- Enjoy a sweet treat.
- And most importantly, visit Mary, Joseph, and the Christ Child.

Save the date
for a fun family activity on
Saturday, Dec. 17
(come and go)
4-6 PM @ Clair UMC
2 SE 68th Rd. St. Joseph, MO

Invite your family and friends to join us for this extra special event!

CLAIR CONNECTION

Rachel McCrary Joins Clair Church's Congregation!



I grew up in the country out by Stewartsville or Hemple, if you're familiar with the area. I attended Freeman Baptist Church as a kid. My paternal grandparents coordinated gospel meetings at the Pony Express for many years and my cousins and I would attend. After that, my attendance with going to church was sporadic and when I did, it was normally at Clair at my Aunt Sherry's invitation/instruction!

I enlisted with the Air Force shortly after graduating high school. I spent four years living in Great Falls, MT. When I got out, I didn't think I would ever make the military my career but I did enjoy drill weekends and the people at Rosecrans. Instead, I decided to go to college and get a degree. The funny thing is two weeks after graduating, I landed a fulltime job here at the guard base. In fact, two of my dearest friends put my job packet together since I was in the middle of finals. They are the

ones to blame for the last 22 years of my career. This last September marked 30 years in the military and 22 as a federal employee.

I have two dogs. Josie is a Rottweiler/Stafford Bull Terrier mix and Oscar Beans is a 100 lb. Goldendoodle full of joy. I also have four cats: Little Bit (15), Buford (12), Dill, and Pickle (8 months). Between the doodle and the kittens, my patience fluctuates most days.

I am an avid reader. I have more books on my Kindle than necessary. I also enjoy being able to create things (i.e. painting, puzzles, ect.). Flowers are one of my happy places. I love to travel. I started going with a travel club from Farmer State Bank. I like to learn about different cultures and see things that are not always highlighted in the day-to-day popular attractions and such. I'm kind of a quiet person, socially awkward and a bit of a nerd!

I have attended Clair now consistently for over a year. During Covid, I needed something to do that was worthwhile. Aunt Sherry (Weipert) invited me to the Open Door Food Kitchen to help. That is where I really got to know the people from Clair.

One thing I really enjoy at Clair is Communion. Every time I get a chance to attend a Communion service, it truly touches my heart. And the children's Bible songs bring back warm memories of Bible School and simpler times.



CLAIR CONNECTION



I hope your Thanksgiving holiday was special – that you had an opportunity to connect with family and friends, to eat good food, and to say “thank you” for the many blessings of your life.

Now... welcome to the season of Advent. The weeks ahead will be full of the hustle and bustle of preparations for Christmas. It may have already started for you! But, I hope you will intentionally take time to prepare your

heart for the coming of Christmas. Whether you participate in the Advent study, spend time in prayer each day, commit to attending worship each Sunday, or take on a time of devotion, the time you spend preparing for the birth of the Christ Child into your life all over again will be worth it!

+ I’m looking forward to the Advent study on the Angels of Christmas. I hope you will join me!

6:30 PM, Wednesdays, Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21 at Clair UMC

1 PM, Thursdays, Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22 at Ebenezer UMC

+ Join your Clair UMC family for our **2nd Sunday Fellowship Meal on Dec. 11**. If you have a special angel you would like to show off, we would love for you to bring it along – and include a note to tell us its history, why it’s special, etc.

+ **One Starry Night on Saturday, Dec. 17**, promises to be a fun family event as we spend time in our version of the little town of Bethlehem. Help us to spread the word and plan to share the evening with your family, friends, and neighbors at this come and go event, **4-6 PM at Clair UMC**.

+ A Blue Christmas service has become a tradition at Ebenezer UMC. The service is designed to offer comfort, hope, and peace to those who are hurting while the rest of the world seems to be celebrating. Invite someone you know who has experienced a loss this year to join you.

Blue Christmas Service, 5 PM, Sunday, Dec. 18, Ebenezer UMC.

+ We will take our annual **Walk to the Manger** during worship on **Sunday, Dec. 18**. You are invited to offer a monetary gift that will be used to honor the Christ Child through ministries of the church. Be watching for a letter containing a special offering envelope.

+ **Christmas Eve** worship will begin at Clair UMC at **4 PM, Saturday, Dec. 24**, with Carols, Holy Communion, and Candlelight. Plan to include this worship time during your Christmas Eve plans.

+ And **Christmas** is on SUNDAY this year! We will worship at our regular **11 AM** time. You are invited to wear your Christmas PJs and boys and girls are encouraged to bring ONE special gift from under the tree to tell us about.

+ We will conclude our focus on Angels Among Us on the **Sunday after Christmas** (which happens to be New Year’s Day.) We may have another pajama day!!

Those are a few of the activities going on during December! Check out the rest of the newsletter for even more opportunities to be involved. And there are a couple of surprises on the way, too! It’s an honor to be your pastor!

Pastor Cindy

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CLAIR'S CALENDAR

November 30-Dec. 21 Advent Bible Study

6:30 PM—Wednesdays Clair

1 PM - Thursdays Ebenezer

NO AD COUNCIL OR MEN'S MEETING

IN DECEMBER

December 11	Fellowship Luncheon
December 12	Starlight Meeting 3:30 PM
December 17	One Starry Night 4-6 PM (Come & Go)
December 18	DEADLINE FOR ADOPTED FAMILY GIFTS Walk to the Manger Blue Christmas at Ebenezer 5 PM
Dec. 19-23	Delivery of gifts to adopted families
December 24	CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 4 PM
December 29	Serve Open Door Food Kitchen



Adopted Family Program Runs Nov. 27-Dec. 18

Clair's congregation has adopted three families through the AFL-CIO's Christmas Program. Items listed for each member of the families became available for selection beginning November 27. Deadline to have the gifts back to Clair is December 18. The congregation takes tags which tell them the name of the recipient, the family identifying number, the item and size (if clothing) they need. A gift is purchased and wrapped. The name of the recipient and the family identifying number must be on the new package tag. We take money donations for food vouchers to give to the large-

families. Food vouchers are in the amounts of \$60 or \$80 each. This allows the families to obtain certain food items from a local grocery store. Food items are purchased for the smaller families or individuals. Clair divides the delivery duties up and delivers to the families' homes the week of Christmas. Please see Debbie Wells for any questions. And thank you for your generosity in advance!



CLAIR CONNECTION

\$500 Raised at Clair's Fun Trivia Night—Thank You!



**\$500 RAISED AT HARVEST HOME CELEBRATION
WAS DONATED TO THE YWCA'S
WOMEN'S SHELTER**