

December 1, 2021

## CLAIR CONNECTION

ClairChurch  
UNITED METHODIST

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

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



**Advent Begins at Clair Church!**



## Clair's Calendar

Dec. 2, 9, 16 & 23	Advent Open House - 4 to 7 pm
December 12	Fellowship Luncheon and "Pounding" for Phillip and Shanna Frank
December 13	Starlite 6 pm
December 14	Administrative Board 6 pm
December 19	Adopted Families' gift deadline & Walk to the Manger Blue Christmas at Ebenezer 5 pm
December 24	Christmas Eve Service 4:30 pm



## CLAIR CONNECTION

### Brendon and Michelle Clark Help Clair Serve Others



I grew up just north of Country Club and attended Savannah High School. As a child, my family attended Hope United Church of Christ in Cosby, MO. It was during my college years at MWSU that I was introduced to Clair UMC.

My introduction to the workforce started as a dishwasher for Smokin Joe's BBQ right near where I lived. After a few years, I started working for O'Malley Beverage helping on the delivery trucks during my summer breaks. I kept that up through college then moved to Denver, CO after graduation to work for Anheuser-Busch at their brewery-owned wholesaler. After a few years, I moved back to the area, resuming employment with O'Malley Beverage until switching careers to banking and joining Commerce Bank. I currently serve as the Saint Joseph President of Commerce Bank.

Michelle and I were married in 2012 right here at Clair. We have two kids. Our daughter, Alyx, is 7 and son Parker, is now 4.

I started attending Clair around 2004, acting on an invitation from Nathan Weipert. I took a few years off while living out of town, but was happy to resume once Michelle and I moved back to Saint Joseph.

When I was a newbie to Clair, I participated in a Discipleship Bible Study class taught by Stacy Grier. He was a great teacher and offered a good opportunity for me to learn as well as get to know other church members.

Pets are limited to Lady, Michelle's elderly dachshund. For hobbies, I sit at a desk quite a bit so I enjoy doing things with my hands outside of work. I find turning wrenches on cars or swinging a hammer to be pretty enjoyable, sometimes even productive. If we're not in church during the summer, there's a good chance we are off watching sprint car racing somewhere.

I really enjoy the people at Clair. We have some very generous and servant-minded individuals within our congregation who set a great example for others.

*Starlite is collecting items for a cancer patient living at Carriage Square—please keep **Tammy** in your prayers this season.....*



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### MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Cindy Buhman



The season of Advent has begun with the first Sunday's focus on HOPE. This year we are using a series called "The Inn: Housing the Holy" from Worship Design Studios. The theme will have us examining our ministries and our hearts for ways both may become houses for the Holy this season and into the future. On Nov. 28, we talked about "Making Room." Dec. 5's theme will be "A Place at the Table." Dec. 12 will find us talking about "How Much Is Enough?" And on the Sunday before Christmas, we'll talk about "A Room with a View." There are special themes, too, for Christmas Eve and the Sunday after Christmas.

A Christmas gift from me to you is a link to a website full of resources to enhance and to bless your spirit during this Advent season. <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Advent-1-Bread-For-Our-Journey.html?soid=1138003871855&aid=4jDXR3rAC4k> will take you to the Bread for Our Journey site to find resources for week one of Advent.

I will have a few of the activities available during an **OPEN HOUSE at Clair UMC** each Thursday evening of Advent, beginning THIS Thursday, Dec. 2. **Between 4 and 7 PM, each Thursday** the church will be open and the sanctuary lighted for you to meditation, or just soaking up of the season. Drop in on your school. Bring a friend along.

On **Sunday, Dec. 19** we will **Manger** where you will have offering to the manger of the ing will be used to bless a nity. Ad Council will make will receive a letter soon coming activities.



have our annual **Walk to the** an opportunity to "walk" your Christ Child. This special offering helping ministry in our community designation this week. You about the offering and other upcoming activities.

On two Sundays in November, the congregation had an opportunity to vote on the time for **Clair's Christmas Eve service** – 4:30 or 7:30 PM. By more than a 3 to 1 margin, **4:30** was the winner! So start making plans now to begin your Christmas Eve festivities with your church family. The traditional service will include carols, Communion, and candlelight. I look forward to celebrating Christmas Eve with you and your families!

*Pastor Cindy*



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### Love Believes All Things; Endures All Things



Phillip Frank and Shanna Eggers were married on Friday, Nov. 26 in North Carolina, surrounded by family and friends. **To celebrate their wedding, to congratulate them, and to welcome them home, the Clair congregation will “pound” them with gifts during our next 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Fellowship Dinner on Dec. 12.** The idea of “pounding” comes from an old tradition of welcoming a new pastor to a congregation by each family giving the family a pound of some food goods. Since Phillip and Shanna are combining two households and already have two of everything they need, we thought it would be helpful to fill up their pantry with pounds of sugar, flour, coffee, salt, pasta, cereal, canned goods (with or without the labels!), laundry detergent, dog food, etc., etc., etc. Here are some helpful hints: Hondo likes Sam’s Club brand dog

food. Shanna likes All Free and Clear laundry detergent and Downey Unstoppable. And the dishwasher likes Finish gel pacs (the orange ones). But, Phillip reports they really aren’t too particular and offers thanks to the congregation for the blessings and well wishes.

### Financial Peace Class Coming in January



Ebenezer UMC is sponsoring a Financial Peace class beginning on Wednesday, Jan. 12. What a great way to begin the new year – getting a handle on your finances so that 2022 can be the year for reducing financial stress! From the Financial Peace website:

*Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University is a nine lesson course that teaches you how to save for emergencies, pay off debt fast, spend wisely, and invest for your future. For over 25 years, Dave Ramsey’s been teaching commonsense, biblical money principles that work. Every time.*

*Nearly 6,000,000 people have become debt free and are winning with money.*

The 9-week class will be held each Wednesday between Jan. 12 and Mar. 9 at the Fellowship Hall at Ebenezer UMC, 7000 SE 169 Hwy., St. Joseph, MO 64507. Child care will be available for those who request it. Classes will begin at 6:30 and be finished no later than 8:30. You may sign up and purchase your book online at the Ebenezer UMC website: [www.ebenezerstjo.com](http://www.ebenezerstjo.com). Adam Vollstedt is the leader for this important, informative, and fun class!

## CLAIR CONNECTION



# ADVENT OPEN HOUSE

Thursday's 4PM - 7PM

December 2, 2021  
December 9, 2021  
December 16, 2021  
December 23, 2021

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UNITED METHODIST



*Be **Santa** in your heart.  
Give so no **child** has to go without.*

**Collecting items  
through Dec 19<sup>th</sup>**

*AFL-CIO Community Services 816-364-1131 helpmenow.org  
1203 North Sixth St. St. Joseph, Mo. 64501*

*Adopt-A-Family*

### BRING NEEDED ITEMS FOR BESSIE ELLISON KIDS!

Plain underwear

(no characters) boys &  
girls sizes 5T – 10

Plain socks boys & girls  
sizes S, M and L

(kid sizes)

Pants boys & girls

Sizes 5T - 10

\* Now through Jan. 16!