

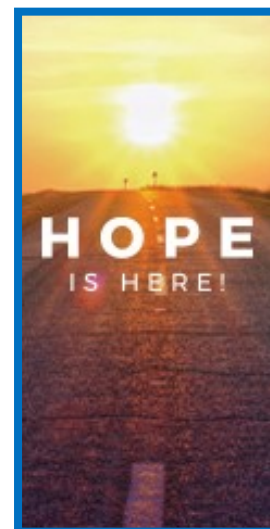
September 8, 2021

## CLAIR CONNECTION

ClairChurch  
UNITED METHODIST

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

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



## MILLIONS OF PEOPLE ARE READY!

JOIN US SEPTEMBER 19



### I ❤️ LOVE JESUS CLUB

In February, our family was discussing things happening in the country and how we wanted to recommit our lives to Christ. My son, Hoss, who lives in Plano, Texas, had only been baptized as a child and was wanting to become reborn in Christ. Hoss was discussing this with our oldest son, Brad, and I. Brad was also wanting to be rebaptized as his love for Christ has grown stronger each day. We discussed this almost daily. (continued on page 5)



Piper Pratt

## CLAIR CONNECTION

# Music has Blessed the Life of Dixie Leslie



I was born in Clarion, Iowa, near the Minnesota line and was the first of five sisters, no brothers. When I was five years old, our family moved to a farm south of Maysville. We attended a small country church nearby, Marvin Chapel Methodist Church. We moved to St. Joseph when I was 12 and I lived there until my late husband, Dale Robbins, and I moved to Union Star in 1996. In St. Joseph, we attended Olive Street Methodist Church and later came to Clair. During the Depression, we lived with my maternal grandparents. Every morning, as breakfast was being prepared, my grandfather read a chapter from his Bible and we would discuss this over the morning meal.

I always did secretarial work, with the exception of working five years for the St. Joseph Police Department - two years as secretary in the Chief's Office and three years as a dispatcher for police and fire. After 12 years working in the Clair UMC office, I retired as an Administrative Assistant.

My husband, Russell, and I have been married for 21 years. My own children are Conda (wife Meredith) and Pete (wife Brenda). I have two grandchildren, Elizabeth (husband Dr. Jarod) and Bill (wife Tonya). My great-grandchildren are Lillian, age 6 and Olivia, age 3. Russell and I have a combined family of eight children (1 is deceased); 10 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren and one due soon. Every one of these is very dear to Russell and me. There's just nothing better than being a grandma!

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I have been a member and attended Clair for 46 years; was gone for 6 ½ years and returned two years ago. I am very happy to be back with so many dear friends.

My memories of Clair are filled with happenings. One of my favorites is the day we made the walk from the old church to the newly built one, as part of the Sunday morning service. Joyce Vogel and I were playing the piano and organ together then and we went ahead of the group and were playing as the people entered the sanctuary. This was a very special and memorable day for me and for all of us.

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For a couple of years, I was choir director at Clair. I loved singing in the choir, but I loved being the director even more. We had a large choir, as many as 25 at times, and we were very fortunate to have many good singers.

The long-time friendships at Clair really touch my heart. I love the people there and feel sincerely loved by them and so blessed to have each of them in my life. I love Cindy and feel fortunate to have her as our Pastor.

(continued on Page 4)

## CLAIR CONNECTION

### MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

#### Back to Church Sunday – Sept. 19, 2021

In the midst of world-changing events that affect everyone, it's time for the Church to be the shining light Jesus has called us to be. Now, more than ever, people need Jesus and a caring community where they can belong, grow, and flourish.

On Sunday, Sept. 19, Clair UMC will join with thousands of other churches across the country to invite our friends and neighbors to National Back to Church Sunday. With summer over and families back to school-centered routines, I envision this Sunday as a time to get “reconnected” for some and “connected” for the first time for others as we seek to experience Jesus’ love, peace, grace, and especially, hope.



Pastor Cindy Buhman

The theme for Back to Church Sunday is “Hope Is Here!”

On September 19 and during the next three Sundays, our worship and sermon series will focus on the hope a relationship with Jesus can provide us.

**Sept. 19** – Hope for the Weary, Matthew 11, 28-30; Gal. 6:2. I am a human *being* and not a human *doing*. I am loved by God and that is enough.

**Sept. 26** – Rev. Jim Barnett will be our guest preacher for Hope for the Broken, John 8:1-11. Jesus loves me just as he finds me; but he loves me too much to leave me there.

**Oct. 3** – Hope for the Underdog – 1 Sam. 17:20-50; Eph. 6:12. If God is with me, there is nothing I cannot overcome.

**Oct. 10** – Hope for the Doubter – John 20:24-29. Jesus is not afraid of my doubt and will meet me right where I am.

I look forward to exploring the themes each week with folks who are worshiping in worship AND online at [www.clairchurch.com](http://www.clairchurch.com). I’m working on a way for online worshipers to interact and to build an online community. So, reach out to your neighbors, friends, and family. They don’t even have to live close by! Let’s see how many people we can connect with on Sept. 19 for Back to Church Sunday! Blessings!

*Pastor Cindy*

## CLAIR CONNECTION



*A response to  
poverty and hunger*

The annual **Festival of Sharing** is scheduled for October 2, 2021, at Cameron UMC.

We are asking you to join in providing essentials for those less fortunate. Just bringing individual items is great. We will then assemble complete kits using the individual items. The contents of these kits are (note the requested sizes):

- 1 bottle skin lotion (10-16 oz.)**
- 1 fluoride toothpaste (6 oz. or more)**
- 1 toothbrush (in original package)**
- 1 bath-size bar of soap (in package)**
- 1 bottle shampoo (12-16 oz.)**
- 1 deodorant; 1 washcloth**
- 2 razors (disposable)**
- 1 comb or brush; 1 hand towel**

**(Leslie—continued from Page 2)**

I have several hobbies. I enjoy reading and writing, sewing (making most of my own clothes), cooking, dancing, watching football games and Nascar races, and working not-too-hard crossword puzzles. But most of all, I love playing the organ. I usually play 2-3 hours each time I play it, which is quite often. I actually enjoy practicing and learning new songs.

I also enjoy playing the piano. My organ playing for regular Sunday church services began when I was 14 years old and I have played over 40 years steady since then. I was organist at Clair for 16 years until it was decided that the church would have only a praise band and no longer needed an organist. I then had the honor of being asked by Clair's former pastor, Rev. Bill Wasson, to be the organist at Star Chapel UMC at Empire Prairie, where he was the current pastor. I found a super loving congregation there and played for 6 ½ years, until the church needed to be closed. That is when I returned to Clair. When I was not playing steadily at church, I played at many other churches for their Sunday services and for weddings and funerals, as well as subbing for our Clair organist. I taught piano and vocal lessons for years. I have also given many piano/organ 30-minute programs including one where I played the piano and organ at the same time. My audience loved this. In my living room, I have two large organs, a Hammond and a Lowry Theater organ and a piano. I find great joy in playing each of these regularly. Music has been a wonderful blessing in my life and I am so thankful to God for this special blessing.

# CLAIR CONNECTION

## Clair's Calendar



## Clair's Calendar

|          |                                |   |   |
|----------|--------------------------------|---|---|
| Sept. 8  | Administrative Council Mtg     | Sept. 19                                | <a href="#"><u>Back to Church Sunday!</u></a> |
| Sept. 12 | Fellowship Dinner              | Sept. 29                                | Serve Open Door Food Kitchen                  |
|          | S. Park UMC Concert 4 pm       | October 2                               | Festival of Sharing                           |
|          | Offering for Hurricane victims | October 4                               | Administrative Council Mtg.                   |
| Sept. 13 | Starlite                       | SAVE THE DATE: Oct. 6—Charge Conference |   |
| Sept. 18 | Clair Men's Breakfast 8 am     | Via Zoom                                |   |

### (I love Jesus Club —continued from page 1)

I told the boys I had gone to church all my life but something was missing in my heart. I tried and tried but the Holy Spirit seemed to be missing.

We discussed how we wanted a person who had led a life of sinful ways, had discovered Christ and was re-born - living a very strong Christian life. Brad stated that person is Phil Roberston of Duck Dynasty. Hoss contacted Phil and a date of March 21<sup>st</sup> was set.

It is a day none of us will forget and that day changed our lives. Our family: Bruce, Dylan, Brad, his wife Brooke, and their boys Brecken, Kenton and the three little boys headed to Monroe, Louisiana. The family from Texas: Hoss, his wife, Mykanna and daughters Kennedy, Piper and Ivy along with MyKanna's folks, Victor and Sheri, made the trip.

We wanted to be baptized in the river, but it was flooded. So seven of us were baptized by submersion in the church. Phil explained to us how much it would change our lives and that the Lord has taken away our sins. Piper, who is 8 years old, lives in Texas and wanted to be baptized also. Phil kneeled and explained to her that she has not sinned yet or done anything to be ashamed of at her age. Piper was disappointed but Phil said to come back to see him when the temptation of alcohol and drugs came into her life.

As Phil baptized me in the name of Christ and I was lifted out of the water, a spirit entered my heart. I knew immediately it was the Holy Spirit. I have never felt such a love and peace in my life. Six of our lives changed that day. Bruce, Brad, Hoss, Dylan, Kenton and myself all felt the same thing. We all read our Bible every day and Bruce, Brad and Victor have a Zoom Bible Study every Wednesday morning.

Piper reads her Bible too and her love for Jesus grows every day. She wanted to show her love for Christ and share it with others. The Texas family thought about ways to make this happen. Piper came up with the "I Love Jesus Club". If you want to join, go to [www.joinclubjesus.com](http://www.joinclubjesus.com). Just fill out the information and your bracelet will be sent to you. There is no charge for the bracelets and you can order as many as you want. This club is not affiliated with a church denomination. It is a very special 8 year old's way of showing her love for Jesus and she hopes you will show yours too. **Sandy Pratt, Proud Grandma**