



Please Note: The deadline is now
the THIRD Monday of each month
 for inclusion of FUMC news in
 the following month's *Mirror*.
 Thank you!

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621 South Third Street, Clinton, Iowa 52732
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Pastor: Christina Sung
 Ministry Assistant: Michael Bell
 Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 a.m.
 Wednesday "Midweek Connect" 5:30 pm
 Church Office Hours:
 Tuesday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 Radio Broadcast:
 KROS 1340AM & 105.9 FM
 Sunday 11:30 a.m.

Like Us!



Mirror

The Monthly Newsletter of First United Methodist Church, Clinton, Iowa

March 2021



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Sharing Love with FUMC Family!!



From the Worship Committee:

Please order Easter Lilies to help adorn our Sanctuary for Easter Sunday!

Submit this order form with your payment to church office, or place in offering plate.

Orders due by March 21, 2021

of lilies _____ @ \$10 each = \$ _____

Alternate Giving:
Operation Christmas Child = \$ _____

TOTAL payment with this order form = \$ _____

Your name as you would like it to appear in *The Mirror* and on Easter morning in the church service bulletin:
(Please print clearly)

Your phone # (not for publication:) _____

Please indicate by circling one: *In Honor of* *In Memory of*
(Please print name(s) clearly)

AFTERWARD:

If you would like your lily, please plan to take it with you at the conclusion of the Easter Service.

Lilies not taken will be delivered to area nursing homes and shut ins who were unable to be with us on this joyous Sunday.



Caring Committee hosted a card making event for Valentine's Day. The men seemed to enjoy it just as much as the women. It was a good family project to get everyone involved. Thank you everyone and caring team.

Boy Scouts Traveling to Yellowstone 1921 | There and Back Again | 2021

The June 21, 1921 New York Times carried an article with this headline: "BOY SCOUTS LEAVE ON LONG TRIP.; 191 Leave for 3,000-Mile Ride to the Yellowstone." That group was the Boy Scouts of the Clinton Council. It is now 100 years later and today's Clinton-area Boy Scouts are re-creating that journey (this time with paved roads and a smaller group). To help offset the cost of the trip a series of fundraising events is planned.

- **Saturday, March 6th**, 11:30am to 1:00pm Troop 642's 38th annual Chili & Chicken Noodle Dinner
Drive-Thru/Carry-Out only at First United Methodist Church
Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for children 9 & under.
- **Sunday, March 28th**, 9am-12pm Troop 22's annual Pancake Breakfast fundraiser
Dine-in/Carry-out/Delivery at the Moose Lodge
Tickets are \$7.00 (free for Kids 5 & under)
- **April (Date TBD)** Drive-Thru Cookout
Drive-Thru/Carry-out only at FUMC
Stay tuned - more details to come...

For tickets please contact Jeremy Frye at 815-999-7462 or 563-242-0048.



Lola Jackson would like to thank all of her friends and church family for the many Get Well wishes and valentine's cards and phone calls for the last 8 weeks while she was recovering from her fall.

She is doing much better and is home again after a brief stay at the Alverno in Clinton.

Through It All; I Have Learned to Trust in Jesus!

Finally, it is so good to have Sunshine; the snow is starting to melt. I have never seen such a long icicle hanging from my house, so I took a picture of it. It seems the cold Winter will never be gone, but another season is coming – Spring is at the door bringing with the vaccine.

God created the different seasons in natural and spiritual life. We have entered the Lenten season, and in the fullness of time, we will celebrate Easter. Praise God that He is in charge of all the seasons and the time in between the seasons.

Winter has been a long trying season in many ways – personally, at home, locally, and globally. I believe God allows us this season for our faith reality check and faith-building. This season has challenged our faith, its strength, and whether we have any issues with faith.

When I looked back at the winter season, I can summarize its impact with one sentence of a hymn; "Through it all, [I have learned to trust in Jesus](#) and to depend upon His Word."

We will not waste anything when we receive with a thankful heart, whatever the Winter brings to us. You made it through a difficult season! Thanks be to God for His grace; for now, we became stronger and more mature in our faith in God. Let us sing the hymn together because through it all, we learned to trust in Jesus, the King of kings, and depend on His Word.

*I've had many tears and sorrows,
I've had questions for tomorrow,
there's been times I didn't know right from wrong.
But in every situation,
God gave me blessed consolation,
that my trials come to only make me strong.*

*I've been to lots of places, I've seen a lot of faces,
there's been times I felt so all alone. But in my lonely hours,
yes, those precious lonely hours,
Jesus lets me know that I was His own.*

*I thank God for the mountains, and I thank Him for the valleys,
I thank Him for the storms He brought me through.
For if I'd never had a problem,
I wouldn't know God could solve them,
I'd never know what faith in God could do.*

*Through it all, through it all, I've learned to trust in Jesus,
I've learned to trust in God.
Through it all, through it all,
I've learned to depend upon His Word.*

Prayer: Father, thank You that my life in You is such a blessing. Amen.

~ Pastor Christina Sung ~



Fundamentally, our breakdown of doctrine has led to a breakdown of discipline. And this has now reached the breaking point. The older model of liberal clergy, bishops, and leaders who kept their word by following the rules even when they personally disagreed with them is being increasingly replaced by a more militant, rule-breaking sort of liberalism. This is not sustainable.

We could keep fighting at the next General Conference, and the next, and the next, with lots of costly complaints and church trials and bad press in between, until one side finally wins. But by that point there may not be much of a denomination left to win.



Midweek Connect

Since this would begin our Lenten season ministry, we are going to start having our [Midweek Connect](#) again on the following [Wednesday, February 24](#), but we will not be having a meal due to covid-19 precautions. Instead, the study groups would meet from 6:15-7:30 PM.

In the weeks that follow we will reassess when we can once again provide a meal. Our hope is to meet each Wednesday during Lent

WE CELEBRATE!

Anniversaries (50 & over)

Dave & Sally Carroll 63 years on 3/16/2021

Birthdays (90 & over)

Bill Gould 95 years old on 3/10/2021

Last month Martha Schafer turned 100 on 2/25/2021. She had been a life-long member until she moved to Ohio in 2016.

Her address is: 200 Timberline Dr Apt 221

Marietta, OH 45750

Bible Reading Schedule

March 4 start reading Romans Chapter 1

March 20 start reading Proverbs Chapter 1

Today's Controversies. Meanwhile, the doctrinal division continued. In the early 2000s, we had an active bishop of our denomination, Joseph Sprague of Chicago, publicly deny such core Christian doctrines as the accuracy of the Gospel of John, as well as the virgin birth, substitutionary atonement, and physical resurrection of Jesus Christ. He was abusing the office of bishop to teach that people should NOT believe in some of the most core Christian doctrines. There was a formal complaint filed against him. But basically what happened in 2003 is that he was let off with a slap on the wrist.

Then some of you may have heard of this activist minister out West named Karen Oliveto. In 2016, the Western Jurisdiction, which is basically the Western third of the USA, elected her bishop, knowing that her being an openly partnered lesbian was in open defiance of our longstanding church law saying that clergy cannot be "self-avowed practicing homosexuals." That's the main thing she is known for.

But there are deeper doctrinal concerns. In 2005, I was in the room where she was speaking at a major national gathering of liberal United Methodists. Among other things, she urged addressing both "the benefits and flaws" of Scripture. What do you mean "flaws" of Scripture? Well, she made clear that one flaw she saw in the Bible was the "theology of election and chosen-ness" she rightly recognized is taught in the Bible. It got really bizarre when Oliveto started teaching about the account in Acts 16 of Paul casting a demon out of a slave girl. According to Oliveto, getting to be free of the demon did nothing to make the girl's life better and "probably made it worse."

So now we have a top leader of our denomination who is on record as teaching about the flaws of Scripture and the benefits of demon possession! About a year after she was elected bishop, she used the office of bishop in Denver to publicly teach that we should not "create an idol out of" Jesus Christ. How can you possibly create an idol out of someone who already IS God? Well, according to Oliveto, Jesus actually had such sins as "his bigotries and prejudices" and that as an adult, he needed to experience "conversion."

There are multiple reasons why, according to our denomination's own official rules and standards, Oliveto should be removed from being a bishop. But the denominational leaders who have that responsibility have made clear that they are unwilling to do so, because they support her.



We are so grateful to God for our youth at FUMC! As we begin the month of March, I'm excited to once again be getting somewhat back to "normal" with Renew Student Ministries. Here is an update on what's coming up.

Midweek Connect returns!

Our study groups are meeting in-person again on Wednesday nights from 6:15-7:30pm. Our youth will meet on the third floor of the Christian Education Building. We continue to ask that you wear a face covering. I'm looking forward to being together, so please plan to make it a priority to have your teen(s) join us! *We will not have a meal prior to meeting, but in the weeks to come we hope to again provide this to everyone attending.

Think Summer!

I'm praying that our students are able to be involved in a summer (regional) mission trip to serve Jesus and others. Many ministries are still trying to determine if they can still host these missions due to covid-19 still impacting the country. I'm in the process of reaching out to youth mission trip organizations to see what might be possible for our students. As I learn more details I will be in contact with our youth and their families.

Summer Games Camp 2021!!

After a year off this awesome camp is set to return! Central College in Pella will be the host. Dates are July 3-7th. I realize this is over the Fourth of July holiday, but that will make this year's camp unique! Registration for the camp is now open. The cost is \$349 with a \$79 deposit needed at the time of registration. You can go to sgu.camp to sign up and find more information. This camp is for 6th-12th grade students.

If you have any questions be sure to contact me at michaelbell-fumc@gmail.com or my cell phone: 309-235-4877. You can also call the church office: 562-242-5868 ext: 104. You can stay current with our student ministries at FUMC by going to our Facebook page: Renew Student Ministries FUMC.

In Christ,
Michael Bell

The United Methodist Church History

“Why the United Methodist Church is REALLY Splitting: The Big-Picture History”

Part II: Breakdown in Doctrine

So our decline in discipline has a long history. What about our decline in doctrine? By 1913, Evangelist and veteran General Conference delegate Leander Munhall of Philadelphia was sounding the alarm about how the Methodist Episcopal Church was infected by liberal theologies, Methodists were becoming more worldly, and powerful elites in our denominational bureaucracy were especially pushing Methodism away from our own biblical doctrines on core issues like the authority of Scripture and original sin. At that time, the relatively new theological movement of modernism was widely attacking these and other core Christian teachings, particularly supernatural parts of Christianity.

*Now Munhall could be a bit strident, un-nuanced, and frustratingly vague. But in reading Munhall’s 1913 book, *Breakers! Methodism Adrift*, it’s really striking to see the similarities between his complaints and those of many traditionalist United Methodists today.*

Here’s what Brother Munhall lamented about our denomination back then;

- *“the great spiritual dearth throughout Methodism” (12)*
- *“anti-biblical and unmethodistic teaching” heavily promoted in seminaries, by leading denominational officials, and our own publishing house (13; Cf. 67-72, 84)*
- *“the Christian pulpit has become silent about human depravity and the judgment to come” (44-5)*
- *Overall, “Our congregations are growing smaller, and many of the outsiders are having less and less respect for us” (201)*

Bishops appoint liberal pastors to “many of the big wealthy churches” while many other pastors “of acknowledged ability, who are loyal to the Bible and the doctrines and usages of Methodism, never get such churches, but are usually sent to second, third and even fourth rate appointments” (199)

*As my friend, Riley Case put it in his *Evangelical and Methodist* book, “By 1920, [theological] modernism basically controlled Methodism, at least institutional Methodism, in both the north and the south. The colleges, the seminaries, the pastors’ schools, the Courses of Study, the Church press, the Sunday school material, the Church agencies, and finally even the Council of Bishops were, or would soon be, in the hands of modernists” (81). Such trends continued for decades.*

Fast-forward to 1966: Rev. Charles Keysor of Illinois published an op-ed that sparked the Good News movement. He wrote about a group within our Methodist churches who had little to no representation in our denominational bureaucracy. He said: “I speak of those Methodists who are variously called ‘evangelicals’ or ‘conservatives’ or ‘fundamentalists.’ A more accurate description is ‘orthodox,’ for these brethren hold a traditional understanding of the Christian faith.”

Keysor outlined five defining beliefs of this group, which were really five of the most prominent doctrines that the modernists had been attacking since the early 20th century:

1. *The inspiration and authority of Scripture*
2. *That Jesus really was miraculously born of a Virgin*
3. *“that somehow Christ on the cross paid the price of transgression which a righteous and holy God properly requires”*
4. *That Jesus actually, physically rose from the dead*

And that whatever the details of the End Times may turn out to be, Jesus really will physically return to Earth again.

None of this should be remarkable for a Methodist to believe. It’s all right there in the Methodist Articles of Religion, which officially remains the central doctrine of the United Methodist Church, now along with the EUB Confession of Faith.

But what’s really striking was Keysor’s title: “Methodism’s silent minority.” Keysor explicitly described folk who believed in these most basic, biblical, Methodist doctrines as being a marginalized “minority” within what’s now our denomination.

This is quite a shift from how in 1913, Munhall had declared that the majority of our members and ministers were loyal to biblical, Methodist doctrine. Over 50 years of modernist dominance had taken a toll. Then later Good News was joined by several other renewal groups.