



# February 2021

News of the...

Clinton United  
Presbyterian  
Church

The CUP

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Pastoral Care Emergency:** In case of need of pastoral care, please contact the church office at 724-695-7993

## **Congregation Meeting**

We will be having a congregation meeting on February 7<sup>th</sup> immediately following worship.

## **Finance Meeting**

We will be having a Finance Team meeting on February, 16<sup>th</sup> at 7PM.

## **Session Meeting**

We have a Session Meeting scheduled for February 18<sup>th</sup> at 7PM.

## **Sunday Worship and Online resources**

### **Service begins at 11:00 am every**

**Sunday.** We ask that all who are able, wear a mask. Anyone who has a health issue that would prevent them from doing so, will not be asked to wear a mask. We will have masks and sanitizer readily available, as well as following social distancing guidelines for seating.

In order to follow social distancing guidelines, we will not be providing nursery care. However, we do have age-appropriate children's lessons and bible-based activities for your children to do at their seat. We do understand that not everyone feels comfortable attending or is able to do so safely at this time. The health and safety of our congregation and the most vulnerable among us, is our first priority. If you are feeling ill or have been exposed to someone that has tested positive for covid-19, please stay home and seek medical attention. There are several ways that you can remotely worship with us.

- We will be streaming live audio of our service on our website every

Sunday starting at 11:00am. The link to listen to our service is [live worship service](#).

- You may also listen to this recording at your convenience under the worship archived section of our website [Recording of worship services](#).

If you are not able to make it into church to pickup your copy of the Upper room Daily Devotional; You can find a free digital copy for our members here

[January - February Upper Room Devotional](#)

**Per Capita 2021** The Per Capita for 2021 totals \$34.79 per member. It would be greatly appreciated if all members pay such amount by mid- February. There is a separate line for Per Capita on the weekly offering envelope, so members may designate how much is being enclosed towards their Per Capita. The \$34.79 is allocated among the three-levels of the governing bodies of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. as follows:

General assembly	\$8.98
Synod	\$2.40
Pittsburgh Presbytery	\$23.41



Sunday School for all ages has reopened for in person classes and will be meeting every Sunday at 9:45 AM through the end of May. Please remember to follow social distancing guidelines and wear your mask.

## **Special Dates in February 2021**

- February is African American History Month  
New Year's Day
- February 14th, 2021 Transfiguration Sunday
- February 14th, 2021 Valentine's day
- February 15th, 2021 Presidents Day
- February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Ash Wednesday
- February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021 First Sunday in Lent



**WAMA Food Pantry**  
(Warehouse behind RiteAid)  
**105 West Allegheny Rd.**  
**Imperial, PA 15126**

We appreciate any help the churches can give us as we are now back to our normal schedule for the 2021 year.

### **February's Distributions**

Tuesday, February 9 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 to 12:00pm.
Wednesday, February 10 <sup>th</sup>	4:30 to 6:30pm.
Tuesday, February 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9:00 to 12:00pm.
Wednesday, February 24 <sup>th</sup>	4:30 to 6:30pm.

Please call the Food Pantry number 724-695-1305 to let our FP Coordinators: Tim Opfermann and Linda Stoner know if you would like to help.

Thank you for all your past help and we look forward to working with you in 2021.  
Judith Bolind, volunteer

**Also, in addition, the Food Pantry would welcome any attendees who might need our services or if they know of anyone else in need, please refer them to us.**

## A note from Rev. Dr. Karen F. Younger

In just a few short weeks, men, young and old, will flood the card aisles of Giant Eagle nervously searching for the perfect Valentine's Day card. The truth is, as with many holidays in our culture, we seem to have lost its deeper meaning. Its origins may surprise us. At the time of Claudius II, also called Claudius the Cruel, a great army was needed. So, Claudius outlawed marriage and engagements to make for easier conscription. Valentine was a priest who performed illegal marriages despite this edict. As a result, Valentine was arrested and beheaded on February 14. He left behind a note to the jailer's daughter whom he had befriended, signed "your Valentine".

Valentine Day's originally honored the institution of marriage. Today it has been reduced to a commercial opportunity paying tribute to sentimentalized, romantic love. We send cards, give sweet presents; we see images of cupids, hearts, candy, flowers, negligees, and diamonds. And just as we have lost the deeper meaning of Valentine's Day, I wonder if we need reminded of the nature of true love?

The word "love" is so overused in our culture that this little word can mean a hundred different things to a hundred different people. Scripture, however, is quite clear on what love is and what it is not. In 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 Paul gives 15

descriptions of what love is. What is striking is that virtually all of them involve what Jesus called a dying or a hating of your life in this world.

For example, take the description, "Love is patient" (literally, "love suffers long"), and "Love is not easily angered" (the RSV renders it "love is not easily irritated"). These two descriptions of love are different sides of the same coin. Not one of us likes delays in our plans. We all have a deep desire for a trouble-free life. And when life becomes complicated and worrisome, we get irritated. We don't like babies crying through the night. We don't like airport delays on vacation. We don't like our furnaces to break. We don't like our bodies to hurt. We like it when life goes according to plan. And when it doesn't? We complain. We grumble. We get angry and critical. In other words, we suffer short and easily irritate.

So, what is to become of this side of us? The answer is: it must die. Paul says, "Love is patient. . . and is not easily angered". If we are to be like this, something in me must die. My strong desire for an easy life must die. My need for an uninterrupted schedule must die. My discontent, my self-centeredness, my need to have no frustrations, all must die.

Or take this description of love: "love does not boast, it is not proud". The truth is we like to be admired. We like it when

people say nice things about us. We don't like it when people criticize us, or laugh at us, or humiliate us. So, we have developed subtle strategies to draw attention to the one and cover over the other. Most of us don't engage in overt bragging and boasting. We express our pride in more sophisticated ways—like bringing the conversation back again and again to ourselves and our accomplishments. Another more subtle way is by constantly talking about our hurt and sadness, and about how badly things have gone for us. Self-pity and boasting are both forms of pride: one is pride in the heart of the weak, and the other is pride in the heart of the strong.

But Paul says that love is other-directed, not self-consumed. If love is humble and other-directed, love must mean that the glory-seeking, self-exalting, whining, self-pitying me has to die.

Or take the key phrase: "Love is not self-seeking" Love seeks its joy in the good of others, not just in private gratification. Love seeks the good of the many, not just the comfort of self. Love seeks not its own. It dies to its own.

We do not decide to be impatient, irritable, prideful, or selfish. We are all these things by default. These come from deep within as corrupt human beings. This is why Jesus said, "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it

remains alone. But if it dies, it bears much fruit" (John 12:24).

What is true love? Dying.

- *Dying to the desire for an untroubled life.*
- *Dying to the desire for unshared affection.*
- *Dying to the desire to call attention to our successes.*
- *Dying to the desire to express our freedom offensively.*
- *Dying to the desire for self-gratification.*
- *Dying to the need for no frustrations.*
- *Dying to the desire for revenge.*
- *Dying to the desire to run away from the pain of obedience.*

There is no higher calling than to die for love.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Karen

## Upcoming Events



Our women's group will meet on Thursday, Feb 4th at 6:30 PM to study about Abraham and his wife Sarah. We are a small group and are so restricted with our activities due to COVID-19, that a nice bible study is our best choice of activities at this time. So, come and join us for the enlightening bible study, and discussion. Everyone is welcome. Our next meeting will be March 4th Thursday at 6:30 PM and even though the pandemic is against us so that we are unable to meet as a group through the WAMA program, I will remind you that Friday March 5th is World Day of Prayer. This year's location is Vanuater, an island in the South Pacific. You can go online and read more about this place and their people. Please keep our Women's Group in your prayers.



The Deacon Committee will once again this year start meeting the first Sunday of

each month to continue to meet the needs of our congregation and community. Thank you, Bev and Bill, for continuing to support this committee for another term. Our next meeting will be February 7 right after church service.



The bowling league is off till after the first of the year. We will notify you when the bowling alley is back open and all is safe to resume bowling. Have a blessed and wonderful New Year.



Our music program is starting to move forward into this new year and with much cooperation from our faithful choir members we have been able to provide music to our service each week. As the year moves on we hope to continue to provide music for each service, and will faithfully pray that this pandemic moves out, and more normal activity can resume. It has been said that singing is just a form of praying to God so sing often and loud whenever you feel the spirit.

# DAYS FOR GIRLS

Our Local Days for Girls team is back in action! We will be meeting at Valley Church in Imperial on Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM.



Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, immediately following worship we will be holding a congregational meeting.



Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup> is the beginning of Lent. We will be having Communion for anyone who would like to attend.



Clinton U.P. Cemetery Board is asking for sealed bids for the mowing of the old and new sections of the cemetery. A second sealed bid is requested for the trimming of the old section of the cemetery. All bid's must be received by April 15, 2021. Please remember to attach a copy of your Certificate of Insurance with your bids.



## Deacon's Giving Campaign

We would like to remind everyone that the Deacon's take up a collection every month for the West Allegheny Food Pantry. Every month they focus on a different need. The items may change from month to month, but the need remains. This is a great way to help those in need in our local community. For the month of February, the Deacon's campaign is focusing on children's food items. Such as Macaroni and Cheese, SpaghettiOs, Fruit cups or Applesauce. There is a box located in the back of the sanctuary for your donations.



- Khloe McCullough .....8
- Hannah Lapin .....10
- Lindsay Thomas .....11
- Marysa McConnell.....15
- Amanda Wad.....16
- Marian McCullough .....17
- Aiden Campbell .....22
- Amanda Leonard .....22
- Dakota Lamb .....24
- Kevin Campbell .....24
- Rachelle Murin .....24
- Dan Heck .....25
- Ben Collins .....26
- Jayme Marshall .....27

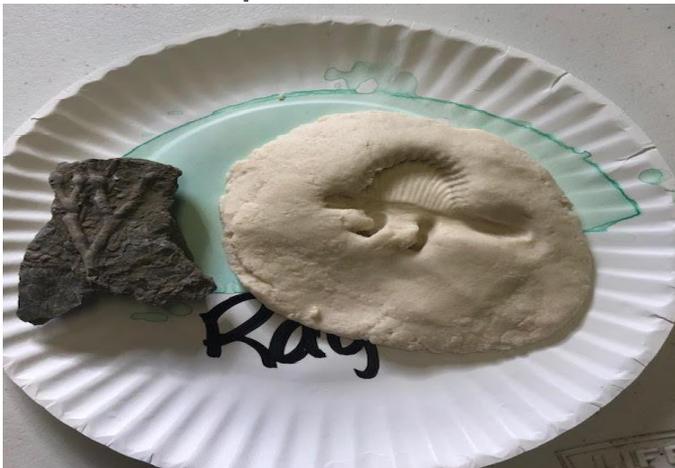


# Looking back at January



Thank you to everyone that donated to the West Allegheny Winter Food Drive!

## Cup Preschool

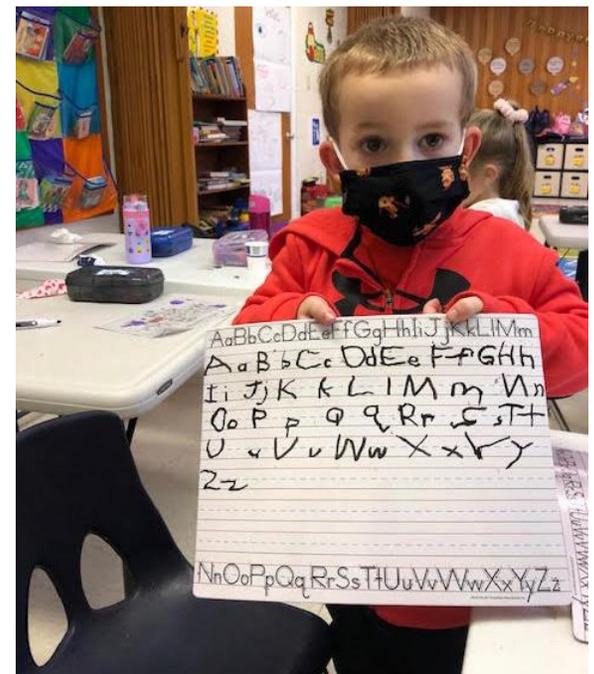


The preschool and pre-k programs started the New Year with fun and lots of science! We discussed new year's resolutions and how we can be better siblings, friends, and neighbors. We celebrated national popcorn month with experiments, counting popcorn kernels and tasting different types of popcorn.

We learned how fossils are created and made our own fossils. In addition to academics, we continued applying daily prayer and praying for others into our routine.



Finally, we learned about the 12 disciples and how we can "be fishers of men." Thank you for your continued support of our programs and we wish you all a happy new year!





### THOUGH THE SEASONS CHANGE

As we have said goodbye to another year, there is so much to reflect on and to celebrate. Let us take you on a brief tour through the seasons of the year and some of the ways that God has met us and our church in 2020.

and ate our first takeout meal of the pandemic from Brassica.



Jana and I enjoyed an incredibly fun Labor Day weekend at her family's new lake house in Michigan with family and friends. After a long summer of raising support and preparing for students to come back to Kent, this was a much-needed moment of rest, slacklining, playing Catan, enjoying good food and boat rides, and watching the sunrise with my wife!

The trees in our backyard were in prime Autumn colors in mid-October this year. Even though we were stuck in our houses a lot, we were thankful for the view and the space to have some warm fires outside!



It was still cold enough for our date in late April that we were in coats, hats and gloves after getting some delicious Rising Star coffee. We took a leisurely stroll through the Cleveland Cultural Gardens



Jana and I have made a tradition of cutting down and decorating our Christmas tree in early December, while baking and enjoying homemade cookies!

We were sad to see students go home so early this year and cancel so many events including our staff Christmas party, but thankful for the holiday and winter season together thus far!

We have mourned a lot this year, but we also have so much to be thankful for in the midst of it all.

As a family, Jana and I realized that we really love spending time together. Forced to quarantine and remain indoors for much of the year, we rarely have moments that we aren't excited to be near each other. Also, in March we finished paying off our student loan debt and God has continued to teach us how to save, spend and give our money generously.

As a church, we have learned a deeper appreciation and love for scripture. God had us all over the Bible this year including teachings and studies in the Psalms, Luke, Philippians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, the Sermon on the Mount and Acts. Also, we have learned how to trust God with our futures, regularly proclaiming as James does that things will happen or not happen "IF it is the Lord's will." Additionally, we have learned to appreciate and work for strong and healthy community. When meeting in person was difficult and rules and regulations were constantly changing, we learned as a community that we would do whatever we needed to in order to grow closer together, encourage one another, and not give up meeting as the writer of Hebrews says.

Finally, we learned that ultimately our hope is in Jesus alone. Our hope is not in how hard we work or any amount of

productivity. It's not in our health and longevity. Our hope is not in politics, governments, or social agendas. Our hope is not even in filling a lecture hall on campus full of students on Sunday mornings (which is good, because as you can see below, that room has been empty for months!). As good as these things are, we have decided as a church to put our hope in the restoration of all things in Jesus' name for His Kingdom.



Thank you for your prayers, your support and your partnership for Jana and me and for the ministry of H2O Church at Kent State! Your help makes this possible and allows God to work in incredible ways. May He continue to bring His many blessings as the New Year begins!



By comparing love to everything from oxygen and fire to wind and war, songs and poetry emphasize its immense power — for good or for ill. Christian author Patrick Morley uses metaphors that focus on love's practicality in everyday life: "Love is the glue that holds us together and the oil that keeps us from rubbing each other the wrong way." He also calls love "the WD-40 of relationships" because it "can seep into tight places where logic, threats and even promises just can't seem to penetrate."

St. Augustine, who predated WD-40 by centuries, knew that love not only eases friction in personal interactions but, with God's help, can change hearts and lives. "Love all people, even your enemies," he advises. "Love them, not because they are your brothers, but that they may become your brothers. Thus, you will ever burn with fraternal love, both for him who is already your brother and for your enemy, that he may by loving become your brother."

## Church Directory

The Rev. Dr. Karen F. Younger  
25 Wilson Road, Clinton, PA 15026

Church Phone: 724-695-7993, Fax: 724-695-7097

Office Hours- Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00am – 3:00 pm

Church e-mail: [clintupch@gmail.com](mailto:clintupch@gmail.com)

Facebook: Clinton U.P. Church

Website: [clintonupchurch.weebly.com](http://clintonupchurch.weebly.com)

Financial Asst.—Rachelle Murin

Administrative Asst. – Rachelle Murin

Choir Director—Cindy Macek,

Treasurer – Sophie Guzma,

Church Sexton—Rachel Ayers

### Session

Clerk of Session - Amanda Wade

Judy Huemrich, Joe Miller -2021

Amanda Wade, Carol Elek – 2022

Linda Briggs, Leah Clydesdale - 2023

### Deacons

Sandi Cogis, Judy Heck – 2021

Cindy Macek, Randy Hazel, Skyler Miller – 2022

Beverly Hilpert, Bill Marburger - 2023

### Trustees

Rich McConnell – 2021, Dan Heck –2022,

Dennis Macek---2023

James Murin Jr. ---2024, Scott Hilpert ---2025

### Auditors

Lorrie Leonard---2021

Kelly Pettit ---2022, Linda Wade ---2023

### Sunday School

Superintendent—Rachel Ayers

Asst. Superintendent—Brenda Lamb

Cradle Roll—Amber Hilpert

### Cemetery Board

Dennis Macek-2021,

Rick Lamb-2022, Zach Metz—2023

Kevin Campbell ---2024 Dale Huemrich---2025

### Nominating Team

Judy Huemrich, Sandi Cogis, Rachel Ayers

### Finance Team

Mark Elek, Lynne Hamil, Thomas McCullough,

Rachelle Speary-Murin, Jennifer Rossman

### Safety Team

Joe Miller, Mark McConnell,

Heather Campbell & Rick Lamb

## Community Involvement

The Deacon's Giving Campaign: if you know someone that needs a visit or a meal taken to them, we can help with that, please contact Judy Heck. Our job is to serve our congregation and community in helpful ways.

*Through the month of **February**, we will be collecting Kid's items such as **Macaroni and Cheese, SpaghettiOs, Fruit Cups and Applesauce.***

*Items can be placed in the container in the back of the sanctuary.*



# The CUP

February

Clinton United Presbyterian Church  
25 Wilson Road  
Clinton, Pa. 15026

724-695-7993

Church e-mail address  
[clintupch@gmail.com](mailto:clintupch@gmail.com)

Church website address  
<http://clintonupchurch.weebly.com/>

Church Facebook Page  
[Facebook page](#)

Thank you  
for your financial support to  
Clinton UP Church!