



January
2024

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

Finance Meeting

The Finance and Stewardship committee is scheduled to meet Tuesday, the 16th at 7PM.

Session Meeting

Session is scheduled to have a meeting Thursday, the 18th at 7pm.

Sunday Worship and Online resources

Worship begins at 11:00a.m.

Did you know that here are several ways that you can remotely worship with us.

- Live Video of our worship service every Sunday can be found [here](#)
- You may also listen or watch the service at your convenience under the worship archived section of our website [Recording of services](#).
- Every week Pastor Karen sends out a weekly letter to the congregation via email. This letter can also be found every Friday on her page on our website. [Pastor Karen's page](#)
- We have copies of the Upper Room daily bible devotional on the table in the Narthex. If you are unable to get a copy in person or prefer to read a copy on your computer, please contact the office.



Sanctuary Flowers

Did you know that you can make a donation for fresh flowers to be in the sanctuary on Sunday morning, in Honor or Memory of a loved one or special occasion? There is a sign up sheet, along with forms in the narthex for anyone that would like to celebrate that special someone. Please sign up for whichever Sunday you would like. You MUST include an information form along with your payment, so that the office knows to order your flowers! Payments can be dropped off in the office or in the offertory. Please list flowers on your giving envelope or in the memo line of your check. A \$50 seasonal arrangement of the florists choice will automatically be ordered unless you pick something more specific. Please contact Rachelle Murin with any questions that you may have.

Office Hours

Our **office hours** are **Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday afternoons and evenings. The office will be closed January 11th.** Rachelle thanks you all for your patience and understanding, as she continues to navigate being a busy working mother of a very active toddler. If you require to meet with the office at a different time, please call to schedule an appointment. You can reach Rachelle or Pastor Karen via phone at 724-695-7993 or the church email at clintupch@gmail.com.

Special Dates in January

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| • January 1st | New Year's Day |
| • January 6 th | Epiphany |
| • January 15 th | Martin Luther King jr. Day |



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 2023 year.

January's Distributions

Tuesday, January 9 th	9:00 to 12:00pm.
Wednesday, January 10 th	4:30 to 6:30pm.
Tuesday, January 23 rd	9:00 to 12:00pm.
Wednesday, January 24 th	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.

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 message from Rev. Dr. Karen F. Younger

As most of you know, Billy and I celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary this month (January 1). As I look back on the years there have been some great moments. There have been okay moments. There have been some harder moments. Some moments when it hasn't been good. And I can tell you the moments when it hasn't been very good have been the moments when we don't prioritize one another. When we are not very good stewards of one another. When we don't set aside time to be together. When we don't set aside the resources to go on a date or on vacation together. When we aren't willing to set aside the attention and the love that it takes to have a flourishing relationship. So let me ask you a question. When you think about your marriage with God are you giving him the leftovers or are you giving him the choice fruit? Are you willing to set aside some of your time, some of your talents, some of your treasure when it comes to living a life with God?

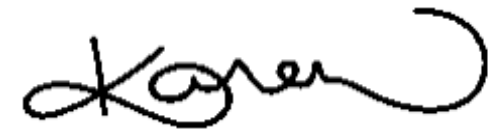
I have a friend who has a gift closet. It's full of items she collects that she really likes. So, for example, if she likes a particular bottle of wine, she'll buy two more and put them in the gift closet. Here is why she has a gift closet. She says the biggest limitation for her in generosity is

not a lack of compassion. It's a lack of preparation. She finds that if she's ready to give, she's generous. But if she's not ready to give, then she doesn't tend to act on the mercy of what's before her. She actually introduced me to the formula that generosity is both preparation as well as compassion. For most of us the system breaks down not because our hearts are cold. It breaks down because we're not prepared. Preparation + Compassion = Generosity.

Christian author, John Ortberg, puts it like this: "What do you get when you give? You become alive to the kingdom. What do you get when you give? You become a little less focused on yourself? What do you get when you give? You become a little less depressed. What do you get when you give? You're more in tune with others. What do you get when you give? You become more capable of empathy. What do you get when you give? You have a greater sense of community. What do you get when you give? You have a decreased sense of loneliness. What do you get when you give? You will look back not on a pile of things but memories of people whose lives were changed. What do you get when you give? You get a new heart, and you get an adventure with God."

Science and Scripture prove that the happiest most productive people in society are the givers. But to be a giver, you don't just need a good heart. You must set it aside. You have to make preparations. Let us resolve and, even more importantly, prepare to give your time, your talents, and your treasures in service to our great and gracious God this year, the year of our Lord 2024.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Karen



Upcoming Events And News



Worship News for January 2024:

Happy New Year!

Hope you all had wonderful Christmas and New Year celebrations with your family and friends.

Thank you everyone who made Christmas Eve festive! Thank you, Aida, and all the choirs for practicing every Sunday in preparation for Jesus's birthday celebration.

Sunday, January 7, Baptism of the Lord, Communion.

Sunday, January 14, Ordination, and installation.

We hope that attending church services more often is on your New Year Resolution list. Spreading the good news and love of Jesus Christ can be anywhere you are. Let's keep the wonder of Jesus's birth alive and well every moment of every day!

See You in Church!

Volunteers needed.

The kids are back in school, and we will be continuing our normal nursery/childcare during the worship service. There is a signup sheet in the Narthex for anyone who would like to volunteer.



DEACONS

Following to Lead | Leading to Serve

The Deacon committee will meet on **January 7th** and look forward to meeting the needs of our congregation and community throughout the coming year.

Thank you to Bev Hilpert and Bill Marburger for their dedicated service to our committee. We welcome June Miller and Dana Kopko.

The FOOD PANTRY donation for January is **SOUP AND TEA BAGS**. Please deposit these items in the bin in the narthex.

Preposterous Ponderings

Sometimes it takes me all day to get nothing done.

Losing weight doesn't seem to be working for me, so from now on, I'm going to concentrate on getting taller.

I came....I saw....I forgot what I was doing.

Here's my bucket list....keep breathing.

It's weird being the same age as old people.

I'm at a point where running errands counts as "going out".



We continue to have an amazing group of people both

young and old joining us every Sunday. Our **adult Sunday School** class is studying the Gospel of John. We invite you to join us for this study.



There is an Acolyte sign-up sheet located on the table in the Narthex. We encourage our youth or families to sign up. This is a great way for

everyone to participate in the worship service.



Do you have a passion for teaching, love working with kids, know somebody who does? We are hiring a part-time children and Youth Director. Flexible hours, great pay, casual work environment. We would love to have you join our team.

Per Capita

It is that time of year again when our annual Per Capita is due. The total amount of the 2024 Per Capita owed by the Clinton United Presbyterian Church is as follows:

Per Member	\$	36.35
Total Members		157
Total Amount Due	\$	5,706.95

We kindly ask members of the Clinton United Presbyterian Church pay your per capita amount of \$36.35 during the month of January or February. Payment may be made by a check payable to the Clinton United Presbyterian Church and mark on your offering envelope that the payment is for the 2024 Per Capita. As an example of the amount due for a household, if there are three family members in your household who are members of the Clinton United Presbyterian Church, the total amount of the check should be \$109.05 (i.e., $\$36.35 \times 3 = \109.05).

The 2024 Per Capita amount of \$36.35 is divided among the three levels of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. governing bodies follows:

General Assembly	\$	9.80
Synod	\$	2.40
Pittsburgh Presbytery	\$	24.15

Total 2024 Per Capita \$ 36.35

Please do not hesitate to contact Rachelle Speary-Murin, Financial Assistant, or Mark Elek, Treasurer, if you have any questions.



Youth Holiday Party

Our Annual Youth Holiday Party is **Sunday, January 7th at 5PM**. Thank you so very much to Rich and Lynne Hamil for continuing to host us every year! All are invited to join us for Food, Games, White Elephant gift exchange, and a decorating contest.

Offering Envelopes



2024 Offering Envelopes

The 2024 Offering

Envelopes are located on the table in the back of the Sanctuary. If you have not done so, please pick them up. If you are unable to pick them up, please call the office and we will make arrangements to get them to you.

Looking back at December







This December was an amazing month at Clinton U.P. We celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ with zeal, joy, and immense generosity!

Thank you, to everyone who helped decorate the church for the season, the children for decorating the children's tree, and those that ordered the beautiful poinsettias.

Several volunteers, along with our Evangelism team, spent 2 days giving out Hot Cocoa and spreading the love of Jesus Christ at Janoski's Christmas open House.

We sponsored 4 families in need for Christmas. Providing them with gift cards for groceries, and purchasing Pajamas and Christmas presents for 14 children.

The congregation lovingly purchased 172 pairs of warm socks as part of our Mission project with Light of Life Rescue Mission.

Our Youth sponsored a toy drive for foster children, collecting 72 toys, books, gift cards, and a monetary donation.

We enjoyed a meal and a fun activity as a church family and were amazingly blessed to see the choir loft full again, having both an Adult and Children's choir for Christmas Eve. We had almost 80 join us for the morning Christmas Eve service and 110 for the candlelight service.

We thank Pastor Karen for her unwavering dedication to this church. As we step into 2024, I pray that God's love and grace fill your families and this church with unity, prosperity, and endless joy.







Over 100 members and guests of the Clinton Church family enjoyed an evening of delicious food, warm fellowship, and much fun.

Thanks goes to the Christian Education Committee, the Deacons, to those who helped to set up and clean up, and to everyone who prepared their favorite side dishes and desserts.

A special thanks to Amber Hilpert for her organizing the gingerbread activity.

Sunday School Shenanigans



C.U.P. Preschool



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- Tues, Wed., Thurs., Fri., 1:00pm -4:00pm

Wednesday & Thursday 6:00pm -8:00pm

Church e-mail: clintupch@gmail.com

Facebook: Clinton U.P. Church

Website: clintonupchurch.weebly.com

Financial Asst.—Rachelle Murin

Administrative Asst. — Rachelle Murin

Choir Director—Aida Olarte

Treasurer — Mark Elek

Church Sexton—Rachel Ayers

Session

Clerk of Session — Linda Wade

Mark Elek, Judy Huemrich, Rick Lamb — 2024

Carol Elek, Linda Wade — 2025

Jennifer Beaumont, Howard Fugitt — 2026

Deacons

Marsha Beck, Sandi Cogis, Maxine Wilson — 2024

Lynn Kopko, Cindy Macek — 2025

Dana Kopko, June Miller - 2026

Trustees

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

Dale Huemrich, Steve McCullough — 2026

Denny Macek — 2026

Auditors

Lorrie Leonard, Judy McConnell - -2024

Carla Fugitt — 2026

Sunday School

Superintendent—Rachel Ayers

Asst. Superintendent—Amber Hilpert

Cemetery Board

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

Dennis Macek—2026

Rick Lamb — 2027

Rich Hamil — 2028

Nominating Team

Amber Hilpert, Judy Huemrich, Amanda Wade

Finance Team

Sophie Chamberlain, Mark Elek, Lynne Hamil, Thomas
McCullough, Rachelle Speary-Murin, Jennifer Rossman

Safety Team

Heather Campbell, Rick Lamb

Joe Miller

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. Our job is to serve our congregation and community in helpful ways.

*Through the month of **January**, we will be collecting**Soup and Tea Bags**.
Items can be placed in the container under the table in the Narthex.*

Thank you,
for your financial support to
Clinton UP Church!

Clinton United Presbyterian Church
25 Wilson Road
Clinton, PA. 15026
724-695-7993

Church e-mail address

clintupch@gmail.com

Church website address

<http://clintonupchurch.weebly.com/>

Church Facebook Page

[Facebook page](#)



The CUP



Brandon Karcz	3
Jennifer Wilson	4
Megan Kopko	4
Mark Thomas	6
Deklan Campbell	7
Nathaniel Elek	7
Barbara Cook	7
Ken Hughes	7
Steven McCullough	9
Mya Clay.....	20
Joe Chamberlain.....	20
Rich Laniewski	20
Donna Marburger	20
Kevin Fessenden.....	23
Doug Beaumont.....	25
Lora Karcz	27