The United Methodist Church
12 Commerce Street
Clinton, CT

March 22, 2026

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*Please stand in body, and/or spirit

Prelude: **O Gott, du frommer Gott *(Oh God, you righteous God)* Op. 122 no. 7**
-Johannes Brahms

Welcome, Acknowledgements of first-time visitors and announcements

Words to Ponder:
In the quiet, we wait for you, O God. We hope for your transforming love. In the darkness of despair, we trust that you are here.

Introit Chancel Choir

*Call to Worship (Responsively)
Coming from places that have seen better days,
God bids us to celebrate this day, a day full of new possibilities.
Coming with our breath taken away by grief,
the Holy Spirit breathes new life within us, renewing our connection with God and with one another.
Coming to worship seeking a hope that will endure,
Christ unbinds the fetters that hold us in death, speaking in word and sacrament,
and building community for holy service.

*Opening Hymn "Hope of the World" No. 178

Opening Prayer (Unison)
God of life, present and promised, you are the One to whom we call: for you are the One who hears, and you are the One who acts, bringing us new life with your grace and love and power. Lead us in our time of worship, that we may be prepared to follow your lead in places where life is at risk— places where hope seems far away, places where dreams die during sleep. When we leave these walls, help us live the teachings we proclaim within this place of worship, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of Yearning (Unison)
Forgive us, O God, when we see the world through rose-colored glasses rather than as it really is, much less the way you seek it to be. Forgive us, Holy One, when we forsake lively and risky faith calling us to be agents of change in our world for the bland conviction that all will be well. Renew us with your grace and ground us with your Spirit, that we might be empowered to live, in word and deed, as testimonies to the power of your love over the grave. In Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Brief moment of silent reflection

Words of Assurance
Though darkness and death appear all around, there is the comforting healing light of God's love shining on you and in you. Feel the warmth of the presence of God and let go of your fear, for God is with you. Amen.

1st Scripture Reading (Old Testament) Ezekiel 37:1-14
Leader: This is the Word of God.
People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem Chancel Choir

Children's Moment Pastor Rhonda R. Taylor

*2nd Scripture Reading (Gospel) John 11:1-45
Leader: This is the Word of God.
People: Thanks be to God.

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn "Breathe on Me, Breath of God" No. 420

Sermon "Getting Through the If" Pastor Rhonda R. Taylor

Offertory

*Doxology #95

*Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Life-Giving Spirit, you breathe hope into our valleys of despair and call forth life where we saw only dry bones. We come today not out of habit, but out of longing to be part of your work that restores, renews, and redeems. Take these gifts and use them to roll away the stones that keep your people bound. Let them be signs of trust, symbols of resurrection, and tools of transformation in a weary world. May our offering, like our living, lean into your Spirit and testify that life—abundant, eternal, and holy—is possible in you. In Christ, who calls us out of the grave and into your grace, we pray. Amen.

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Closing Hymn "Trust and Obey" No. 467

Benediction/Going Forth Pastor Rhonda R. Taylor

Beloved, the journey does not end here. As you travel God's redemption road, go in the blessing of God who persistently breathes new life into dry and weary places, and watch for resurrection to happen when you least expect it. Amen.

*Response "Bless Us Now" Frank Milnes

Bless us now as we depart, watch o'er us, God, while we're apart; Give strength to conquer daily strain, and bring us to Thy house again. Amen

Postlude: **Sortie sur l'hymne: Quid Nunc in Tenebris Tristis Aberras**
(What now in darkness, troubled and confused) **-Alexandre Guilmant**

Our guest organist today is David Doolittle.

Worship Resources
Call to Worship, Opening Prayer & Confession, Words of Assurance
https://ministrymatters.com/2020-03-01_worship_elements_march_26_2023/
Benediction - Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2025.

SUNDAY, MAR 22
9:00 Sunday School
10:00 Worship
11:00 Fellowship
TUESDAY, MAR 24
10:00 Clever Crafters
7:00 Lenten Study Online
WEDNESDAY, MAR 25
9:30 TOPS
5:00 Community Supper
THURSDAY, MAR 26
10:00 Lenten Study
7:30 Choir
FRIDAY, MAR 27
5:30 AA meeting

Flowers today are from Karin Thelin in honor Deb and Alan Anderson on their wedding Anniversary.

March 22nd
Ushers*:* Sharon Minick, Bill Hancock, Lynda Larson, Banks Babjak
Camera Operator: Banks Babjak
Video Coordinator: Karin Thelin
Worship Leader: Rick Gilcher
Lectionary scriptures: Isaiah 55:1-9, Psalm 63:1-8, 1 Corinthians 10:1-13, Luke 13:1-9
Sermon: Pastor Rhonda R. Taylor
Fellowship Host: Gail Whitney
Counters: Robin Patten and Wilda Lohutko
Music/Choir Director: Bob Hale
Organist: Patty Hurlburt

Office Staff
Donna Carpenter-Bronson, 860-669-8396, 9-1 weekdays
Email: office@clintonctumc.org
Financial Secretary: Jackie Blomberg
Treasurer: Carol Bell