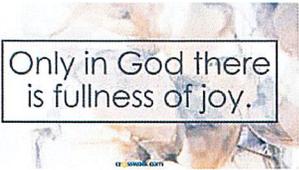


March 2026



Only in God there
is fullness of joy.

What gives you joy? There's certainly no shortage of responses, and depending on who you ask, some would say NCAA basketball (a.k.a. "March Madness") or St. Patrick's Day (March 17). For our Muslim brothers and sisters, it is Ramadan (Feb 17 – Mar 19). For others, it is Women's History Month and "Daylight Savings Time" which begins on March 8th.

Finding and having joy are so desperately needed as we witness spiritual warfare take a temporary front seat in our world. Yet, we are reminded that God is ultimately our joy. For it is the Lord *who shows us the path of life. In His presence there is fullness of joy, and in God's right hand are pleasures forevermore.* (Adapted, Psalm 16:11).

Having joy is more than a feeling of happiness about a sports event or celebration. Happiness is sometimes contingent on other people's views/feelings or the outcome of a particular situation. Contrarily, joy is having inner peace in whatever circumstances we may face. It is not driven by the latest news or entertainment. It is not influenced by the storms of life or unforeseen setbacks that causes worry or anxiety for some. Joy is seeking Jesus and trusting that He is with us always.

Experiencing joy as the apostle Paul expresses is learning to be *content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through Christ who strengthens me.* (Philippians 4:11-13)

In desiring joy and strength from the Lord, I am constantly learning that discernment plays an integral role in my relationship with Jesus. During our Lenten bible study, I've learned that discernment is doing the will of God. In our seeking and doing, we are invited to discern the various ways God tries to get us to reconnect with Jesus Christ. And while we journey on that path of discovery, deep down in our heart and soul, we discover something profound and I would like to believe it is Joy!

Peace,
Pastor Rhonda



Sunday, March 29 - **Palm Sunday Worship Service**

Thursday, April 2 – **Maundy Thursday Worship Service**
Holy Communion ~ Foot & Hand Washing
7:00 pm Worship Service

Friday, April 3 - **Good Friday Shoreline Havens Cooperative Parish
Worship Service - 12:00 p.m.**
Location: **United Methodist Church of Branford**
811 E Main St, Branford, CT 06405
*Unable to attend in-person? You can streamline the service
(<https://www.youtube.com/@umcbranford>)

Church Office Closed

Service of Tenebrae Worship Service
7:00 p.m.
UMC Clinton

Saturday, April 4 **Prayer Vigil**
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Church will be open from 8:00 a.m. – 12noon p.m.
Families are encouraged to continue praying throughout the day

Sunday, April 5 **Easter Sunrise Service**
UMC Clinton & First Church of Christ Clinton
6:30 a.m.
Location: Clinton Town Beach

Easter Egg Hunt
9:00 a.m.

Easter Worship & Holy Communion Worship Service - 10:00 a.m.

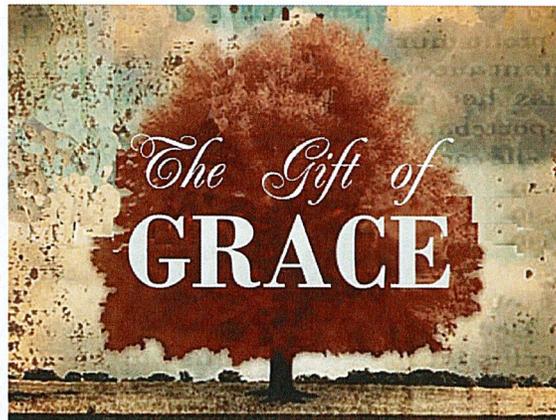
Easter Prayer Vigil Petitions
Saturday – April 4, 2026
8:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Greetings,

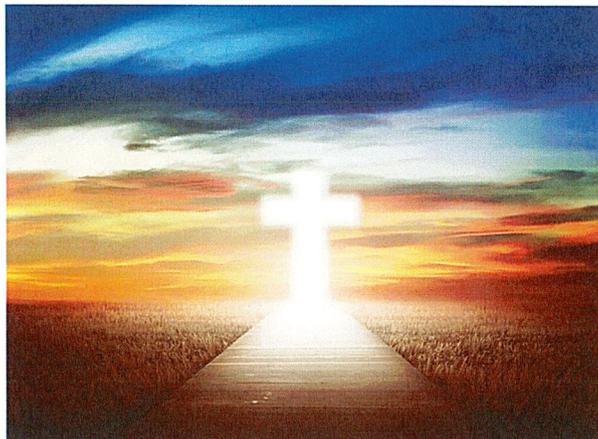
For Saturday's prayer vigil, families are encouraged to pray together. You can also find a prayer partner to join you in prayer. If this sounds like something that may be of interest to you, it is recommended that you reach out to someone. We will leave it up to you and your prayer partner to decide how you want to gather - either by phone, in person, or online. Should you decide to use Zoom or Google Meets, you would need to use your personal account.



8:00 AM For the Grace, Mercy & Love of God
Ephesians 2: 1-10



9:00 AM Faith in Jesus – Romans 10:9-13; Galatians 3: 19-21





10:00 AM Families – Deuteronomy 6: 1-9; Colossians 3: 20-21

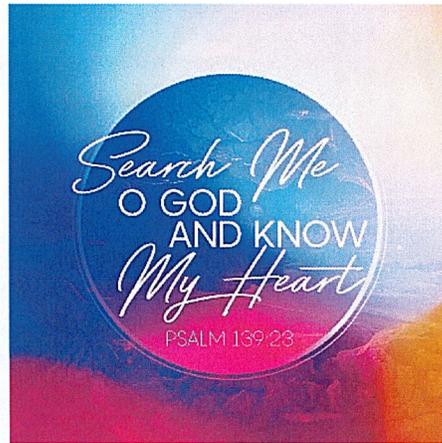


*11:00 AM Children, Youth, and Young Adults
Proverbs 22:6; Matthew 19:14; 1Timothy 4:12*





12:00 PM Those who are alone – Psalm 139

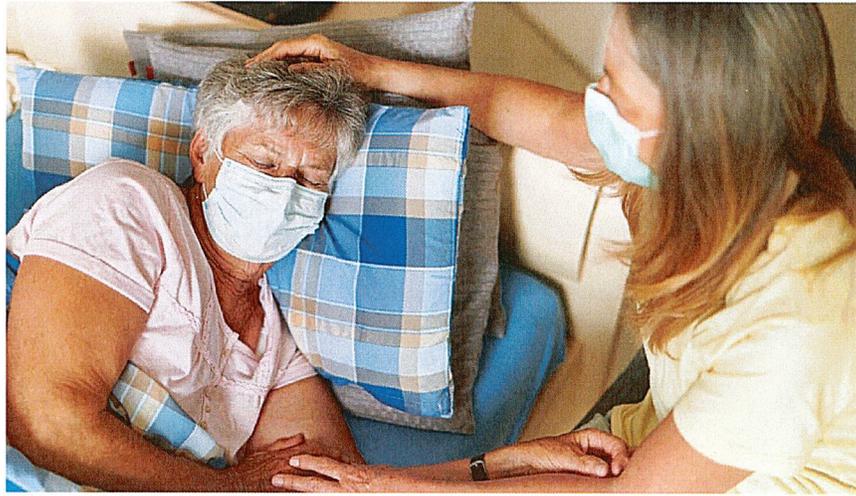


1:00 PM First Responders / Essential Workers – Psalm 121

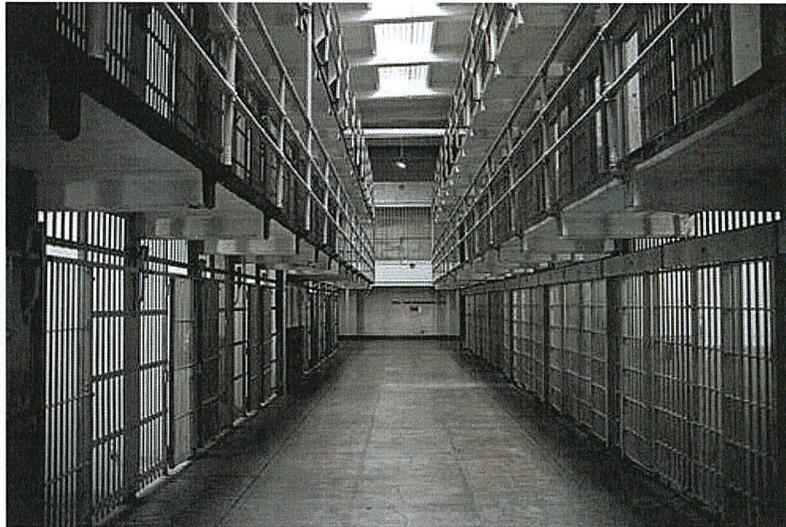




2:00 PM Persons who are ill / Caregivers - Psalm 23; 3John 2



3:00 PM Persons in Prison – Hebrews 13:1-3





4:00 PM The Church, Church Leaders, and Ministries

Proverbs 3:5-6; Hebrews 13:7



*open hearts
open minds
open doors*



5:00 PM For our Nation & Leaders (Federal, State, Local, and

World) 1 Timothy 2:1-2





6:00 PM Justice – Micah 6: 3-8



7:00 PM For Life – John 10:10; Ephesians 5:1-20





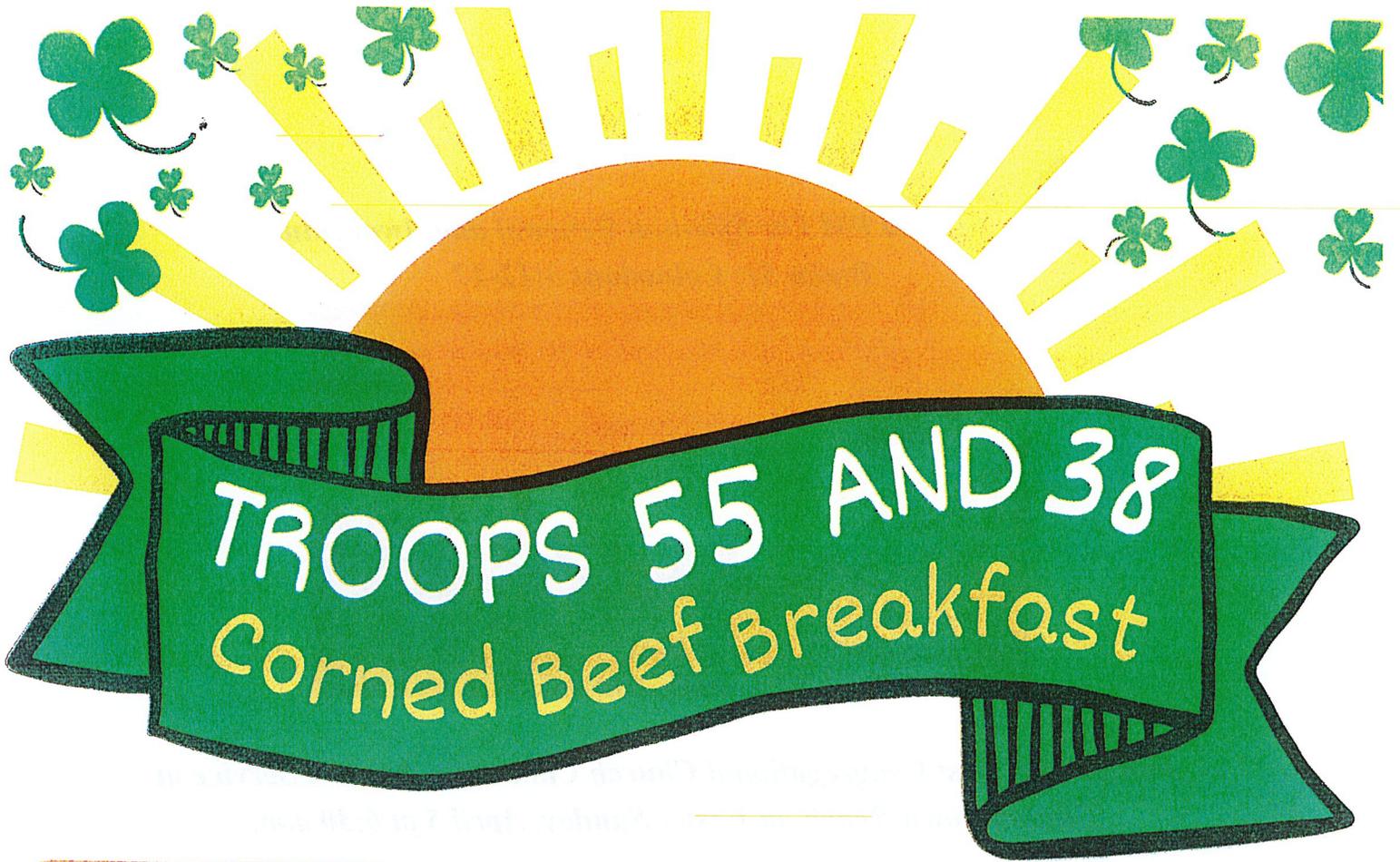
*8:00 PM For Spiritual Renewal and Awakening
Psalm 51; Colossians 3:12-17*



*Join us and First Congregational Church Clinton for Sunrise Service at
Clinton Town Beach on Easter Sunday, April 5 at 6:30 a.m.*



All are welcome!



\$15 per adult / \$10 per child

Homemade corned beef hash, Irish bangers, pancakes, eggs, rye toast, coffee and juice

**SATURDAY, MARCH 14TH
8 TO 10:30 AM**

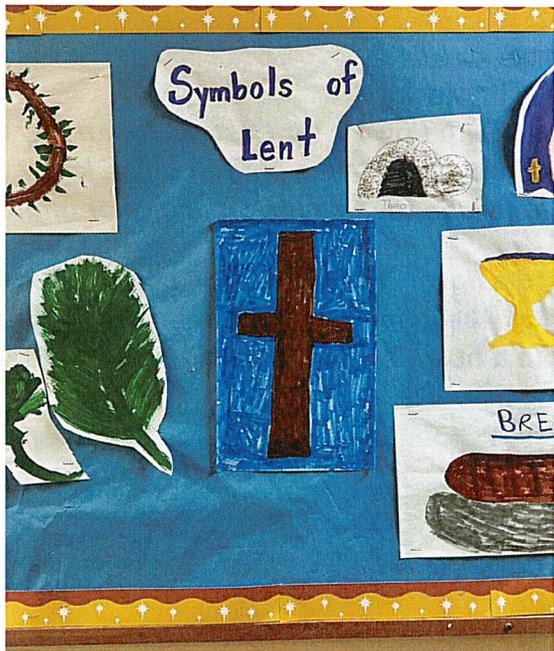
To buy tickets, email Troop55Clinton@gmail.com

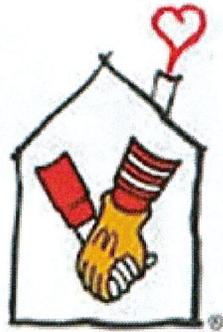
Support our 4-state canoe trip on the CT River!

United Methodist Church of Clinton
12 Commerce St, Clinton, CT 06413



The Children of this Church are very special.





Aluminum Pop Tabs for the Ronald McDonald House in New Haven

Our latest collection of Pop Tabs was recently delivered to the Ronald McDonald House in New Haven. These included the high quality aluminum tabs from soda, soup lids, and pet food lids. The proceeds from these tabs provide direct financial support to the house. You will see our collection tub on the shelf in Fellowship Hall. Our contributions are most appreciated as you will see from their “Thank You” correspondence posted in Fellowship Hall. Thank you so much for your continued support of this endeavor.

~ Gail Whitney, Mission Committee

Easter Flowers

Let’s fill the church with flowers for Easter. Join us by dedicating a plant in honor or memory of a loved one, just let the church office know what dedication you would like in the bulletin. Include who the flowers are in honor of/memory of, and given by.

Order and pay \$10 a flower by March 30th, checks made out to UMC of Clinton, CT. The money collected will be given to the Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantries. We are looking forward to a beautiful sanctuary for Easter. Please fill out this form.

In honor/memory of _____.

Given by _____.

Annual Meeting 2/8/26



Luncheon and Annual Meeting 2/8/26



UMCOR SUNDAY – MARCH 15, 2026

The UMCOR Sunday offering underwrites UMCOR’s administrative costs. This offering allows UMCOR to use 100% of all funds given to humanitarian response and recovery efforts directly to communities in need. These gifts ensure UMCOR can respond swiftly to disasters around the world and as a source of hope and healing for those left most vulnerable. Please make your check out to UMC Clinton with UMCOR in the memo line and/or use your special offering envelope.



Clever Crafters will be selling Easter and spring items after church on Palm Sunday, March 29th, during Fellowship Hour.



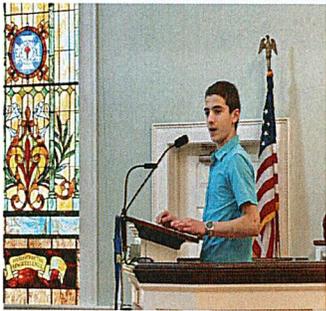
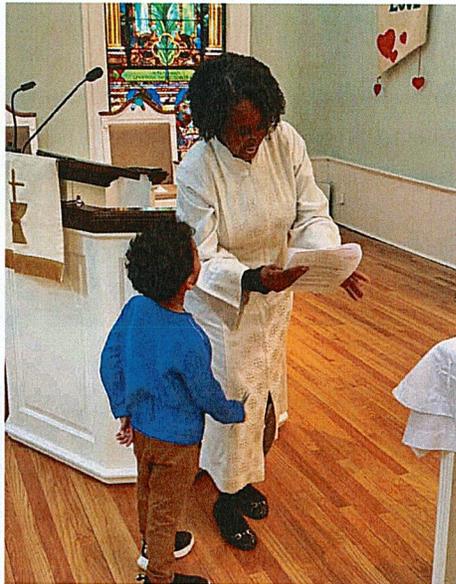
Blessing of our donations on 'souper bowl' Sunday

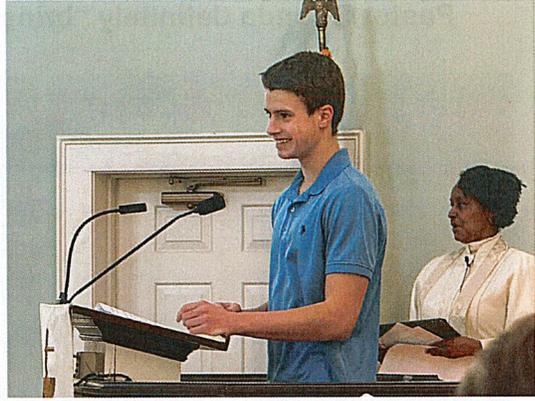
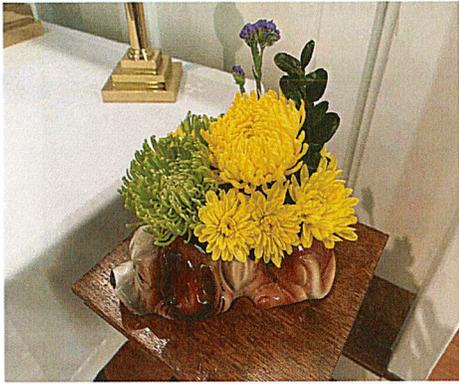


CLINTON FOOD PANTRY

The Clinton Food Pantry gives food to over 300 families every week. The need is always there. Please remember to bring in a donation on Sunday. Items always needed: tuna, peanut butter, pasta, sauce, cereal, canned vegetables, beans and canned soups. Thank you

Pastor Rhonda definitely "brings it" during her sermons!







- 1st Joanna Taczanowsky
- 2nd Joan Andres
- 5th Jeffrey Bell, Christine Seely, Michael Blomberg and
Donna Carpenter Bronson
- 6th Drew Dupre
- 7th Marina Clark
- 8th Jack Ackerman
- 9th Neal Sorensen, Sr.
- 10th David Moore, Wayne Hawes
- 13th Gay McPhee
- 16th Liam Bell
- 23rd Lynda Larson, Lindsey Griswold
- 24th Amanda Strukus
- 25th Dottie Capece
- 26th Karen Carlone



- 21st Deb and Alan Anderson
- 30th Linda and Robert Colvin

MONTH OF SUNDAYS

March 1st

Ushers: Evelyn and Dennis Scaglione, Sally Maxwell, Charlotte Parisi
Camera Operator: Lisa Sutherland
Video Coordinator: Karin Thelin
Worship Leader: Jill Hale
Lectionary scriptures: Exodus 34:29-35, Psalm 99 (UM819), 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2, Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)
Sermon: Pastor Rhonda R. Taylor
Communion Steward: Sharon Minick
Fellowship Hosts: Scagliones

March 8th

Ushers: Lyle Cubberly, Lynn Sellers, David Moore, Brian Pieczko
Camera Operator: TBD
Video Coordinator: TBD
Worship Leader: Dennis Dollahite
Lectionary scriptures: Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 (UM810), Romans 10:8b-13, Luke 4:1-13
Sermon: Pastor Rhonda R. Taylor
Fellowship Hosts: Babjaks

March 15th

Ushers: Jeane Howard, Diana Vincent, Rick Gilcher, Sherry Hynes
Camera Operator: TBD
Video Coordinator: TBD
Worship Leader: Tammy Drena
Lectionary scriptures: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18, Psalm 27 (UM758), Philippians 3:17-4:1, Luke 13:31-35
Sermon: Pastor Rhonda R. Taylor
Fellowship Host: Wilda Lohutko

March 22nd

Ushers: Sharon Minick, Bill Hancock, Lynda Larson, Banks Babjak
Camera Operator: TBD
Video Coordinator: TBD
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

March 29th (Palm Sunday)

Ushers: Evelyn and Dennis Scaglione, Sally Maxwell, Charlotte Parisi
Camera Operator: TBD
Video Coordinator: TBD
Worship Leader: Jill Hale
Lectionary scriptures: Joshua 5:9-12, Psalm 32 (UM766), 2 Corinthians 5:16-21, Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
Sermon: Pastor Rhonda R. Taylor
Fellowship Host: Laurie Bell

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
10	Mar 1 9am Sunday Scho 10am Sunday Wor	2	3 8am WIC 7pm Bible Study C	4 9am TOPS 5pm Soup Kitcher 6pm SCOUTS COI	5 10am Adult Bible ! 7:30pm Choir Prac	6 5:30pm AA Friday	7
11	8 Daylight Saving Time 9am Sunday Scho 2 more	9	10 7pm Patty's Ukule 7pm Bible Study C	11 9am TOPS 5pm Soup Kitcher 7pm Church Coun	12 10am Adult Bible ! 7:30pm Choir Prac	13 5:30pm AA Friday	14 8am Scout Fundre
12	15 9am Sunday Scho 10am Sunday Wor	16 8am WIC	17 St. Patrick's Day 7pm Bible Study C	18 9am TOPS 5pm Soup Kitcher 7pm AA Meeting	19 10am Adult Bible ! 7:30pm Choir Prac	20 5:30pm AA Friday	21
13	22 9am Sunday Scho 10am Sunday Wor	23	24 7pm Bible Study C	25 9am TOPS 5pm Soup Kitcher	26 10am Adult Bible ! 7:30pm Choir Prac	27 5:30pm AA Friday	28
14	29 Palm Sunday 9am Sunday Scho 10am Sunday Wor	30 2pm Book Club	31 7pm Bible Study C	Apr 1 9am TOPS 5pm Soup Kitcher 6pm SCOUTS COI	2 10am Adult Bible ! 7pm Holy Thursde	3 Good Friday Service 5:30pm AA Friday	4

Office Staff

Donna Carpenter, 860-669-8396, 9-1 weekdays

Email: office@clintonctumc.org

Website: www.clintonumc.org

[Calendar link](#)

Financial Secretary: Jackie Blomberg

Treasurer: Carol Bell

Our Mission

We celebrate the presence of the Holy Spirit; being and making disciples of Christ by sharing God's gifts through word and deed.