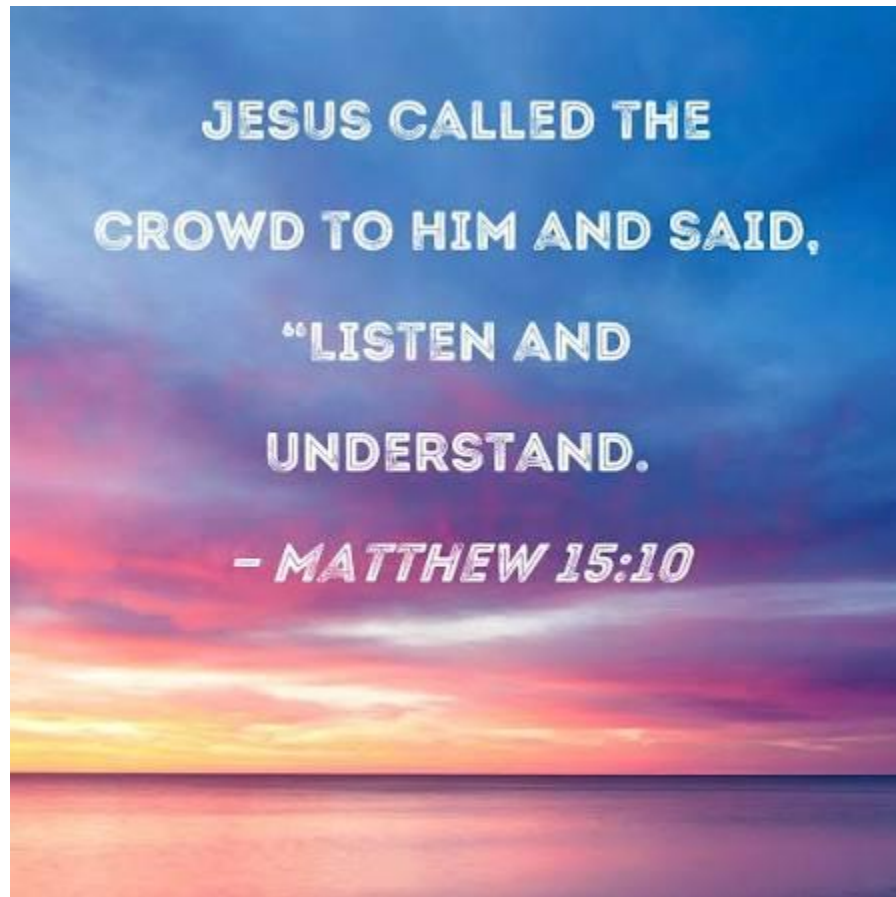


*The United Methodist Church
12 Commerce Street
Clinton, CT*



*August 16, 2026
12th Sunday after Pentecost*

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*Please stand in body, and/or spirit

Hymn Sing

Welcome, Acknowledgements of first-time visitors and announcements

Words to Ponder:

God's grace and presence lie hidden in moments of abandonment and loss. The time we feel most alone is the time we are most closely held.

*Call to Worship (Responsively)

L: We gather here this day to hear God's word for us.

P: We praise God for the opportunity to gather together.

L: We are sent forth from this place to share God's transforming love.

P: Lord, encourage us and empower us to do your will. Amen.

*Opening Hymn

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

No. 452

Opening Prayer

You have drawn us together this day from a variety of backgrounds, experiences, hopes, and dreams, Lord. Be with us as together we experience your presence and your healing love. Open our hearts and our spirits to receive strength, encouragement, and peace. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

O God, we yearn to be a community of believers, united in your Spirit.

And yet we are fraught with divisions: denominational, political, theological.

We are weighed down by tensions and the things that break us apart.

Forgive us, great God, for this great sin.

Help us to learn to live in community together, loving one another, in spite of our differences, and respecting one another in everything that we do and say.

Help us to be as you call us, one in heart and mind. Only through the grace of your son, Jesus Christ, can we achieve this. Amen.

Moment for silent personal confession

Words of Assurance

You have reached out for the Lord, seeking God's healing power. It is given to you through God's awesome love. Receive the love of God. Reach out to others with that same compassion. Amen.

1st Scripture Reading (Old Testament)

Psalm 133

A celebration of unity among God's people which brings the blessing of life.

Leader: This is the Word of God

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Special Music

Vacation Bible School

Children's Moment

Pastor Rhonda

*2nd Scripture Reading (Gospel)

Matthew 15:10-28

Jesus explains that it is not what we eat that defiles us but the evil that is in our hearts. Then he is approached by a Canaanite woman who convinces him, in spite of his initial reluctance, to heal her daughter who is being tormented by a demon.

Leader: This is the Word of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn

"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

No. 361

Sermon

"Make Every Effort"

Pastor Rhonda

Offertory

*Doxology

#95

*Prayer of Dedication

Sharing of Joys and Concerns / Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

*Closing Hymn

“Help Us Accept Each Other”

No. 560

Benediction/Going Forth

Family of God, how good and pleasant it is when we live, when we praise, when we weep, and when we find peace in unity together. May God bless you with the wisdom and grace to recognize and cooperate with the Spirit who binds us together in love, that we may grow in unity of praise now and forever. 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



***Flowers on the altar are from Lynn Sellers.
Thank you to the Vacation Bible School teachers and
Birthday Wishes to Pastor Rhonda.***

Worship Resources

Call to Worship (option 2), Opening Prayer, Words of Assurance

https://ministrymatters.com/2020-07-02_worship_connection_proper_15_a/

Prayer of Confession

<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2014/01/prayer-of-confession-united-in-your.html>

Benediction

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16TH

9:00 Adult Sunday School

10:00 Worship

11:00 Fellowship

MONDAY, AUGUST 17TH

8:00 WIC

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19TH

9:00 TOPS

10:00 Clever Crafters

5:00 Soup Kitchen

7:00 AA

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21TH

5:30 AA

This week we pray for... those with impaired health: Joe and Amanda Andrejcsk, Alice Reale, Melissa Bouffard, Dottie Capece, Michael McKinnon, Kathy Schuyler, Bev Engelhart, Patty Holdridge, Tom Symmes, Barb Vincelette, Sue and Bob Morrison, Marilyn Gerard, Jeffrey Harding, Ginny Hauser, Mike Loukides, Lyle Cubberly, Bev Bowen, and Diane Moles.

This QR Code will bring anyone who scans it with their smartphone directly to our Vanco Giving site for Regular Donations.





SAVE THE DATE

Help Needed

For the Pumpkin delivery Saturday, September 26, 2026

Truck Arrival: 3:00pm

Offloading will be from 3:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. (Rain or Shine)

Fellowship, fun, water and snacks will be provided

Sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall starting Sunday, August 30th

August 16th

Ushers: Evelyn & Dennis Scaglione, Sally Maxwell, Charlotte Parisi

Camera Operator: Banks Babjak

Video Coordinator: Erica Babjak

Worship Leader: Bob Hawes

Lectionary scriptures: Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15: (10-20); 21-28

Sermon: Pastor Rhonda

Fellowship Host: Jeane Jarusik

Counters: Sally Maxwell, Barbara Cubberley

Music/Choir Director: Bob Hale

Organist: Patty Hurlburt

Financial Secretary: Jackie Blomberg/Treasurer: Carol Bell

Church Office

860-669-8396

Summer Hours 9-12 weekdays, Monday-Friday

Email: office@clintonctumc.org