

October 2025

We live in an advanced world filled with remarkable innovations and discoveries. It is amazing how God created humanity to use their cognitive skills to create something. Mind-bobbling to say the least! If you are like me, I often admire the creativity of people. Not in the sense of envy, but in appreciation of how God carefully and uniquely created every person. Each of us have a special gift and talent given to us by God. And while having spiritual gifts and appreciating the various technological advancements we see in our world, there are times we need to pause and get back to the basics.

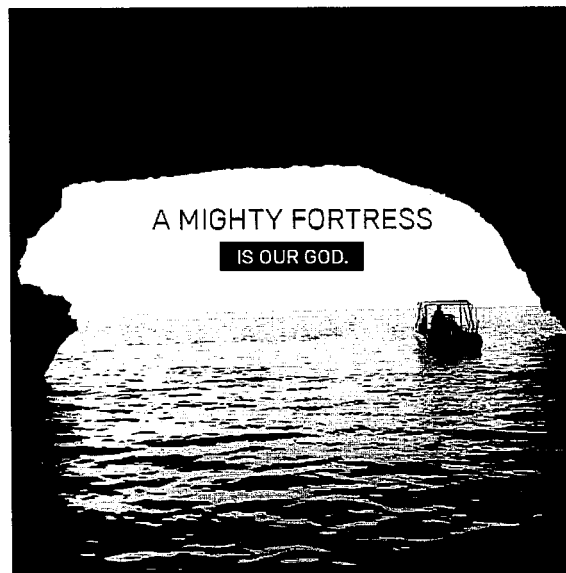
As a society, we are bombarded with so many things, even in the church. It is why we sometimes need to take a step back and develop or revisit the basic spiritual habits/disciplines/tools that God has given us. God encourages us to become followers of Jesus Christ and to make disciples for the transformation of the world. But what does that mean in layman terms?

For us to fully grasp the Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20) in this fast-paced world filled with its great advancements, I think getting back to the basics of incorporating spiritual disciplines into our lives is key. How are we at UMC Clinton striving to incorporate inward disciplines such as prayer, fasting, bible study into our daily lives? How are we incorporating outward disciplines such as serving others, solitude, attending worship, and submission in ways that are helping others to spiritually grow for themselves? And, how are we allowing corporate disciplines such as confession, worship, guidance, and Holy Communion keep us in community with one another?

In this season, God is inviting us to engage in Christian discipleship by encouraging us to get back to the basics. As such, let us gather together in small groups, during our committee meetings and begin to share and learn from one another of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ and how we can make a difference in our church, district, community, and world!

Peace,

Pastor Rhonda





INSTALLATION SERVICE

The Installation Service for our District Superintendent Rev. Heather A. M. Sinclair will be held on Sunday, October 12, 4pm at Nichols UMC, 35 Shelton Road, Trumbull CT. If you are interested in attending and carpooling, please contact the church office.

LAITY SUNDAY 2025
**Together
by Grace**
Be STRONG in the Spirit

Ephesians 3:16 (NRSV)

Laity Sunday 2025 will be on Sunday, October 19th. It is a day where we celebrate the ministries and gifts of the laity (laypeople, non-clergy). The theme for the 2025-2028 quadrennium is **"Together By Grace!"** with the specific focus for 2025 being **"Be Strong in the Spirit"** from Ephesians 3:16.

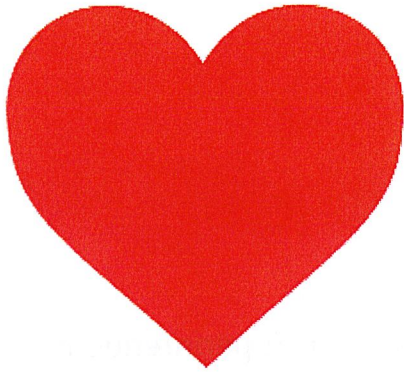
Our Lay Leader, Bob Hale will help facilitate this great occasion. If you have any questions, feel free to contact him.



Charge Conference

The Shoreline & Havens Church Conference

will be held at UMC Branford, 811 E Main Street, Branford, CT 06405 on Saturday, November 1st from 3:00 PM – 5:30 PM. Pastor Rhonda will send the online reports to each respective committee and person to be filled out. All reports are to be completed online by October 19. If you any questions, please contact the church office at (860) 669-8396.



Thank You
To our Amazing
Volunteers!

Please join us in celebrating your generosity and dedication to the Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries—UMC Clinton Site.

United Methodist Church of Clinton

12 Commerce Street, Clinton, CT

Sunday, October 26, 2025

Appreciation Service—4:00 PM

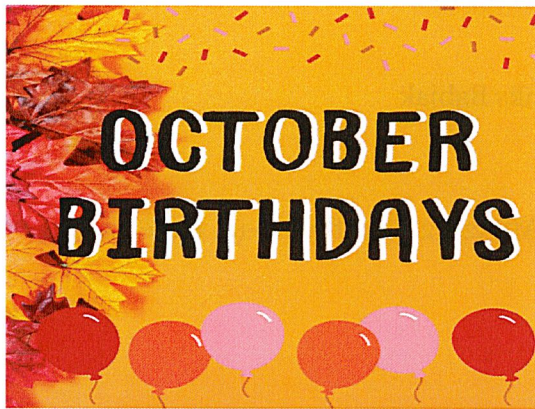
Rev. Amy Hollis, Executive Director

Guest Speaker

Reception with light refreshments immediately following service in fellowship Hall.

Any questions or RSVP by October 12 please contact Sharon Minick, Clinton Site Coordinator at (860-669-6639).





- 1 Lisa Bousquet, Mason Wells
- 2 Trev Wells
- 3 Nathaniel Brown, Beth Ackerman
- 4 Linda Dwyer
- 5 Sharon Minick
- 6 Beth Gilcher
- 7 Diane Remetta
- 8 Pete Ackerman
- 9 Beth Hughes
- 10 Pat Wilson
- 12 Sue Alexander
- 15 Michael Babjak

- 17 Skylar Riley
- 19 Dennis Scaglione
- 20 Gene Blomberg
- 21 Nancy Cassiey
- 23 Sydney Drena
- 24 Kyle Patten
- 26 Karl Neuman
- 27 Christopher Howe, Timothy Hayes
- 31 Charlie Martens, Jane-Ellen Symmes



- 7th Debbie and Kevin Strukus
 - 22nd Susanna and Dennis Dollahite
-

MONTH OF SERVICES

Oct 5th (World Communion Sunday)

Ushers: Sharon Minick, Bill Hancock, Lynda Larson, Banks Babjak

Camera Operator: Banks Babjak

Video Coordinator: Erica Babjak

Worship Leader: Rick Gilcher

Lectionary scriptures: Lamentations 1:1-6, Psalm 137 (UM852), 2 Timothy 1:1-14, Luke 17:5-10

Sermon: Pastor Rhonda R. Taylor

Communion Steward: Sue Morrison

Fellowship Host: Jeane Jarusik

Oct 12th

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

Camera Operator: Lisa Sutherland

Video Coordinator: Dan Attanasio

Worship Leader: Lydia Templeton

Sermon: Pastor Rhonda R. Taylor

Lectionary scriptures: Jeremiah 29:1,4-7, Psalm 66:1-12, 2 Timothy 2:8-15, Luke 17:11-19

Fellowship Host: Jill Hale

Oct 19th

Ushers: Lyle Cubberly, Lynn Sellers, David Moore, Bob Morrison

Camera Operator: Erica Babjak

Video Coordinator: Karin Thelin

Worship Leader: Bob Hawes

Lectionary scriptures: Jeremiah 31:27-34, Psalm 119:97-104 (UM840), 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5, Luke 18:1-8

Sermon: Pastor Rhonda R. Taylor

Fellowship Host: Bev Bowen

Oct 26th

Ushers: Jeane Howard, Diana Vincent, Rick Gilcher, Sherry Hynes

Camera Operator: Jill Hale

Video Coordinator: Lisa Sutherland

Worship Leader: Sharon Minick

Lectionary scriptures: Joel 2:23-32, Psalm 65 (UM789), 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18, Luke 18:9-14

Sermon: Pastor Rhonda R. Taylor

Fellowship Hosts: Tammy Drena and Sharon Minick

Pantry Wish List



Pasta
Spaghetti Sauce
Soup
Canned Fruit
Cereal
Peanut Butter

shorelinesoupkitchens.org



If each person brings one of the following each week, we will shine bright!

Week 1: Pasta/Sauce

Week 2: Soup/Canned Fruit

Week 3: Cereal

Week 4: Peanut Butter



The Pumpkins arrive Saturday, October 4, please come help if you can. Many hands make lighter work.

The Pumpkin Patch will be operating from Saturday, October 4 through Friday, October 31st.

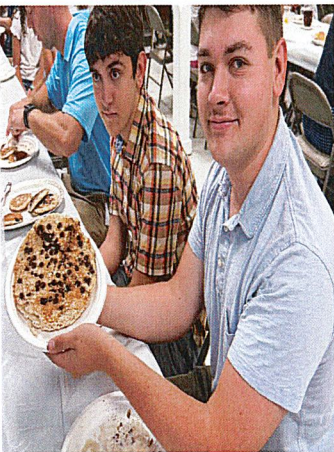
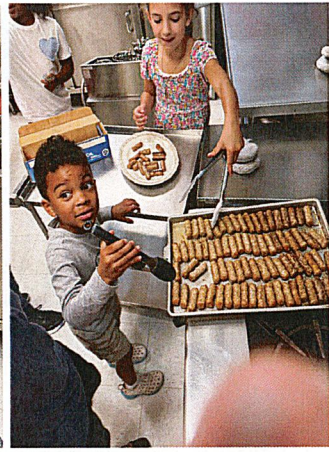
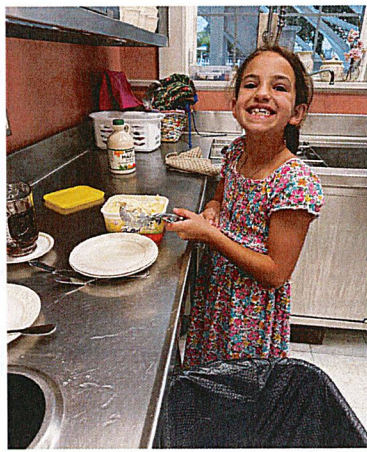
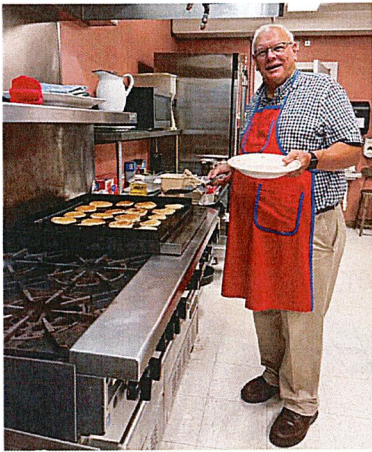
We hope you will sign up for a 2 hour shift to sell pumpkins (12-2, 2-4, 4-6). A sign up sheet will be provided in Fellowship Hall.

This will be the 11th season we are providing this event for the Town of Clinton in support of the Navajo Nation as well as a fundraiser for our church.

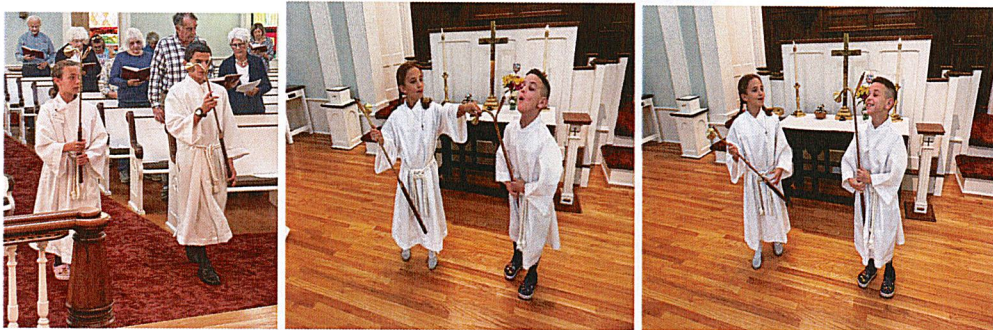
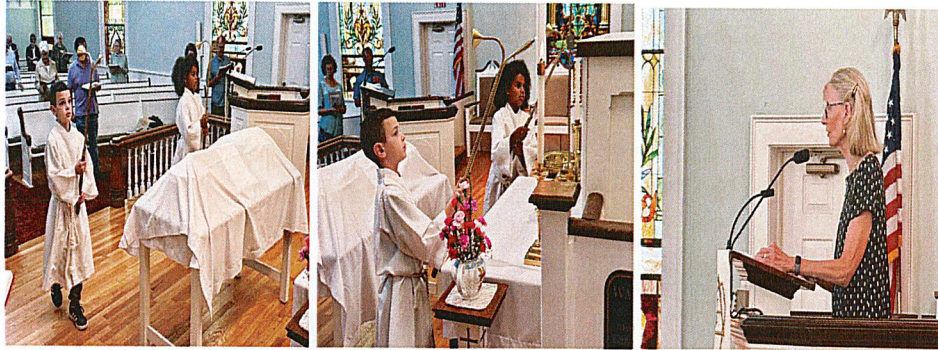
Thanks in advance for your help.

~Sherry Hynes and Corinne Brown

September happenings....



Graham and Annabel have joined the acolyte team!



It's so great to have Natalie singing with the choir! She's a HS Freshman this fall!



Our choir members were happy to be back and singing together during our first rehearsal after our summer hiatus! Come hear them on Sundays!



Our Trustees do a fantastic job caring for our church properties as well as our investments.



History-Sue Alexander

The Swains, Helen and Ray, might hold the record for family weddings, easier done with three daughters. Their daughters were married in the United Methodist Church in Clinton.

Eleanor Swain married Robert Klase on August 21, 1948

Barbara Swain married Willard Hathaway on October 27, 1951 with the Rev Avery D. Post officiating.

Helen Swain married Charles Scruggs on July 23, 1955



What is World Communion Sunday?

World Communion Sunday is one of six churchwide Special Sundays designated to support ministries and causes important to the entire United Methodist Church. On this Sunday, United Methodists join Christians around the world in celebrating Holy Communion, remembering that we are one in Christ, no matter our background, language, or culture.

But it's more than just worship. It's also a time to support scholarships and leadership training for students from underrepresented communities—helping the Church become more inclusive and better equipped to serve.

For giving please put for World Communion Sunday in memo portion of your check.

Sunday School started on September 14th. Thank you to all of the volunteers who make Sunday mornings special for our youth.

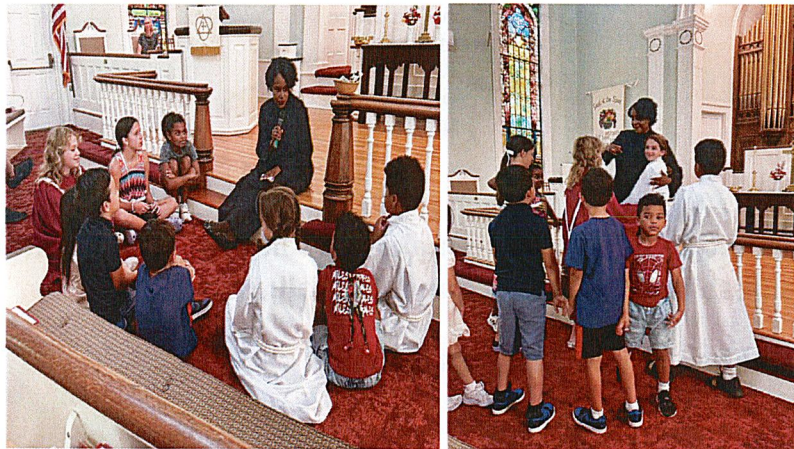
A note from Staff Parish:

As cold, flu and covid season ramps up we ask that if you have cold symptoms you refrain from coming to church or that you wear a mask, especially if you will be entering the close quarters of the office. We want to keep everyone healthy!! We are so blessed to have our video ministry so remember if you are unable to come you can always worship with us online or watch on the TV later in the week.

Reminder:



Don't forget to sign up for a time slot or a few in the patch.

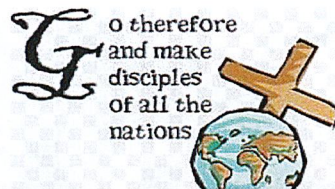


We will have another tied blanket making session for blankets for Pastor Rhonda to bring to the homebound on Saturday, October 11, from 9 to 12 in Fellowship Hall. We have several pieces of fleece but feel free to donate or bring some more. And bring sharp scissors and long rulers. We will provide a light lunch after.

Stewardship, Sharon Minick, Chairperson

I can't believe Fall is here. It is now time to start thinking of how you want to support our church in 2026. Supporting our church is not just financially it is also time, talent and prayers. What is your gift? Let us start thinking about that. Thank you to all who have been supporting our church in so many ways. I'm looking forward to all our Fall church activities and hope you are too.

Sharon,
Thank you



The Missions Committee has voted to make the following distributions from the Eunice Symonds Missions Endowed Fund this fall:

Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantries \$1,500

Clinton town fuel assistance \$2,000

Pastor Wayne's Foundation4Orphans \$275

John Calhoun missionary \$275

Eddy Shelter in Middletown \$750

The Missions Committee will be placing a clothing collection box in fellowship hall during the month of October. It is for Columbus House in New Haven. They said they would be happy to receive the items. A clothing list will be attached to the box.



PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

United Methodist Church

Holly Fair

November 22nd 9am-2pm

Luncheon 11am-1pm

Country Store, Crafts and Much More...

Trustees

Three major projects have been completed this summer. 1) The installation of French Drains have been installed between the church and the parsonage to eliminate flooding in fellowship hall. 2) The sealing and remarking of the parking lot has been completed with the remarking we have added two (2) additional handicapped parking spaces. 3) Electronic security locks on the door by the kitchen and the Kitty Fell building; this is phase 1 of the church security initiative. Phase 2 will require funding grants to be written and submitted to State and Federal governments for approval, if anyone has experience in applying for grants we could use your experience and help. Projects which are in the planning and contracting phase are 1) Installation of a drop ceiling in the Kitty Fell Building and Document archiving of required church documents, we need to clear out the office because (a) We have found documents which date back as far as the 1960's and (b) We are running out of room in the office. We will be looking for volunteers to help review documents as a part of this effort.

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.