



December 2025



best “holiday” deals. Although I would have to say that in these economic times, I’m not so sure if people will be spending their money as freely this year.

During this time of the year, it seems as if the world is moving farther and farther away in understanding and embracing the real reason for the season.

In 1963, Eddie Pola and George Wyle wrote the popular Christmas song, “*It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year*”. During that same year, the song was recorded and released by pop singer Andy Williams for his first Christmas album, *The Andy Williams Christmas Album*. This popular Christmas song has inspired people from around the world, both young and old. For some, being inspired means shopping on-line or dashing to the malls or department stores and standing in long lines to get the

The world seems to think this time of the year is for lavish presents, wild holiday parties and drunkenness because “for goodness sake, Jesus was not born in December and Christmas was originally a pagan holiday.”

No one really knows what month or day Jesus Christ was born, and truthfully, it really does not matter. I am just thankful Jesus was born! Yes, Christmas has pagan roots, but our “*God so loved the world*” long before paganism that He “*gave us His one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.*” (John 3:16-18, NIV)

Christmas is more than just a holiday; it is a holy moment when we take time to remember the unconditional love that God has for us all. It is a time when we are reminded of God’s greatest and most precious gift to the world - his one and only son, the Christ child, who entered into our world to raise us up out of our condition of darkness and sin, and into God’s wonderful Grace and Light.

This year, I want to encourage you to pay attention to the wonders of God’s love in Jesus Christ. I pray that this season of Advent and Christmas will cause you to share the love of Jesus Christ in a very special and practical way. I also encourage you to keep Jesus Christ front and center in all you do and say while you are going through your Advent/Christmas journey. Remember, this is the most wonderful time of the year thanks to Jesus Christ!

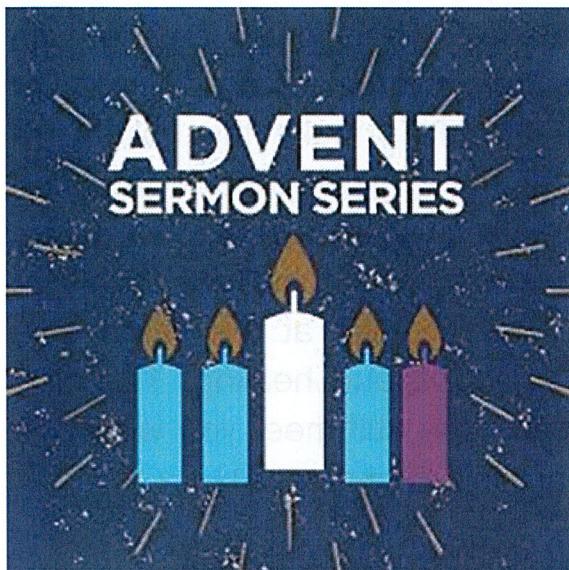
“*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.*” (Isaiah 9:6-7, NIV)

Peace,

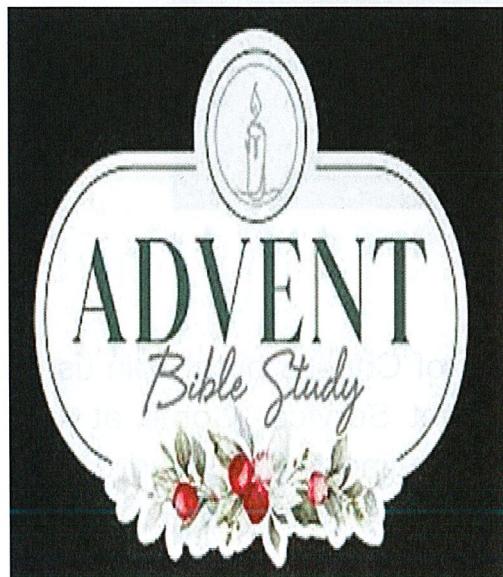
Pastor Rhonda

Theme: *While We Wait*

November 30, December 7, December 14



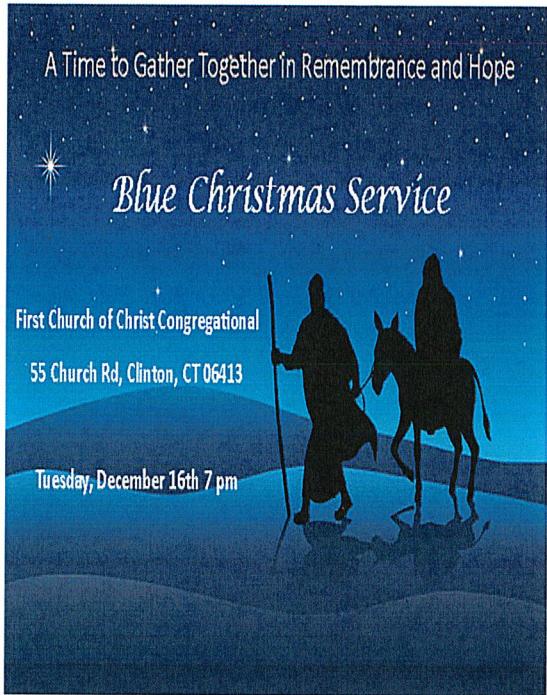
Beginning **Tuesday evening, December 2 at 7:00 pm**, we will gather online to through this year's Advent study, "*Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love*" by Vivian Bricker.



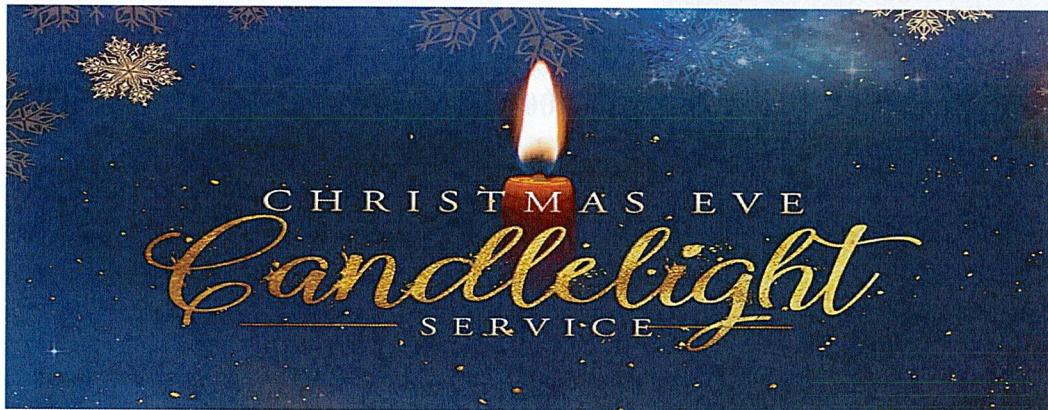
Online Study: Google Meet joining info Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/zyk-gbfm-dkb> or dial: (US) +1 318-81-8377 PIN: 803 541 446#

In-Person Study: Thursday morning, December 4 at 10:00 am– Adult Sunday School classroom.

If you would like to pick up a copy of the study or have it emailed to you, please contact the church office at: 860-669-8396



A Blue Christmas service is a place to find peace amid the holiday cheer. Not everyone is up for “Decking the Halls” during the Christmas season. At times, a space for quiet reflection is needed when grief, coping with transition, divorce, chronic illness, or life’s difficulties make the holidays a little darker. This service is intended to create a sacred space for those experiencing more shadows than light this season while at the same time offering hope and healing. The birth of Jesus can still meet you wherever you are this Christmas.^[1]



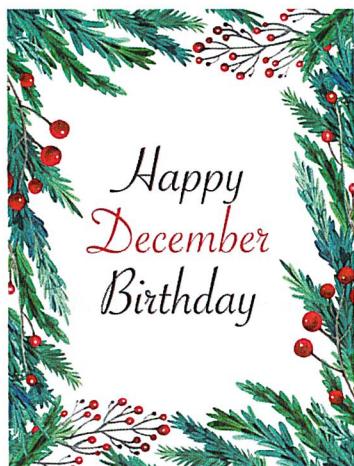
Wednesday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m.

Begin your Christmas celebration with the story of Christ’s birth! Join us on December 24 for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Come at 4:00 p.m. to capture the wonder of Christmas with singing the beloved carols, hearing the Christmas story, and experiencing the glow of candlelight.

[1] Courtesy of First United Methodist Church, Gordon, TX in the spirit of the Methodist Connection

This is the
season

This is the
reason



5 Jeffrey McKinnon, Stella Blair
7 Gail Whitney
8 Dick Bell
10 Alaina Attanasio, Linda Colvin
11 Alan Anderson, Ken Archer, Christina Martens
13 Gerald Carlone III
14 Aleia Hayes
16 Pricilla Clark, Rosa Dupre
18 Kim Clark
20 Audrey Carlone
21 Robin Patten
23 Carol Bell
24 Hunter Moss

25 Bob Hawes, Liz Egan
26 Allison McKinnon
27 Laura Attanasio
28 Evelyn Scaglione



12th Matthew and Becky Schuyler
16th Mary and Neal Sorensen
29th Dana and Gail Whitney
30th Alan and Patty Hurlburt

MONTH OF SERVICES

Dec 7th (Communion)

Ushers: Evelyn and Dennis Scaglione, Sally Maxwell and Charlotte Parisi
Camera Operator: Banks Babjak
Video Coordinator: Erica Babjak
Worship Leader: Bev Bowen
Lectionary scriptures: Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 (UM795), Romans 15:4-13, Matthew 3:1-12
Sermon: Pastor Rhonda R. Taylor
Communion Steward: Sharon Minick
Fellowship Hosts: Hales

Dec 14th

Ushers: Lyle Cubberly, Lynn Sellers, David Moore, Bob Morrison
Camera Operator: Erica Babjak
Video Coordinator: Dan Attanasio
Worship Leader: Banks Babjak
Sermon: Pastor Rhonda R. Taylor
Lectionary scriptures: Isaiah 35:1-10, Luke 1:47-55, James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11
Fellowship Hosts: Barbara Cubberly and Laura Becker

Dec 21st (Christmas Pageant)

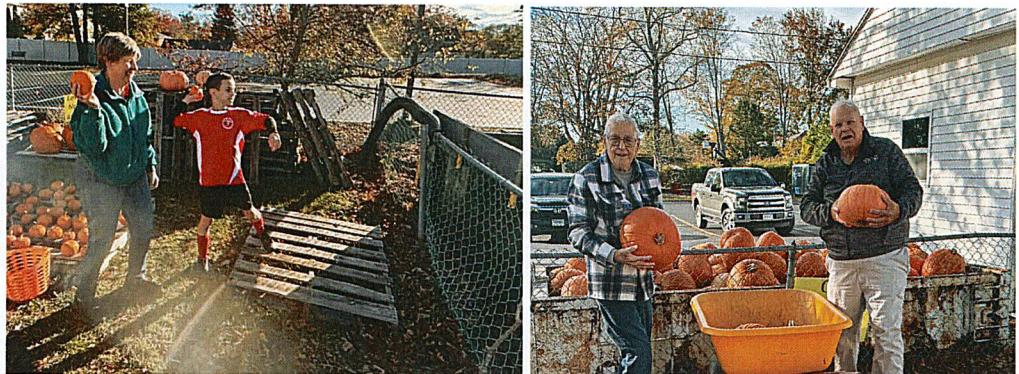
Ushers: Jeane Howard, Diana Vincent, Rick Gilcher, Sherry Hynes
Camera Operator: Val Gilcher
Video Coordinator: Karin Thelin
Worship Leader: Michael Banks
Lectionary scriptures: Isaiah 7:10-16, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (UM801), Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25
Sermon: Pastor Rhonda R. Taylor
Fellowship Host: Deb Anderson

Dec 24th Christmas Eve 4 pm service:

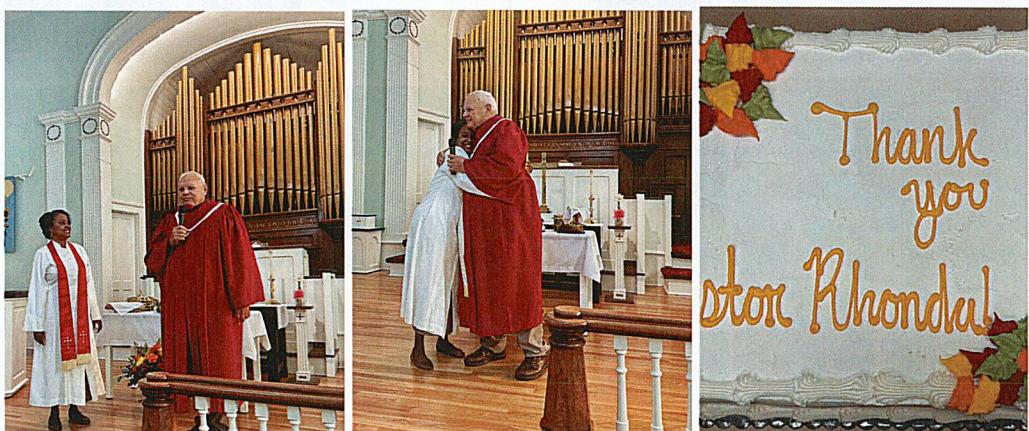
Ushers: Sharon Minick, Bill Hancock, Lynda Larson, Banks Babjak
Worship Leader: Laura Attanasio
Sermon: Pastor Rhonda R. Taylor
Lectionary scriptures: Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96 (UM815), Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

December 28th

Ushers: Lyle Cubberly, Lynn Sellers, David Moore, Bob Morrison
Camera Operator: Jill Hale
Video Coordinator: Lisa Sutherland
Worship Leader: Dennis Dollahite
Sermon: Pastor Rhonda R. Taylor
Lectionary scriptures: Isaiah 63:7-9, Psalm 148 (UM861), Hebrews 2:10-18, Matthew 2:13-23
Fellowship Host: Laurie Bell

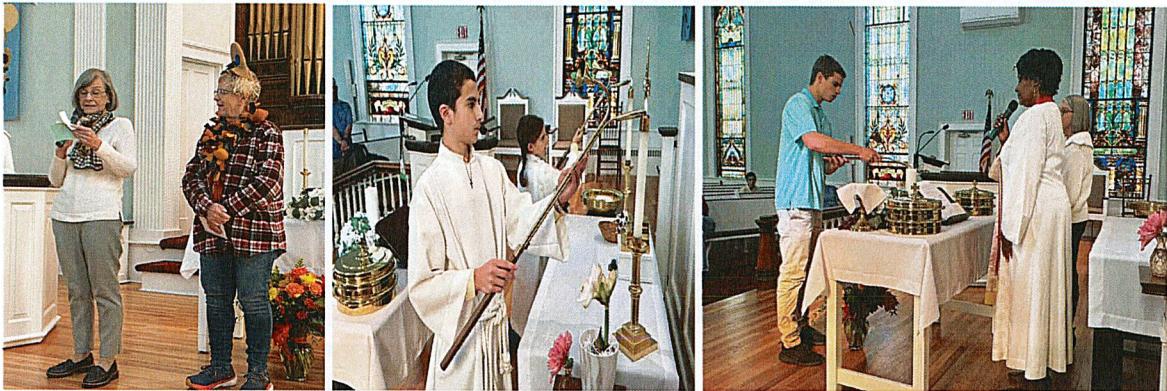


They had a fun time with a cross generational group that helped clean up our Pumpkin patch on November 1st.



Our Lay Leader, Bob Hale, represented the congregation in recognizing Pastor Rhonda for all her contributions to our church and community.

Church Happenings



Church Thanksgiving Dinner



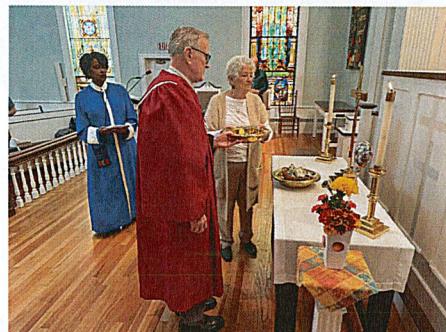
Junior Church



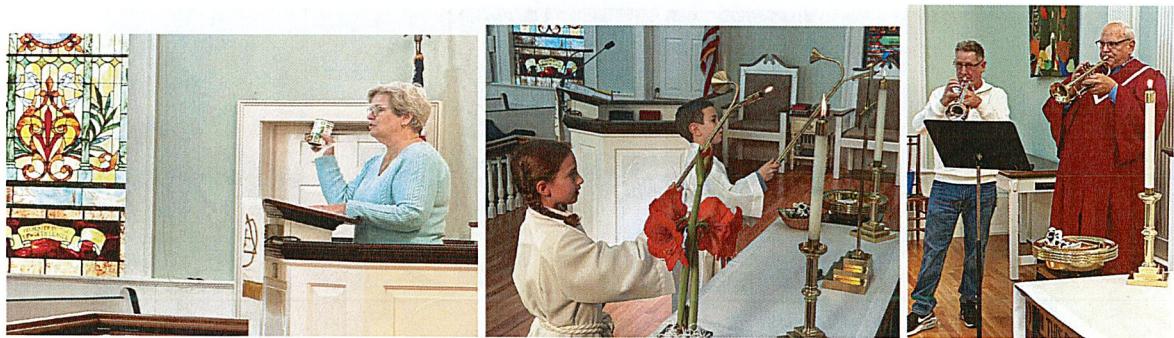
It was a wonderful celebration of baptism for Weston and his family one Sunday!



Sunday School is an active area on Sunday mornings beginning at 9:00 AM!



Bob and Jeanne represented our offering counters as we dedicated our pledge commitments for the coming year. Commitment cards are available at the back of the sanctuary if you need one. God loves a cheerful giver!



The United Methodist Church of Clinton
Missions Committee

Angel Tree

Spreading joy to those in need
is as easy as 1-2-3!

1. Choose a tag off the tree.
2. Purchase gift on tag.
3. Bring unwrapped gift with tag to church by December 8th.



Sponsored by
Clinton Social Services



FIRST ANNUAL

SHORELINE & THE HAVENS

CHRISTMAS

CONCERT & FELLOWSHIP

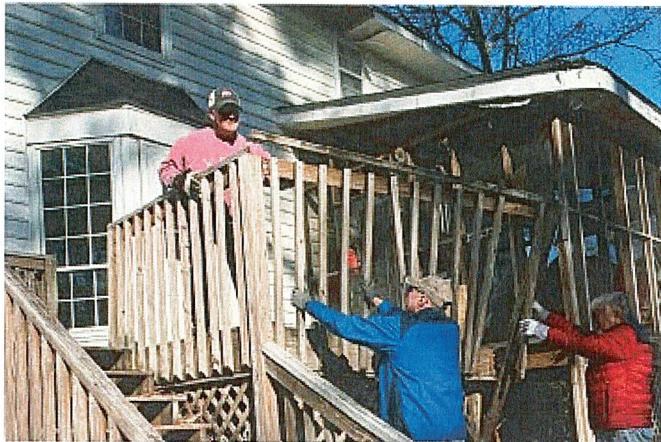
Sunday, December 7th

3:00 - 5:30

Hosted by Hamden Plains
United Methodist Church

15 Church Street
Hamden, CT 06514





Interested in Disaster Response Ministry?

UMCOR Basic Early Response Team (ERT) Training

Saturday, 1/31/26 from 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Location: UMC of Clinton, 12 Commerce Street, Clinton, CT

UMCOR ERT Trainer: Rev. Mel Kawakami

\$20.00 (Covers lunch and training materials.) Applicants must be 18 years or older.

Register by sending an email to disaster-response@sumct.org with name, address, and phone number.



Learn the Best Practices

for being part of a disaster Early Response Team (ERT). ERTs provide a caring Christian presence in the aftermath of a disaster.



Learn How to Assist Survivors

of natural disasters, offering both helping hands and hope to those in need.



Learn about the Stages of Disaster

and procedures for on-site work, and early response techniques, including tarping, debris removal, cleaning out flooded homes, and more.

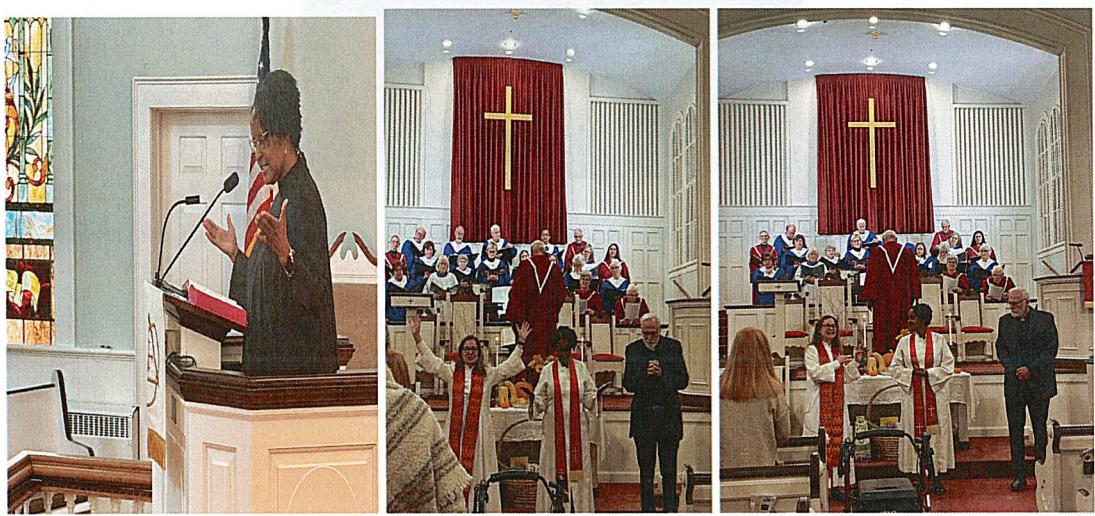
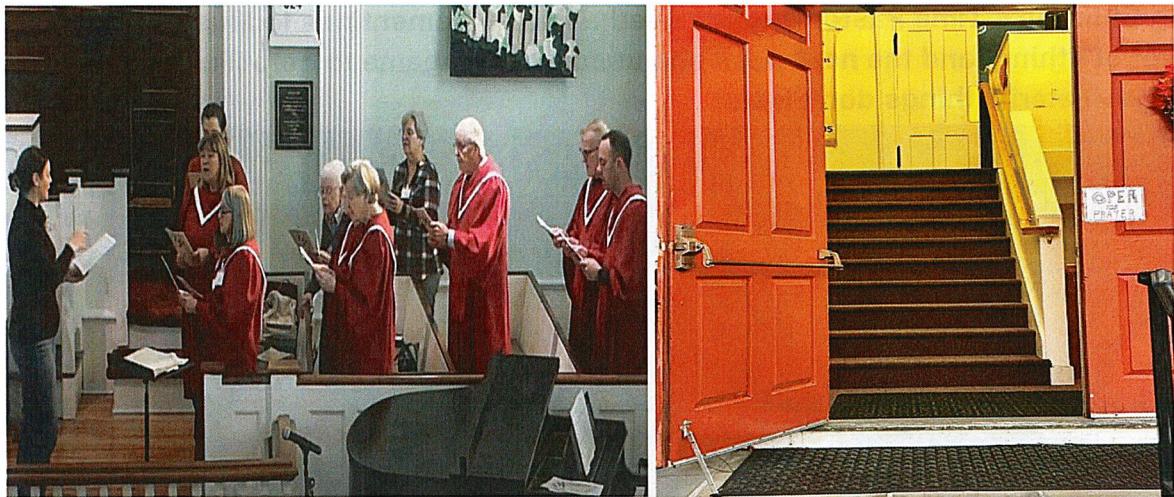


Earn a 3-year ERT Badge

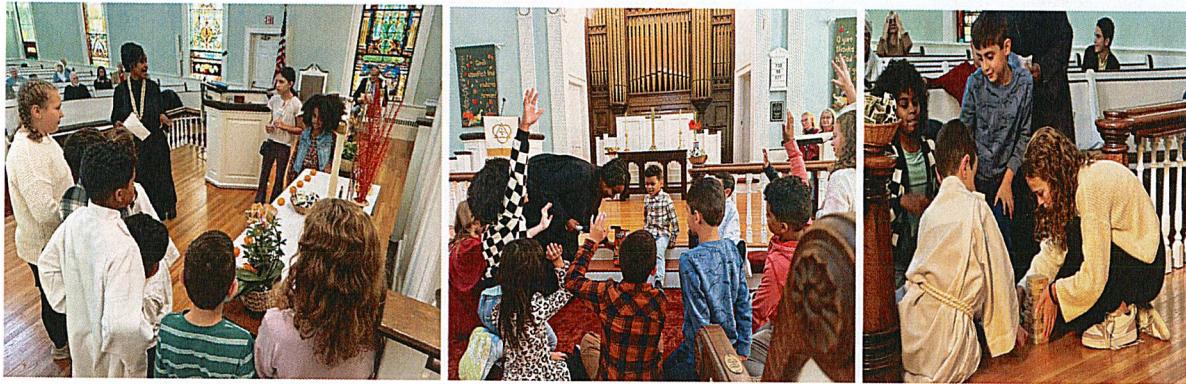
Upon successful completion of the training and after fulfilling a background check, you will be eligible to apply for a 3-year ERT badge.

For more information,

contact Cassandra Broadus-Garcia, Simsbury UMC (CT) Disaster Response Advocate, at disaster-response@sumct.org



During Children's Time Pastor Rhonda used a line of clementines to illustrate the concept of tithing, and the next week she used a Jenga game to help illustrate the point that material things don't last.



Many Hands made light work for our church family Thanksgiving Dinner!





Holly Fair





Thank you to everyone who makes this a great success.

"Shepherds and Angels and Myrrh, Oh my!"



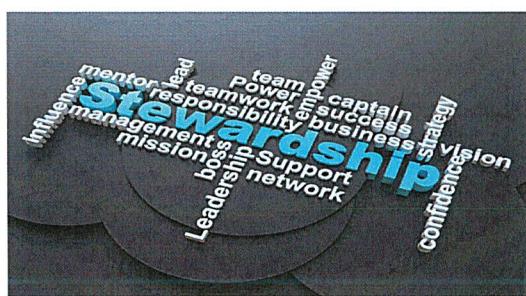
On December 21st, the youth of the church will be performing the Christmas pageant during the worship service. Come in person or watch on YouTube as the children joyfully share the story of the Birth of Jesus.

The Giving Tree and Clinton Family Christmas Gifts

The Giving Tree will be back starting Sunday, December 7th and running every Sunday for four weeks. What is the Giving Tree? The Missions Committee sells ornaments for \$5 each to place on the tree. All donations go to support one of five charities: Habitat for Humanity, Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Food Pantries, Bare Necessities, UMCOR, and Town of Clinton Fuel Assistance. This year we have received tags from Social Services, each tag has on it a gift for a boy, girl and age etc... Look for us in Fellowship Hall! If you are not able to attend church in person but would still like to buy an ornament to support one of our charities or tag for a gift please contact the office.

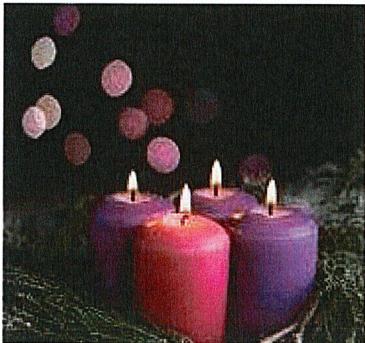


Christmas Greetings may be shared on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall brought or mailed in.



Thank you to everyone who sent in their 2026 Pledge. If you haven't sent yours in yet there is still time. You can just drop it off at the office, stick it in the mail or put it in the Offering Plate on Sunday morning. Thank you.

~Sharon Minick, Stewardship Chair



Advent begins: Sunday, November 30 – Wednesday December 24

Please ask Donna for the Advent Study Guide and she will email or send to you.

Online Study: Tuesday evenings at 7:00 PM

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/zyk-gbfm-dkb>

Or dial: (US) +1 318-814-8377 PIN: 803 541 446#

In-Person Study: Thursday mornings at 10:00 AM - Church

Let's fill the church with poinsettias for Christmas! 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/poinsettia by December 15th, checks made out to UMC of Clinton, CT. The money collected will be given to the Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries. We are looking forward to a beautiful sanctuary for the



Holidays.

In honor of/memory of _____

Given by _____

Judy LeVesques's Pumpkin Bread Recipe, Thank you Judy.

Pumpkin Bread

24 teaspoons each of:
baking soda, baking powder,
and cinnamon

12 teaspoons salt

36 cups flour, 48 eggs

12 cans of pumpkin

24 cups sugar, 18 cups oil

Measure, sift, combine, mix
Place in 12 mini-loaf pans,
+ bake till done. *Enjoy!*

Office Staff

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

Email: office@clintonumc.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.

