

February/March 2019

# The Observer



Clinton First *Ignited* Methodist Church



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## WILDCAT STORE, 2018



On December 5-7, the Wildcat Store served thirty middle schoolers and fifty high schoolers! Each student was very appreciative and polite. Christmas decorations were beautiful, and Christmas music played for the enjoyment of all.



**Big Job!** Charlie Jackson surveys the work to be done in setting up the store.



L to R Audrey Lientz and Brenda Alabaugh team up to help.

Each student had a “personal shopper,” a volunteer who stayed with the student and helped them shop. Because time with the students was expected to be limited, gift bags were prepared and distributed to each one. The bags contained basic toiletries, such as shampoo, conditioner, a toothbrush and toothpaste, an orange, and candy canes.



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**LOTS OF STUFF!** Shoes galore (left) and blankets for all (right)



Pastor Tom visits with students after shopping. Notice the beanies, which were hand knit for the students.

Notebooks, pencils, and pens were also given. All also received a pillow, pillowcase, a big blanket, and a small blanket.

The students then shopped for their families and themselves. There was a large array of clothing of all sizes to pick from. SV LOGO and team LOGO T-shirts and were especially popular. But, so were the hand knit beanies for both boys and girls. Girls' beanies had colorful flowers on them! Jackets and coats in all sizes were available and went fast, as well as jeans, pants, and girls' leggings. Several pieces of luggage didn't last

long, either. Razors for the boys and jewelry, including handmade bracelets, for the girls were available to pick out. Ear buds were in demand with both boys and girls!

**Prizes were outstanding!** Each student could put his/her name in five times for raffle prizes. The overwhelmingly most popular choice was an X-Box. There were other wonderful prizes also, though, such as a K-Cup



L to R Angela Crouch, Joyce Short, and Sally Harris pause while awaiting more students.



Left, Audrey Lientz takes notes while Angie Cripe, chair of the event, conducts the raffle for prizes.

coffee pot w/80 K-cups, an electric razor, a beautiful wreath with SV on it, and lots of Walmart gift cards, among others.

Angela Cripe from the Bono Church was in charge of the event. She was kept busy restocking several items during the three days. Audrey Lientz was the Clinton First chair. Thanks much to both! All of the volunteers truly enjoyed and felt rewarded by this project. The churches really supported the Wildcat Store well!



## Upcoming February Events and Activities

### Love Grams for Valentine's Day

Ashley Downs is selling **Love Grams** for Valentine's Day again for \$1.00 apiece. The order deadline is Feb. 10. They will be delivered Feb. 17 at church. The sign-up sheet is on the back wall. Give money to Ashley or Margie Lapworth.

All proceeds will go towards Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and the Easter egg hunt. See P. 5 for more details.



## Love Plates for Loved Ones! Esther Circle Requests Names of Recipients

Each year Esther Circle members prepare cookies and other goodies, and then assemble them during its meeting in February. This year the meeting is on Tuesday, February 19, and will be in the Fellowship

Next meeting:

Tues. February 19

7:00 pm @ church

Hall at 7:00 pm.

Members are compiling a list of recipients. If you know of someone who could benefit from a love plate, please contact Karen Hartman or an Esther Circle member.

## Valentine Cards for Nursing Homes



Our church will once again be making valentine cards for the two local nursing homes.

If you would like to make some, please do so by **February 10**, so that



they can be labeled and distributed.

See Pastor Tom.





## ***Lenten & Easter Plans Taking Shape!***



**March 6, Ash Wednesday Service  
at 7:00 pm at Clinton First**



**2019 CAMA Lenten Breakfasts  
Saturday Mornings 7:30-8:30 am**

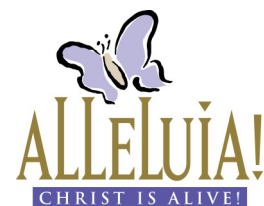
A free will donation will be taken to support those in need.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>Notes</b>
March 9	<b>FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b> 649 Blackman Street	Pastor Larry Kelsheimer
March 16	<b>NEW LIFE FAMILY FOURSQUARE</b> 532 E. 4th Street (Fairview)	Pastor Shaun Farley
March 23	<b>FIRST UNITED METHODIST</b> 310 S. 4th Street	Pastor Tom Barnett
March 30	<b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 448 Walnut Street	Pastor Don Rissler
April 6	<b>WAYSIDE UNITED METHODIST</b> 14895 S 200 E	Pastor Terry Jeffers
April 13	<b>UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b> 315 Mulberry Street	Jerry Hawkins



**Palm Sunday--April 14  
Maundy Thursday--April 18  
Good Friday April 19--Service 7:00pm  
ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH  
223 North Main St. Pastor Troy Teague**

**Easter Sunday--April 21**





**Please Help!**

## **Breakfast with the Easter Bunny!**

### **Easter Egg Hunt to Follow!**

We had a HUGE turn out at last year's egg hunt, and we need lots of help from everyone. We need to do at least 2,000 eggs this year, maybe more.

We are collecting, eggs, candy and **small** trinkets (that will fit inside an egg). Examples: stickers, stamps, bouncy balls, erasers, etc.

The date and time will be set later.  
Ashley Downs.

## **Tom Frey Is Home!**

Tom Frey shows off his Cubs' prayer shawl. Both he and his wife, Sandee, are very happy and relieved that he is finally home. Except for a brief time, he has been in facilities or the hospital since late September.

In addition, the Frey's new house is completed, and he has moved into his new home!! Sandee has worked very hard in overseeing its construction. Their new address is in the updated church directory. Drop them a card!



Tom Frey said, "Thanks!" for the prayer shawl.

## **Cluster Thanksgiving Dinner**

**Nov. 18 at Salem UMC**



As you can see, the food was abundant! The hospitality at Salem was great and the event was well attended.



## ***Surprised!! Bruce Starkey Celebrates the Big “7-0”!***



Bruce poses with his beautiful birthday cake.

Bruce was asked in Sunday school class, if he was going to have a birthday party this year. He replied, with a smile, that he had had parties on his 40th, 50th, 60th, but not this year.

Shortly after, though, he could add “70” to his list with his surprise celebration after Sunday school with family and friends!

**Happy Birthday, Bruce!**



### ***Church Directory Updated!***

Please check your church mailbox for the updated Church Directory. If you don't have a mailbox, please let Pastor Tom or Karen Carlson know.

Peggy Strobel spent many hours finding new addresses, phone numbers, and emails. Thank you, Peggy!

### ***Church Repairs to Be Done in the Spring***



Mortar needs repair

The Church Administrative Board met on January 29. Most of the discussion was centered on water leaks and wearing down of the mortar. Therefore, the board has decided to go forward with plans for tuck pointing and water proofing in the spring.

This is a high-ticket item and will be included in the budget through Capital Expenditures. No specific fund-raising campaign is planned for this project, but an increase in giving would be helpful.

**Wednesday  
is the day!**

**Bulletin Items** Freida Rutan is doing the church bulletin each week. Please contact her by Wednesday if you have an item for the bulletin.

Thank you for your service, Freida!



***“Hanging of the Greens”-Sun. Nov. 25***

After church, we decorated, ate delicious soups, then decorated some more. The result? Our church was beautiful for the Christmas season. Thanks go to Lou Ann Andis for coordinating what felt like a party!



**“Gang” of Five.**



**Loren spent a lot of time on the ladder!**



**A good day for fellowship!**



**Before and After for the front windows.**



**Lunch time!**



**Small Christmas tree with nativity at side. See above for close up of what Christmas is all about.**



**Getting started.**



**Kitchen crew**





## ***Church Christmas Party!***

This year, we gathered on December 7 at MCL Cafeteria. Once again, when we played our "Dirty Santa" game, some of the prettiest packages did not contain pretty presents. We all shared laughs, fun and good food, though!



Reactions varied greatly when opening presents! At left, Brenda is puzzled, then pleased! Doris looks happy with her painting., as does Phyllis with her little orange pig. Jury is smiling, even though he isn't sure yet what he has. Carol, on the other hand, isn't sure either, but it's definitely well wrapped. Last, notice Bruce's white elephant....literally. Guess who bought a gray elephant bank and painted it white? (His initials are TB.)





<b>FEBRUARY 2019</b>			
<b>Day(s)</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
Sat-Sun	Feb. 9-10	TBA	Lock-In for Cluster Youth at Newport UMC
Sunday	Feb. 10	9:30 am	Love Gram Orders Due Valentines Due for Nursing Homes
Sunday	Feb. 17	9:30 am	Love Grams distributed
Tuesday	Feb. 19	7:00 pm	Esther Circle meeting in Fellowship Hall
<b>MARCH 2019</b>			
<b>Weds.</b>	<b>March 6</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday Service-Clinton First</b>
Saturday	March 9	7:30 am	Lenten Breakfast-First Christian
Sunday	March 10	-----	Daylight Savings Time Begins
Saturday	March 16	7:30 am	Lenten Breakfast-New Life Family Foursquare
Tuesday	March 19	7:00 pm	Esther Circle Meeting
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>March 23</b>	<b>7:30 am</b>	<b>Lenten Breakfast-First United Methodist</b>
Saturday	March 30	7:30 am	Lenten Breakfast-First Baptist
<b>APRIL 2019</b>			
Saturday	April 6	7:30 am	Lenten Breakfast-Wayside United Methodist
Saturday	April 13	7:30 am	Lenten Breakfast-United Presbyterian
Sunday	April 14	9:30 am	Palm Sunday Service
Thursday	April 18	-----	Maundy Thursday
Friday	April 19	7:00 pm	Good Friday Service-Assembly of God
Sunday	April 21	----	Easter Sunday (plans to be announced)



### Prayer Concerns

\*Telecare Prayer Chain: If you have a prayer request or concern, email at [clintonfirst@gmail.com](mailto:clintonfirst@gmail.com)



### Coffee Time Volunteers Needed!

Please sign up for this much-loved ministry. The dates for the rest of February and March are blank. Please help if you can.





## THE OBSERVER

Feb/Mar., 2019

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February/March, 2019

Clinton First *Ignited* Methodist Church

### Upcoming Events & Activities:

**Feb. 17--Love Grams Distributed**

**Feb. 19--Esther Circle 7:00 pm at church--Assemble Love Plates**

**March 6-Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm at Clinton First**

**Mar. 9-Lenten Breakfasts begin. See P.4 for schedule**

**March 23-Lenten Breakfast 7:30 am at Clinton First**

### Regular Events Calendar

Sunday 9:30 am	Worship service Communion 1st Sunday
Thurs. 3:00 pm	Prayer Team
11:00 am	Sunday school for all ages
Thurs.. 2:00 pm	BackPack (depending on school calendar)