

December, 2019/January,2020

The Observer



Clinton First *Ignited* Methodist Church



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Christmas is Nigh! **YOU Are Invited!**

All Church Christmas Party
Saturday, December 14,
MCL Cafeteria 6:00 pm

**Please bring a White
Elephant gift
to exchange.**



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

At 7:00pm
**Invite friends and
family!**

**A special guest
will be there after
the service.**





Wildcat Store

Weds., Thurs. & Fri.--Dec. 11-13

Please sign up to help

Some Items Still Needed

Wildcat apparel and school items

Gently worn coats, boys & girls all sizes-

Coats & clothing can be taken to cleaners in Clinton to be cleaned at no charge

Middle school-sized gently worn jeans & hoodies...boys and girls

Boys' and girls' winter gloves

Casey gift cards

McDonald gift cards

Walmart gift cards

Jewelry

Movies appropriate for the students

Blankets



Esther Circle Christmas Dinner

at the Co-Op on Monday, Dec. 16, at 6:00 pm



Esther Circle News

Katharine Marsolf hosted the November 19 meeting at the church in the fellowship hall. She opened the meeting by reading Psalm 100 for the devotion.

Members attending were Karen Hartman, Ruth Hollingsworth,

Martha Rutan, Margie Lapworth, Phyllis Marsolf, Kathy Davis, and Audrey Lientz. The minutes were read and approved and the treasurer's report was given. A letter was shared from our Compassion child and a Christmas gift has been sent to her. A donation was made to the Back-Pack program in memory of Mary Ten Have.

On Dec. 2 a Christmas dinner will be served to the Wakofe Club at 6:30p.m. December 11 will

be the set-up for the Wildcat Store, and December 12 and 13 will be open for shopping. Help is needed with this project. A gift card will be given to be used in a drawing at the Wildcat Store. A donation will be given to the Rockville United Methodist Church for their building fund. The current officers will serve again in 2020. They are Karen Hartman, president, Lou Ann Andis, vice president, and Audrey Lientz, secretary/treasurer. December 16 will be the Circle Christmas dinner. It will be at the Co-Op.

Katharine gave a program about Thanksgiving and then refreshments were served by the hostess. A time of fellowship was enjoyed. Audrey Lientz



'Tis the season of giving: Opportunities to Provide Food & Funds!

A few weeks ago, Joni Weeks discussed the Reverse Advent Calendar as a creative way to collect food during the holidays (See below) & suggested that people might buy those food items listed and give them to a food pantry on Christmas Eve.

This year, there are two worthy ways to donate food!

Filling the Blessing Box for Christmas

Brenda Alexander, who collected food items for Thanksgiving for the Blessing Box is going to collect again, this time for Christmas. (The Blessing Box is outside the front entrance and regularly stocked with food items for people in need.)

If you wish, you could provide the items listed on the Reverse Advent Calendar or bring other non-perishables. There is a box in a pew in the Gathering Area.

Helping the Food Pantry

And don't forget the Vermillion County Food Pantry! If you wish to help in a different manner, **cash donations** are welcome for the Food Pantry. Checks may be made out to Clinton First UMC and designated for the Vermillion County Food Pantry, or checks may be made out to Audrey Lientz. Audrey said she will also **accept food items** for the food pantry.

Reverse Advent Calendar Food Items

Dec. 8 - canned tuna

Dec. 9 - dessert mix

Dec. 10 - jar of applesauce

Dec. 11 - canned sweet potatoes

Dec. 12 - cranberry sauce

Dec. 13 - canned beans

Dec. 14 - box of crackers

Dec. 15 - package of rice

Dec. 16 - package of oatmeal

Dec. 17 - package of pasta

Dec. 18 - spaghetti sauce

Dec. 19 - chicken noodle soup

Dec. 20 - tomato soup

Dec. 21 - can of corn

Dec. 22 - can of mixed vegetables

Dec. 23 - can of carrots

Dec. 24 - can of green beans



Reminder: Every Dollar Donated Worth Two More!!

The **Vermillion County Community Foundation (VCCF)** is able to have every dollar (\$1.00) donated to the general or unrestricted funds of the foundation matched with two (\$2.00) from the Lilly Endowment. This matching opportunity is available through December 31, 2020. **VCCF has already donated more than \$110,000. Funds will allow its support to more than double for the parks, the Humane Shelter, schools, the food pantry, fire and police departments and others. Please consider investing back into your community with a donation of any amount.** Remember, every dollar donated will be worth two more, i.e. \$50 donated becomes \$150, \$250 becomes \$750, etc.

How to Donate: Please make out a check to the Vermillion County Community Foundation and designate "Unrestricted Funds." The address is Vermillion County Community Foundation, Box 532, Clinton, IN 47842. Contact Ed Shew (812-208-0714) for further information.

CAMA Man Cave Christmas

When: Monday, December 9, at 6:30 pm

Where: New Life Family Fellowship Church
(formerly Four Square Gospel) in Fairview.

Bring: Snack foods and a white elephant (\$10 max)

This fun event is part of the CAMA men's fellowship.



Wedding Bells!

Best wishes and Blessings to

*Bryce Weeks and his fiancé,
Samantha Van Skyhawk.*

Their wedding date is set for July 5, 2020.

Eric & Joni Weeks are Bryce's proud parents.



Volleyball Tournament

What: The St. Matthew Invitational Volleyball Tournament
(based on Matthew 9:9-10)

When: Saturday, January 12, at noon

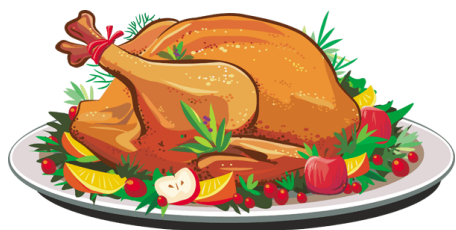
Where: CRC (old Clinton gym).

Who: Grab 5 or 6 friends and show up for this fun
round robin tournament.

Food!: Pizza will be provided.



Hillcrest Thanksgiving Dinner



Hillcrest Thanksgiving Dinner--A very successful dinner was held on November 16. More than 840 people were served; 500 of those were carry-outs. Our church provided turkey breasts, desserts and help at the dinner. Thanks go to Audrey Lientz for chairing this annual event.

Please Don't Pet the Dog

A service dog is a working animal and should not be petted. It causes the dog to be distracted, which could be harmful to its owner. Just admire from afar!

Drama in Church!

During the children's time on November 17, Pastor Tom recruited some volunteers to perform in a melodrama that delighted the congregation! The play was based on the Unforgiving Servant Parable from Matthew 18:21-35. It's the story of a servant whose massive debt is forgiven by the king, but who refuses to forgive a smaller debt owed to him and is tortured for it.

Below are some pictures of the fun! Regal Chris Bridgewater played the king, Brent Wheeler played the unforgiving servant, instead of the police officer, and Jack Webster played the servant who begged for more time to pay his debt. "Mr. Bill" Hartman and Carter Crouch played the mystery men. There were also several other talented actors!



Brent, the servant who had had his debt forgiven, refuses to forgive a smaller debt by another servant and throws him into prison until he can pay.



It wasn't all serious!

For if you forgive others their offenses, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you.
Matthew 6:14



Now, the servant has to face the king who had forgiven him his debt and sentences him to prison also.



The mystery men

Cluster Sponsors Pre-New Year's Eve Party



Who: Family Event! Come One, Come All!
When: Mon., Dec. 30, 6:00-9:00 pm
Where: Paradise Bowling Center
Why: For Pizza, Bowling and Fellowship



Children's Sunday, October 27



**Their light
did shine!**



The children in Sunday school asked to sing for Children's Sunday,
What song are they singing above? (Note that Pastor Tom is participating also.)

Scout sings the song she wrote.

Scout wrote and sang the song below:

"We are here to worship for we are here to worship you God You help us in every situation We always look up to you there has not been a time we have not looked up to you Lord for help we are here to worship for we are here to worship you God you protect us in every way when we are weak and you are strong you lift us up and help us in every way we are here to worship for we are here to worship you God your powers are so mighty that you love each and every one of us you care about us you help us in every situation we always look up to you because when we are weak you are strong we are here to worship for we are here to worship you God.

Thank you God for all you have done for us."

Church History:

Rugged Cross:



Recently, Randy Hogan shared some items from Henry and Mary. The picture and article below was in the *Clintonian*, sometime before 1986.

“This roughhewn cross, made from the crossed trunk of a Christmas tree, will bear a special message to First Methodist church members during the Lenten season.

Admired by Arilla Ranch, **the cross was made by Henry and Randy Hogan. The Christmas tree graced the Church’s sanctuary during the Christmas season.**

The tree’s trunk was lashed together to form the shape of a cross. The cross will be used in a special “service of nails” during communion and will also be decorated with spring blossoms, representing the sorrow and joy of Easter.”

Mary Hogan’s Paperweights

How many of you remember this paperweight? Mary sold them at the church bazaar. The picture was inserted into the back of the paperweight and is still in good shape. Peggy Strobel also has pictures and other memorabilia from the Hogans. See her if you are interested. First come, first serve!

Speaking of the Hogans, remember how Henry was the official greeter each week? He would welcome all who entered with his big smile and ran the elevator. Of course, he also taught the Wesleyan adult Sunday school class for many years. Anyone know when he began teaching?



FALL ACTIVITIES

FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL OCT. 26



In spite of the horrible weather, or maybe because of it, more people attended the festival this year than last!



Great face painting, games and food helped make the festival a success. Many thanks to Shelby Marsolf, chairperson



Community Trunk or Treat Saturday, Oct 30



This event was huge! People never stopped coming! Probably also due to the terrible weather.



OCC Pack, Making Cards, & Dinner Nov. 3



OCC Project Successful!

Congrats to all who helped in any way with the Occupation Christmas Child project, part of Samaritan's Purse. The cluster sent 100 boxes overseas, with our church contributing 55. Special thanks go to Lori Barnett for chairing the project!



DECEMBER, 2019			
Day	Date	Time	Event
Monday	Dec 9	6:30pm	Man Cave Christmas @ New Life Family Fellowship
Wednesday	Dec. 11	evening	Set Up Wildcat Store
Thurs.-Fri	Dec. 12-13	7:45a-3:00/4:00p	Wildcat Store for HS and middle school students
Saturday	Dec. 14	6:00pm	All church Christmas party at MCL
Monday	Dec. 16	6:00 pm	Esther Circle Christmas dinner at Co-op
Tuesday	Dec. 24	7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service + Special Guest
Wednesday	Dec. 25	All Day!	<i>Merry Christmas!</i> 
Monday	Dec. 30	6:00-9:00pm	Pre-New Year's Eve party, Paradise Bowl
JANUARY, 2020			
Wednesday	Jan. 1	All Day!	<i>Happy New Year!</i>
Sunday	Jan. 12	Noon	St. Matthew's Invitational Volleyball Tournament at CRC (old Clinton HS gym)



Prayer Concerns

*Telecare Prayer Chain: If you have a prayer request or concern, email at clintonfirst@gmail.com

Notes from Rhonda Reed:

Check us out on Facebook – www.facebook.com/clintonfirst

Upcoming Events - <http://clintonfirst.org/fumc/calendar/>

Please send any additional upcoming events info to admin@clintonfirst.org so they can be added to web / Facebook as soon as possible.



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Upcoming Events & Activities:

Dec. 11-13 Wildcat Store

Dec. 14 Church Christmas Party 6:00 pm MCL

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm

Jan. 12 St. Matthew Volleyball Invitational Noon at CRC

Regular Events Calendar

Sunday 9:30 am	Worship service
	Communion 1st Sunday
11:00 am	Sunday school for all ages
Thurs. 2:00 pm	Backpack packing
Thurs. 3:00 pm	Prayer Team



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