

United Church of Clinton



September 30, 2018
Pastor, Rev. Lee Atherton

"Transformation Sunday"

Worship - 10:00 am
Musician, Ilana Cody

Ministers, The People of God

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be my witnesses to the ends of the earth."

RINGING of the BOWL / TIME of CENTERING

Please use this time during the prelude in silent prayer and preparation for worship.

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL to WORSHIP** (*please stand as you are able*)

Leader: You are indeed my rock and my fortress,

People: for your name's sake lead me and guide me.

Leader: Take me out of the net that is hidden from me, for you are my refuge.

People: Into your hand I give my being.

Leader: You have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.

People: My future is in your hands. Guide me oh my Great and Gracious God!

Leader: Strong in faith and eager with questions,

People: Singing our praise and whispering our prayers,

Leader: We come to be your people, O God.

People: May we truly become your people today. Amen.

***HYMN of PRAISE SUPPORTING HUMAN JUSTICE** "We Gather Together" #276

You are invited to bring your gifts to support our outreach and mission opportunities.

PRAYER of the DAY

Because all lives are yours Mercy Rememberer, grace is offered in softened hearts and children wandering corn mazes; hope is heard from grandparents' stories and parables lived out by neighbors; wonder is found in scientific minds and builders of sandcastles.

Because justice is yours, Self-Emptier, transform our minds so we can challenge hatred; temper our stubbornness and transfigure us for service; reshape our selfish desires into gifts for all who have nothing.

Because all hope is yours Sharing Spirit, stretch our shriveled hearts with compassion that does not break; tickle our serious natures with lap-climbing kids who tell silly jokes; humble our arrogance with the willingness to stand in the muck cleaning flooded homes. Because all is yours, even us, God in Community, Holy in One, we pray as we are taught, "Our father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

**Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
For thine is the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory forever. Amen.**

***GLORIA PATRI**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be; world without end. Amen. Amen.

(you may be seated)

SCRIPTURE Mark 9:38-50

p.714

CHILDREN'S and CONFIRMAND'S MESSAGE

CONGREGATIONAL COMMITMENT TO CONFIRMANDS

As fellow sojourners on this Journey in Faith, we promise to...

- ✝ **share our faith experiences and perspectives, asking questions to help you define your own perspectives.**
- ✝ **be open to your theological points of view even when they are different than our own.**
- ✝ **join you at worship and talk about our experience after.**
- ✝ **Listen to your questions and concerns with open minds and hearts and answer them as best and as honestly as we can.**
- ✝ **Be open to and willing to consider the challenges to our understandings and belief that will come up.**
- ✝ **Take your contributions seriously and treat them with respect.**
- ✝ **Offer help when you need it.**
- ✝ **Keep you and your journey in our prayers.**



***HYMN** "Spirit"

#249

PRAYERS of CONFESSION and RESTORATION

Called to be your people, Living God - why do we find it so hard to answer? You ask us to speak out against injustice, and we whisper because we are afraid someone might hear us. You ask us to see the pain and poverty around us, but we close our eyes. You tell us that everyone, and each one, is created in your image, yet we persist in noticing the differences between us and others. Forgive us, God of the Past and Creator of the Future. May we be the ones who go out into the world, bearing your gifts of peace, of hope, of healing, of joy to everyone who is

broken, even as we have been made whole through the gift of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

PASSING *the* PEACE of CHRIST

In the spirit of worship, and abiding in Christ's love, let us turn to one another singing "Peace Be with You". Please be seated when the music ends.

SHARING OUR JOYS, CONCERNS, *and* GLIMPSES of GOD

You are invited to share your concern or celebration briefly so that all who wish will have time to share. Please consider the privacy of other's information.

PASTOR'S PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE "Lord Listen to Your Children Praying" (twice)

Lord, listen to your children praying. Lord, send your spirit in this place.

Lord, listen to your children praying. Send us love. Send us power. Send us grace.

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS to GOD

HYMN of DEDICATION "His Eye on the Sparrow"

#82

***SONG of PRAISE** (#46 in Hymnal)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER of DEDICATION**

May we open our hearts and offer our gifts to others so, that as the hungry are fed, the homeless are housed, the grieving are comforted, and the lost are led home, may they bring healing to your heart which breaks at all the brokenness in our world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

p.357

PASTOR'S MESSAGE "Where's Waldo?"

MOMENT OF MUSICAL REFLECTION

***SENDING HYMN** "They'll Know We Are Christians"

#494

BLESSING *and* SENDING FORTH

BELL *and* POSTLUDE

Our worship has ended ~ Let our service begin!

New Joys and Concerns, Ongoing Prayers

- ✝ Bobby and Lauren Fillios who are praying for a baby!
- ✝ Our Confirmands, their parents, and their mentors.

Bill Yacopucci

Bob Wheeler

Tyler Bauman & Family

Scott Maynard

Rachael and Kevin III

Carol and Steve Granger

Bill Cummins

Marj and Art Lamy

Gloria Nillson

Larry Gilman, Sr

Dolly Duca Cathy Darazio

Charlotte Conway

The Week (and month) Ahead

Sunday, September 30

10:00am

Worship* Transformation Sunday

Saturday, October 6

5-6:30pm

Spaghetti Supper for Vitality

Sunday, October 7

8:00am

Bible Study

9:00am

Ensemble

10:00am

Intergenerational Worship

World Communion Sunday

After worship Vitality Meeting

Happenings at United Church



WHEAT 
Community Connections
A Direct Service of United Way of Tri-County

Supporting Human Justice Our donations today will support Wheat Community Café, whose mission is to give support to individuals and families who find themselves experiencing economic and personal challenges by

providing emergency assistance and programs that promote self-sufficiency. We serve residents of Berlin, Bolton, Clinton, Lancaster and Sterling.

Won't You Be My Neighbor? Let's join First Church in Sterling at a showing of this fantastic documentary about Mr. Rogers this afternoon from 2-5pm at The Strand.

Imagine going to a small community event where everyone knows everyone – except you! If you had never been to our church before, and you're a newcomer to the town of Clinton, what would help make this first visit more comfortable for you? One way we could help - Let Lee know if you read this misplaced sentence and you can win a DD gift card – is to ALWAYS wear our name tags – not only to worship, but to coffee hour too.

Help new-comers feel welcome by letting them know who you are. If you need one, let Lee know.

Where do you sit during Coffee Hour? It is SO easy for all of us to find our comfy spot and let that become our usual place to sit. We know our table-mates and our connection with each other deepens over the weeks and months we sit together. Pastor Lee challenges all of us to try something new. Even if you just stand and visit another table to say hello. **Especially!** when we have guests at church, please invite them to join you at your table, or go sit with them if they're alone.

Got a suggestion? A worship theme idea? Small group ministry? On-line workshop topic? A retreat? You name it – if you put your ideas and suggestions in the suggestion box on the table by the handicap bathroom we'll do our best to make it happen.

The German Christmas Market will be here before you know it! This amazing event is a huge fundraiser and community awareness for our church and needs lots of helping hands to be successful. If you can help in any way – before or during; half an hour or lots of hours; at home or at church – be in touch with Dawn Sivert or leave a message at the office.

[The Vision Statement of the United Church of Clinton](#)

[God's people loving and serving God.](#)

[The Mission Statement of the United Church of Clinton](#)

[At the United Church of Clinton we seek to:](#)

- † [Spread the word of God;](#)
- † [Love God and our neighbors passionately;](#)
- † [Provide Christian education to people of all ages;](#)
- † [Work together in the local community and beyond by using our spiritual gifts in faithful service to those in need;](#)
- † [Live and bear testimony to our faith by being an example of Christian living;](#)
- † [Reach out to friends, families, and neighbors and invite them to join with us for reverent worship, heartfelt prayer, joyful music, and devoted celebration of the sacraments;](#)
- † [Encourage and create a sense of love and belonging to God's family. ~~We celebrate the Confirmation of 4 young men this year. Please congratulate Drew Dobeck, Zachary Newton, Ryan George~~](#)

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CLINTON

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