



JANUARY 2020

THE CHIMES

The Newsletter for Clarkston United Methodist Church



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CUMC @ THE MOVIES

Join us at the movies on Tuesdays in January! We will have a theater to ourselves with a 7:00 pm showing at AMC Star Great Lakes. \$5.00 tickets will be available at the box office. The following Sunday we will address themes from the previous week's movie.

January 7 | 7:00 pm

A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood

January 14 | 7:00 pm

Just Mercy

January 21 | 7:00 pm

Spies in Disguise

January 28 | 7:00 pm

Dolittle

AMC Star Great Lakes 25 | 4300 Baldwin Road, Auburn Hills

A NEW BEGINNING

Written by Rev. Rick Dake

Jesus did not make life easier for Mary and Joseph. Babies create work. Babies are vulnerable, which says a lot about God choosing this way to enter the world. It also means those committed to Jesus had their lives turned upside down to care for him. That was true for his earthly parents and his followers, even today.

Jesus did not make life easier for Mary and Joseph. Jesus does not make life easier for us. He makes it worth living. He leads us to unexpected joy and makes the impossible possible. He gives new hope to the hopeless, a place of safety for those at risk, and a seat at the table for those formerly ostracized. He gives us a way to find security, regardless of our possessions. He gives never ending gifts of forgiveness, purpose and love.



As we begin this new year, it is good for me to remember that Jesus did not come to make my life or ministry easier. But he does make it worthwhile and joyous. Over this past year, I have been given the privilege of witnessing this community of faith being washed in grace. I have seen lives changed. I have felt the power of Christ in the middle of hard times. You have helped reveal Jesus to me and to others in this past year. Thank you.

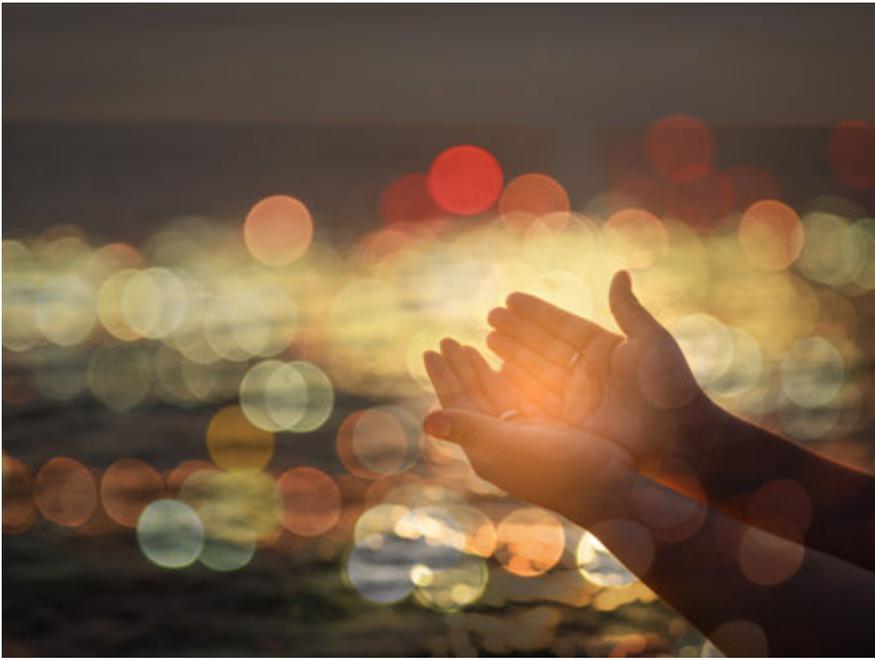
Over this year, there will be so much to do. Jesus has come into our lives and the Holy Spirit is flowing. More blessings will be given to us and more will be required. That is the reality and the good news. I commit to work hard with you to accomplish what we have planned, and even more importantly, what God has planned for us.

This year, we surrender to our Lord. I pray you will find the surprises and joy God has planned for you and for us all.

Pastor Rick

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WESLEY COVENANT PRAYER

Back in 1755, John Wesley began using a Covenant Service each year to help people recommit themselves to God. It has become a tradition to pray this at the beginning of a new year. It is not a simple prayer—it is literally an offering to God of everything we are and everything we have. What follows is an updated version with more contemporary language. Are you ready to recommit yourself to God in 2020?

WHY JOIN THE CHURCH?

You may be wondering why it is important to join a church. Can't I just attend and participate in the activities without joining? The answer to that question is yes, you can. However, making a public commitment of your faith in God is a significant thing. If we say something out loud in front of other people, we are more apt to follow through on that choice. Choosing a community to belong to is another really important step. With membership, you are pledging to be a part of something that is bigger than what you can be or do on your own. It is a statement that says you will contribute to the good that is happening here and that you will help make a difference for the sake of Jesus Christ in this place. Our next New Member Class will be on Saturday, January 18th. You are welcome to come and find out more about what Clarkston UMC is all about. Questions are always okay! You may choose to join, or you may have reason to wait. We invite you to consider what church membership means to you. Please contact Deacon Laura to sign up. There is no cost, and free childcare is available.

New Member Class

Saturday | January 18 | 9:00 am | Parlor

The New Member Class is for those who are interested in joining this congregation, or just want more information. We will talk about faith, what is important to us here, and how we want to live as followers of Jesus in this place! This one day class will meet from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Refreshments will be served.

Contact | Deacon Laura Speiran, lspeiran@clarkstonumc.org

Wesley Covenant Prayer

**I am no longer my own, but yours.
Put me to what you will, place me
with whom you will.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be put to work for you or set
aside for you,
Praised for you or criticized for you.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have
nothing.
I freely and fully surrender all things
to your glory and service.
And now, O wonderful and holy God,
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,
you are mine, and I am yours.
So be it.
And the covenant which I have made
on earth,
Let it also be made in heaven. Amen.**



LEARN, SERVE & CONNECT

@ CLARKSTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

LEARN

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Sundays | Begins January 5 | 10:15 am | Parlor

Join our Sunday discussion and devotion reviews. Share what devotions have inspired you and learn something new. Handout will be provided.

Contact | Ken Ermer, whaler1787@gmail.com

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Thursdays | Begins January 16 | 9:15 am | Parlor

Join us as we study Priscilla Shirer's book/DVD "One in a Million: Journey to Your Promised Land." During this 7-week study, we'll look at the two Israelites (out of two million) who crossed over the Jordan and into the Promised Land, and find direction for our own spiritual lives. Expect to see God move in miraculous ways in your everyday existence. Feel free to purchase a workbook at your convenience.

Contact | Sherry Snudden, snudden4@yahoo.com



The Bible & Inclusion

Wednesdays | January 8, 15 & 22 | 6:30 pm

Sundays | January 12, 19 & 26 | 6:30 pm

Over the last year I have sat and talked with a few people who have said to me, "Pastor Rick, the Bible says..." I have had several people ask me what to say when friends tell them the Bible says homosexuality is wrong. To the first, I have tried to patiently listen as several passages were quoted to me. There were no passages brought to my attention I had not already heard, read or studied. Those words are in the Bible. There are many words in the Bible. Any casual reading of scripture reveals there are many places where the Bible seems to be in contradiction. The question is not whether there are words in scripture to support a particular position. The real question is how do you read scripture? How do you understand it?

I am a 40+ year-long theologian of the church and lover of scripture. I believe in scripture as holy and sacred. I am a Biblical preacher, which means I either start with scripture or need to go to scripture to have anything relevant to say in a message. I do not believe I have a total understanding of scripture. I am not the ultimate authority as to its message. None of us are. But I do keep scripture as a foundation for my personal life, for leading the church and for sharing with you.

Out of that love, I would like to share with you a Biblical understanding supporting inclusion. This includes full acceptance of the LGBTQ+ community in the church. It means full acceptance of all people in the church. This is not meant to be a debate. It is a sharing on how scripture calls the church to be radically inclusive.

I will be offering this three week class twice in January. I hope you can join us! --Pastor Rick

Contact | Pastor Rick, rdake@clarkstonumc.org



LEARN, SERVE & CONNECT

CONTINUED . . .

SERVE

Mobility Worldwide (Formerly P.E.T.)

Wednesday | January 8 | 8:15 am | Offsite, Linden

Weather permitting, we will carpool to the Linden workshop to fabricate and assemble parts for the Mobility Carts. We will meet at the church at 8:15 am and be back by about 1:00 pm. You should wear clothing appropriate for the weather that would not be ruined by a little paint. Bring your favorite work gloves.

Contact | Dave Kauffman, dkauffyman@yahoo.com
Website | www.mobilitymieastmi.org

Blood Drive

Thursday | January 9 | 1:00 - 7:00 pm | Fellowship Hall

The Red Cross will be accepting much needed blood donations on Thursday, January 9th from 1:00 to 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We are very grateful for your support in helping to save lives. Please make an appointment online if you are able to donate.

Register | Online, www.redcrossblood.org

Soup & Cookie Mix Jars

Sundays | January 12, 19 & 26 | Gathering Space

The high school youth will be selling soup and cookie mix jars in the Gathering Space on Sundays in January. The proceeds will go towards the High School Righteous Mission trip to Tennessee this summer. Choose from pasta fagioli soup, beef barley soup or oatmeal raisin spice cookies. Jars are \$10 each.

Contact | Jeremy Dean, jdean@clarkstonumc.org

Martha's Helping Hands Ministry

Martha's Helping Hands Ministry provides meals to members of our congregation after being in the hospital and other crises that might affect the routine of a home. Members needing care are referred to the Congregational Care Coordinator who makes arrangements for meals. We are looking for volunteers to occasionally make meals and deliver them to those in need. Please contact Laura Coomer-Larson, if you are able to serve in this way.

Contact | Laura Coomer-Larson,
careteam@clarkstonumc.org

CONNECT

Susanna Wesley Circle

Wednesday | January 8 | 9:15 am | Fellowship Hall

A social issue study, Ignited for Justice, will begin the new year with some new thoughts. Please join us!

Contact | Suzi Bork, suzi.bork@gmail.com

50 & Over

Friday | January 24 | 12:00 pm | Fellowship Hall

Pastor Ava Williams will speak on Gentleness. Ava, a Methodist Pastor, has studied, worked, and created with diverse populations globally. She is multilingual with a desire to make a positive and lasting difference in people's lives. In 2013 she was named among the Elite 40 Under 40 in Oakland County. Please bring a dish to pass and your own place setting.

Contact | Brenda Dupree, bkdupree@comcast.net

THANK YOU



MISSION POSSIBLE

I thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the Clarkston UMC Family Feud a huge success! Our total proceeds from Mission Possible 2019 are \$27,578! There were countless people who helped by preparing food in the kitchen, serving, donating, bidding on items and others who gave of their free time to help plan and prepare for the event. Thanks to your generosity, many lives will be touched and changed, and you have made a big difference. Mark your calendar for November 13th, 2020 for the next Mission Possible!

THE GENEROSITY CHALLENGE

A heartfelt thank you to those who participated in the Fall Generosity activities. Whether it was a daily devotional, weekly study and/or remitting a Generosity Commitment Card for 2020, we are grateful for your involvement. We celebrate the symbolism of the ripple effect, and how we can impact our lives and others' around us, with grace, love, and kindness. In the coming weeks, we hope to share the results of our Generosity Challenge with you.

ADVENT DECORATIONS

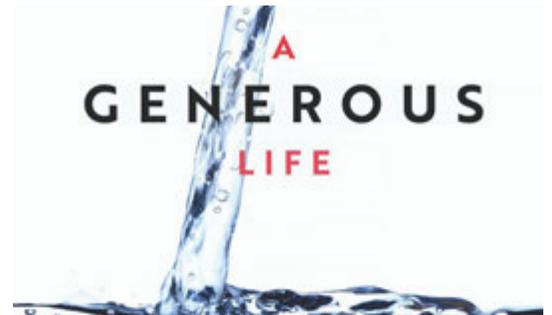
I thank you to the volunteers who decorated the church for Advent. We are grateful for your time, energy, and creativity during this busy season.

SANCTUARY PAINT

Sincere thanks to the families who donated the funds to complete the sanctuary paint. We have newly updated walls and trim and celebrate the generosity of those who made it possible.

NOISY AUCTION

I thank you for your generous donations to the Noisy Auction this Fall to support activities for the Mentor Groups at Renaissance High School.



WEEKLY

CLARKSTON
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

SUNDAY

WORSHIP

9:00 & 11:00 AM | SANCTUARY

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:00 & 11:00 AM | EDUCATION WING

NURSERY

9:00 & 11:00 AM | NURSERY

ANGELS IN TRAINING

10:00 AM | YOUTH LOUNGE

PARENTS CIRCLE

10:00 AM | YOUTH LOUNGE

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

10:15 AM | PARLOR

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

6:00 PM | YOUTH LOUNGE

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

6:00 PM | FELLOWSHIP HALL

MONDAY

PICKLEBALL

9:00 AM | COMMUNITY CENTER

ZUMBA

9:00 AM | ROOM 210

KNITTING FROM THE HEART

1:00 PM | PARLOR

SENIOR FIT

1:00 PM | COMMUNITY CENTER

PRAYER GROUP

5:00 PM | SANCTUARY

AA MEETING

7:00 PM | YOUTH LOUNGE

TUESDAY

CARING HEARTS BIBLE STUDY

9:00 AM | PARLOR

WEDNESDAY

ZUMBA

9:00 AM | ROOM 210

SENIOR FIT

1:00 PM | COMMUNITY CENTER

ANGELUS BELLS

4:30 PM | MUSIC ROOM

WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH DINNER GROUP

5:00 PM | YOUTH LOUNGE & CLASSROOM

CHERUB CHOIR

5:15 PM | ROOM 214

WESLEY CHOIR

5:15 PM | MUSIC ROOM

YOUTH CHOIR

6:00 PM | MUSIC ROOM

CELEBRATION RINGERS

6:45 PM | MUSIC ROOM

JUBILATION RINGERS

7:30 PM | MUSIC ROOM

THURSDAY

PICKLEBALL

9:00 AM | COMMUNITY CENTER

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

9:15 AM | PARLOR

DIVORCE CARE

6:45 PM | YOUTH LOUNGE

CHANCEL CHOIR

7:30 PM | MUSIC ROOM

FRIDAY

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

7:00 AM | ROOM 148/149

ZUMBA

9:00 AM | ROOM 210

SENIOR FIT

1:00 PM | COMMUNITY CENTER

AA MEETING

7:00 PM | YOUTH LOUNGE

SAVE-THE-DATE

Soup-er Bowl

Sunday | February 2 | 12:00 pm | Community Center

New this year! The High School Youth will host an hors d'oeuvre auction to support the High School Righteous Mission. Enjoy a soup and salad lunch while bidding on Super Bowl hors d'oeuvres, featuring auctioneers, Eric Manting and Charlie Wellman.

Contact | Jeremy Dean, jdean@clarkstonumc.org



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This week we've been in your church for a Girl Scout meeting, cheerleading practice and this morning for the Clarkston Elementary Walk to School, where you passed out donuts! What a blessing you and your congregation have been to the Clarkston community. Thank you!

-- Clarkston Community Member

Valentine's Dance

Friday | February 7 | 7:00 - 9:00 pm | Community Center

Bring your friends and join us in the Community Center to dance under the lights to your favorite tunes! All ages welcome.

Contact | Shanon Hoffman, shoffman@clarkstonumc.org

4th & 5th Grade Lock-In

Friday | February 7 | 9:00 pm - Saturday | February 8 | 8:00 am

Fourth and Fifth Graders: Bring your friends for your very own Lock-In. Festivities begin after the dance, we'll have a snack, fun and games, fellowship, devotions and a bed-time movie. Breakfast will be served before you leave in the morning.

Contact | Shanon Hoffman, shoffman@clarkstonumc.org

FUEL Spring Hill Retreat

Friday | February 7 | 4:00 pm - Sunday | February 9 | 3:00 pm

Middle Schoolers: Join us for a weekend of fun and fellowship at Spring Hill. Registration and deposit due now. Final payment due January 15th.

Contact | Michele Ettinger, mettinger@clarkstonumc.org

Register | Online, www.clarkstonumc.org

