



Clinton
a community sent for others

Our Joyful Noise

November 2025



A Season of Grateful Living

November invites us to slow down. The long, golden shadows of autumn stretch across our days, the air grows crisp, and the trees offer one final burst of color before their winter rest. It's as though creation itself is whispering, "Pause. Notice. Give thanks."

So much of life passes in a blur of to-do lists, deadlines, and responsibilities that we sometimes forget to notice the sacred woven into the ordinary. Gratitude helps us see again. It opens our hearts to the presence of God in morning coffee, in laughter shared with a friend, in the steady rhythm of our breath. It shifts our focus from what we lack to the abundance that already surrounds us.

Theologian and author Diana Butler Bass writes, "Gratitude is not only a response to life; it is a way of life."

When we practice gratitude intentionally, we begin to live differently. We speak with more kindness. We approach challenges with a steadier heart. We recognize that every moment, every relationship, every breath is a gift from the Creator.

As we move toward Thanksgiving and the season of giving, may we not only feel thankful but also live thankfully. May our gratitude spill over into generosity—through our words, our compassion, and our acts of service. And may this month be one of renewed awareness of the goodness that surrounds us every day.

With a grateful heart,
Rev. Jessica Brendler Naulty

Pastor Jess

Senior Pastor
pastorjess@sentforothers.org
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Welcome . . .

to the November 2025 issue of the Clinton United Methodist Church newsletter. We are a community sent for others; our hope is for all people to experience God's love in Jesus Christ.

In This Issue:

Worship Series	Pg. 2
Livestream Update	Pg. 2
Bible Study	Pg. 2
All Saint's Day	Pg. 3
Financial Update	Pg. 3
Consecration Sunday	Pg. 4
Children's Ministry	Pg. 4
Care Committee	Pg. 4
Youth Ministry	Pg. 5
Community Groups	Pg. 6
Church Conference	Pg. 6
Missions Update	Pg. 7
Note of Thanks	Pg. 7
NH Thrift Shop	Pg. 8
Prayer Chain	Pg. 8
November Birthdays	Pg. 9
Order Pointsettias	Pg. 9
Welcome Parade-Goers	Pg. 9
Tree Lighting	Pg. 10
Deck the Halls	Pg. 10
Advent Study	Pg. 10
Longest Night	Pg. 11
Christmas in Song	Pg. 11
Church Season	Pg. 11
Photo Gallery	Pg. 12

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Worship Series



November Sermon Series – Defying Gravity

This month, our church-wide stewardship emphasis is entitled *Defying Gravity: Break Free from the Culture of More*. We will look critically at our relationship with money and the way it holds us back from living the abundant life that Christ calls us to. We will also celebrate the many ways our generosity as individuals and a church transforms hearts and lives every day.

Worship Livestream Update

As mentioned during our October 19 worship service, for the safety of our children, we will no longer be livestreaming the video feed of children's time. Our Bishop, Cynthia Moore-Koi Koi, informed the churches in our conference that some images were taken from video feeds of another church's children's time and inappropriately manipulated. This abusive behavior is deeply disturbing, and we hold the affected communities and families in prayer. As part of our commitment to keeping our kids safe, we are doing what we can to ensure it doesn't happen here. It might change how our live stream feels a little bit, but we know you'll agree that the safety of our children is worth a little change and discomfort.

Pastor's Bible Study – Thursdays at 9:30 am

Join in the conversation on Thursdays at 9:30 am in the church office as Pastor Jess guides us through a Bible study of the Gospel of Luke. Learn more about Jesus and what his ministry means for your life as we reflect and grow together. Contact Pastor Jess (pastorjess@sentforothers.org) for more information.

All Saints' Day November 2



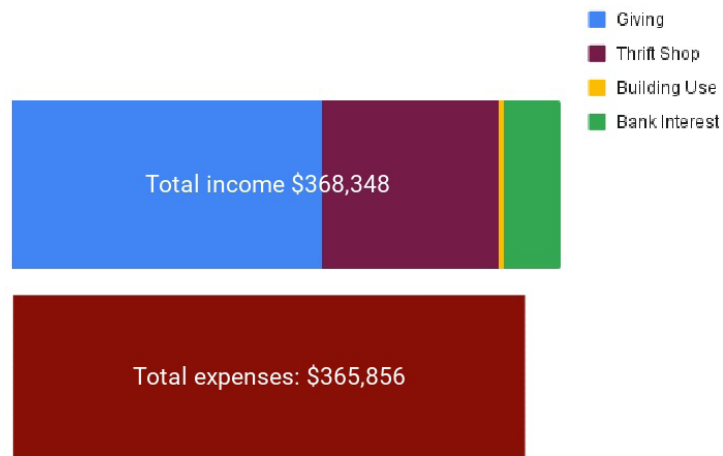
All Saints' Day is a time to give thanks for those who have died in the past year, as well as to celebrate those who have been baptized and have joined "[the great cloud of witnesses](#)."

"From the early days of Christianity," [according to the UMC](#), "there is a sense that the Church consists of not only all living believers, but also all who have gone before us...Charles Wesley picks up on this theme in his hymn that appears in our United Methodist Hymnal as 'Come, Let Us Join our Friends Above,' #709. In the first verse, he offers a wonderful image of the Church through the ages:

Let saints on earth unite to sing, with those to glory gone,
for all the servants of our King in earth and heaven, are one.

Financial Update Third Quarter 2025

Income Vs. Expense 9 Mos. 2025



Thank you for your generous financial support of Clinton UMC! Your giving, along with strong returns on our investments and income from the thrift shop, enables us to move full steam ahead with our missions and ministries.

Because you give, we can continue to share God's love with our neighbors—both near and far. Here are a few examples of what your giving supports:

Spirit-filled worship. From inspiring messages to beautiful music, your gifts enable us to provide a welcoming and vibrant space for worship.

Spiritual growth. From children's Sunday school to youth group to Bible study and community groups, people of all ages have opportunities to deepen their connection with Christ.

Community missions and outreach. From donating backpacks and supplies to picking tomatoes to visiting a nearby nursing home, we've worked to make life better for our neighbors.

If you have any questions about our finances, please reach out to Finance Chair Shannon Moyer or Pastor Jess.

Consecration Sunday

You're invited to join us as we celebrate the generosity of our church family on Consecration Sunday, November 23. Together, we will dedicate our 2026 pledges for God's work in and through this amazing church.

Financially supporting the church symbolizes the priority you place on returning back to God a portion of the blessings you have received, and your dedication to supporting the church's vital ministries. Please pray for God to work powerfully in our church and our lives as we support the church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

Children's Ministry



Sunday School

Grades Kindergarten through 4th

Sunday Mornings during Worship

Happy November! We are excited to share in the joy of God with your students, and look forward to covering some of the following topics!

11/2: Promise of a New Jerusalem

11/9: A New Covenant

11/16: A Vision of New Life

11/23: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

11/30: Daniel

Volunteer!

Our Sunday school program wouldn't be possible without our team of volunteers! If you are interested in volunteering to teach Sunday school, please contact Hailey Becker (hailey@sentforothers.org).

Care Committee

Do you join us for coffee and treats after worship? (Please do!) You can help us keep coffee time going throughout the year, and show your appreciation to the Care Committee, by signing up for an open date. If you have never participated before, don't worry.

Contact Nancy Smith (nsbestemor41@gmail.com) or the church office to let us know which Sunday works best for you.



Shop Rite Cards for Sale

Every Sunday, Shop Rite cards are available for sale in the social hall.

5% of all sales go toward our church mission.

Please come prepared with cash or check made out to CUMC.



Youth Ministry

Youth Group

Grades 5th through 12th

Sunday Evenings from 5:30pm - 7:30pm

Gobble-gobble - Happy November! As we continue in the fall season, we are excited to share in moments of fun and connection with our youth group students!

November Schedule:

11/2 Bible Study

11/9 Service Project

11/16 Community building game/ activity

11/23 Thanksgiving Dinner hosted with Payne Family, 5:30pm-7:30pm

11/30 NERF Night!

IGNITE 2025

Nine of our students and two wonderful volunteers went to IGNITE 2025, Genesis! Students were able to worship alongside other youth, hear from speakers, and spend time connecting with one another. We appreciate all the prayers sent from our congregation, and look forward to attending next year!



Meal Sign-Up

If you are able to contribute a meal for our youth group gatherings, please sign up via the QR code. We appreciate you taking the time to provide nourishment!



Parent Communication

If you want weekly updates on youth group happenings, please join our youth group GroupMe chat via the QR code.



Volunteer!

If you are interested in volunteering as a youth group leader, please reach out to Hailey (hailey@sentforothers.org) for more information. It's a wonderful opportunity to spend time with students as they grow in their faith, their understanding of themselves, and love for one another.

With love,

Hailey Becker

Director of Children's & Youth Ministries

hailey@sentforothers.org

CUMC's Community Groups

Community Groups: Life Is Better Together

We're designed to be in relationship with God and one another. That's where community groups and Bible studies come in. If you're looking to take your faith one step further, check out our community group and Bible study offerings.



Groups for all adults

Wednesdays at 7 pm

- Godshalk group, current study: The Case For Christ, by Lee Strobel (open to new members)
- Dick Peete's group, Studying the book of Mark (biweekly starting Oct 1) (2 openings available)
- Lynette and Chris Stone's group, diving deeper into the Scriptures and messages from the Sunday sermons. (open to new members)

Women's group

Monday, 3:30 pm: Lois Anderson's group, current study on the disciples called "Twelve Ordinary Men" by John MacArthur (open to new members)

Tuesday, 7 pm: Maul group (meets via Zoom) (open to new members)

Friday, 10 am: Elaine Peete's group, Bible study called Surrendered by Barb Roose (open to all)

Mom's group (on hiatus but is working on restarting)

Men's group

Gather occasionally and/or plan events together

Bible study

Thursdays at 9:30 am: Rev. Jessica Brendler Naulty

We currently do not have a Monday night group, but if you are interested in starting or joining one, please let us know. Contact the church office for more details.

Annual Church Conference

Join us as we celebrate the life of our church over the past year at Clinton United Methodist Church's Annual Conference on Saturday, November 1 at 9:30 am. We are again hosting a "cluster conference" that includes many local churches in our area.

Because this is an official church meeting, church governance limits voting to members. Everyone in our broader CUMC family is welcome and encouraged to attend and speak (sometimes referred to as having "voice but not vote"). If you are unsure whether you are a member, please contact the church office.

CUMC Missions Update



A big thank you to our talented CUMC praise band for the effort they put into our Rocktober event. Thank you to all who planned, set up, cleaned up, and came out to support this fundraiser. We raised \$1,025 for Family Promise of Hunterdon County.

Many of the important local missions that we support at CUMC are struggling financially due to funding cuts. A fun way to support them is to attend one of their fundraisers; pictured here are two upcoming events. If you know of any upcoming fundraisers for missions that you support and would like them in the newsletter, contact Brenda at brendarjaffe@yahoo.com

We are thankful for the generosity and support of the congregation for our missions. We wish you all a happy Thanksgiving!

The Missions team

Note of Thanks from Pastor Jess

I want to express my heartfelt thanks for all the love and gratitude shared during Pastor's Appreciation Month! From cards, to flowers, to heartfelt words – I am so thankful for each one of you and for the opportunity to serve alongside such an amazing congregation! Please know how much I appreciate YOU!

NH Thrift Shop



November is filled with holiday celebration. We've got Fall and Thanksgiving décor available every day as well as the opening of our Christmas Boutique on Saturday, November 15. It's the most wonderful time of the year!

Our ever-changing inventory prompts blue light specials to pop up throughout the month. Come on in to see what's new and have a chat with our friendly volunteers.

In the month of September we took a collection that led us to give \$200.00 to the Woodlands Wildlife Refuge in Alexandria Township and received a thank-you card which is pictured here. We also donated many children's books to a woman who fills "Little Free Libraries" in low-income areas in Allentown, PA.

The North Hunterdon Thrift Shop offers new and gently used clothing, home goods, linens, children's toys, books, vintage items and more to people who want to stretch their budget or reduce waste and pollution.

Donations are needed! Our donation shed is open 8:00 am – 8:00 pm daily and is convenient and hassle-free. We love your donations, but please only drop off usable, in-

working-condition, clean items. Accepted items can be viewed online at <https://www.sentforothers.org/northhunterdonthrift>.

Make a difference and meet great people—volunteer at the NH thrift shop. If you have a warm smile and a heart for others, this may be the ministry for you! You don't need experience, and you can choose days/times that work for you. For more information stop in during shop hours or call 908-735-0177, email.office@sentforothers.org or visit us on Facebook or Instagram.

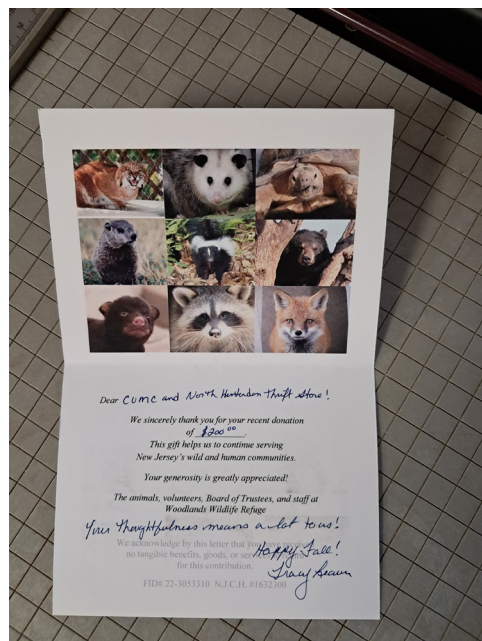
Come on in; we're more than just a thrift shop!

Hours: Monday: 8:30 am – 12 pm | Wednesday: 8:30 am – 12 pm and 3 pm – 6 pm | Saturday: 8:30 am - 2 pm

Location: 51 County Road 635, Hampton, NJ (corner of Norton Church & Charlestown Roads)

Phone: (908) 735-0177

Blessings,
Volunteer Staff



Prayer Chain

We would love to add you to our prayer chain to receive the prayers of our people each week. We appreciate every prayer that is lifted for healing and comfort for those who are in a time of need.

Call or email your request to the church office: office@sentforothers.org or 908-735-7025. Prayer is a treasure that is never exhausted.



Celebrating November Birthdays



Fran Kelson - 11/4
Marilyn Stowell - 11/4
Remi Byron - 11/5
Sheri Wachenheim - 11/6
Braxtin Payne - 11/9
Laura Molineux - 11/13
Mickey Stoble - 11/14
Sue Murray - 11/15
Rose Ranauro - 11/15
Seteign Stone - 11/19
Kora Lunden 11/20

Order Poinsettias

Help us beautify our sanctuary on Christmas Eve with a poinsettia dedication. You will find order forms in the binders on Sunday mornings beginning November 23. You may also contact the church office with your dedication and mail your payment to PO Box 5331, Clinton, NJ 08809. Orders are due by Sunday, December 7.



A Warm Welcome for Christmas Parade-Goers



One way Clinton UMC shares Jesus' love with our community is by offering a warm welcome to Clinton Christmas parade-goers. After the parade on December 5, we invite the community into our social hall for hot chocolate, cookies, and clean restrooms. Here are two ways you can join in the fun:

- **Bake cookies.** You can bring them in advance and put them in the freezer (please mark them "Christmas Parade") you can even bring them up until the day of the event.
- **Greet visitors.** We'd love to have friendly faces to welcome people and invite them inside.

Setup and cleanup help are also appreciated! More details will be shared closer to the date. In the meantime, contact the church office with questions.

Caroling at Clinton Christmas Tree Lighting

Clinton's Christmas tree lighting is a must-see event—and carolers from Clinton UMC help make it extra special! You're invited to be part of the fun: Join choir members and friends as we dress in our Victorian best to serenade the crowd Friday evening, November 28. Sign up on Sundays in the social hall, or contact the church office for more information.



Deck the Halls Saturday, November 29!



Together we'll make our church home Christmasy inside and out. We'll be here from 9 am to noon; come when you can.

Advent Study – Save the Date



Mark your calendar today for the first three Monday evenings in December so you can join us for our short-term Advent study. On December 1, 8, and 15 at 7 pm we will delve into Experiencing Christmas: Christ in the Sights and Sounds of Advent, a study by Matt Rawle, as we explore together how the message of Christmas is bursting forth all around us.

Longest Night – Mark your calendars!

Mark your calendars for Thursday, December 18, 6 pm

Christmas isn't an easy time for everyone. If you or someone you know is going through a challenging time during the Christmas season, experiencing emotions such as grief, depression, or loneliness, please join us. The "Longest Night" service is a time to pray, reflect, and hear words of encouragement... a time for healing and hope.



Christmas in Song and Sing-along – Save the Date!



Can you think of a better way than music to get into the Christmas spirit? Join us Sunday, December 14 at 6 pm as we sing carols and songs that celebrate the story of Jesus' birth. Refreshments will be served afterward. Invite your friends and neighbors; it's a fun way to celebrate the season and introduce them to Clinton UMC.

Church Season

Advent Begins November 30

The word "Advent" derives from the Latin "adventus," meaning "coming." During its earliest observances, Advent was 40 days of repentance, fasting and prayer as new believers prepared for their baptisms. Oftentimes, these baptisms took place on the day of Epiphany--which is a day remembering the Magi's visit to baby Jesus; it was a celebration of Jesus' incarnation on Earth.

Later Christians began tying Advent not just to Christ's incarnation, but to an anticipated second coming of Christ. Advent became a period for renewing the anticipation and longing for Jesus' return.

Today, Advent is a period of preparation for both "advents" - or arrivals - of Jesus. Lester Ruth, a professor at Duke Divinity School and a historian of Christian worship, offered this distinction for Advent: "The simplest way I have to distinguish between Advent and Christmas is that advent uses the word "come" as a longing petition, expressed in anticipation, whereas Christmas is a commemorative reflection on how the Lord has come in Christ's birth and thus the trigger for a new redemptive order has begun."

One of the ways we reflect on Advent in communal worship is by utilizing an Advent wreath--a simple wreath surrounding four exterior candles and one central candle. The four exterior candles represent the hallmarks of a renewed creation: joy, hope, peace and love. The central candle represents the presence of Christ. Each Sunday, one more of the exterior candles is lit. Finally, the Christ candle is lit as a reminder of Christ's ongoing presence. We, of course, can bring this practice home, creating our own Advent wreaths and contemplating our own longings for more joy, hope, peace and love. The liturgical color for Advent is **blue**.

Photo Gallery



The church does not receive mail at 12 Halstead Street (the church) or
10 Halstead Street (the church office).

Ensure your mail is not lost: Send mail to the church's Post Office Box in Clinton:
P.O. Box 5331, Clinton, NJ 08809
Send packages to 10 Halstead Street, Clinton, NJ 08809.

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