



The Gifts of Community

As the month of May unfolds, we find ourselves surrounded by reminders of growth—not only in the world around us, but within our life together as a community of faith. In this season, we also come to the close of our sermon series on the gifts of community, giving thanks for the ways we are shaped, supported, and strengthened through one another.

Scripture reminds us, “Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it” (1 Corinthians 12:27). This is more than a beautiful metaphor—it is a lived reality. Each of us brings unique gifts, perspectives, and experiences, and it is in their sharing that the fullness of Christ’s love becomes visible among us.

Throughout May, we celebrate that truth in meaningful ways. On Mother’s Day, we honor those who have nurtured, guided, and cared for others in countless expressions of love. On Laity Sunday, we recognize the vital ministry of every member, remembering that the work of the church does not belong to a few, but is shared by all. And on Youth Sunday, we are blessed to be led in worship by our young people, whose voices and leadership remind us that God is always raising up new expressions of faith, hope, and vision.

Beyond these special Sundays, the life of our community continues to flourish in quieter, but no less important, ways—through small groups, service opportunities, and moments of connection where faith deepens and relationships grow. These are the spaces where we listen, learn, pray, and walk alongside one another. These are the places where community becomes real.

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Welcome . . .

to the May 2026 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.

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The early church lived this out in simple and powerful ways: "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:42). Their life together was not perfect, but it was rooted in a shared commitment to love, to grow, and to care for one another.

May we continue to be that kind of community: one where each person is valued, each gift is welcomed, and God's love is made known through all that we do, together.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Jess

Rev. Jessica Brendler Naulty
Senior Pastor
pastorjess@sentforothers.org
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Sermon Series



May 3—Final week of *We Are Not Alone* series and celebrating communion together.

May 10—**Mother's Day Celebration:** We will be collecting pictures of our members with their mothers to display on our screens during worship. Please send any pictures to Sandi at office@sentforothers.org by Monday, May 4.

May 17—**Laity Sunday:** Laity Sunday celebrates the ministry of all Christians to love God and neighbor and is one way we express the deep conviction that ALL are called to participate in God's mission and live this calling through the ministry of the church. We will celebrate together the Lay Ministry Recognition Award that Elaine Peete received for her servant leadership of our North Hunterdon Thrift Shop, and be blessed as she shares the message as our guest preacher.

May 24—**Pentecost Sunday:** On this day, we celebrate the birthday of the church and the empowering of the Holy Spirit. In celebration of Pentecost, we ask everyone to wear red.

May 31—**Youth Sunday:** Join us as our youth lead us in worship with the theme "The Changing of Seasons." Our youth ministry is thriving under the leadership of Hailey Becker, and we're excited to support our youth as they step into this leadership role. Hope to see you there!

UMC Social Principles Spotlight: The Sacred Worth of Gender Diversity

"We call on churches, governments, businesses, and civic organizations to do all in their power to combat unjust treatment and promote equal rights for all."

(The Political Community—Basic Human Rights and Freedoms, ¶162.I: Sexual Orientations and Gender Identities)

In recent months, conversations surrounding transgender and non-binary people have become increasingly visible—and often deeply divisive. For many, these discussions are not abstract. They are personal, shaping daily experiences of safety, belonging, and dignity.

The United Methodist Social Principles remind us that our starting point is not fear or debate, but sacred worth.

We affirm that all people are created in the image of God. And yet, we also recognize that transgender and non-binary individuals often face disproportionate levels of misunderstanding, exclusion, and harm—whether through social stigma, barriers to care, or the loss of basic protections. These realities are not distant; they are part of the world we are called to engage with as followers of Christ.

To affirm sacred worth is more than a statement of belief—it is a commitment to action. It calls us to listen more deeply to the experiences of others. It challenges us to reflect on how our words, assumptions, and systems either honor or diminish the dignity of our neighbors. And it invites us to participate in creating communities where all people can live authentically and without fear.

As a congregation, this work begins close to home. It takes shape in the way we welcome, the language we use, and the care we extend to one another. It also shapes how we engage with the broader world—with humility, compassion, and a desire for justice rooted in love.

In a time when many feel vulnerable or unseen, our witness can be one of grace.

To read a Faith in Action article by Bishop Julius C. Trimble, the General Secretary of The UMC General Board of Church and Society on this topic, [click here](#).

Reflection Invitation:

Where might I be called to listen more deeply and respond with greater compassion? This month, consider one way you can help create space for others to be known, respected, and valued as beloved members of God's creation.

Greater NJ Annual Conference Meets This Month



The Annual Conference of the United Methodists of Greater New Jersey, a time of worship, fellowship, and holy conferencing, will be held May 17-19 under the leadership of Bishop Cynthia Moore-KoiKoi. Clinton UMC will send Rev. Jessica Brendler Naulty as clergy representative and Beth Crawford as lay member.

At the Annual Conference, attendees receive reports of past and ongoing work; discuss future goals, programs and budgets; and celebrate the ordination of clergy members as deacons and elders. Every four years, the Annual Conference elects delegates to Jurisdictional and General Conferences. For more information or a livestream link, visit the United Methodists of Greater New Jersey website: <https://www.gnjumc.org/ac2026>

Financial Update: First Quarter, 2026

First-Quarter 2026 Income Vs Expense



Thank you for your generous financial support of Clinton United Methodist Church! We are happy to report that our income exceeded expenses this quarter. 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:

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

Spiritual growth: Our Bible study, along with community groups, Sunday school, and youth group, provide opportunities for

folks of all ages and interests to deepen their connection with Christ.

Community outreach: Last month's Community Egg Hunt helped families from Clinton and surrounding areas to get to know us. Kids got to hunt for eggs, make crafts, and enjoy snacks. By hosting this event, we share God's love, build good will in the community, and raise the profile of Clinton UMC right before Easter.

Elaine Peete Receives Lay Ministry Recognition Award

Please join us in congratulating Elaine Peete, who has received a Lay Ministry Recognition Award from the Raritan Shore District of the Greater NJ Annual Conference. Elaine was nominated for her commitment and hard work as volunteer manager of the North Hunterdon Thrift Shop, as well as the other ways she shares her gifts with Clinton UMC.

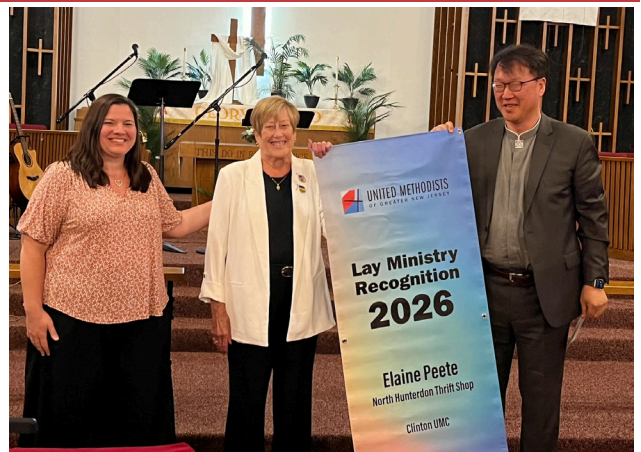
In a letter of recognition, District Lay Leader David Yamoah wrote:

"The ministry of the laity flows from a commitment of Christ's outreaching love. Lay people of the United Methodist Church are called to be active advocates of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Every lay person is called to be in mission. The witness of the laity, their Christ-like examples of everyday living, and the sharing of their own faith experiences of the gospel is the primary evangelistic ministry through which all people will come to know Christ, helping the United

Methodist Church to fulfill its mission.

"We are called to serve in our homes, our work, and our local as well as global community. The laity role is that of a servant who models the love of Christ by example, and the local church is where our labor is constant in witnessing and sharing our faith experiences of the gospel. You have given your time, energy, and talent in demonstrating Christ-like ministry that is innovative and brings the church and the community to a place it has not gone before. For this we give thanks!"

Elaine received her award at the Raritan Shore District Conference April 26.



Get Creative: Crafting for All Ages



If you enjoy crafting, especially with others, check out our upcoming crafting ministry projects. All crafts are easy, require no preparation, and are fun for all ages. Questions? Contact Robin Godshalk (rlgodshalk@yahoo.com).

May 30, 10 am: **Beautify our gardens** by making glass mushrooms and stepping stones.

June 13, 10 am: **Beaded succulents** that will last forever—no green thumb needed!

July 25, 10 am: **Crochet project** to be determined. Ideas or requests are welcome.

Children's Ministries

Kids' Camp

August 3-7, 2026

9 am – 12 pm

Information

Calling all campers and volunteers! Summer is approaching which means Kids' Camp is right around the corner. CUMC will be hosting "Snowball Mountain Challenge: Find Your Strength in God!" Kids' Camp will be held August 3 through 7 and will be offered to students entering Kindergarten through entering 5th grade.



Children's Registration:

To register, use the QR code on the right or find the link on our website.



Youth and Adult Volunteering:

We will be having our first volunteer planning meeting on Sunday, April 19 after morning worship. The meeting will be hosted in the youth room, and we will go over the theme, volunteer registration form, t-shirt design, and prep work.

If you are interested in volunteering for Kids' Camp (prep, set up, or during the week) please fill out the form on the right or contact Hailey (hailey@sentforothers.org) for more information.



It's going to be a great summer, and we can't wait!

Wiggle Room

Children ages 0 - Pre-K

Sunday Mornings during Worship

Calling all wigglers! Children are always welcome in the sanctuary with us during morning worship, but you are also invited to utilize the Wiggle Room located outside the social hall. Our Wiggle Room offers supervision from staff for your children ages 0 through Pre-K, and is filled with toys and space to do what wigglers do best: wiggle!



Youth Ministries

Youth Group

Grades 5th through 12th

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

Happy May! We are so excited to continue our time together of spiritual growth, fun, and service to others.



5/3: Service: Clean Up Clinton

5/17: Craft Night

5/31: NERF Night

5/10: NO YG - Happy Mother's Day!

5/24: Youth Sunday Prep

Youth Group Registration

As we continue throughout this school year, we are asking all parents to complete our 2025-2026 Youth Group Registration form. Please complete the sign-up by using the QR code on the right or finding it on our website.



Parent Communication

If you want weekly updates on Youth Group happenings, please join our Youth Group GroupMe chat via the QR code on the right.



Meal Sign-Ups:

Enjoy cooking and want to provide nourishment to our youth group? Use the QR code on the right to sign up and provide a meal for our students! If you have any questions, please contact Hailey (hailey@sentforothers.org).



Youth Sunday, May 31

Join us as the youth lead our morning worship service! It will be a time to highlight the youth's creativity, leadership, and faith journeys while spending time with one another in our theme, The Changing of Seasons. We look forward to spending this time!

Warmly,

Hailey Becker

North Hunterdon Thrift Shop



It's a spring celebration at the NH Thrift Shop! Last month brought renovations not to be missed. We'd like to thank all those who volunteered their time and effort to make this transformation.

Come on in to see what's new and chat with our friendly volunteers.

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.

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.



CUMC Missions

The missions committee allocated part of our budgeted funds for the first disbursement of the year to the following missions:

- 1) Open Cupboard Food Pantry \$1000
- 2) Family Promise of Hunterdon County \$1000
- 3) NAMI of Hunterdon \$800
- 4) Good News Home for Women \$1000
- 5) Harvest Family Success Center \$1000
- 6) Evidence Action \$1000 <https://www.evidenceaction.org/>

Upcoming Event: Laundry Detergent Drive

From May 3–June 7 we will be collecting laundry detergent for Harvest Family Success Center. *Laundry detergent is one of the most requested items by their clients and it is not covered by SNAP benefits.* They will accept any brand or type of detergent (liquid, powder or pods). Smaller containers are preferred over larger ones. If you would like to donate, items can be left on the marked table in the social hall.

Many nonprofit organizations are facing significant challenges in today's economic climate. Your generosity plays a vital role in sustaining our missions and enables them to continue their important work, providing support and hope to those who need it most. Thank you!

The Missions Team

Save Lives: Give Blood



Blood Drive at CUMC

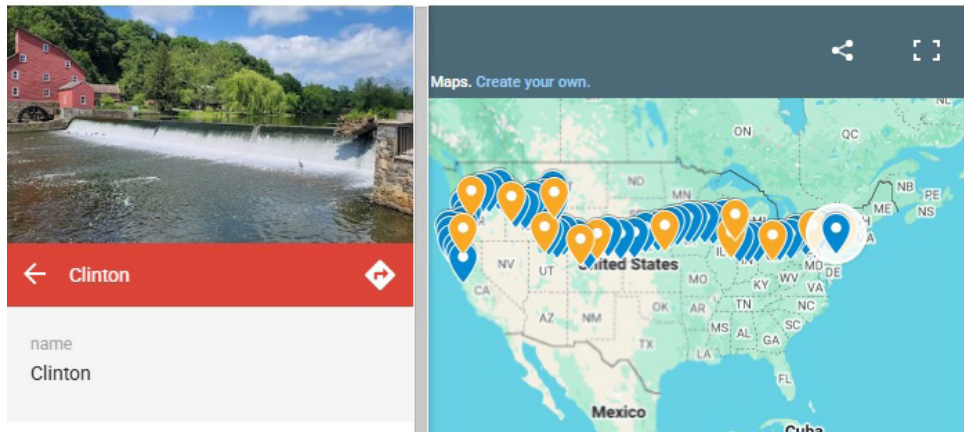
Friday June 5, 1–7 pm

Appointments available [here](#)

Walk-ins welcome

Bikers Trek Cross-Country to Fight Cancer

2026 Route



Once again, Clinton UMC will be hosting the Illini 4000's 2026 Bike America Team as they help raise awareness and funds for cancer research. This year will be the Illini 4000's 19th ride; the student-led initiative has raised more than \$1 million since the program's inception.

Clinton UMC is one of the group's first stops. When they arrive May 24, we will help them start strong on their journey by providing food and a place to sleep. If you'd like to support their efforts by providing a dinner or breakfast item, please contact Sandi in the church office.

Coming Together—Musically

Did you know we help host the Town of Clinton's "Come Together Friday Night Street Festival"? "Come Together" showcases musical acts throughout Clinton on Friday nights. As the "Friday Nights" became more popular, Clinton needed an additional space for hosting music. Clinton UMC readily agreed. We're able to show love to our community by sharing our space, and we can gain visibility for our church.

If you'd like to help us plan how to extend a warm welcome, please contact beth@sentforothers.org. And if you're in the community on a Friday night this summer, stop by and support the performers!

Celebrating May Birthdays

- Beth Bleck – May 5
- Raelynn Yarnell – May 6
- Brandy Kluthe – May 7
- Steven Crawford – May 8
- Eric Straube – May 8
- Dick Peete – May 16
- Kelly Lewis – May 19
- Pastor Jess – May 20



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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