



Clinton
a community sent for others

Our Joyful Noise

April 2026



Resurrection in a Weary World

April arrives with quiet signs of new life. The earth softens, buds begin to open, and what once looked barren slowly stirs with color and possibility. After months of cold and stillness, spring reminds us that life has a way of returning—even when it seemed lost.

This year, as we move through the season of Easter, that promise feels especially important. We are living in a time when our world can feel heavy—marked by conflict, division, violence, and deep uncertainty. It is easy to wonder if things will ever truly change, or if the forces of fear and hatred will continue to have the loudest voice.

And yet, Easter tells a different story. Resurrection is not just about what happened long ago—it is about what God is always doing. It is the quiet but persistent truth that love is stronger than hate, that life can rise from places of loss, and that even in the face of injustice or despair, God is at work bringing healing and new possibility.

The resurrection of Christ does not ignore the reality of suffering—it meets it head-on and transforms it. It reminds us that even when the world feels fractured, we are not without hope.

(continue to next page)

Welcome . . .

to the April 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.

In This Issue:

- [Sermon Series](#).....Pg. 2
- [Prayer Chain](#)Pg. 2
- [UMC Social Principles](#).....Pg. 3
- [Holy Week & Easter](#)Pg. 3
- [Living Out Lent](#)Pg. 4
- [Recounting Our Blessings](#).....Pg. 4
- [Bible Study](#).....Pg.4
- [Caring for Our Church](#)Pg. 5
- [Children's Ministries](#)Pg. 5-6
- [Youth Ministries](#).....Pg. 6-7
- [April Birthdays](#).....Pg. 7
- [NH Thrift Shop](#)Pg. 8
- [Care Committee](#).....Pg. 8
- [CUMC Missions](#).....Pg. 9
- [Church Season](#).....Pg. 9
- [Photo Gallery](#)Pg. 10

Like us on



God's power is not found in domination or force, but in a love that refuses to give up, a love that keeps showing up, a love that makes a way where there seems to be none.

Like the first green shoots pushing through the soil, resurrection often begins quietly—in small acts of kindness, in moments of courage, in the choice to listen, to forgive, to stand for what is good. These are not insignificant things. They are signs of new life already breaking through.

This Easter season, may we open our eyes to the places where resurrection is unfolding around us—and within us. May we be people who not only celebrate new life, but who participate in it, choosing love in a world that so desperately needs it. Even now, new life is rising. May we have the courage to trust it—and to live it.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Jess

Rev. Jessica Brendler Naulty
Senior Pastor
pastorjess@sentforothers.org
908-400-2343 (cell)

Upcoming Sermon Series



Easter proclaims that love is stronger than death – but what happens next? The first followers of Jesus didn't go back to life as usual. They faced fear, uncertainty, and even persecution. What sustained them was not just belief – but belonging. In the days after the resurrection, the disciples and early church leaned on one another, grew together, and discovered that God's presence is often made known through community. In a world that often pulls us toward isolation, we are reminded: we are not meant to do life – or faith – alone.

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.

UMC Social Principles Spotlight: The Call to Peace in a Violent World

"We reject war as a normal instrument of national policy and urge the peaceful resolution of conflict."

(The Political Community – Peace)

As violence continues to unfold in Iran and the surrounding region, we hold in prayer all who are affected — civilians, families, and communities whose lives are disrupted or lost in the wake of conflict. In moments like this, the scale and complexity of global events can leave us feeling overwhelmed and unsure how to respond.

The United Methodist Social Principles remind us that, even in the face of complicated realities, our calling is clear: we are to be people of peace.

This does not mean ignoring injustice or pretending that conflict has simple solutions. It does mean resisting the idea that violence is inevitable or that it can ultimately create lasting peace. Our faith calls us to grieve every life lost, to affirm the sacred worth of all people — Iranian, Israeli, Palestinian, American — and to remember that no nation's security can come at the cost of another people's humanity.

As Christians, we are invited to place our trust not in force, but in the harder, holier work of justice, mercy, and reconciliation. We are called to support efforts that seek de-escalation, diplomacy, and accountability, while remaining attentive to those who bear the greatest burden of war.

In a world where violence can become normalized, our witness matters.

Reflection Invitation

What does it mean to be a person of peace in this moment? This week, consider how you might pray for those affected by conflict, seek deeper understanding, or take a small step in support of peace and human dignity in our world.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

AT CLINTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Maundy Thursday

April 2, 7 pm

Good Friday

April 3, 7 pm

Easter Sunday

April 5

Sunrise service at the river 6 am

Classic Easter service 10 am

Living Out Lent, Faithfully and Generously

What does "A Generous Lent" mean to you? On Sunday, March 15, as part of our "Generous Lent" initiative, we were invited to share our thoughts about our Lenten experience. Our collective reflections revealed a season lived with open hands, ready to receive and ready to share. We've shared a sampling of themes and quotes below:

- **Focusing on time and relationship with God**, engaging in Bible study and groups, journaling, reading devotionals, and being intentional about praying. *"During Lent I've added finding more intentional time to pray daily and I've been more focused on how God shows up in my daily life."*
- **Nurturing healthy behaviors**, from being calmer and more mindful to self care and forgiveness. *"Taking better care of myself so I can take better care of everyone else."*
- **Fasting from treats or from harmful things**, whether that means giving up sweets or letting go of negativity and fear. *"Glad to be giving what we would have spent during the week on what we chose to give up to the generosity campaign, and the good work that will come from that."*
- **Making intentional connections with others**, with their happiness in mind. *"Getting people who are new to where I live out to play games and cards so that they meet other people."*
- **Cultivating gratitude, trust, and acceptance**, in good times and hard times. *"Accept the things I can't change, find happiness and peace, and learn to be satisfied with life."*

Some of us also shared our struggles with Lenten commitments, whether that meant having a hard time following through with a practice or not choosing a specific practice.

No matter where your Lenten journey has taken you, Lent is about *growth*, not *guilt*. It's okay when we make mistakes or don't live up to our hopes for the season. God gives us grace for that. And God calls all of us, regardless of our Lenten experience, toward the resurrection joy of Easter.

Recounting Our Blessings

In a sermon series last year, "Blessed," we were invited to share ways God and Clinton UMC have blessed us, as well as ways we have blessed one another. We are sharing some of those blessings in select issues of our newsletter. As you read, you are invited to take a moment to reflect on the blessings you see in your own life—and share a prayer of gratitude.

How has Clinton UMC, or God, blessed you in this season of your life?

- Providing a rich environment for worship, learning, and growth
- Helped me slow down and brought me peace
- A promotion at work
- Sharing our faith in our community group
- Putting Pastor Jess in my life when I was at my lowest

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



Our Thursday morning Bible study will resume April 16 at 9:30 am in the church office. If you'd like to journey alongside Jesus in the Gospel of Luke in a casual but informative and inspiring class, drop in and give it a try. Contact Pastor Jess (pastorjess@sentforothers.org) for more information.

Paint, Mulch, and More: Caring for Our Church



2 Chronicles 2:5

The temple I am about to build must be magnificent, because our God is greater than all other gods.

The wise King Solomon understood the importance of building God's temple with great love and care as a way of acknowledging God's magnificence. Today, we continue to do our best to keep our church and other properties beautifully maintained.

Caring for multiple properties can be challenging. But your gifts, talents, and willingness to serve can help keep them well-maintained and inviting. As we prepare for spring cleaning and general maintenance, here are some ways to contribute:

- Paint the thrift shop floor April 4
- Mulch at North Hunterdon May 2
- Clean up at 12 Halstead and the parsonage (work and dates TBD)

For more information, contact John Kluthe (johnkluthe@yahoo.com) or the church office.

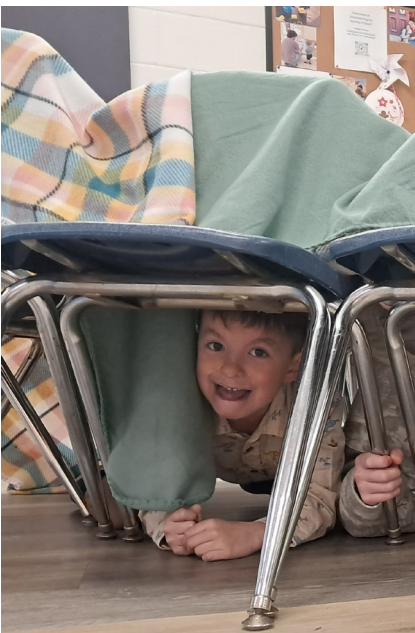
Children's Ministries

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!



Sunday School

Grades Kindergarten through 5th

Sunday Mornings during Worship

Happy April! We are so excited to continue 2026 with you all and share in the joy of church, community, and Christ!

Sunday School will be based on lessons from "Your Kingdom Come" which tells the Lent and Easter story, then dives into the Lord's prayer, with emphasis on "On Earth, as it is in Heaven". These are individual and corporate practices that are explored in interactive, age-appropriate ways. The unit is divided into two sections: Lent and Easter (Weeks 1 -8) and On Earth, as it is in Heaven (Weeks 9-13). In April, the topics covered will include:

April 5: No Sunday School - Happy Easter!

April 12: Walking with Jesus

April 19: Breakfast on the Beach

April 26: Your Kingdom Come, Your Will Be Done

Sunday School Registration

As we continue throughout this school year, we are asking all parents to complete our 2025-2026 Sunday School Registration form. Please complete the sign-up by using the QR code or visiting our website.



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).

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!

Youth Ministries

Youth Group

Grades 5th through 12th

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

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

4/5: NO YG - Happy Easter!

4/12: Youth Sunday Prep & Games

4/19: Youth Sunday Prep & Games

4/26: Youth Sunday Prep & Games





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).



Young Adults

Twenties and Thirties

Next Meeting: TBD

Our first meeting on March 21 was a blast! As we continue to figure out what times work best for each of us, more information will be shared in the newsletter. For updates on the group and its meeting times, please reach out to Hailey (hailey@sentforothers.org) for more information.

Warmly,

Hailey Becker

Celebrating April Birthdays



- Kelly Femenella – April 5
- Marie Belanger – April 6
- Jesse Melick – April 6
- Charlotte Johnson – April 20
- Andrew Dunn – April 21
- Ann Calvin – April 22
- Chris Stone – April 27
- Jess Vega – April 28

North Hunterdon Thrift Shop

April brings a new look to our Shop. In addition to our Spring & Summer collection we're doing renovations to improve the look and feel of our sales floors.

The Shop will be closed April 4 through 11, reopening Monday, April 13.

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



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



Thanks to all who donated and packed snack bags for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen. We delivered over 500 snack bags and over 300 wrapped utensils. Unused snacks were donated to United Way's Pantries with Purpose program.

If you have an interest in serving a meal at Trenton Area Soup Kitchen, please contact Brenda Jaffe at 908 797-4731 or brendarjaffe@yahoo.com. We will be organizing a small group to work a shift in the late spring.

A great way to support our local missions is to attend their fundraiser. Pictured here is an event benefitting Good News Home for Women.

Thank you for supporting our Missions!

The Missions Team



Church Season

Holy Week is the week of Christian observances leading to Easter Sunday. It begins with Palm Sunday, March 29. Purple is the color used at this time, which progresses through Holy or Maundy Thursday, April 2 and then Good Friday, April 3 (when the seasonal color shifts to black). It culminates with the Easter Sunday celebrations April 5, when the seasonal color is white.

Easter Season:

For Christians, Easter is not just one day - it's a [season of 50 days](#). Easter season begins at sunset on the eve of Easter and ends with [Pentecost](#), May 24, 2026.

Easter season is more than an extended celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. In the early church, Lent was a season when persons who wished to become Christians were learning how to live the way of Jesus and preparing for baptism on Easter Sunday. The original purpose of the Easter season was to continue the formation of new Christians in the faith.

Today, this extended season gives us time to rejoice and experience what we mean when we say Christ is risen and that we, as the church, are the body of the Risen Lord. It's a season for focusing on the core doctrines and mysteries of the faith and for preparing for the ministries the Spirit has empowered us to undertake in Jesus' name.

The color for this season is white.

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.

CUMC Staff

Rev. Jessica Brendler Naulty

Senior Pastor

908-735-7025

Cell 908-400-2343

pastorjess@sentforothers.org

Sandi Graham

Administrative Assistant

908-735-7025

office@sentforothers.org

Hailey Becker

Director of Children's and Youth Ministries

hailey@sentforothers.org

Karl Dietel

Accompanist

908-735-7025

office@sentforothers.org

Eric & Erica Rasmussen

Directors of Digital Ministry

erica@sentforothers.org

Amanda Santiago

Childcare Staff

office@sentforothers.org

Beth Crawford

Communications Director

908-442-3934

beth@sentforothers.org

Rose Leonard

Accountant/Bookkeeper

908-735-7025

rose@sentforothers.org

Brian Repsher

Sexton

office@sentforothers.org

Jennifer Gursky

Choir Director

jen@sentforothers.org

Jessica Buntine

Childcare Staff

office@sentforothers.org