

THE ENLIGHTENER

Clay Center United Methodist Church - Pastor Reuben Langat
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The Enlightener
March 2025

Notes from the Pastor:

Dear Church Family,

As we enter the month of March, we want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible faithfulness and dedication you've shown throughout the past weeks, especially during the colder weather. It has been truly inspiring to see so many of you continue to gather for services despite the chill in the air. Your commitment to our shared worship and fellowship is a testament to the strength of our community, and for that, we are deeply grateful.



We also want to thank you for the many ways you've volunteered and given back to those in need. Whether through food distribution with Harvesters or assisting with Meals on Wheels, your willingness to serve and make a difference in the lives of others reflects the love and compassion of Christ. You've made an incredible impact on our community, and we couldn't be more proud to be a part of this church family.

In addition, we are excited to share that our Confirmation classes are in full swing! We currently have seven students and dedicated mentors who are already doing an amazing job guiding them on this important faith journey. We are grateful for the time and care each mentor has invested in these young hearts, helping them to grow in their relationship with God.

In recent weeks, we have been blessed with new visitors joining us on Sundays. Let us be a welcoming and hospitable church family, always ready to make space for them. We encourage you to reach out, extend a warm welcome, and invite them to become a part of the life we share together. May we be a church where everyone feels at home, valued, and loved.

As we continue to move forward, we trust that God will keep blessing us as a church family. Together, we've shown incredible strength and unity, and we believe He has so much more in store for us in the months to come.

Thank you once again for your faithfulness, your service, and your love. Let's continue to pray for one another and stay rooted in God's grace as we walk together in faith.

With gratitude,
Rev. Reuben Langat, Ph.D.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT Suppers

SCRAMBLE
Wednesday evening free-offering meal
5:30 pm—6:30 pm

March 5th— St Paul Lutheran Youth Group— Sloppy joe, mac & cheese, green beans and dessert

March 12th— CCARE— Grilled hamburgers & hot dogs, salads, desserts

March 19th— American Legion Post #101— Corned beef dinner

March 26th— Clay Center Lions Club— Pulled pork dinner

PRAYER list

IN OUR PRAYERS: Carolyn Kirtley, Sherri Ahlberg, Marc Johnson, Arnie Knoettgen, Bob Carlson, Pat Deighton, Scott Taddiken, Barb Booth, Julie Schulze, Cindy Hoverson, Madde Lucenti, Elizabeth Carlson, Jillian Browne, Bob Walker, Josh Freeborn, Virginia Modean, and Patty Stephans.

Serving in the Military: Brenden Kolsky, Cooper Coffman,

WE MOURN WITH YOU

Sympathy and prayers to Jerry & Cindy Habluetzel on the loss of their sister-in-law Sherry Habluetzel who passed away on February 16, 2025.

Congratulations to Pastor Ryan & Sarah Lynch on the birth of their daughter, Ivy Mae. She has three brothers, Weston, Ande, and Bo. The Lynch family served the CCUMC from 2013-2018. They sent their heartfelt thanks to those that have been praying for them during this time.

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Our Vision
Worship, Witness, Serve

Our Mission
Worship God who loves us.
Share our faith by building relationships.
Bring hope to the world we serve.

A MONTH OF MISSIONS

UMCOR– United Methodist Committee on Relief, a unit of Global Ministries, is a humanitarian organization that helps alleviate human suffering, one of the two main goals of Global Ministries. UMCOR’s work is carried out by providing relief and assistance in response to natural and human-made disasters and supporting programs in the areas of migration, health, food security and environmental sustainability.

We are excited about what we have accomplished in the past year, together, with Harvesters. We are also very excited to share some impact statistics for our church for 2024. Take a look at the attached Agency Impact Report for 2024. We hope you can reflect on and be proud of all you have done in service to neighbors experiencing food insecurity in our community this year. We are immensely proud and grateful of your efforts in this work.

Trends:

Total Agency Distribution	Households
2022	2,110
2023	1,996
2024	2,066



Agency Data Table: County and Agency Data Calendar Year 2024

Clay Center United Methodist Church

Total households served:	2,066
Total individuals served:	4,397
Adults:	1,882
Children:	1,397
Seniors:	1,118
Total pounds acquired from Harvesters:	70,596
Total meals distributed from food acquired from Harvesters:	58,830 (One meal= 1.2 pounds of food)
Dollar value of food and household goods from Harvesters: *	\$139,074.12

*Note: The value of food is determined by Feeding America based on the average wholesale value of food acquired for all sources. For 2024, that value was \$1.97/pound.

We hope you will be excited as we continue to enhance our mission to serve hungry people in our communities.

BUDGET REPORT

January 2025
 Receipts \$20,565.37
 Expenses \$26,623.56

Still accepting My Plan of Giving for 2025. Forms are available on the wall next to the church office.



- Iris Rouse 03/01
- Joyce Hogan 03/01
- Delores Case 03/03
- Joyce Savener 03/10
- George Jensen 03/11
- Terry & Dianna Fleming
03/22/1968
- Wilbert Killman 03/23
- Barbara Booth 03/24
- Bruce & Faun Bauer
03/29/1969



United Methodist Women’s Rummage Sale is set for April 5, 2025

Marabeth’s Memo -

It is often said that we never run out of things to pray about. Just as one prayer is visibly answered, two more prayer requests are added. Our prayer list is one list that will never run dry. That being said, having something to pray about and knowing **how** to pray about it can be two totally different things. Sometimes I find myself distraught because I have so much to say to God and yet, I just cannot find the words. Or if I am specific in making my requests known, it may unintentionally appear to be selfish.

My example of this was twenty years when my brother was on the heart transplant list. Our family, friends, and this entire church, were praying that a heart would be made available that was a perfect match for him. But, there was a part of me that felt selfish in that prayer. Was I really praying that someone else would die so that my brother could live? No, I wasn’t, but the reality was haunting. I felt so conflicted in my prayers. Did God understand what I meant in my request?

What I have come to realize is that we all face times in our lives when we just don’t know how to pray. Words are absent and all we have is silence. This is when we must rely on the Holy Spirit to take over – to be our advocate, to intervene on our behalf. God knows our heart. Even when we are left mute with only emotions, our heavenly Father knows exactly what we need. He does not require our words. What is required is our faith. We must reach out to him with our faith-filled prayers, not demanding or declaring what God should do, but believing that whatever he does is right and good.

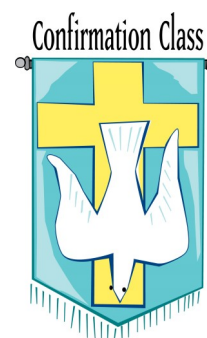
I am thankful that we serve a God that knows our every need before we even speak the words and that he knows our heart’s deepest desires even when words cannot be found. Pray without ceasing and trust that God understands you perfectly.

Much love to you all,
 Marabeth

“...We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.” 2 Chronicles 20:12

Confirmation Class –

Confirmation Class is well underway as the students learn all about what it means to be a United Methodist and prepare for Confirmation Sunday, which will be held on April 27th. This year, our class is made up of seven boys and their chosen adult mentors. Pastor Reuben teaches the class, with Devin Burr serving as his assistant. A huge thank you to all that are making this process special and meaningful for these young men.





Super Bowl Sunday -

Even though the outcome of the Super Bowl Game was not what most of us wanted, Super Bowl Sunday was so much fun. The kids had two special guests during the Young Christian Lesson - Coach Andy Reid (Benny Wallace) and star Quarterback Patrick Mahomes (Pastor Reuben). It was a great lesson on teamwork.

The Youth Group held their annual Super Bowl Snack Sale before both services. They are so grateful for the continued support from the church family as all of their homemade treats were purchased.

The Way Service ended with an all group "selfie" being taken. We love the idea that coming to church is fun and inviting!



Wednesday Evening Youth Group -

The Youth Group continues to meet weekly on Wednesday evenings, beginning with eating a meal at Scramble and then heading to lesson time. A couple of weeks of cancellations due to the weather have given our kids the desire to get back to the regular routine of meeting together.



Pictures include the Middle School Youth Group preparing for their lesson with Katie Knitter and other parent volunteers. Matt Weller and the High School Boys meet weekly for Bible Study. The High School Girls also meet weekly with Marabeth Conner.



Dear Church Friends- Mom loved the Valentine card from you all. Seeing all your signatures brought back many fond memories. We both wish you all many blessings.

Love Barbie Booth & Jenna Carver

Suzi and I would like to send a huge and heartfelt thank you to our wonderful Church family. People have reached out to us in many ways. Each one was very appreciated and gave me a boost. Surgery went as planned. Recovery has been an experience, but each day we make it a bit better. We sincerely felt all the prayers and witnessed some things that we know were a result of those prayers. God is good, all the time!

Randy Carlson

Congratulations to our own Dalton Haist for having a featured article in the Upper Room Devotional reader in the March/April 2025 edition. Dalton took part in a class while attending the BOLD Conference as a sponsor for our Youth Trip in the Summer of 2023 in Daytona Beach, Florida. His devotion was selected among hundreds submitted and appears in the booklet on March 27, 2025. These daily devotionals are available at the church office for a nominal fee. A copy of Dalton's devotion is posted on both bulletin boards - in the Family Life Center entry and in the main hallway near the office. Thank you Dalton for sharing your heart and being a good role model for all. We are very proud of you!

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

Monday, March 17th Serving 5:00 - 6:30 pm Family Life Center

Menu Includes:
Reuben Sliders
Ham Sliders
Irish Stew
Festive Desserts
Shamrock Shakes
& More



Back by popular demand:
REUBEN SLIDERS

All proceeds will be a Love Offering for
HEART of AFRICA

* Serenity String Band performing 5:30 - 6:15 *

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Libby Mellies and photographer Chris Mellies are out delivering Meals on Wheels for CCUMC as one of our outreach ministries.





MARCH 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 8:45a The Way Service 9:30a J.A.M./ Adult S.S. Confirmation Class 10:30a Sanctuary Service 8p AA/Al-Anon	3 11:30a Harvesters	4 7:15a Girl's study 9:30a Cong. Care 10a Tue @ 10 3:30p Adv 5p FFF 7p AA	5 9a:15a FFF 5:30p Scramble 6:15p Youth 6:30 Ash Wednesday	6 3:30p Pwr Pack	7 9:15a FFF	1/8
9 8:45a The Way Service 9:30a J.A.M./ Adult S.S. Confirmation Class 10:30a Sanctuary Service 8p AA/Al-Anon	10 5-6:30p St. Patrick Day Dinner	11 7:15a Girl's study 10a Tue @ 10 3:30p Adv 5p FFF 7p AA	12 6:45a Men's Morn 9:15a FFF 5:30p Scramble 6p Trustees 6p Scholarship 6:15p Youth 6:30p Pairs & Spares	13 10a Homespun 3:30p Pwr Pack	14 9:15a FFF	15
16 8:45a The Way Service 9:30a J.A.M./ Adult S.S. 10:30a Sanctuary Service 8p AA/Al-Anon	17 5-6:30p St. Patrick Day Dinner	18 7:15a Girl's study 10a Tue @ 10 3:30p Adv 5p FFF 7p AA	19 9:15a FFF 5:30p Scramble 6:15p Youth	20 12p Open Windows 3:30p Pwr Pack	21 9:15a FFF	22
23 8:45a The Way Service 9:30a J.A.M./ Adult S.S./ Pairs & Spares/ Confirm. 10:30a Sanctuary Service 8p AA/Al-Anon	24	25 7:15a Girl's study 10a Tue @ 10 Enlightener articles due 3:30p Adv 5p FFF 7p AA	26 6:45a Men's Morn 9:15a FFF 5:30p Scramble 6:15p Youth	27 3:30p Pwr Pack	28 9:15a FFF	29
30 8:45a The Way Service 9:30a J.A.M./ Adult S.S. Confirmation Class 10:30a Sanctuary Service 8p AA/Al-Anon	31 Community Church Camp Forms are Due for free Summer Church Camp		FLC- Family Life Center FEL- Fellowship Hall (basement) Tue @ 10- Prayer & fellowship FFF- Faithfully Fit Forever - FLC- exercise program UMW- United Methodist Women Home Spun- UMW cluster - Parlor Open Windows- Widows group- Parlor Men's Morning- FLC/ breakfast and devotion Pairs & Spares- New young adult class Adv. - Adventures 1st-3rd grades/ FEL Pwr Pk- Power Pack 4th-5th grades/ FEL Youth Group- HS/ High School, MS/Middle School			

Bingo Night -

BINGO Night was held on Sunday, February 16 and it was a huge success. Over \$1,000 was raised at this first fundraiser for the Numana Project which will take place in September. Eighty people, of all ages, came and enjoyed playing BINGO and winning amazing prizes while enjoying popcorn and drinks. The callers for the evening were Phil & Jolie Kasper.

A special Thank You to those that donated to the prize table. We look forward to hosting more BINGO nights in the future.



Community Church Camp Committee invites USD 379 kids in grades K- 12th to sign up to attend Summer Church Camp for **FREE!**

Forms can be picked up outside the church office and dropped off at 602 Clarke Street.

Question or more information please contact

Holly Chestnut at communitychurchcamp@gmail.com

Deadline is March 31, 2025

**March 5th
6:30 p.m.
Sanctuary**

**ASH
WEDNESDAY
SERVICE**

Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return. Ecclesiastes 3:20

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