

THE **CARILLON**



SCRIPTURE LESSONS

January 4 John 6: 51-58
"Eat This, Not That"

January 11 Psalm 46:10; John 21: 1-6;
Mark 4: 35-41
"Be Still; Just Be"

January 18 James 3: 1-12
"Speak for the Lord"

January 25 Matt 6: 1-6, 16-18
"For God's Eyes Only"

JANUARY 2026

4 Sunday School resumes

7 1:00 pm Bible Study & Book Discussion

11 11:30 am Deacons meeting

12 7:00 pm Trustees meeting

14 Committee reports for Annual meeting
Due to nancyjevnikar@yahoo.com

20 5:00 pm Claridon Community Helps dinner

25 Annual meeting and potluck lunch after worship

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF CLARIDON

13942 Mayfield Rd
Huntsburg, OH 44046
440-635-1467

claridonchurchsecretary@gmail.com

Reverend Julie Western 812-605-1816
jwestern001@gmail.com

Each Sunday: Worship 10:00 am

Each Wednesday:
Bible Study & Book Discussion 1:00 pm
Choir Practice 5:30 pm
Bell Choir 6:30 pm

Each Thursday: Bible Study 6:30 pm

“New Year, New”

Yes, that's right. You fill in the blank. New hope? New love? New opportunities? New riches? New blessings? New attitudes? New body image? New diets? New perspectives? New resolutions? New WHAT?? You fill in the blank. As it turns out, no one can interject for you the way you see your life. No one can change your life for you and no one can do for you what you can't/ won't do for yourself. The beginning place for such change is found in the transformation of the mind. As the 80's song (Sonicflood) goes:

“Write your name upon my heart” Jer 31:33

“Burn your word into my mind” Jer 20:9

“Make a temple of this body” Cor 6:19

“Let your spirit loose inside” Ez 36:26-27; John 14:16-17

So, this New Year we each have a new chance to let ourselves be teachable for new ways into new areas of new hope, new life, new chances. This newness of new life, rebirth and regeneration happens through the acceptance of the progressive teachings of Jesus Christ. The footprints Jesus gives to us for salvation grace is found in the acceptance of the work we will do for the continuing growth of our spiritual lives, our faith development and our restructuring of the present realities we face in the name of Christ who shows us the way. What is not a reality is that Christ will do the work/living for us. Just like no one will transform our lives in this new year for us. We must open our hearts and minds to practice loving and living more fully in the space of Godly living. This means we are to change the way we perceive life (including ourselves and our impact we have all around us). The only way this transformation will change from expectations into acceptances, from resolutions into blessings, from begrudging laborious work into a labor of love is when we choose to set our minds in the presence of Godly Spirit.

What type of a life is it you are looking for? What purpose and meaning do you wish to achieve? Are the wishes for the new year ones that are God promoting and peace filling within? These are other questions about our life's views that will do well to be shared through the principles of Christ's ministerial teachings if we want to truly live our lives to the fullest sense of our Godly creation and all this new life promises to give.

In 2026, may we each make a conscious decision to turn our minds over to God each day through the acceptance of Jesus Christ and his teachings. Then, together, may we let the Holy Spirit lead and guide us into a blessed New Year. One day at a time. One breath at a time. Together in Christ, let's see what happens!!

Blessings to All!

Pastor Julie ☺



PRAYER LIST

Doris Wilson
Bree Ellis Banks
Julie Webb Hunt
Joyce Vargo
Dale Baptie
Rick Juhasz
Connie & Wayne Streble
Kelly Wagner
Ed Ward
Joe Berninger
Lee McCurry
Tim Engelman
Scott Pricer
Sandra Trotten
Don and Marilyn Hornak
Laura Vokoun

August Speziale
Norm Zepp
Sharon Hunter
Beth Christian Sharp
Kevin Playman
Denny Bihary
Thomas Woods
Rheta Crowley
Gary Branstein
Jeffery Przybysz
Ben Armstrong
Esther Miller
Kevin Reed
Sara Mellott
Ellen Bonner

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We really enjoyed being with the kids that came each week during Advent in a combined Sunday School class. We talked about the various characters of the Christmas story and they painted those pieces of a nativity set. We think they've had their fill of painting for awhile!

Our movie event in mid-December was very fun. We played some games and watched The Star. It was a nice way to spend time together. We hope to host another movie event during the Easter season.

We hope to offer Sunday School each week now until the end of May. If you're interested and willing to teach even for just one week, please let us know. We have a curriculum that we're following, and would be happy to have some help!

PRESIDENT

Happy New Year to all. Just a reminder of the **Annual Meeting/Potluck Lunch on Sunday, January 25, 2026 at 11:30 a.m.** Committee reports are due by January 14 to Nancy Jevnikar. There will be a potluck lunch signup sheet on the table in the foyer beginning Sunday, January 11, so think about what you may like to bring.

Please check the church roster to verify if your information is correct, phone number, address, and or email. If any changes, please forward this information to: nancyjevnikar@yahoo.com. Have a blessed day.

TREASURER

Finance Update

This Update shows preliminary financial results for the First Congregational Church of Claridon for all of 2025. Total Revenues in the Operating Fund are approximately \$24,000 more than budgeted for the year. Revenues for operations do not include gifts restricted for scholarships or the music fund or that will be passed through to other organizations. Total Operating Expenses are about \$9,900 more than budgeted for the year, leaving Net Operating Revenue approximately \$14,100 higher than budgeted through December 2025.

Operating Activity for January through December 2025:

Pledges and Gifts	\$ 135,079
Fundraising and Other Revenues	4,000
Interest Income	4,291
Funds from Endowment for	
Operations	<u>9,436</u>
Total Revenues	152,806
Less Operating Expenses	<u>(133,483)</u>
Net Operating Revenue 2025	\$ 19,324
Balance in Operating Fund	\$ 62,296

The Revenues include funds drawn down from the Endowment of \$9,436, for use in 2025 operations. The Endowment shows a balance of \$127,790 at December 31, 2025 and is evaluated by the Endowment Committee each year. They will recommend the spending to be approved at the Annual Meeting at the end of January. The Endowment Committee meets quarterly and considers committee requests for upcoming special projects with funds to be drawn from the Endowment in 2026.

Other Funds –

Balances as of December 31, 2025 in other Funds are as follows:

• Restricted for Music	\$ 4,097
• Memorial Funds	\$ 40,949
• Scholarship Funds	\$ 40,446
• Pass-Thru Contributions	\$ 2,034
• Contingency Fund	\$129,412
• Capital & Building Fund	\$ 70,486

If you have any questions, please let me know and I will do my best to answer them.

Pam Plott, Treasurer

USHER

Hi all and Happy New Year! For those who may not know, I will be the head usher for the upcoming year. I am going to need a lot of help filling the usher positions for each month. It is best if you can do a whole month, but I understand that things come up and you may not be able to do the entire month. I can work with that! Please email me at ajkellogg@roadrunner.com or call/text me at 440-487-8558 if you are willing to fill one of the usher positions for a particular month.

If you've never been an usher before I'm here to help! It's not a hard job, but there are things that you will need to know before you usher for the month. I will be holding a short (10-15 minute) training session after church on January 11th for anyone new to being an usher or for those wanting a refresh. Again, this is open to anyone! I am going to need your support! If you cannot attend the training I will provide a handout for you.

Following is the schedule for the next few months...

January

Rick and Nancy Jevnikar

February

Linda McBean and Barb Petersen

Thank you to all who have already signed up and God Bless!

Jill Kellogg

Coffee Hour Changes and Schedule

At the recent Cabinet Meeting, it was voted to return the coffee hour schedule back to doing by officers/committees. Realizing we do not have 12 committees and some committees have only a very few people on them there are some with two committees on that month.

Also we want to stress that your committee does not have to do it all. Please ask other church members or friends who are not on a committee to be involved also.. Your committee is responsible for providing or scheduling one or two people to do coffee and finger food.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Someone needs to make coffee in the Bunn coffee maker. Instructions on machine. Carane Ladd offered to teach anyone. Regular coffee and one decaf pot to start, Remember it takes at least 20 minutes to heat the water to "brew" temperature. Be sure and clean up after, remove grounds and clean pots.

After church food can be as simple as cheese, crackers and fruit, finger food or as fancy as you want to go. Something to go with a cup of coffee! Church attendance for coffee hour varies but church attendance is 30-40 people.

Basics will be provided by the hospitality committee: coffee, creamer, sugar, artificial sweeteners. paper supplies, napkins and paper plates. We will also provide juice for children. We will have a designated shelf in the back pantry.

Clean up. wipe down counters and tables. do not put any leftover food in the refrigerator or freezer. And last but not least, take the garbage out to the dumpster!

Questions? Hospitality Committee currently, welcomes new members!

David Western 812.605.1856; Carane Ladd 440.286.4671; Susan Vokoun 440.897.9608

COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

January	-	Membership & Head Usher
February	-	Music Committee
March	-	Deacons
April	-	Treasurer, Financial Secretary & Assis Fin. Sec.
May	-	Awards
June	-	Hospitality Committee
July	-	Christian Education
August	-	Endowment Committee
September	-	Trustees
October	-	Missions
November	-	President, Vice President & Clerk
December	-	Hospitality Committee

From Mary Ellen Hoffman:

Our son Brian and his wife Pam are looking for someone or several people who will be willing to watch their four month old daughter, Lily, on one or more weekdays starting February 2026. Lily has a feeding tube and cannot go to daycare. Brian works from home so will always be there to help with the feeding tube. This person would be paid. They live in Bainbridge Township near us. Please call or text me, Mary Ellen, if this is something you might be willing to consider. Mary Ellen Hoffman 440-708-3718

BIBLE STUDY & BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Our Bible Study and Book Discussion Group will be meeting each Wednesday afternoon at the church at 1:00, beginning on Wednesday, January 7th with our first book of 2026 to be **“The Practice of the Presence of God” by Brother Lawrence** a 17th Century monk. The book is available from Amazon. If you are interested in joining the discussion but cannot make it to the church in person, you are welcome to join us by Zoom. Just let Pam Plott know, (claridonchurchtreasurer@gmail.com) and she will send you the Zoom invitation.

TRUSTEES

The work on the front sill beam continues, They did find more damage upon opening it up further, and parts to fix that have been ordered. We were aware that might happen, it is “an old house.”

Our AED equipment has arrived. We have it put up and we will schedule a class for those interested in learning how to apply it in an emergency.