

# THE **CARILLON**



## SCRIPTURE LESSONS

May 4	Proverbs 3: 5-6 "A Blessed Life"
May 11	Psalm 30; Acts 9: 1-6 "Mothering On Our Way"
May 18	Acts 14: 21-27 "Road Trip"
May 25	John 14:23-29 Laura Christian preaching

## MAY 2025

4	Awards Presentation, Communion
11	Mother's Day, Children's Day
12	Trustees meeting
14	Deacons meeting
20	5:00 pm Claridon Community Helps dinner
26	Memorial Day

Each Sunday:      Worship 10:00 am

Each Wednesday:      Choir Practice 5:30 pm  
                            Bell Choir Practice 6:30 pm

Each Thursday:      Bible Study 6:30 pm

## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF CLARIDON

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Reverend Julie Western 812-605-1816  
[jwestern001@gmail.com](mailto:jwestern001@gmail.com)



## PRAYER LIST

August Speziale  
Shawn  
Norm Zepp  
Sharon Hunter  
Beth Christian Sharp  
Gregg Kinson  
Kevin Playman  
Denny Bihary  
Thomas Woods  
Carrie Foster  
Bonnie Clemson  
Gary Branstein  
Cecil Stokesberry  
Jeffery Przybysz  
Lee McCurry  
Scott Pricer

Doris Wilson  
Bree Ellis Banks  
Clay Milliken  
Leo  
Dale Baptie  
Richard Germaine  
Rick Juhasz  
Connie & Wayne Streble  
Kelly Wagner  
Ed Ward  
Rheta Crowley  
Wayne Dawson  
Joe Berninger  
Polly Cole  
Pennie Baptie

## "A Loving Welcome"

I must say life can certainly have its twists and turns. We oftentimes don't know where things might be leading us until we arrive. It is the unknowing that can often create a sense of disillusion and anxious questioning when we can't see the path ahead of us with clarity and certainty. It also makes things worse when we have certain expectations and they go unmet or just get smashed before our eyes. As you all know, times like these can lead a person to question and to mistrust and find a place of apprehension in the wake of such letdowns. However, there is always a More to come. Life is not over and the story is still being written for us, in us, and through us to others. This is the strength of hope and hope gives new life. I say all of this because you and I have the blessed opportunity to forge together in new life this day forward. I (and David too) am so excited to have this opportunity to join together with you in building the ministry of Christ together! The calling is a true Godsend for which I am forever thankful and appreciative of your loving acceptance and welcome!

In light of the vote on April 27, 2025, I am so relieved and humbled by the warm loving welcome and the fresh open acceptance you each have extended to me and David over the past 3 months and upon the overwhelming acceptance with your vote. We have grown to love you guys so much over the past 3 months that it is such a gift from God that lightens our hearts and fills our souls. There is simply no other way to explain our joining together of our lives. As you all know, there are times in life when you feel like you just have to make do and get through until things clear up. That is not what I feel here between the two of us. I feel like it is a natural fit which is joy-filled and God given for the expression of each of us to blossom and grow in our spiritual walks of life for the maturing of God's Church finding healing and hope to give with one another in this broken world in which we reside. Our union breathes in new life and hope that reminds us God is still working and speaking in us, through us and for us within this broken world. I truly feel like you and I are the ones who God gave to one another in our time, place and space for the loving welcoming of God's Spirit to reaffirm that healing still happens and love still grows when we put our trust in the Lord for our faith as we learn acceptance. Thank you for accepting me as I accept you with full heart.

All of this said, I look forward to our time together in the ministry of the Lord. I look forward to the ways we can experiment, grow and find newness for the further enrichment of God's ways to be known among us. I appreciate your willingness to exercise and practice your faith walk with myself and the church family as we continue to learn and apply what it means to live together in Christ. Please feel free to visit, call let me know how to reach you for continued conversations and visits. I really have enjoyed getting to know you and look forward to getting to know others whom I still have yet to meet. May God's love fill us all and God's hope strengthen us for this wonderful loving relationship we have entered into together. Thanks be to God we've found one another!!! Much love to you all and see you Sunday!

Your Pastor,  
Julie 😊

## **AWARDS**

The Awards presentation will be held Sunday, May 4, 2025. The criteria for submission of an application includes church; school and community involvement; work experience (paid and unpaid); financial need and future goals. This year the Amy Brown Memorial Scholarship was able to be added in April which enabled us to present 6 awards. These awards are due to the generosity of our members, past and present.

The Award recipients for 2025 are:

**Amy Brown Memorial Scholarship**  
**Future Leaders Award**  
**Hyde Family Award**  
**Karen Allen Award**  
**Ruth Starr Memorial Award**  
**William Morgan Award**

**Aaron Minor**  
**Aubreigh Kitzmiller**  
**Justin Phillips**  
**Savannah Murray**  
**Andrew Soltis**  
**Morgan Soltis**

Awards Committee: Roberta Ricco, Sara Hamrick, Barb Petersen, Jim Sebor

## **AMY BROWN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Amy Brown was a woman of deep compassion and unwavering generosity. Her life was a testament to service- always ready to lend a hand, she was often heard asking, "Is there anything I can do for you?" Whether donating her time or resources, Amy volunteered at women's shelters, served meals through her church, and offered care and support to families facing illness or hardship. She welcomed everyone with an open heart and rarely turned anyone away. Amy also held a profound respect for education. Though she wasn't able to attend college immediately after high school, she began a long and dedicated career with the Postal Service, where she worked until retirement. Her thirst for learning never waned. Later in life, she enrolled at Kent State University's Geauga Campus, where she pursued creative writing, studied Spanish, and even took a woodshop class. Amy was also a gifted artist - she found joy in sewing, quilting, painting, and was the proud author of two books. Above all, Amy loved worshiping with her church community and especially cherished time spent with the youth. She delighted in watching them grow in faith and walk with God at the center of their lives. This scholarship honors Amy Brown's legacy- her boundless kindness, commitment to serving others, and enduring love for learning. (Article contributed by her son)

## **DEACONS**

Deacons continue to prepare communion, contact shut-ins, etc. We are responsible for reading scriptures every Sunday, and also praying for the congregation. If you would be willing to do either of these, please contact a deacon. A simple meal was prepared by the deacons prior to the Maundy Thursday service. 23 attended  
Mary Hedrick will be deacon of the month for May. Please contact her for concerns. Thank you.

## **MISSIONS COMMITTEE**

**For the month of May the Missions Committee is supporting the Heartland Conference Disaster Relief Network.**

***Provide hope and dignity to someone in need.***

We all know about the hurricanes, floods and other natural disasters that have hit our neighbors, here in places close to home. Our Heartland Conference collects clean up buckets and hygiene kits to distribute whenever a crisis hits in our area. Their goal is to collect 2,500 buckets and kits this year.

Our Missions Committee has a goal to supply 48 Hygiene Kits towards their efforts. Once we have raised the funds totaling \$336 to purchase 2 packs with the items for 24 kits each, we will have a Kit Packing Party after church to make up the kits and pack them up to be transported back to the Heartland Conference.

The supplies for each kit cost \$7 if purchased this way as compared to estimated totals of \$15 if purchased individually.

Would you be willing to support this Disaster Relief mission with us? Please make your check to First Congregational Church of Claridon and note on your envelope or check that your gift should go towards Hygiene Kits.

Thank you for your generosity!

Missions Committee  
Linda McBean, Carane Ladd, Jill Kellogg, Pam Plot



**Items in each Hygiene Kit**

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**



This month we will celebrate Children's Day on May 11<sup>th</sup> and all we have done this Sunday school year! We are very grateful for all who have volunteered their time and shared their talents with our youth! Thank you for sharing God's word and love with our young people! On Children's Day, we will also celebrate kindness and showing kindness to others and therefore sharing God's love with others! Please join us after church for an ice cream sundae celebration!

On April 12<sup>th</sup> we had our annual Easter egg hunt and celebration! We did not have a lot of sunshine on this day, but we sure had A LOT of fun! We started with our egg hunt and then headed down to the fellowship hall for a story, crafts and lunch! It is a fun and special way for us to remember the true meaning of Easter! A big thank you to those who donate and help to make this event possible! Here are some pictures to enjoy from the day!





## **SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS**

We are pleased that the congregation called Rev. Julie Western to be our new settled pastor and she joyfully accepted!

We look forward to impactful worship, spiritual growth, and wonderful fellowship under her guidance. What a joy it is to welcome her and David to our family of faith.

It was genuinely a pleasure to work with the amazing Search Committee. To Carane Ladd, Jill Kellogg, Seth Kellogg, Sara Hamrick, Smith "Buzz" Owens, Janet Sherman, and Andrew Soltis as members, and nonvoting participants, Pam Plott as liaison to the Living Water Association, and Aubrey Woods as a consultant. This group provided an accurate representation of our congregation's demographics. I know each one asked for discernment of God's will and prayerfully considered each decision. I am particularly grateful that youthful, potential future leaders in the church have shared this experience.

Lord, we thank you for your continued blessing on our church. Show us your will and your way to serve you, to help to Pastor Julie, and to be a light in our community. May we continue to expand our rich spiritual heritage and give glory and honor to you. In Jesus Name, Amen

Gratefully,  
Laura Christian

## **TRUSTEES**

Both the broken window in the nursery and the lintel repair above the southeast window have been completed.

The Sunday School craft supply closet has also been built in the nursery space and painted by our custodian Dylan. Organized and easy availability!

This just about doubles the storage space for Judi's lunch program in the old nursery. She has new shelves now that Dylan painted and new flooring are in. The Lunch program for this summer starts May 28. Judi always welcomes new volunteers, give what time you have, come as a regular, come one morning a week. It is a great mix of people, young and old, male and female. Stop by some Monday, Wednesday, Friday and you will be amazed at the incredible organization and teamwork.

We have a new working phone in the secretary's office. This our land line phone, same number. There is also a duplicate phone in Julie's office. It is also an answering machine. But most all, the calls don't sound garbled any more, and messages are easily erased!

Acquire Fire was here in April 16 to inspect hood(done twice a year) and inspect fire extinguishers. two were replaced.

We are in the process of obtaining quotes to replace our front doors, which will be cheaper than repairing them. We will duplicate the original doors, per our National Historic status.

Two other notes unrelated to trustees—on behalf of Donna V. and myself, thank you to all that helped with Jan Stanek's Celebration of Life. For food contributions, set up or clean up, thank you, all went smoothly.

Put it on your calendar; September 13 the return of the Basket Auction!