

THE CARILLON



SCRIPTURE LESSONS

- Oct 5 Mark 10: 2-16
 "Come to the Table"
- Oct 12 Luke 18: 1-8
 "Persist in Faith"
- Oct 19 Luke 12: 13-21
 "The Cost of Coveting Riches"
- Oct 26 Luke 13: 10-17
 "Interpretations Can Be Healing"

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF CLARIDON

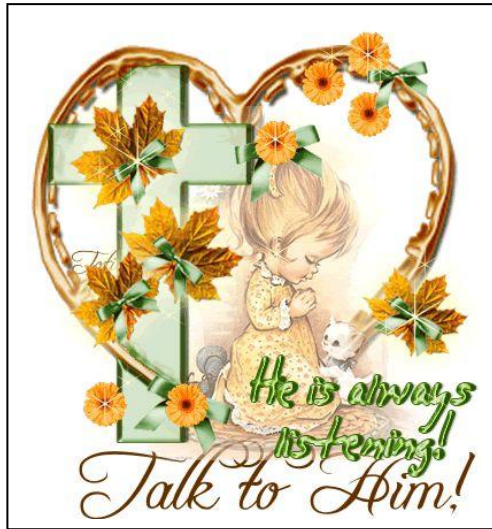
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Reverend Julie Western 812-605-1816
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OCTOBER 2025

- 8 Deacons meeting
- 19 11:30 am Cabinet meeting
- 16 7:00 pm Trustees meeting
- 21 5:00 pm Claridon Community Helps
 dinner
- Each Sunday: Worship 10:00 am
- Each Wednesday: Choir Practice 5:30 pm
 Bell Choir 6:30 pm
- Each Thursday: Bible Study 6:30 pm



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

August Speziale
Norm Zepp
Sharon Hunter
Beth Christian Sharp
Kevin Playman
Denny Bihary
Thomas Woods
Rheta Crowley
Gary Branstein
Jeffery Przybysz
Dee Hayman Armes
Ben Armstrong
Esther Miller
Kevin Reed

Thank you to all!

The Installation Service on September 28, 2025 was a wonderful affair. It was by far the most personable and loving service I have attended (perhaps it was the quality and care for which it was formed and also the 8 months of us being together beforehand.

☺) Nonetheless, I am so thankful for all who helped plan and participated in this event and for the Association's presence with his wonderful words of appropriate delivery and gracious presence. Everything was glorious and represented with love and affection for our covenant together in the Lord Jesus Christ whom we serve in unity of ministry. The flowers were/are very nice and appreciated (and still being enjoyed!). I was very pleasantly surprised by the card shower and the "surprise" gifts of appreciation and love bestowed upon me. Thank you all for your acceptance and support of me as your minister/pastor here in Claridon. I feel loved and relish our time together. I look forward to our wonderful future together growing in the Lord through our discipleship together. Blessings upon each of you as we continue journeying together in God through the steps of Jesus. Thank you again for everything from time, to gifts, to food, to cake to your presence along with the Living Waters Association from the Rev. Michael Holland! ☺ Let us always move prayerfully forward together in Christ who leads us.

Blessings to all, Pastor Julie ☺

Separately attached from the newsletter document is the Installation Service Message to share with all! From Rev Michael Holland

MISSIONS

Thanks to all of you who contributed to Red Tulip / Monarch Meadows in September. Our congregation supported the Pasta with a Purpose as well as collecting sheets, towels, and gift cards! And for the group who donated and walked in the Crop Walk – many thanks to you as well.

In October Missions will be supporting a collection for **Neighbors in Need** – Special Mission Offering. Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice.

Also, thank you for supporting the Burton Food Pantry during the month of September. We collected 52 bottles of mustard and 200 packages of ramen. Cold and flu season is fast approaching. To that end, we will be collecting Kleenex or similar brands of tissues during the month of October.

TRUSTEES

We had our landscaper tidy up our overgrown plants, poison ivy and rampant vines. It looks much better, Now to keep it up!

The Basket Auction was a success. Our share was two thousand dollars in profit. The bake sale alone made over 500.00 dollars in 3 hours! Thank you to all who contributed baskets and baked or came and bought tickets. Thank you also to those who signed up to work. It was much appreciated by Paula.

Ending September was the lovely service making Rev. Julie Western our official pastor. The luncheon was provided by Paula and Claridon Community Helps as thank you to us for letting both the dinners and the lunch program use the church. It was beautifully set and the food was delicious. A big thank you to them.

This month we are on to working on next years budget. Committee requests due in by October 15 to Pam Plott.

HEARTLAND CONFERENCE

On Friday, September 26, 2025 I attended the Heartland Conference Annual Meeting at Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio. It was a spirited gathering with a Keynote from Rev. Dr. Molly T. Marshall on "Who is this Jesus we are following?" along with follow-up group discussions on how we are called to reflect Jesus' way. The music, food and fellowship were wonderful. We learned about the Witness Tree reaching out to Veterans. The 2026 Budget was presented and approved with a deficit of \$205,520 to be funded from the Liquidity Reserves of the Conference. Temple Hills will be auctioned on October 11th with the proceeds to be used primarily for Faith Formation and as a result the Executive Director of Outdoor Ministries position will be eliminated, as well as the part-time Network Coordinator, and a new part-time Faith Formation Coordinator position created. The slate of new Board Members was approved and they were installed. The session ended with information on Cross-Conference collaborations as well as discussions with other denominations, mainly the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as to ways to focus on sustainability for our Conference and the well-being of theirs. If anyone is interested in more information about the Heartland Conference or the meeting I attended, just ask!

Thank you,
Pam Plott

Fall UCC Women's Retreat

The Lantern Fellowship was a huge success. I am so grateful for this time with church women in our own Fellowship and also meeting other UCC women beyond our walls. The camaraderie and excellent learning was so valuable that I am looking forward to next spring and fall gatherings. (I got word from Rev Michael Holland that he's the keynote next September!) Please seriously consider participating in this activity. It is very enriching! I especially enjoyed getting to know ladies in our church family more!!

😊😊😊😊 It's my favorite thing to do, getting to know each other more fully and deeply. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity 🙏❤️. Blessings 🙏,
Pastor Julie 😊

Finance Update

This update for January through September 2025 shows preliminary financial results for the First Congregational Church of Claridon. Total Revenues in the Operating Fund are approximately \$26,000 more than budgeted for the first nine months of the year and include several annual gifts. Revenues for operations do not include gifts restricted for scholarships or the music fund or pass-through gifts that going to other organizations. Total Operating Expenses are about \$5,100 more than budgeted for the nine months, leaving Net Operating Revenue approximately \$20,900 higher than budgeted through September 2025.

Operating Activity for January through September 2025:

Pledges and Gifts	\$ 100,878
Fundraising and Other Revenues	2,143
Interest Income	3,069
Funds from Endowment for	
Operations	<u>9,436</u>
Total Revenues	115,526
Less Operating Expenses	<u>(99,336)</u>
Net Operating Revenue 2025	<u>\$ 16,190</u>
Balance in Operating Fund	<u>\$ 59,162</u>

The Revenues include funds drawn down from the Endowment of \$9,436, for use in 2025 operations. The Endowment currently shows a balance of \$125,461 and is evaluated by the Endowment Committee each year to determine the amount to be spent. The Endowment Committee meets quarterly and will consider committee requests for upcoming special projects with funds to be drawn from the Endowment in 2026.

Other Funds –

Balances as of September 30, 2025 in other Funds are as follows:

- Music \$ 4,097
- Memorial Funds \$ 40,949
- Scholarship Funds \$ 40,443
- Pass-Thru Contributions \$ 2,033
- Contingency Fund \$129,412
- Capital & Building Fund \$ 76,918

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

Pam Plott, Treasurer