

THE **CARILLON**



SCRIPTURE LESSONS

- June 8 Genesis 11: 1-9; Acts 2: 1-21
 "God's Spirit Moves Through Words"
- June 15 Romans 5: 1-5
 "Faith, Grace, Suffering and Endurance"
- June 22 Luke 8: 26-39
 "God's Army"
- June 29 Luke 9: 51-62
 "Set Your Face"

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF CLARIDON

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JUNE 2025

- 11 Deacons meeting
- 15 Father's Day
- 16 Trustees meeting
- 17 5:00 pm Claridon Community Helps dinner
- 20 Committee reports due to Nancy J.
- 25 7:30 pm Cabinet meeting
- 29 Safe Church Policy editing deadline

SAVE THE DATES:

July 6, 13, 20 – **VBS** during Sunday School hours

July 15 – **Strawberry Festival**

July 23 – **Committee binders edit deadline**

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

Prayer Works



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

Doris Wilson
Bree Ellis Banks
Clay Milliken
Leo
Dale Baptie
Rick Juhasz
Connie & Wayne Streble
Kelly Wagner
Ed Ward
Rheta Crowley
Joe Berninger
Polly Cole
Pennie Baptie
Tim Engelman
Scott Pricer

“Bumper Cars”

1 Peter 4:6: *“For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that through judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does.”*

Have you ever driven a bumper car? If so, can you recall the way it felt to go after another car and try to ram into them to get that sensation of a collision? Do you recall that as long as it was done it fun by all parties, it was a great way to interact with one another? Yet, it could become maddening when you were in the car that was hit all the time and you couldn't get anywhere in the rink because you kept being rammed by others. The roadblocks became too much to handle and the jostling of bumps actually became an irritant that you quickly wanted to end.

Maybe you haven't even been in a bumper car. Maybe you weren't eager to put yourself in harm's way from the other drivers to use you as a target to come into aggressive contact with. Perhaps you don't like the physical abrasions. No matter. You still understand the concept of the game and you have seen the bumper car rinks especially at carnivals in years past.

I bring up this imagery as a way to ignite the imagination in our minds with the scriptures from 1st Peter and our lives. People are very interesting and many times we are so different and yet the same that it is perplexing. Most of us enjoy fun and games, like the type at carnivals. Yet, there are times when too much is too much and we need a break, like with the bumper cars and being rammed into over and over again. Being a good sport is part of life, like when our parents told us that we need to learn how to be good losers and gracious winners. Those lessons seem like they are fading in our present day society. With the changes in society and our mindsets, we tend to be people who really don't know how to reach one another. It has become a lonely and aggressive place in many regards.

This may not be true for you and your world, and for this I am thankful. However, for a large part of us, this world is like a rink of bumper cars with our daily interactions with people who must deal with, live alongside of, navigate and negotiate with for personal and business affairs. This stress of having the contact of bumps with the emotional distance of seeing the other as an object to conquer and defeat in one way or another has become a game of sport in our society. This disconnection from direct connection has left us with an imbalance in how to build and nurture human society for the common good and welfare of our present day needs. We are people who are in need of hugs and we have been conditioned to give ramming bumps instead. It is no wonder God's love is crucified awaiting the resurrection of Jesus to come and deliver us from our broken state of lovelessness.

God calls us to be good mindful drivers who are observant and caring out on the roads. We are to be mindful of safety and courtesy of the roads and the regulations we are to follow for the ordering and efficiency of society for those who inhabit it with us. Bumper cars are only good in fun and sport of the rinks they are confined to with the willing participants with their consent and equal participation. Simply put: we are people who are called to live in God's love both giving and receiving for the wholeness in our lives to be found for reality, not fun and games. Healing comes when we make direct connections and emotional relations. To do this effectively and with realness, we must take away the rubber guards we have and let the real connection of others become a friend. The only way to heal is outside of the bumper car rink. May God add spirit and understanding within for the message of truth we are to receive and live. Thank you for listening.

Your Pastor,
Julie :)

BOOK STUDY GROUP

We have just finished our first book “The Tears of Things” by Richard Rohr which focused on many of the Old Testament prophets. We had some great discussions and learned a lot!

Our next book will be “The Life God Blesses” by Gordon MacDonald, which is available on Amazon as well as several other online booksellers. We will continue to meet on Wednesday afternoons, with the time to be determined based on what is best for everyone who wants to participate. Our first discussion will be on Wednesday, June 11th and we invite anyone who is interested to join us in reading through this book. If you would like to participate by Zoom, we certainly can set that up for you.

Any questions please ask Pam Plott or Pastor Julie as we look forward to more interesting discussions.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We are so grateful to Leslie and Jill for the work that they’ve done for so many years for children in this church! We appreciate that they carried the work this year through Children’s Sunday on May 11. As we now step forward to figure out the next steps, it’s a bit daunting to follow their many years of service and amazing activities with children!

As we step in, please know that we plan to take some time to find our way. We both volunteered for Christian Education because we want our own children to grow spiritually and to be connected to a group of kids at church. We are excited that a handful of kids attend church regularly and we want provide ways for them to build up their relationships with one another, with the church, and with God.

Our Parable Party (a mini VBS): Seeds, Sheep, and Strong Foundations.

This summer we will be trying out a mini-VBS during the Sunday School hours in July. Each Sunday (July 6, 13, 20), we will play some games, learn some songs, engage with Jesus’ teaching, do some crafts, and make some fun snacks. On our last Sunday (July 27), we will work together to make a “Parable Party” set up with treats for the entire congregation to enjoy during the coffee hour after church.

Our party will include lots of fun as we spend time together, get to know each other, and learn more about Jesus’ teachings! Please invite the kids in your life to join us during church in July!

If there are specific ways that you’d like to be involved with our mini-VBS or any area of Christian Education, please let us know. We’d be happy to include you in our planning.
~Jamie Peck & Samantha Dye

DEACONS

Sara Hamrick is deacon of the month for June. Please contact her with any concerns.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Our mission for this month is the Strengthen the Church special offering. The 35th General Synod of the United Church of Christ will be held In Kansas City, Missouri, from July 11-15. Our Heartland Conference Minister, The Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins, is asking for financial support for the 68 delegates (of a total 675) who will represent us at this important conference. After registration, the cost for each delegate is \$1,465. Our conference pays the registration fees, and a stipend is given to each delegate. However, the stipend provided by the conference does not cover the expenses each delegate must pay. Our financial help, as well as our prayers for our delegates, is needed to help with the cost of attending this important gathering. Please write "Strengthen the Church" on the offering envelopes in the pews, or on the subject line of your check. Thank you for supporting the delegates who will represent us at General Synod!

PRESIDENT / VICE PRESIDENT

Notation from the May 21, 2025 Cabinet Meeting: Discussion held to have cabinet meetings once a month, with committees turning in written reports to Nancy Jevnikar by the Friday before the monthly meeting. Committee reports and minutes from the previous meeting will be sent before the next cabinet meeting, so everyone can review the information ahead of time and the monthly meetings will be done in a timely fashion. Meetings to be held the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm (Exception: next meeting will be June 25 at 7:30 pm).

SAFE CHURCH POLICIES AND PROCEDURES (sent as separate attachment w/newsletter)

Our insurance provider – the Insurance Board – has requested that the First Congregational Church of Claridon adopt Safe Church Policies and Procedures, and the first draft of this document has been compiled.

Now is your opportunity to read through the document with us and make suggestions, ask questions, and propose new wording if you have something more appropriate. This first draft is 27 pages long and is available either electronically by email or as a printed copy. Any feedback or questions you may have need to be submitted by June 29, 2025 to either Pam Plott claridonchurchtreasurer@gmail.com or Nathaniel Dye nat_dye@msn.com, so that all can be properly addressed and included in the final draft presented to Cabinet at its July meeting. Although this is a long document, the information it includes is very important and needs to reflect the procedures our Church agrees to follow.

Thank you for taking the time to contribute. All of your thoughts and ideas are very much appreciated!

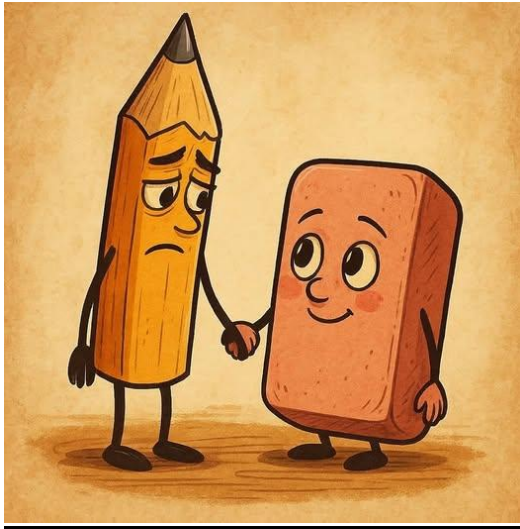
TRUSTEES

The trustees have met with a second contractor and awaiting his estimate on installing the new front doors.

We have a new landscaper for mowing this year. Hope you all noticed how beautifully our viburnums bloomed in front of our AC units this spring. Thanks to Rick J. for weeding and mulching that area.

Technology. Still working on the issue with the TV's in the sanctuary. It has been frustrating for all....

Judi's lunch program started May 28. She welcomes help any Monday, Wednesday or Friday morning. Check out her crew some morning, you will be amazed at the organization! This is our most important community outreach! The food banks have cut what she used to receive, just as Burton's food bank has been cut. If everyone in the church could add an industrial size can of green beans, corn, applesauce, peaches or pears to your grocery store visit, we could help restock her cupboard. Donations are also welcome, make checks out to Claridon Community Helps. When I talked to her last week, she had 100 families signed up and that is 249 kids! I am sure it will be added to by starting day. Thank you for your support.



Learning Petals

"Hey, how are you?" the eraser asked the pencil kindly.

"I'm not your friend," the pencil snapped. "I hate you."

Surprised and hurt, the eraser asked, "Why?"

"Because you erase everything I write."

"I only remove the mistakes," the eraser replied gently.

"That doesn't make it right," said the pencil.

"But that's what I'm here for. It's my purpose."

"Then your job is meaningless," grumbled the pencil. "Writing is more important than erasing."

"To erase the wrong is just as important as writing the right," the eraser said.

The pencil paused, then quietly said, "But I see you getting smaller each day..."

"That's because I give a little bit of myself every time I help correct a mistake."

"I feel smaller too," the pencil admitted.

"We can't do good for others unless we're willing to sacrifice something," the eraser smiled.

Then she looked at him and softly asked, "Do you still hate me?"

The pencil smiled back:

"How could I hate someone who gives so much of themselves?"

Each day we wake up with one day less.

If you can't be the pencil that creates joy for others, be the eraser that wipes away their pain, planting hope and reminding them:

The future can still be better than the past.

Be grateful. Always.