

# Clinton Church of Christ

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(865) 457-0803

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[churchofchristclinton@gmail.com](mailto:churchofchristclinton@gmail.com)

## Elders:

Herman Herren	865-803-6272
Dale Mowery	865-927-5001
Mike Smith	865-803-3601

## Deacons:

Herb Byrd	865-386-5656
Chris Cox	865-771-8153
Billy Fields	865-257-2331
James McCrary	865-740-3066
Tim Nygard	865-507-5191
Clint Patterson	256-616-8702
Arthur Pigman	706-836-0644
Hubert Sharp	865-254-6357
Joey Smith	865-773-8259

## Associate Preacher:

Clint Patterson	256-616-8702
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## FOR THE RECORD

### Sunday AM

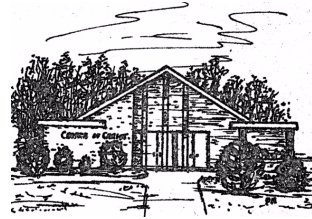
Bible Study	81
Worship	140
Contribution	\$7526

### Sunday PM

Worship	—
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### Wednesday

Bible Study	68
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*A friendly church with  
a saving message*

## WORSHIP TIMES

**Sunday**  
Bible Class 10:00 AM  
Worship 11:00 AM  
Worship 6:00 PM

**Wednesday**  
Bible Class 7:00 PM

## GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

- **Hear** the Gospel (*Romans 10:17; Acts 16:32-34, 1 Cor. 15:1-2*)
- **Believe** Jesus is the Son of God (*John 8:24; Hebrews 11:6*)
- **Repent** of your sins (*Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30*)
- **Confess** faith in Jesus Christ (*Romans 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32*)
- **Be Baptized** (*immersed*) for forgiveness of your sins (*Acts 2:38; John 3:5; Rom 6:3, 4*)
- **Live Faithfully** (*2 Peter 1:10-11; Revelation 2:10*)

## Our Mission Works

**India**  
The Mustard Seed: Rainbow Village  
for Girls, Jacob's Village for Boys

**Scott Shanahan – Italy**  
**Andrew Young - Australia**

Please follow us on



## Serving the Congregation Today

	AM	PM
<b>Song Leaders:</b>	Samuel Cox	Ben Smith
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Billy Fields	Steve Smith
<b>Lord's Table:</b>	Stump Smith	Chuck Kilpatrick
<b>Closing Prayer:</b>	Earl Broadway	Joe Patton
<b>Bible Reading:</b>	Henson Craig	
<b>Usher:</b>	Dale Mowery	
<b>Announcements:</b>	Arthur Pigman	
<b>Sound Booth:</b>	Joey Smith	

## Serving Wednesday Evening

**Song Leader:** Joe Patton  
**Invitation:** Don Scott  
**Announcements:** Arthur Pigman

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Number 20



# the Clinton Chronicle

Clinton Church of Christ

*Celebrating 83 Years in Clinton 1943 - 2026*

## Jonah: When God Turns a Tomb Into a Womb

By Clint Patterson

Most of us know, or at least have heard, the Bible story about Jonah. It is easy to remember because of the great fish, but Jonah is not mainly about a great fish that swallowed a man. Jonah is about God — the God who calls, pursues, corrects, rescues, forgives, and shows mercy even when our hearts are not ready for it.

Jonah was a prophet. He knew God's Word. He knew God's character. However, knowing God's Word and intellectual facts about His character and attributes does not equal a faithful relationship with Him. When God told him to go to Nineveh, Jonah ran the other way.

Nineveh was not just another city. It was connected to Assyria, one of Israel's cruelest enemies. Jonah did not run because he thought God could not save them. He ran because he knew God might.

Jonah later says: "...for I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in mercy..." — Jonah 4:2, NASB

That is messed up when you sit with that verse for a while, isn't it? But it is also one of the reasons Jonah feels so real. He wanted mercy when he needed it, but he struggled when God gave mercy to people he did not like.

So, the story continues in a downward trend that reflects the heart of the prophet. Jonah goes down — down to Joppa, down into the ship, down into the sea, and finally down into the belly of the great fish. His rebellion, in the form of running away, looked like freedom at first, but it kept taking him lower.

In Jonah 2, after he had been swallowed and was sitting in the rancid acid of the sea creature, he cried out from what he called the realm of the dead. He felt buried. He felt finished. But God was not finished with Jonah.

The fish looked like a tomb, but God turned it into something like a womb.

The Hebrew word for womb is *rechem*, and it is connected to *rachamim*, meaning compassion, mercy, and tender love.

**(continued inside)**

## CLINTON CALENDAR

May 17	Morning Pointe Singing
May 17	VBS Planning Meeting
May 18	Sister Friends
May 31	Song Service/Fingerfoods
May 31	Graduate Recognition
June 13	Sister Friends
July 5-8	Clinton VBS

### VBS PLANNING MEETING

We will have a meeting today at 5:00pm for all those who would like to help with this year's VBS. See Chris Cox with any questions.

### MORNING POINTE SINGING

The singing at Morning Pointe Assisted Living is today at 3:00pm.

### GRADUATE & STUDENT RECOGNITION

We will honor all of our students and graduates at our evening services on May 31. Parents, students, guardians, and grandparents: please give a list of your student's accomplishments, awards, and activities for the last year to Joey Smith prior to that evening.

## MINISTRY NEEDS

- **Our Pantry:** small boxes of saltines or crackers
- **Hands & Feet Ministry:** fruit cups, saltines, granola bars, monetary donations
- **Isaiah 117 House:** <https://a.co/dj7bup6>; Snacks: <https://a.co/eW2HQbS>. Gift Cards: Amazon, Walmart, Door Dash, Rack Room Shoes, Old Navy; Items: t-shirts, hoodies/crewneck sweatshirts, sweatpants/joggers, infant/toddler/kid-size winter clothes, duffle bags.
- **North Clinton Elementary:** children's socks and underwear; Food City shoppers, please consider adding NCES to your purchases for School Bucks.

**Please silence your cell phones during worship & Bible class. Thanks!**

## SPEAKING SCHEDULE

Preaching Today: Chris Cox/Arthur Pigman

### SISTER FRIENDS

The ladies will meet for dinner on Monday, May 18 at 6:00pm at Mr. Wok in South Clinton. See Susan Smith with any questions.

There is also a signup sheet in the foyer for the Saturday, June 13 Sister Friends gathering that will begin at 2:00pm.

### FOOD SURVEY

Ladies, please see Susan Smith or Gail Sharp if you are willing to help provide food at times of need for our church family members.

### CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The majority of the interior plumbing work was completed this week. Up next: sidewalks, electrical, drywall, and fixtures.

We continue to set aside contributions that go directly toward the building fund. As usually happens, the cost of construction has risen! If you wish to give towards the project, please see the elders or give your contribution to Joey Smith.

### HILLBROOK CHRISTIAN CAMP

Registration is open for Hillbrook Christian Camp 2026 at [hillbrookcamp.com](http://hillbrookcamp.com). There are 6 weeks to choose from: day camp, junior camps, and teen camps. If you need scholarship assistance, see one of the elders.

## AREA EVENTS

### LEADERSHIP CAMP

Karns Church of Christ: May 30-June 7

### HILLBROOK DAY CAMP

Hillbrook Christian Camp: June 2-4

### HILLBROOK TEEN WEEK 1

Hillbrook Christian Camp: June 7-13

## PRAYER REQUESTS

### This Week:

- **Joe Herren**, Herman Herren's son, is in intensive care at Centennial Hospital in Nashville. He had surgery last week. He may be in the hospital for up to a month.
- **Wavell Stewart** is in the hospital for a few days for monitoring of a new medication.
- **Brentley Williams** is undergoing breathing treatments after a trip to urgent care.
- **Chad**, Dwight & Doris Nicholson's grandson, is in need of our prayers.
- **Wayne Kell**, Cindy Jones' brother, is in need of daily prayers.
- **Micheal Olsen** is recovering from surgery and is waiting on biopsy results.
- **Charlie Rogers** has a severe sinus infection and double ear infection.
- **Melissa Rogers** will be wearing a heart monitor for the next 2 weeks. Her blood pressure is doing better.
- **Danielle Null**, a coworker of Susan Smith, will be having surgery this week.
- **Lindsay Stanley**, Parker Stanley's daughter, is in need of our prayers to pass a test to maintain her certification as a physician's assistant.

### Last Week:

- **Rick Caudle** is taking a new medication and has tolerated it very well.

### Shut-In:

- Norris Health & Rehab - **Polly Keck**
- Courtyards Oak Ridge - **Laura Waldron**

Please send prayer requests and updates to [churchofchristclinton@gmail.com](mailto:churchofchristclinton@gmail.com) or give to Joey Smith in writing.

### **(continued from front page)**

That is powerful because Jonah was held in the mercy of God even while he struggled with God giving mercy to Nineveh.

Jonah went into the water as a runaway prophet, but he was spat out with another chance to obey. Notice the text: "Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time..." — Jonah 3:1, NASB That is grace. God did not throw Jonah away. He corrected him, rescued him, and called him again.

But Jonah still had work to do. He obeyed God by going to Nineveh, yet he still struggled with God's compassion. Honestly, that sounds like us sometimes. We want God to be patient with us, but quick to deal with others. We want grace when we are drowning, but judgment when someone else is wrong.

Jonah reminds us that God's mercy is not just something we receive. It is something God wants to grow in us. It is meant to flow outward, just like His blessings. Every one of us has been Jonah in some way. We have run, resisted, and needed mercy. And by the grace of God, what should have been our tomb became a womb.

God brought us out so we could follow Him again.

How will you see your problem today? It does not have to be a tomb. It can become a womb — a place and an opportunity to grow into a faithful child of God.