

THE CLARION

FEBRUARY 2026

CLARE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Making Disciples of Jesus by Helping People Know God,
Grow in Faith, and Share Christ's Love



**SERVICE
FEBRUARY 18 AT 6PM**

NEW CLASS TO BEGIN ON FEB. 5,

7 p.m. "TWELVE ORDINARY MEN"

This class will be taught by Gerry Scott. We will look more in depth of Jesus' Disciples and the early church

It will be 12-14 weeks long.

Sign up with Judy Bailey at the church office. Books are available in the church office free of charge.



"THE CHOSEN"

**WILL BE FILMED EVERY
TUESDAY AT 6 P.M.**

STARTING FEB 10-MARCH 31

MEMBERSHIP CLASS BEING OFFERED

**TOWARDS THE END OF FEBRUARY.
WATCH FOR DETAILS IN FUTURE EMAILS
AND BULLETINS OR CONTACT THE
CHURCH OFFICE.**



CLARE UMC STAFF AND SCHEDULE

Pastor:

Pastor Brian Comiskey pastorbrianc@clareumc.org

517-215-8637

Leadership Team Chair:

Mary Ann Shurlow Scott

Administrative Assistant:

Judy Bailey: jbailey@clareumc.org

Music Director: Tracy Lubs

**Clare UMC Preschool
and Child Care Center**

Director: Terri Banasak: terrib@clareumc.org

phone: 989-386-4815

Church Office Hours

Church Office phone: 989- 386-2591

10:00 - noon & 1-4:00 p.m.

Monday – Friday

Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School 9 a.m.

DO YOU HAVE CONCERNS? FEEL FREE TO EMAIL OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM EMAILS:

Larry Wyman Jr. : ldwyman@charter.net

MaryAnn Shurlow Scott:

maryannshurlow@gmail.com

Pastor Brian Comiskey :

pastorbrianc@clareumc.org

Tracy Brooks: trbrooks8@yahoo.com

Elvis Denton: elvis@toast.net

Connie McGregor: conniemcgregor3@gmail.com

Mary Lee: mary_lee10@hotmail.com

Macy Tyler: macytyler@rocketmail.com

Lenny Wixson: Lenn.wixson@gmail.com

A Message from our Pastor

Happy February!



I once read a book titled "The Thief of Always". In it, the main character is a boy who called February "The Great Gray Beast", for him, it was a very boring month with Christmas fading away while being months away from Spring Break. In other words, February was a cold, boring month with nothing fun to do. Another word for this feeling is apathy.

Apathy can truly be a beast that creeps into our lives quietly, draining our motivation, enthusiasm, and sense of purpose. It's easy to feel disconnected from our passions, our faith, or even the world around us. However, for those seeking to break free from this spiritual lethargy, we can turn to the Bible for encouragement. Scripture can provide spiritual fuel so we can rekindle a heart for God and His purposes.

Before we can overcome apathy, I believe we need to understand what it looks like. Apathy often is shown as a lack of interest, emotion, or action toward things that should matter deeply, including our relationship with God. Apathy can dull our hearts.

I'd like to offer a few scriptures to dwell on during this gray, cold month that might help us to warm up and get back in the flow.

First is Revelation 3:15-16. "I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm, neither hot nor cold, I am about to spit you out of my mouth." Of course, this passage speaks to the danger of being complacent in our spirits, and shows how God desires us to be passionate in our pursuit of Him.

The Bible frequently calls us to wake up from spiritual apathy and return to a zealous faith. Jesus didn't come to give us a mundane, uninspired life; He came to offer us an abundant life (John 10:10). In Romans 12:11, it also says "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord." This verse encourages us to keep the fire of our faith burning. Zeal is not about feelings, it's about intentionality and commitment.

I'd like to share one more today. James 2:17, "In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." Apathy often comes from a passive attitude toward our faith, but God calls us to engage actively. Serving others and being involved in God's work can reignite our passion.

My friends, apathy is a subtle enemy that can rob us of our passion for life and faith. But Scripture offers us powerful truths that remind us of God's love, His purpose for us, and the call to live with zeal. By returning to His Word, embracing prayer, and taking action, we can break free from spiritual lethargy and reignite our passion for God's Kingdom.

Let us all dwell on these scriptures and others to help slay the Great, Gray Beast February and feel the joy every moment we can in what the Lord has to offer.

Peace always!

Pastor Brian



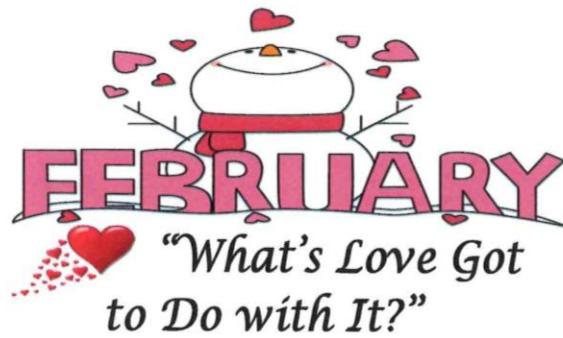
THANK YOU!

From our family, we wanted to send a huge thank you to each and every one of you for your outpouring of love this past Christmas and New Year's celebration. We received so many cards and cookies and gifts, we are so humbled by your thoughtfulness. We look forward to serving you throughout this year and God willing, several years to come. Pastor Brian, Elizabeth, Jonny, and Mary.



February 2: Isla Kruskamp
3: Alex Stark
4: Gracie Davis
5: Amelia Kasper
Bryan Cassiday
7: Jeanne Shelander
9: Karen O'Day
Sarah Darnell
11: Jeremy Goyt
13: Jane Seibt
14: Rebecca Flemming
15: Susan Neff
Ashley Good
16: Roger Hicks
Pastor Brian Comiskey
17: Jeff Goyt
Joe Willman
18: Phil Smock
Sheila Parker
19: Angela Isaac
20: Todd Kleinhardt
Abigail Denton
24: David Lee
25: Ken Brown
Ryan Shelander
26: Charlie Stevens
Gabriel Kasper
Ron Staten
Bill Bailey
27: Brian Atwood
Nick Wyman
28: Laura Mater

CHRISTIAN WOMEN CONNECTION



Thursday, February 12, 2026
11:45 – 1:45 p.m.

Valentine's Day Music Concert:
with Jamie Schlaflay

Special Feature: God's Beauty Photography
Linda Prentice

Inspirational Speaker: Kathie Siudyla,
from Grand Rapids, MI, experienced alcohol abuse, bursts of rage & violence as her "norm" growing up. She went searching for love in all the wrong places. Until she heard a compelling story of a father who truly loves his children & she wondered, "What's Love got to do with it?"

All this plus lunch & beverage for \$ 21.00 at
Cheers Neighborhood Grill
1700 W. High St. (W M20), Mt. Pleasant, MI

Reservations are due by Feb. 9th
Edie (989)463-3287 * Ruth (989)492-4199
Or Lona (989) 387-4808
or e-mail Lona at lonahamilton@yahoo.com



MOTHER HUBBARDS CUPBOARD
IN FEBRUARY WE WILL BE COLLECTING FOR THE
PRESCHOOL CHILDCARE CENTER: Rice, Oatmeal, Barley,
Flour and Corn meal, Split Peas and beans (Dry or canned),
Muffin mix or Bisquick mix, Cereal such as Cheerios, Frosted
Mini Wheat, Rice Krispies, Chex, Kix, Corn flakes (less than 6
gm sugar/serving)

A LIVE NATIVITY THANK YOU!!

Thank you to all who supported the Live Nativity! It was a lot of fun, the weather cooperated and community observers thanked us and told us how much they enjoyed it.

Special thanks go to Bobbie and Lee Schunk for providing and delivering the stable and animals. Barney, the donkey, who has helped us for over 25 years, was back after taking a couple of years off. Thanks go to Richard Jerred for providing Barney. That was a special blessing! Heidi Schunk provided the sheep and Melissa Schunk prepared the music for us. It was a good selection of songs. Thank you for supporting this ministry. We couldn't have done it without you.

Also thank you who to all of the Live Nativity actors, to Pastor Brian who spoke to people in the parking lot, passed out church activity flyers and told people of the Good News, to those who helped with setting out the costumes and dressing the actors, and to those who provided the cookies. And thank you to the observers. It wouldn't be worth it without you. It was a church-wide endeavor.

So thank you all for helping with this community ministry. Come join us next year!

Ellen Fuller

Save the Date!

Friends of Wesley Auction

BENEFITING THE 2026 SPRING
BREAK SERVICE TRIP TEAM



1400 S WASHINGTON, MT. PLEASANT

Want to donate an item to the auction?

WE'RE LOOKING FOR BAKED GOODS, CRAFT
ITEMS, AND MORE LIKE:



SEND US A MESSAGE AT
OFFICE@CMUWES.ORG TO DONATE

WESLEY AT CMU Sponsor a Student Service Trip Fundraiser

- 1 DONATE TO SPONSOR A STUDENT ON OUR SERVICE TRIP TO PITTSBURGH, PA.
- 2 YOU'LL BE MATCHED WITH A WESLEY STUDENT GROWING IN FAITH AND SERVICE.
- 3 WE'LL MAIL YOU YOUR STUDENT'S PROFILE AND THEY'LL SEND YOU A POSTCARD FROM THE TRIP!

Suggested Sponsorship Tiers

\$500 FUNDS A FULL SCHOLARSHIP FOR A STUDENT

\$200 HELPS FUND OUR SUBSIDIZED TRIP RATES FOR ALL WESLEY STUDENTS

\$50 FUNDS A STUDENT'S TRAVEL EXPENSES TO PA

Donate by Mail or Online:

CMU WESLEY
1400 S. WASHINGTON
MT. PLEASANT, MI 48858



THANK YOU!

I would like to thank all who were so generous bringing in Christmas gifts to me in the church office. You were very thoughtful and it was very much appreciated. I hope you all have a "Happy New Year!"

Judy Bailey

Recipes from the recent book printed

Apple Dressing

Ingredients:

Dried bread
Apples, peeled, cored and chopped
Raisins
Cinnamon
Sugar
1 or 2 eggs, beaten
Pan drippings, chicken broth or water



Place the dried bread into a large bowl. Use more than you think you will need, as it will shrink when moistened.

Use as many apples as you want, but 4 is a good number to start with. Mix with the bread, making sure you used lots of apples.

Add Cinnamon. Start with 1 or 2 tablespoons.

Add Sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ or 1 cup depending on how large a batch you are making and mix well.

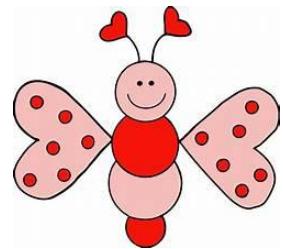
Add eggs and enough liquid to moisten.

Place mixture in a buttered pan and bake at 350 for an hour or longer if not done in the middle.

Cinnamon Candy

Ingredients:

1 cup white corn syrup (Karo)
2 cups white sugar
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup water
1 teaspoon cinnamon oil, not flavoring
Red food coloring
Powdered sugar



Cook syrup, white sugar and water in a medium pan until it reaches hard crack stage, 300 or when drop is added to cold water and cracks.

Remove from heat and stir in cinnamon oil and a couple of drops of red food coloring. Mix well.

Pour into a well buttered 8" x 8" pan or cookie sheet. If using pan, let candy cool for a few minutes then score into bite size squares. Keep scoring until the candy is hard. Let cool completely.

Remove candy from pan and tap a knife on the bottom of the candy to break into squares. If using cookie sheet, when candy is hardened, break into bite size pieces.

Mix candy with powdered sugar to prevent pieces from sticking together.

This is an old family recipe without measurements.

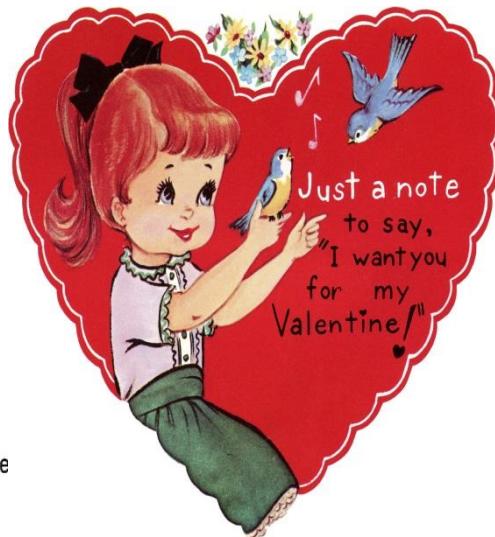
Submitted by Karen Mater
December 2025

When adding cinnamon oil to candy mixture use caution to keep your face away from the steam as it will be strong.

Submitted by Karen Mater
December 2025

Crab Dip

Ingredients:
16 oz cream cheese
8 oz mozzarella cheese
8 oz sour cream
3-4 green onions
 $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon cayenne pepper
8 oz crab meat
2 Tablespoons parmesan chee



Mix cream cheese, mozzarella cheese and sour cream until smooth.

Add sliced onions, cayenne pepper, and parmesan cheese. Mix well.

Add sliced crabmeat.

Microwave until desired consistency, stirring often.

Chill well.

Serve with crackers.

Submitted by Ray Johnson
December 2025

Cranberry Salad

Ingredients:
1 bag (10 oz) miniature marshmallows
1 bag fresh cranberries
1 cup nuts (more if desired)
1 cup sugar, divided
1 pint heavy whipping cream



Grind cranberries and mix with marshmallows.

Stir in $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar. Chill for at least 1 hour, preferable overnight.

Add $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar to heavy cream. Whip to desired consistency. Fold in nuts and add to cranberry mixture.

Chill overnight.

Shared by Wendy Carpenter
December 2025

Chocolate Pinwheel Cookies

Ingredients:

½ cup butter, softened
½ cup sugar
1 egg
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 ¾ cup flour
½ teaspoon baking powder
¼ teaspoon salt
1 oz unsweetened chocolate, melted

In medium/large mixing bowl, cream butter and sugar until fluffy.
Add egg and vanilla. Beat well.

Add flour, baking powder and salt. Blend well at low speed.
Remove ½ of the dough. Set aside.

Add melted chocolate to the remaining dough until well combined.
Chill doughs for at least one hour for easier handling.

Roll out vanilla dough on floured waxed paper to a 15" x 7" rectangle.
Repeat with chocolate dough.

Carefully place the chocolate rectangle on top of the vanilla dough. Roll up, jelly roll style, starting with 15" side. Wrap in plastic wrap. Chill at least 2 hours.

Cut rolled dough into ¼" slices. Place on ungreased baking sheet.
Bake at 375 for 7 - 10 minutes or until light brown.

Submitted by Ellen Fuller
December 2025



Thank so much

[Handwritten signature]

The phrase is simple
And the words are few
But behind them
is a whole lot of
A P P R E C I A T I O N
Mt Pleasant Area
C W C



Connie's Cherry Cheesecake

Ingredients:

2 - 8 oz pkgs cream cheese, softened

1 teaspoon vanilla

2 eggs

¾ cup sugar

3 cups graham cracker crumbs

½ cup butter

6 Tablespoons sugar

2 cups sour cream

1 teaspoon vanilla

¼ cup sugar

Cherries, blueberries or strawberries for garnish.



Cream together cream cheese, vanilla, eggs and sugar. Set aside.

Mix graham cracker crumbs, butter and sugar. Mix well. Press into a 9" x 13" baking dish.

Pour cream cheese mixture over graham cracker crumbs.
Bake at 350 for 20 minutes. Cool completely.

Mix sour cream, vanilla and sugar by hand. Layer over cheesecake.
Refrigerate for 8 hours or overnight.

Garnish with cherries, blueberries or strawberries before serving.

Submitted by Connie Berg
December 2025

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO
PITCHED IN AND HELPED
WITH THE BEAST FEAST
IN ANY WAY, YOU HELPED
MAKE IT A BIG SUCCESS!!
THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!**



**PASTOR BRIAN
FEBRUARY 16**

Thank you from the Kathryn Gerow family

IN THIS
BUSY WORLD,
some
special people
HAVE THE ART OF
taking time
for others...

OF GIVING

from the heart.



Thank you for
all you did
Steve, Susan, Carl
Darnell

Thanks for all
the LOVE!!
Mark & Bevitt
Gerow

Thank you for
all
Mark & Debbie

Thank you for
simply being you.
thank you for the
lovely funeral you prepared
Greg, Laurie, Walter

Thank you
Troy & Deb
Borgard



EASTER LILIES FOR OUR SHUT-INS

If you would like to donate towards the purchase of the Easter lilies that will be delivered to our shut-ins, in honor or in memory of a loved one, please leave your information and donation on the slip in the bulletin and place your slip in the offering box. You may also call (989-386-2591, mail (105 E. 7th St., Clare, MI 48617) or email the church at jbaily@clareumc.org by April 3, 2026, in order for your name and those you purchased a lily in honor or memory of, to be included in the Easter bulletin.

CARING FRIENDS: Please kindly take a lily to your shut-in before Easter. The lilies will be delivered to the church office on Friday March 20, 2026. They will be in the library of the education building. When you pick up your lily, as in years past, please cross your shut-in's name off the list, so that we can verify that all have been delivered.

If you have any questions, contact Ellen Fuller (989-240-3777 or efuller@reagan.com). Thank you kindly in Jesus name for your support of this ministry.

Would you like to help purchase a plant for our shut-ins in honor or memory of someone?

By donation ORDER FORM Due by APRIL 3, 2026

Name of person(s) to be honored :

Name of person(s) in memory of :

amount \$ _____

Please leave form and check or cash in offering or church office.

Your name: _____

TO OUR FAITHFUL CUMC GIVERS

A huge thank you to our church family for your faithful giving in 2025. What a blessing you are to this church. As you begin your giving for 2026, please note we have expanded your options to include Paypal and Venmo another avenue for online giving. As you give to our church and it's various missions, it is extremely helpful if you are giving to anything other than the General Fund to clearly mark your check or envelope as to how you want your offering to be applied. This request also applies to the Day Care. Giving to the Day care can go the Building Mortgage or Day Care Operations and needs to be designated. Thank you again for your faithful giving. If you have any questions about this or how to give for a particular ministry or the revolving fund. Please feel free to call the church office for guidance

Appreciatively, Clare United Methodist Church Finance Committee

AUDREY PATTERSON WANTED TO SHARE THIS WITH US

Wayne's Legacy and Message To Us

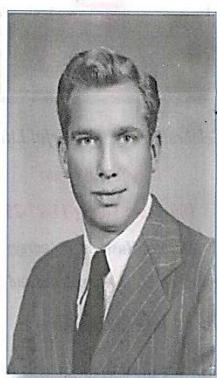
A life well lived is a precious gift of love and trust and grace. It comes from someone who has made our world a brighter, better place. It's a life filled with moments sweet and sad, with smiles and sometimes tears, with friendship formed and good times shared. A life well lived is a legacy of joy and pride and pleasure. It creates a living lasting memory our grateful hearts will always treasure.

Wayne, you showed us how to live that well lived life. By your daily actions you taught us life's most valuable lessons - to work hard, love fully, and live with integrity. Words and actions we will carry forever in our hearts.

A special thank you to all who helped to make Wayne's celebration so special.

In Loving Memory

November 27, 1925 - April 22, 2025



Celebrating the Wonderful Life of
"Wayne Patterson"

100 Years Young 11-27-25

Devoted Husband to Audrey;
Loving Father to Alan, Bruce and Jeff;

Special Grandfather to 4;

Doting Great Grandfather to 10;

Wayne was a special man, always a gentleman,
a person one count on..and we did just that because
of the good friend that he was.

Rest in Peace, Wayne, we will see you again.

Welcome: Elaine Samson

American Legion Flag Ceremony Post 330

Commander Bob Coyler

Music: by Dedra Deno

Amazing Grace

Special presentation of mementos to
Grandsons and Granddaughters

Music: by Dedra Deno
"Going Home"

Closing: Elaine Samson

Invitation to Reception

Music By Butch and Pam



FREE



Community Dinner

Hope to see
you then!



Feb. 28

4-5:30 p.m.



At Clare United Methodist

Church, 105 E. 7th Street, Clare
Last Saturday of every month

SOUP SANDWICHES

SALADS & DESSERTS



MILK



COFFEE & TEA



come join the fun & fellowship!

If you have questions call
989-386-2591

Short and Simple, Thinking about Valentine's Day
Can only make me think of hearts and love, so this
scripture came to our mind. We hope you have
a very Happy Valentine's Day!!

Love is patient, love is kind.
It does not envy, it does not boast,
it is not proud. It does not dishonor
others, it is not self-seeking,
it is not easily angered,
it keeps no record of wrongs.
1 Corinthians 13:4-5

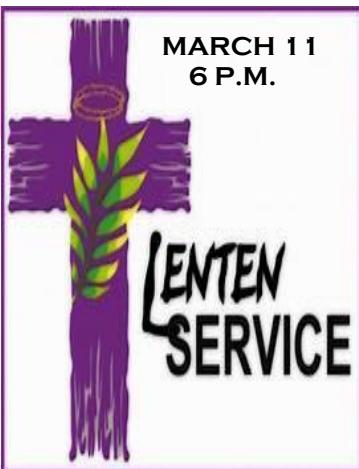


COMING IN MARCH

MARCH 8



MARCH 11
6 P.M.



MARCH 17



MARCH 20



CLARE IRISH FESTIVAL MARCH 11-14



PRESCHOOL CHILD CARE CENTER

MARCH 22
11-1 PM



MARCH 29





FEB. 14
HAPPY
Valentine's
DAY

February 2026

ASH
WEDNESDAY



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP 2:00 YOUTH GROUP ONLY 47 DAYS TILL SPRING	2 AA 12-1:30 D.A.R. 12:30-3 6:15 WEIGHTS 6:45 YOGA	3 <i>AA 8-9:30 P.M.</i>	4 6:15 WEIGHTS 6:45 YOGA 8:00 AA	5 11:00 -3 ACCEPT CLOTHING AT THRIFT STORE 1:00 AA 7:00 "12 ORDINARY MEN CLASS"	6 <i>10-4 THRIFT STORE AA 8-9:30 P.M.</i>	7 FOOD TRUCK IN HARRISON 9 AM 10-4 THRIFT STORE 12 NOON AA
8 9:00 SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP 2:00 YOUTH GROUP	9 AA 12-1:30 6:15 WEIGHTS 6:45 YOGA	10 <i>6 P.M. "THE CHOSEN" AA 8-9:30 P.M.</i>	11 6:15 WEIGHTS 6:45 YOGA 8:00 AA	12 11:00 -3 ACCEPT CLOTHING AT THRIFT STORE 1:00 AA 7:00 "12 ORDINARY MEN CLASS"	13 <i>10-4 THRIFT STORE AA 8-9:30 P.M.</i>	14 10-4 THRIFT STORE 12 NOON AA
15 9:00 SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP 2:00 YOUTH GROUP	16 AA 12-1:30 6:15 WEIGHTS 6:45 YOGA	17 FAT TUESDAY <i>6 P.M. LEADERSHIP TEAM 6 P.M. "THE CHOSEN" AA 8-9:30 P.M.</i>	18 ASH WEDNESDAY 6:15 WEIGHTS 6:45 YOGA 6:00 ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE(JHERE) 8:00 AA	19 11:00 -3 ACCEPT CLOTHING AT THRIFT STORE 1:00 AA 7:00 "12 ORDINARY MEN CLASS"	20 <i>10-4 THRIFT STORE AA 8-9:30 P.M.</i>	21 10-4 THRIFT STORE 12 NOON AA
22 9:00 SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP 2:00 YOUTH GROUP	23 AA 12-1:30 6:15 WEIGHTS 6:45 YOGA	24 <i>AA 8-9:30 P.M. 6 P.M. "THE CHOSEN"</i>	25 6:15 WEIGHTS 6:45 YOGA 8:00 AA	26 11:00 -3 ACCEPT CLOTHING AT THRIFT STORE 1:00 AA 7:00 "12 ORDINARY MEN CLASS"	27 <i>10-4 THRIFT STORE AA 8-9:30 P.M.</i>	28 10-4 THRIFT STORE 12 NOON AA 4:00 COMMUNITY DINNER ONLY 20 DAYS TILL SPRING