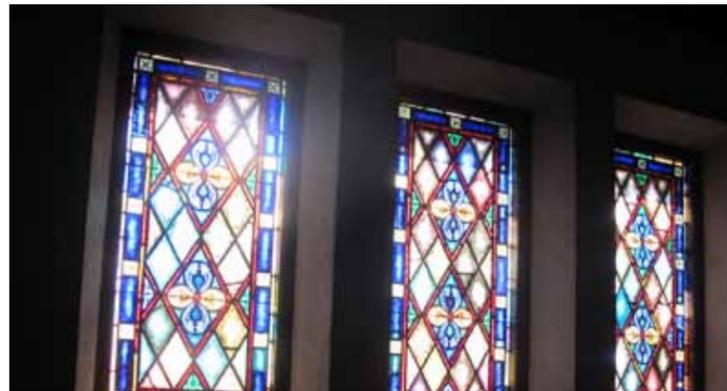


Stained glass, as an art, reached its height in the Middle Ages when it became a way to illustrate Biblical stories to illiterate people. Architects saw the colored light as a mystic revelation from God. Most of CUMC's stained glass windows were created and installed in 1940. These are the main colors and symbols used in our windows.

Cobalt blue was used the most and is the most luminous. Blue symbolizes meditation, purification, hope, wisdom, contemplation, enduring loyalty, and eternity. Spiritually, blue represents Heaven, the Baptismal water, the Mother Mary, the coolness of spiritual love, and truth – since the sky is only blue after the clouds are blown away. Blue is the liturgical color for Advent.

Deep red glass contains gold flakes and is the most expensive color to manufacture. Red symbolizes the fire of the Sacraments of Confirmation, the blood of the covenant, and the Holy Eucharist. It is the color of divine Love (strongest color for the strongest emotion), passion, the Holy Spirit, courage, self-sacrifice,

charity, martyrdom, the warm impulses of the great-loving God, and is the “earth-bound” of the primary colors. Red is often associated with John the Baptist. It is the liturgical color for the commemora-



Choir windows

tion of martyred saints and the Pentecost. The “choir windows” (below) are above the congregation and have red glass running throughout them like veins bringing the blood of Christ throughout the church.

Purple is the color of kingship and royalty. It unites the “wisdom” of blue with the “love” of red to symbolize the justice and magnificence of God. It also represents the suffering and mystery of Jesus.

Violet most often symbolizes sorrow and penitence. With black, it represents death and mourning, but used with white represents humility and purity. It may symbolize love, truth, and passion. It is often associated with Mary Magdalene. It is the liturgical color for Advent and Lent seasons.

Clear glass represents the emptiness of the tomb and the Resurrection, with nothing standing between Christians and God.

White is the color of purity, serenity, peace, holiness, innocence, and the

joy that belongs to the pure of heart. It is the liturgical color for Christmas and Easter seasons.

Black represents sin, death, and regeneration. It is used sparingly in stained glass windows. It is the liturgical color for Good Friday.

Gray is the color of ash. It is used to represent repentance and may be used during Lent. As a medium between black and white, it expresses the mortality of the body and the immortality of the spirit.

Brown symbolizes spiritual death and degradation. It is a very negative color and represents burial in the earth or the tomb.

Yellow is the sun, piercing intellect, power, goodness of God, spiritual achievement, ripe harvests, divinity, and the good life. When placed beside pure white, it may actually symbolize corruption and degradation.

Gold or amber is often synonymous with yellow. It represents the glory and the wealth of God.

Green unites blue “wisdom” and gold “wealth” resulting in hope and victory. It symbolizes joy associated with springtime growth. It represents fun and charity and the regeneration of the soul through good works. As spring represents the triumph of vegetation over winter, green represents the triumph of life over death. Green is the seed of faith planted in a Christian growing every day. It is the liturgical color for the Trinity season in some traditions and may be used during Epiphany in others.

All the windows on the left of the Sanctuary represent Old Testament stories and on the right New Testament stories, beginning at the altar and moving back.

Creator Star or Star of David: The six-pointed star stands for the six days of Creation and the six attributes of God: Power, Wisdom, Majesty, Love, Mercy, and Justice. The crown above the star is a symbol of royal authority and likely means Christ and God, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. *1 Timothy 6:13, Revelations 2:10*

Garden of Eden: This window portrays the story of Temptation and the fall of man. A serpent coiled around a fruiting tree symbolizes Satan as told in Genesis. The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil is one of two trees from which Adam and Eve were not to eat (the other was the Tree of Life). The fruit, usually an apple, is the tree’s “forbidden fruit”. *Genesis 2:8, 2:15, 3:1*

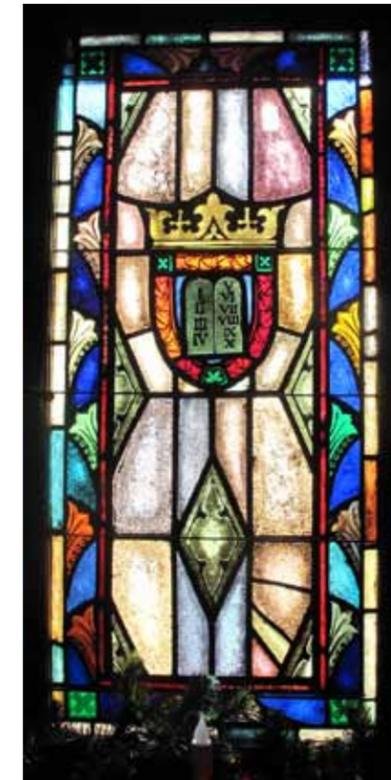
Flaming Sword: This is a symbol of Judgment, as it and the angels guarded the Garden of Eden after Adam and Eve were expelled. It also symbolizes witness for Christ. *Genesis 3:24*

Serpent Encircling the World: The sins of all humans on Earth, imperfect in the eyes of God, are symbolized by the serpent’s (Satan’s) reach.

Noah’s Ark: The Ark symbolizes God’s judgment on sin but his promise of salvation and provision for his people. It also represents the Church safely bearing its members in the Sea of Life through the Word of God.

Genesis 7:1 – 8:19

Burning Bush: God revealed Himself to Moses and His people through the burning bush and He said, “I AM WHO I AM” (Yahweh). *Exodus 3:4; 4:17*



Typical window in Sanctuary

Ten Commandments/Tables of Stone: Given to Moses on Mt. Sinai, the tablets represent the whole of God’s law, the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Bible, the Torah), or the entire Old Testament. The first four commandments represent man’s duty to God and the last six to humankind. *Exodus 20:1-17, 31:18; Deuteronomy 5:6-21*

Holy Bible: This represents an open book that contains truth and revelation, the Word of God.

Pomegranate: Because of its plenitude of seeds, it is a symbol of royalty, hope, future life, and immortality. As a symbol of the Resurrection of the church, its seeds represent the many believers of the one universal Christian church and the new life that belief in God can bring.

Cross: The cross reflects Christ’s sacrifice for man and the redemption of our souls. Note the use of black in the window.

Candle: Like Jesus’ words, “I am the Light of the World,” candles signify the light God brings to our lives and the path Jesus lit through the darkness to salvation. *John 8:12, 1:4-5, Matthew 5:14*

Nativity Star: The five-pointed star is a symbol of Christianity associated with the birth of the Savior and as the Star of Bethlehem. Roughly shaped like a human, it represents Jesus’ incarnation. *Matthew 2:1-2*

Chalice and Cross: The chalice with a cross rising from it is a symbol of our Lord’s obedient suffering and the agony of his passion. The cross is a “passion cross,” the pointed ends of which remind us of his suffering. *Matthew 26:39*

Alpha and Omega: The Greek letters A and Ω. “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.” This window represents the omnipotence of God. *Revelations 1:8*

Anchor Cross: This symbolizes the home and the firm reliance that God offers us. When life is chaotic, God is our anchor, holding us tight and strong. The symbol has traditionally been used during times of persecution to



keep Christians inspired and true to their faiths. *Hebrews 6:19*

Rose: A Christian symbol since the 1200s, the rose represents the Messianic promise, the nativity of Christ, and, when red – martyrdom.

Song of Solomon 2:1

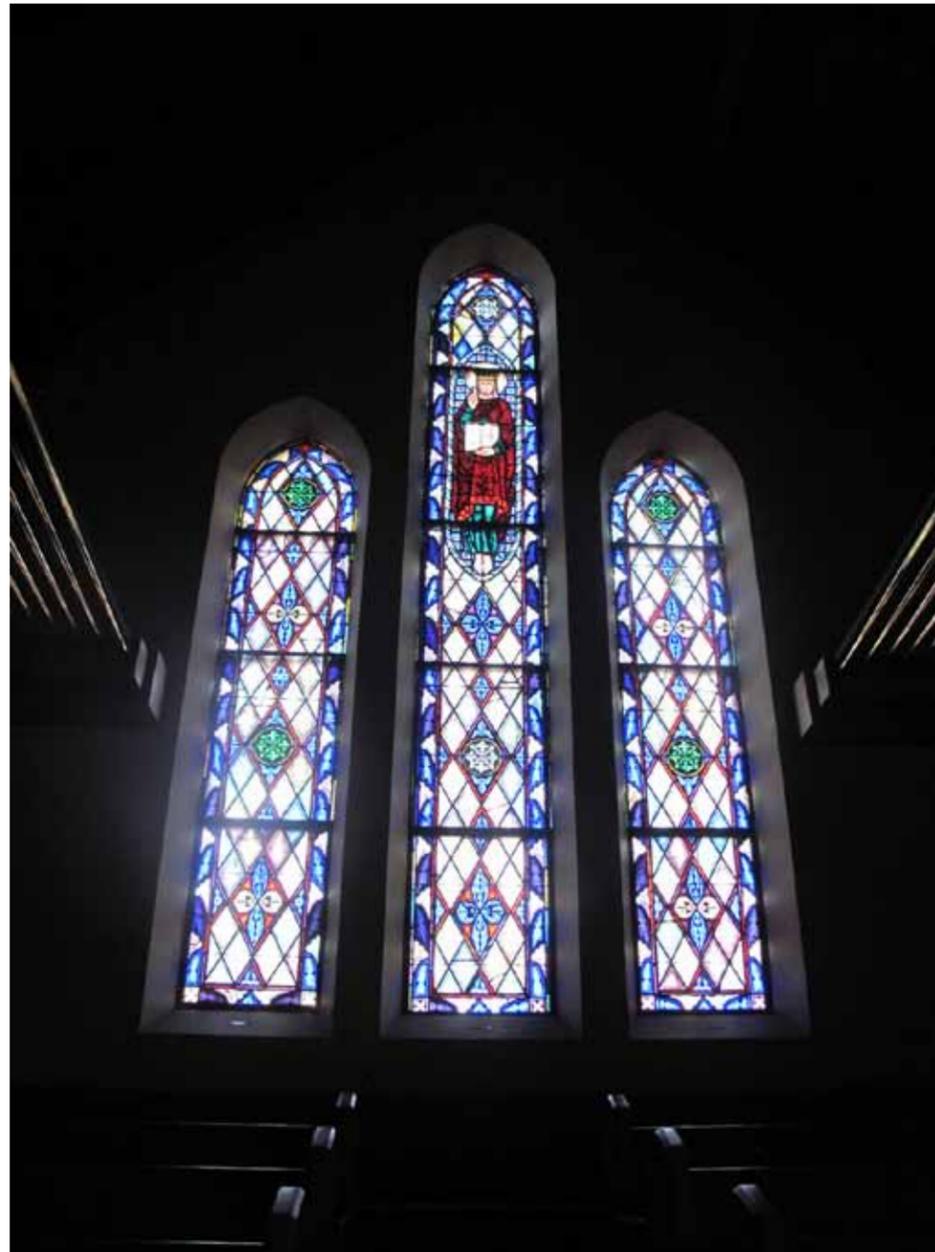
In the back of the sanctuary is the main window with Jesus Christ dressed in a red robe. He is holding a book that states the main commandment “That Ye Love One Another”. This is the most lovely of all our windows, richly adorned with hues of purple and cobalt blue.

John 13:33-35

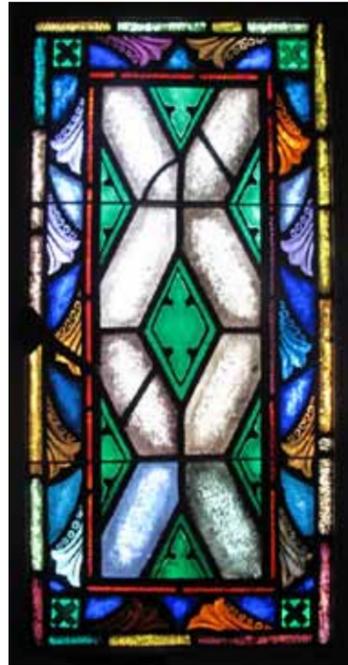
The Parlor has Seasonal Windows with these symbols: A Daffodil: represents spring and new life for the church; Multiple roses represent summer and love; Marigolds represent autumn and Mary, the mother of Jesus; and, Holly Branches represent winter and immortality. The Parlor also has a window depicting Frances Willard, the founder of the Christian Temperance Union.

On the other side of the church, over the Ivy Street entrance, is our new stained-glass window depicting Jesus sowing the earth with God’s glory. Again, Jesus is robed in red.

There are other less ornate windows in the church. There are approximately 70 windows total. In the day, the colorful light shines through the windows into the church – basking God’s goodness and wonder onto the congregation. At night, the light shines outward to the community – showing the neighborhood the beautiful stories that make up the Word of God. Our stained-glass windows “reflect” another way God’s beauty is present – through the glory of art and light.



Main window in Sanctuary balcony



Entrance window



Clarendon United Methodist Church

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Stained Glass Windows at Clarendon United Methodist

