

Clare Congregational Church Newsletter

May 2024

Comments from Pastor Connie

May has arrived and there are many events to celebrate this month. Mother's day, graduations, and Memorial Day. Each day suggests sharing with people we love or have loved. A day to encourage our young people and congratulate them on their accomplishments. A day to honor and thank our Mother or special woman who raised us. Also, a day to thank those who served or serve in the military to protect our freedom.

Carol Stream writes these words. "Cherish your family and loved ones. They will not be here forever and neither will you. Take time to really see how unique and beautiful each person is. Focus on the good and be patient with the less than perfect. Remember the blessings and thank those who have helped you in the past . Honor those for the gifts they have given you, a helping hand, an encouraging word, a stirring example. When you look back on how God has provided for you, it will inspire you to believe that God will provide for you again."

The future is not problem free. However, the future is full of opportunities God has arranged. Whatever path we are on, we can always know, "Jesus will never leave you or forsake you. He is the same yesterday - today and forever."

God's blessings,
Pastor Connie

Moderator— Karen Jones

Happy May!

Spring has sprung and our Miracles on 5th Street continue. May started off being busy with our hotdog sale on May 1st. Mother's Day will be the second Sunday of May and it's so special for all of us. Graduation for the Pioneers will be held May 19th with our youth funds providing their party. Memorial day provides an awesome service on May 26th, organized by our one and only, Pastor Connie. I continue to marvel at this congregation that provides many hands to make us successful.

Thanks be to God!

Your Moderator, Karen Jones

Our council meetings are the usually the first Tuesday of each month at 12:15 and are open to everyone. Hope to see you there. April council meeting will be on Tuesday, April 9th.

Attention Council Members:

Annual reports must be presented to the office on or before May 12th. Annual meeting will be in June, date to be decided at the council meeting April 9th.

Reports needed:

Pastor

Moderator

Renovation

Deacons

Memorial Fund

Education

Maintenance

Financial

Treasurer



We have also been invited to party that is being planned at the Clare United Methodist Church for LuAnne's 90th birthday on June 9th from 2:00—4:00. RSVP

Invitation posted of Bulletin Board by side entrance!



Pioneer High — Bill Newkirk

Youth Outreach Update

On Friday, April 19, twenty to twenty-five students from Pioneer High School spent part of their day at the Church helping us prepare the building and grounds for the summer season. During their time at the Church, they raked the back yard and bagged the collected material for disposal. They picked up other trash around the perimeter of the property, washed the windows inside and out, and mowed the lawn. Inside the Church, these students dusted windowsills and dusted all the pews. This time spent working at the Church is to express their gratitude for the support we give them through holiday celebrations and providing needed essentials to these young people. Our outreach to them is truly a blessing to all involved.

That same afternoon, as a part of the Clare Pride project sponsored by Clare High School, ten to twelve high school students, and their supervisors, finished the work on the lawn by raking the front lawn and bagging the results for disposal.

We greatly appreciate the efforts of both groups of young people to help us spruce up the Church and grounds!

Next up on our calendar of support to Pioneer High School is assisting with a post-graduation reception on May 19. That event will close out our outreach activities for the 2023-24 school year! We will begin planning and preparing for our service to Pioneer High for the 2024-25 school year in June. Please remember, none of this is possible without the support we receive through the donations of returnable bottles and cans, cash contributions, volunteer time, donations of meal items, and personal care items and special treats. Thank all of you for your ongoing support of this program! We are making a difference!

Baby Pantry

The Clare County Baby Pantry continues to reach out and serve 140 plus families in Clare County. Thank you for the donations you continue to share.

Church Picnic

The church picnic will be on July 21st at Ron and Barb Kunse's home. Sloppy Joes will be provided. Put the date on your calendar. More information to come.

She's Back

Phyllis has returned to her home after 9 months living with her son while healing from a fall. She has been given the "Coffee Hour" list and the phone directory. She will be seeking out people to sign on the empty lines. Beware! She means business! We are so glad she has returned.

Adult Sunday School

There is an adult Sunday School class offered Sunday morning from 9:30-10:15 in the parlor. Currently the class is using Max Lucado's book, "How Happiness Happens" as a guide. Come and join others from the congregation.

Member's Class

Anyone who would like to join the church or learn more about the church, Please contact Pastor Connie.

Pig Roast

Tickets will be available for purchase starting on Sunday June 2nd. The pig roast will be Sunday July 28th beginning at 11:30. Advance tickets are \$8.00 each. Tickets that day will be \$10.00, so get your tickets early. 100 Meals will be available, Marcus Chinn is preparing the pulled pork. The meal includes a pulled pork sandwich, beans, coleslaw, mac and cheese, ice tea and lemonade. Advance tickets will guarantee you have a meal, or take a chance that day.

Auction

We are planning to have a silent Church Auction on July 28th, along with the pig roast. Auction sheets will be by the items starting at 10:00 am—last call is at 1:00. If you are not present to pick up your items, you will be notified, and items may be picked up during office hours, 10am—4 pm Tuesday July 30, Wednesday July 31, or August 1. We are looking for lots of items to be auctioned off. Please donate, especially your talents. Everyone loves bidding on homemade goodies, boat trips, car detailing, window washing, horseback riding, trips, cabin rental, game tickets, craft items, plane rides, the possibilities are endless. Please help us make this year's auction even bigger and better than last year. Proceed this year, along with the "Pig Roast" will also go to help with church renovation projects. Certain project may be announced later, we have a couple ideas in mind. The sooner we have auction items, the sooner the advertising can go out. Please help us out! Currently we have some homemade wreaths, tickets to a 2024 Loon's game and 2 Mackinac sweat shirts

Game Day

Several people have commented about having a game day or evening. If anyone would like to oversee “game day” please contact Wanda or Pastor Connie. If not interest in hosting, please leave your name and day or evening preference if you’d be interested in attending a “Game Day”. Also interested in knowing what type of games you like, Uno or other card games, Board games, Dice games.

Graduation Sunday

Sunday June 2nd we have 4 graduates that will be honored during worship and a coffee hour in their honor afterwards. The graduates are, Kara Forsberg, Morgan Jones, Ryan and Taylor Newkirk. If there are other graduates from the congregation, please let Wanda know.

Pillow Cases

A huge “thank you” to Trudy Irwin for the numerous pillow cases sent from her home in Tennessee to the church. Last year kids at Pioneer and New Hope were given a beautiful pillow case. The majority were made by Trudy. She also sent hats and mittens. Thank you—thank you.

Sewing Ladies

Rebecca is looking forward to meeting with the sewing group when the weather improves. She will be teaching how to make a small tote bag. Cost is \$15.00 and that includes supplies. More info as to when it will be coming soon. If you are interested, please call Wanda or Pastor Connie.

Toothbrushes

Clare County Outreach is still in need of tooth paste and tooth brushes. Currently we have about 150 full size tubes of toothpaste and 298 small tubes of toothpaste. The full-sized tubes are preferred. We will have to give 8 small tubes to equate to 1 full size tube. We have about 300 tooth brushes. We need more tooth brushes than tooth paste as there are usually more than one person per household. This drive is going until we have enough to give to each family in need. Thank you very much for continuing to collect these items.

Please put them in the basket under the table in the fellowship hall.

New Faces

We are thankful to see all the new faces in worship. Please make certain you fill out a visitors card, available at the ushers desk. We look forward to meeting each and everyone of you. Please come to the fellowship hall after service to provide us with that opportunity.

Coffee Hour

There are many dates available to host coffee hour. Sign up sheets are on the board outside Wanda's office. Wanda has more information about the coffee hour.

Ladies' Meeting — Wanda Agle

The ladies met at the 505 café on April 17th. We had a great meeting , the food was fantastic and the fellowship could not have been better. Next month we are planning on meeting at Shamrock Park, each gal bringing their own lunch. The meeting will be Thursday May 16th at 12:00, weather permitting. In case of rain, we'll bring our sack lunches and meet at the church.

We had our 1st hot dog sale at Witbeck's Family Foods on Wednesday May 1st and we will have another one on again on Thursday June 6th. Please come out and support this fundraiser.

Nancy Orr and Pastor Connie are Hosting a Christmas Tea on December 12th,weather permitting. More information on this will follow in the near future.

Christmas Sale

The date for the Women's Christmas sale this year will be November 2nd. That said, we need Christmas items! If you have items you'd like to donate or if you are one who goes to yard sales, please let the person in charge of the sale know about our outreach program and that if their Christmas items don't sell, we would be more than happy to pick them up if they'd like to donate them to a great cause. Please inform them that we do not charge anything for the items, its just donation only, and everyone is welcome. I have cards printed up with my name and phone number that you could leave at the yard sale, they can call me and I will pick up items.

New Hope Girls

The van at New Hope has been undergoing some work. The number of girls attending has been limited. Pastor Connie remains in touch with them. Thank all of you who provide snacks and other surprises. The girls appreciate all that is shared with them.

May Birthdays

Barb Kunse 05/03
Tom Johnson 05/04
John Bicknell II 05/04
MaryAnn Forsberg 05/07
Jon Bouchey 05/18
Paula Newkirk 05/20
J.C. Colville 05/25
Bill Schepperley 05/28



May Anniversaries

John and Angie Allen 05/07

Facts & Figures: Month of March

Date	Attendance	Offering
April 7	22	\$ 445.00
14	38	1333.00
21	34	2698.00
28	45	1969.00

Serving Month of April

Officiating: Pastor Connie Bongard
Liturgist: Dr. Kurt Keppner
Ushers: Bob and Meredith List
Accompanist: LuAnne Humphrey

REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

Tom Johnson, Patty (Humphrey) Hazen, Mike Humphrey, Lee Agle, Phyllis Carrigan and Pam Gaffner, and LuAnne Humphrey, and Lynn Schumacher.

Please help keep the prayer list current; if you know of any changes, or additions, please call the office at 989 386-7582, leave a note for the secretary, or send an email to: office@clarecongregational.org



To contact church office:

E-mail: office@clarecongregational.org

Phone: 989-386-7582. Office Hours: Tuesday through Thursday, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Church website: clarecongregational.org