

Clare Congregational Church Newsletter

January 2022

Comments from Pastor Connie

“Blessed New Year” and God Bless You! 2021 was another challenging opportunity. There were periods of discouragement when the pews in worship remained quite empty. Then I remembered John Wesley, a theologian whose teaching helped change the world wrote, “The world is my parish”. How true! Ministry exists very day. Officiating funerals provides congregations of people who might never enter a church. Working with the Baby Pantry provides opportunities to touch lives I’d never come in contact with. The supervisors at New Hope have informed me the girls want to come to worship more often. Pioneer students are reaching out. The office assistant refers to all of you as “truly, God’s blessings”.

Plans are being made for a special activity each month. Believe it or not Wanda and I have already planned a Christmas party, decorations and surprises.

An Easter service is in the works. Music is being planned. Outreach opportunities are available in new areas.

Thank you to everyone this past year who has helped put a smile on other’s hearts. Children have been kept warm with hats, socks and mittens. Teens received at least one gift and some beautiful Christmas stockings filled to the brim. Senior citizens have received numerous cards reminding them of being missed and loved.

God is Good, all the time. All the time, God is Good. Looking forward to a great year.

God’s blessings,

Pastor Connie

Moderator

Looking forward to a new and wonderful year ahead. The attending congregation has been a little smaller this past year, but it is growing, especially with enthusiasm. The men's breakfast is starting to grow. The women's group has taken on a lot of new projects, both outreach in the community and also fund raising endeavors which have been very successful.

I am encouraged by the participation of everyone. Christmas time was absolutely beautiful, thanks to all the volunteers. Lots of other plans are in the works for this coming year. We are excited.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy new year, and hope to see everyone in church when we return from our vacation.

Your Moderator

Karen Jones

Another Miracle on 5th Street.

Before Christmas I had been asked to help Pioneer School girls by donating “undies”. I wasn’t certain about asking, Didn’t need to. Sunday after Christmas a member put a large bill in an envelope and handed it to me for anyone in need. Perfect!! We may be small in number but certainly are blessed with God’s Spirit. Can’t wait to see what happens in 2022.

Music Ministry in 2022

Ruth Fretz has volunteered to oversee the music in 2022. She has some exciting ideas. Vocalists, band ensemble groups and children have all ready volunteered to come to worship and share their talents. If anyone has information of musicians who would share their talents with us, please let Ruth know.

Pasties for Sale

Pasties are going to be made again in January. Tentative date is January 25th. Barb Kunse is heading up the project and she has all the workers ready to go. The pasties sell for \$4.00 ea. If you'd like to place an order, please call the office at (989) 386-7582. business hours are 10:00 am—2:00 pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. If you don't receive an answer, please leave a message with name and phone number and reason for the call, and we will return your call. We will be taking orders until January 20th. Your order may be picked up at the church on January 26 between the hours of 10:00 am and 4:00 pm. Or you can let us know if you need other arrangements.

Christmas Poinsettias

The poinsettias purchased by individuals for the sanctuary were beautiful. Thank You!

Kurt Keppner

Karen Jones

Pastor Connie& Frank In Memory of Frank’s Father and Pastor Connie’s Mother

Bill and Paula

Wanda In Memory of Husband Tony

Sharon Jackson For Giving to Others

Jerry Forsberg In Memory of Sue Forsberg

Carol Colville

Connie Johnson In Memory of Our Parents and Mary Babb

Barb and Ron Kunse

Men's Breakfast

Last month 6 men met for a delicious breakfast. Jim will be preparing a meal again this month on the 15th of January. Please help support this program. Grab a friend and come and enjoy a breakfast and fellowship. January the menu will be: Loaded scrambled eggs, ham steak and hash browns.

To Our Congregation

Please! If you know of anyone in our congregation who is suffering for any reason and needs our help or prayers, please inform us or reach out to Pastor Connie. We cannot help if we don't know there's a problem, and no one should suffer alone. We are a family and families help each other.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting has been scheduled for January 16th in the sanctuary immediately after worship service. Please plan to attend.

Rada Cutlery

The women's group has been selling Rada Cutlery. Sales this this year has netted us \$204. If you'd like a catalog they are available at the office. You can also order on line, Please, if you order on line search for our group name : Clare Congregational Church Lunch Bunch. We will be placing orders approximately once a month and the shipping is lower that way. And may I add, their knives are the best!

Christmas Sale

While taking down Christmas decorations, if you have any to dispose of, Please keep the church in mind. We are collecting Christmas decorations and items for a huge sale in November 2022. Items are all ready being collected. If anyone has items they want to share, please bring them to the church office or contact Wanda at the office (989)386-7582.

Ladies Meeting

January 18th we will be having a meeting in the fellowship hall. We are planning on making Valentine cards. If you would be willing to bring the soup for everyone, or the salad, please contact Wanda (989) 240-0717 or call the church office (989 386-7582.

January Birthdays

Paula Butler 01/20

Lorraine Page 01/24



January Anniversary

Jerry & Ivah

Facts & Figures:

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Attendance</u> | <u>Offering</u> | |
|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------|
| December: | 5 | 26 | \$ 2114. |
| | 12 | 32 | \$ 1604. |
| | 19 | 28 | \$ 1192. |
| | 26 | 16 | \$ 735 |
| Christmas Eve | 46 | \$ 685 | |

Serving this Month:

| | |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| Officiating: | Pastor Connie Bongard |
| Accompanist: | LuAnne Humphrey |
| Liturgist | Dr. Kurt Keppner |
| Ushering : | Don and Karen Jones |

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Truman Glenn: c/o Green Acres, 1805 E. Remus Rd., Mt. Pleasant MI 48858

Dick Snyder: 401 Orchard Ave. Clare MI. 48617

Health/Healing & Other Needs:

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Bill Franklin | Tom Johnson | Christopher Jackson |
| Sean Gallagher | Patty (Humphrey)Hazen | Scott Taube |
| Mike Humphrey | Dave Stevens | Naja Budreau |
| Holly Kwiatkowski | Dan Finney | Jim Bertley |
| Becky Evans | David Jackson | Matthew Fretz |

Please help keep the prayer list current; if you know of changes, you may call the office (386-7582), leave a note for the secretary, or send an email (office@clarecongregational.org)

Minutes of Council Meeting
Clare Congregational Church
December 7, 2021

Members Present: Karen Jones, Pastor Connie, Dave Forsberg, Bill Newkirk, Wanda Agle, Jim Sutton, Carol Colville, John Allen

Call To Order: at 12:15 by Karen Jones

Prayer: Pastor Connie

Minutes: Minutes of November 2 meeting read, motion to accept by Dr. Kurt Keppner, 2nd by Carol Colville, motion carried.

Pastors Report: Enclosed

Renovation Committee: Had kitchen shutter installed, cost was \$1950.00. Balance in checkbook - \$3786.75

Financial Secretary: No report

Treasurers Report: The taxes and Auto Owners Insurance bills paid leaving \$22,137.37 in the checkbook.

Building Maintenance: Bill reported that he purchased Mower and other attachments from Lowes, waiting for all pieces to be in before he picks them up.

Christian Education: Bill Newkirk reported that the Youth checkbook now has a balance of \$1912.70. Lunch will be served on the 15th of December at Pioneer High School. Cookies will be given out and Beanies. Mrs. Claus and Santa may appear.

Gift bags were being made up for the 10 Farwell band students coming on the 12th to play for worship.

Deacons: No report, Pastor Connie expressed concerns for finding someone to oversee the Deacon's jobs in the church.

Women's Fellowship: The Women's fellowship was successful at making and selling pasties and the bake sale at Jays. The present balance in their checkbook is \$4,693.17. They will be decorating cookies on December 14th to send to Pioneer High school.

Minutes of December 7th meeting continued.

Memorial: The council voted to add Dave Forsberg to the Memorial Committee and have his name added to the checkbook. Memorial checkbook is presently at \$4,483.98

Old Business: Discussed the piano tuning. Peg Riley declined . Mr. Shimmons will come in over Christmas break and repair the B flat.

Lynn Schumacher will receive a gift card from Hobby Lobby for time spent in the office while Wanda was absent. Lynn preferred a card to cash.

All annual reports need to be given to Wanda on or before January 2nd. They will be read at the annual meeting January 16th.

New Business: Pastor Connie will see about getting the piano tuned. Thanksgiving dinner is being planned, Wanda has the sign up sheet.

Bill Newkirk made motion to adjourn, Carol 2nd. Meeting adjourned at 1:20