

Clare Congregational Church Newsletter

April 2024

Comments from Pastor Connie

I'm writing this early Monday morning, the day after Easter. Many of us celebrated Easter Sunday together. The service reminded us of God's love and power. This was my devotion on Easter.

"God, Your unfailing Love is my comfort. Because I live in a broken world, trouble is never far away. Although there are many sources of comfort available to me, only one of them is unfailing—Your love. Other sources may help me some of the time, but Your consoling Presence is with me ALL the time." *Sarah Young*

Even though God is with me all the time, I need to acknowledge His presence.

Spending time reading the Bible, praying and listening to an inner voice are all necessary to feel secure in God's love. So many choices everyday take up our time.

During Lent I was reminded when Jesus faced His crucifixion, He prayed. When He was on the cross, He said, "Father forgive them." In all His pain, He still loved. Observing the behavior of Jesus has challenged me to re-evaluate my choices of how I spend each day.

God's blessings,
Pastor Connie

Moderator— Karen Jones

Hello April!

As we ring in the month of April, we look forward to spring. We also are looking forward to utilizing our brand new kitchen! Thank you, thank you, thank you to Donald Jones, Wanda Agle and Meredith List, your many hours of dedication and determination will never be forgotten. We so appreciate all the work and contributions you've done to beautify our church.

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

Pioneer High — Bill Newkirk

Youth Outreach Update

Easter Celebration

As we approach the Easter season, we once again celebrated with the students at Pioneer High by providing Easter dinner for them on Tuesday, March 19. To provide more variety to the menu, we changed from our more traditional ham or turkey dinner and served fried chicken. This menu change was a big hit with the students and will be repeated occasionally in the future. In addition to the chicken, they were served mashed potatoes and gravy, sweet corn, macaroni and cheese, dinner rolls and butter, Capri sun and brownies. The brownies were baked and donated by members of the congregation and the students inhaled them! As always, we gave each of the students a special Easter treat. This year, each student received a seven inch, half pound solid chocolate Russell Stover bunny. The Pioneer High students are always very appreciative of our willingness to support them with the special meals and gifts we provide them with throughout the school year. They are always very polite and courteous and we are rewarded by their smiles and 'thank yous' during our time there. All of us who are working with this program feel blessed to be a part of it.

Additionally, as a part of our youth outreach, the girls at New Hope are receiving from the Church two bags of treats to sweeten their Easter time. We feel strongly that our outreach and ministry to these young ladies is an important part of our service to them, and an important part of our mission to our congregation and our community.

We would like to thank everyone who assisted serving, and/or donated dinner items for the Pioneer High Easter Dinner. Also, we would like to thank everyone who has donated returnable bottles and cans or has donated cash or other items to support these programs! Please keep up your good work! Our Church is making a difference in the lives of these young adults!

Next up on our schedule is helping the seniors at Pioneer High celebrate their graduation on Sunday, May 19th.

Thanks—Thanks—Thanks

To everyone who helped during Lent, thanks. Maundy Thursday service provided the opportunity for two congregations to worship together as one church family. Easter breakfast was delicious with lots of food, fellowship and fun.

As usual the decorations in the church were beautiful. The Easter service was powerful. Thank you to the cast. Wow! You were fantastic. Those of you in the pews, thanks for being in worship.

We are fortunate to have many helping hands. We are blessed to have talented people. We are blessed to have a place to worship.

New Hope Girls

The girls appreciated their Easter pails, bags of Easter candy, snacks and hoodies. The house van has been in and out of repairs for the last month. Attending worship has been a challenge. Frank and Pastor Connie stop by and visit every week. The girls are always thankful for everything the congregation does for them.

Game Day

Several people have mentioned they would like to have fun playing games. If anyone would like to oversee an activity, please let Pastor Connie know.

Birthday Cards

Pastor Connie's Dad, Ray Alexander, will be 95 on April 10th, A party had been planned. However, due to health issues, a card shower is requested. Please send a card to Ray Alexander c/o Pastor Connie at 1007 Lincoln Dr., Weidman MI 48893.

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.

Members Class

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

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.

Pulled Pork Dinner

Marcus and Jeana Chinn are donating and preparing a pig roast for Sunday, July 28th. The menu will include pulled pork, macaroni & cheese, coleslaw and beans. Ice tea, lemonade and water. The cost is \$8.00. Food will be served in the church parking lot from 11:30—12:30. One hundred meals will be prepared. The pig is donated by Marcus and Jen. Proceeds from the dinner will be used to continue with renovation projects. Please put that date on your calendar, and note that will also be the date for the auction!

Auction

We are planning to have our Church Auction on July 28th, immediately following the Pig Roast. It will begin at **12:30**. 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, the possibilities are endless. Please help us make this year's auction even bigger and better than last year. Proceeds this year, along with the "Pig Roast" will also go to help with church renovation projects. The sooner we have auction items, the sooner the advertising can go out.

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.

Coffee Hour

There are many dates available to host coffee hour. Sign up sheets are on the board outside Wanda's office. Cases of bottled water for use in the fellowship hall are always appreciated. Thanks!

Ladies' Meeting — Wanda Agle

The Ladies' meeting for April will be on April 17th at 12:00 noon. We will be meeting at the 505 Café, 505 N McEwan Street in Clare. Each gal will be responsible for their own lunch. I have made reservation for 10 women, please text or call and let me know if you plan on attending. I would love to call and tell them we need more space.

I have not received any more interest in working the "Hot Dog Sales" at Witbeck's , If I don't receive any calls in the next couple weeks, we will cancel that event for this year.

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.

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

April Birthdays

Ryleigh Miller-Dougherty	04/03
James Bicknell IV	04/06
Steve Forsberg	04/19
Ron Kunse	04/20
Kaitlyn Newkirk	04/21
Olivia Forsberg	04/25



April Anniversaries

Rev. David & Nancy Bandfield

Facts & Figures: Month of March

Date	Attendance	Offering
March 3	52	\$ 2356.00
10	32	766.00
17	29	42500
24	46	825.00
31	68	1245.00

Serving Month of April

Officiating:	Pastor Connie Bongard
Liturgist:	Dr. Kurt Keppner
Ushers:	Nancy Orr & Charlotte Shaner
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