



# CLARE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

## April 2025 Newsletter

Contact: Clare Congregational Church

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Office hours: 10:00-2:00 Tues., Wed., and Thursday.

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday each month @ 12:15 (April 8)

**Church Service: Sunday Morning 10:30**

# Comments

from Pastor Connie



*Happy Easter*

April is one of the busiest months in the life of the church. Plans are being made for Palm Sunday. The bell Choir will be playing. Wanda and her crew will be busy transforming the sanctuary into a beautiful garden and a tragic place where Jesus died.

Scripts are being written for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday services and a drama on Easter Sunday. The council has planned a lovely Easter breakfast. All the events also depend on you! Many people put hours into making each service memorable. Also, the purpose of sending out the Good News in various methods is to honor Jesus's final request on earth. Jesus spoke these words before He returned to heaven to live until the second coming: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit teaching others to practice all I have taught you and commanded you. I AM with you everyday to the end of time". Matthew 28:19-20

Thank you to everyone who is helping with all the "extras" this month. Our congregation is truly blessed to have talented people willing to share their gifts. My prayer is that each service touches the heart of those attending. My prayer also is there are those in attendance.

God's blessings,  
Pastor Connie



## **Vise-Moderator News**

Welcome Spring! I love seeing the robins and watching the yards turn green along with the buds coming out. Our church is blooming as well. April is full of many activities and services. I look forward to all. This year our church will host our own Good Friday service. Be sure to attend and see Jesus come out of the tomb and see his shadow! (The gospel according to Ryleigh.) You just never know what you might learn!! See you soon.

Karen Jones

Vice Moderator

## **Special Easter Dates: (All at our Church)**

April 13 – Palm Sunday

April 17 – Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 pm

April 18 – Good Friday Service 1:00 pm

April 20 – Easter Breakfast 9:00 am

April 20 – Easter Sunday Drama 10:30 am





## **Auction and Pig Roast August 9, 2025**

We are in need of auction items. I'd like to stress how important it is for the congregation to get in contact, online, by letter or in person, with sports organizations, Lions, Tigers, UofM, Michigan State and local schools for tickets, sweatshirts, pictures, memorabilia, anything and everything. The sooner, the better.

We will be collecting merchandise for the auction. If you have anything you'd like to donate please bring it in as soon as possible, when doing spring cleaning, bring any sellable item to the church. Don't just throw it away! Most important, spread the word wherever you go. Advertising is one of our most important items, for all the events.

### **Volunteers**

Volunteering is a very important part of our church. There are many areas that need help, everything from ushering, music, acting, decorating, coffee hour, maintenance, etc. Sign up sheets are often posted next to the office door, but if there's something you'd be interested in that is not posted, feel free to leave a note in the black box next to the office door. If you're interested in ushering please contact Don Jones. He is the leader for the deacons. You do not need to wait for a sign up sheet or to be asked. Volunteers are welcome anytime. Pastor Connie is always in need of new music. If you sing or play an instrument, please contact Frank Bongard or Ruth Fretz. The outreach we do at the church also needs volunteers, from baking items for the Pioneer High dinners, helping with supplies for New Hope, Baby Pantry, Pioneer High, Newberry School, or the Clare County Soup Kitchen in Farwell. The need for volunteers is endless.

### **Deacons**

The church is in need of ushers. Please sign up on the board next to the office or get in touch with Don Jones. (989) 329-9950.



### **Bell Choir**

The Bell Choir is scheduled to play Palm Sunday—Mother's Day and Memorial Sunday. Practice is at 2:00 each Tuesday.

## Pioneer High School



Planning is currently underway for our annual Easter dinner at Pioneer High. Annually, we provide meals for these students at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter. We have been serving turkey at Thanksgiving, ham at Christmas, and, starting last year, chicken for Easter. The chicken last year was a huge hit so we will be serving it again this year. In addition to chicken as the main course, we will be serving Cheesy potatoes, vegetable (corn or green bean casserole), dinner rolls, and ice cream sundae bar. The students will also receive 7-ounce solid chocolate bunnies.

The final event of the year in our annual outreach program with Pioneer High will be to assist with their after-graduation party in May.

We are also helping provide awards and prizes for a new incentive program they started this spring to reward positive behavior, good attendance, and exceptional academic performance. This program is producing great results and appears to be something they will be continuing.



## Renovations

The renovations are continuing. The stairway to the basement and the small area at the bottom has been all repainted. A gate at the top has been specially made and installed, along with a new handrail. Next step will be installing a new floor in that area and in the supply room.

## Farwell Stone Soup Kitchen



The church is still participating with Stone Soup Kitchen in Farwell. Due to all the excess services and activities in April, we are tak-

## Ladies' Meeting — Wanda Agle

Our last meeting was March 20th. We decided who was bringing what for the baby shower for Carter and Carmen. We are working on the details for the Women's upcoming events. The date for the Holiday Bazaar will be November 1st from 9:00am—3:00 pm. We have a lot of exciting ideas for the bazaar. The next Women's meeting will be at noon on Thursday April 17th. Please join us if you can.



## Adult Sunday School



Everyone is invited to attend an adult Sunday School class at 9:30 Sunday mornings. The class meets in the Parlor. We are reading a new book, Galatians, written by Joyce Meyer will begin soon. The class is planning dinner and games at Frank and Pastor Connie's home. Hope to see some new faces join the class.

## Craft Day

Last month the Bells and Crafts were planned at the same time. We are going to try again in April. We plan on meeting on the third Tuesday each month at 1:00 in the fellowship hall. This is open to anyone who would like to do quilting, hand sewing or other crafts, bring it to the church and enjoy the fellowship. We are also wanting crafts for our bazaar. Perhaps you have an idea that you'd like to try for that. Snacks are welcome, hope to see some of you there. Wanda and Pastor Connie plan to participate.

## Birthday Celebration



The coffee hour April 6th will be hosted by Pastor Connie to celebrate her father, Ray Alexander's, 96th birthday. Also, there will be a celebration of Ryleigh's 10th birthday.

## **Building Issues**

All building issues are to be directed to Bill Newkirk at: (989)513-0732. Please do not call Pastor Connie. Bill will decide to call Martin Heating, Seiter Electric, Mid Michigan Plumbing or whoever is needed. Thank you.



## **Used Christmas Decorations**

Spring cleaning will be just around the corner before we know it. If you have anything in the Christmas line that you'd like to donate for our Holiday Bazaar, we'd love to have it.

## **Clare County Baby Pantry**

The Baby Pantry is still in need of burp cloths and quilts for the newborn's backpacks. Items can be placed in the basket under the black table in the fellowship hall.



## **Successful Baby Shower**

Thanks to everyone who participated in the baby shower for Carter and Carmen. The decorations were adorable. Thanks Wanda. The ducky cake—cupcakes were delicious. Great job Melinda. The ducky shirt was over the top. Great wardrobe choice, Jim Lard. Carmen and Carter loved their gifts. They also appreciated the love and kindness showed. To all the ladies in the women's group who participated, thank you. The shower was a great expression of a church family supporting one another.

## **Great News**

LuAnne announced in worship her cancer doctor told her she is almost in remission. The congregation received the news with claps and cheers and God thank yous. Please continue to pray for her. We love her and appreciate her.

**March Birthdays**

Ryleigh Miller-Dougherty	04/03
James Bicknell IV	04/06
Susan Hawley	04/08
Bonnie Smith	04/12
Steve Forsberg	04/19
Ron Kunse	04/20
Kaitlyn Newkirk	04/21
Olivia Lynn Forsberg	04/25



**Facts & Figures: Month of February**

Date	Attendance	Offering
March		
2	38	\$ 895.00
9	30	820.00
16	36	1166.00
23	29	1415.00

**Serving Month of April**

Officiating: Pastor Connie Bongard  
 Liturgist: Dr. Kurt Keppner  
 Tom Kunse  
 Ushers: Bill and Paula Newkirk



**REMEMBER IN PRAYER:**

**Prayer List:** Phyllis Carrigan, Tom Johnson and family, Rob Wilson and family, Patty (Humphrey) Hazen, Mike Humphrey, Jerry Forsberg, Pam Gaffner, Ivah Forsberg, Tiffany Marie Slater, and Carol Colville

(Help is appreciated in keeping the prayer list updated 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