



Clare Congregational Church Newsletter

April 2026

Happy Easter

Contact Information

Contact: Clare Congregational Church
110 W 5th Street
Clare MI 48617

Phone: (989) 386-7582

Email: office@clarecongregational.org

Web Site: clarecongregational.org

Office Hours:
10am-2pm Tues.-Wed.-Thur.

General Information

Sunday Morning Bible Study: 9:30 am

Sunday Morning Service: 10:30 am
(Nursery Available)

Coffee Hour: Fellowship Hall
(after service)

Potluck: 2nd Sunday each month

Easter Breakfast: 9AM (Easter Morning)

Church Council Meeting for April
April 14, 2026

Women's Meeting: April 16th



*Have a
Blessed
Holy Week!*

It's a great week to be in Church!

(Please Join Us.)



*Maundy
Thursday*

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

APRIL 2ND

7:00 PM

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

APRIL 3RD

1:00 PM



*Wishing you a
BLESSED
GOOD
FRIDAY?*



*Happy Easter
Sunday*

EASTER BREAKFAST

APRIL 5TH—9:00AM

EASTER SERVICE (Nursery Available)

10:30 AM

Greetings From Pastor Connie



Several people from the congregation and some guests are planning a special service. Musicians will share their talent. Also a cast will share in a drama about the crucifixion and resurrection. I'm truly looking forward to the worship service.

I'm asking everyone to not only plan to attend but bring a friend or a whole family to worship. Wanda works to provide decorations above and beyond anything expected. The council prepares a delicious breakfast served at 9:00 am easter morning. Barb Kunse spends time decorating the tables in the fellowship room and helps decorate the sanctuary.

Wanda has a crew to help her, Her granddaughter Kourtney Morga who helps with most of her events, Jim Sutton, Melinda Lard, Terri Nielson, Terry Barlet, Barb Kunse and Paula Newkirk. Each of these individuals donates their time to provide an atmosphere of the crucifixion and resurrection. Also the goodies everyone receives are Wanda's gift to each of you. Johannes, our organist, spends extra time preparing his music. He is also portraying Jesus during the drama. He will be involved in the extra services also. The bell choir played on Palm Sunday a will play Good Friday. John Andrews will be driving from Ithaca to participate on Good Friday and Easter. We also have a new music artist, Travis Keen. He will be playing his guitar and singing . Our congregation is blessed.

Please choose to be in worship Easter Sunday. If not in Clare, choose somewhere to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. Going to the cross and carrying all our sins is quite a gift. So glad Jesus went to the cross so All believers can celebrate eternity together. Best gift I've ever been given.

**God bless you,
Pastor Connie**

Vice-Moderator's Report



What a joy to welcome 16 new members into our congregation. We continue to flourish in growth and many more ways.

One of my favorite seasons is upon us, Maundy Thursday Service, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. We are honored to host all of these events. Don't forget Easter breakfast is served at 9:00 am Easter morning. The council looks forward to providing a lovely meal for our congregation.

Rumor has it that Pastor Connie has written another one of her "famous plays" for Easter. As we have learned there is never a dull moment with Pastor Connie. (I and others never know what she has up her sleeve next.)

So looking forward to Spring in our church!

Thanks be to God.

Karen Jones (Vice-Moderator)



Adult Sunday School

Several adults meet Sunday mornings in the parlor at 9:30 to study, laugh and learn together. There is always room for others to join.

Bell Choir



Frank is always looking for a more bell ringers to play in the bell choir. Practice is Thursdays at 1:30. Please see Frank if you are willing and able to participate.

New Members

16 people joined the Clare Congregational Church as members and associate members. These people bring many talents to the congregation. They are people of faith. Please make them feel welcome.

Terry Barlet
Bruce Chinn
Dr. Kurt Keppner
Melinda Lard
Jim Lard
Sue Leverence
William Leverence
Felex K. Lyons

Barbara Murphy
Michael Murphy
Terri Nielsen
Jim Rodgers
Mary Jo Sharp
JD St. John
Donna Vance
Dave Vance



BUILDING TRUSTEES

The Building Trustees would like to share a brief update with the congregation. During a recent inspection by Vanguard Fire & Security Systems, we learned that our fire extinguishers require unexpected servicing and maintenance to remain up to code and ensure the safety of everyone who gathers in our church. Two of the fire extinguishers require internal maintenance and one needs to be replaced entirely.

The cost for this maintenance will be \$434.16. This is in addition to our annual inspection payments. While this was not a planned expense, we are grateful for the opportunity to keep our building safe and well cared for.

As always, we are thankful for the many ways our church family supports the ongoing needs of our historic church building.

If anyone has questions regarding this, please feel free to contact me at 989-424-8737.

Steve Schumacher, Chairman
Building Trustees



Coffee Hour



There are sign-up sheets on the bulletin board outside Wanda's office. Please sign up for a Sunday Coffee Hour. Potluck on the second Sunday of each month, you can sign up for that also. The fellowship is always great, come join us!

Food Baskets

When Jesus took the loaves and fish from a little boy, He prayed over them. Enough food was provided to serve 5,000 people and had 12 baskets to feed the crowd. This Lent Pastor Connie purchased 12 baskets and ask that they be filled to help feed those who appreciated groceries to feed their families. The participation was overwhelming. Frank and Pastor Connie filled boxes every week and made home deliveries. The reactions from people were amazing. Little and big children especially loved the eggs and dye kits to color eggs for Easter. God's blessings continue to flow from The Miracle on 5th Street Church. Thank you.

Women's Meeting

The next Women's meeting will be April 16th at 12:00. We will be discussing the Auction and the Holiday Bazaar. Please remember that we will be collecting Christmas items for donations. If you have items you no longer want or you happen to find some yard sales with Christmas items, ask if after their sale they might like to donate the Christmas stuff to the church. Our Holiday Bazaar is the first Saturday in November. The date this year will be November 7th. We will also be collecting crafts, baked goods, home canned items etc. to sell. We will also be collecting new or slightly used items such as women's coats, gloves, scarfs and jewelry for the Boutique, which was a great addition last year. Last year's turnout was fantastic. No plans have been made for lunch for women's meeting, if anyone is interested in bringing something please call Wanda.

Church Auction

Wanda Agle and Melinda Lard are co-chairing the auction this year. As of now, the plan is to hold the auction on a Sunday afternoon the latter part of August. This plan is depending on rather or not we get air conditioning in the fellowship hall before that time. If we don't have air we will host the auction in October. Pray for us!

We are ready to start collecting items now. If you have any new or slightly used items that we could sell, bless you. Please drop off at the church or call Wanda or Melinda, or leave a message at the church.

If you have a talent, please put it to use for our auction, baking, cleaning, driving, cooking, carpentry, landscaping etc. the list is endless.

Beyond talent, there are a lot of items that sell well....

| | | | | | |
|-----------|--------------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Services: | Window Cleaning | Bake Goods: | Yeast Breads | Canned Goods: | Jams |
| | Driver for a day | | Sweet Breads | | Jelly |
| | Painting | | Cookies | | Pie Fillings |
| | Yard work | | Pies | | Apple sauce |
| | Pontoon Rides | | Cakes | | Pickles |
| | Power Washing | | Brownies | | Fruits |
| | Car Detailing | | Sweet Rolls | | |
| | Use of Time Shares | | Casseroles | | |
| | Dinner Party | | Muffins | | |
| | Catering | | Meals | | |

We even like gift cards for Stores, Restaurants, Theaters, Events Etc.

Pioneer High Easter

On March 19, we served Easter Dinner to the students and staff at Pioneer High School. Everyone enjoyed a delightful meal of fried chicken from Witbeck's, sweet corn, mashed potatoes and gravy, Capri Sun juice packs, dinner rolls, and cookies. Additionally, the students all received solid chocolate bunnies and a pair of crazy socks courtesy of the Church. As always, the welcome we received from the students and staff was very warm and cordial. The reaction we receive to our visits are always a blessing to not only the students but to all of us who volunteer to work with them!

Our next event in support of the students at Pioneer High will be to serve cupcakes and water to the graduates and their families after their Commencement Ceremony on May 17. This event is scheduled for 4:00 P.M. at the Brookwood Athletic Complex.

We appreciate everyone who donates returnable bottles and cans, their time, their money, and food to this program!



**We are
making a
difference!**

April Birthdays

Ryleigh Miller-Dougherty 4/03
Bonnie Smith 4/12
Ron Kunse 4/20
Olivia Forsberg 4/25



April Anniversaries

Rev. David & Nancy Bandfield 4/09



Facts & Figures: Month of March

| Date | Attendance | Offering |
|--------|------------|-------------|
| Feb. 1 | 36 | \$ 9211 .00 |
| 8 | 39 | 1290.00 |
| 15 | 18 | 840 .00 |
| 22 | 42 | 889.00 |
| 29 | 56 | 1447.00 |

Serving Month of April

Officiating: Pastor Connie Bongard
Liturgist: Dr. Kurt Keppner
Ushers: Jennifer Helsel & Russ Miller
Accompanist: Johanas Durkin



REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

Prayer List: Phyllis Carrigan, Patty (Humphrey) Hazen, Mike Humphrey, Jerry Forsberg, LuAnne Humphrey, Ivah Forsberg, Donald Hemstreet, Nancy Orr., Patty Wiseley and Teresa Mackie

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