



Clare Congregational Church Newsletter

August 2026

Contact Information

Contact:

Clare Congregational Church
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Clare MI 48617

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Web Site:

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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 in
August

Council Meeting: Aug. 11th

Women's Meeting: Aug. 20th

Comments From Pastor Connie

Recently I read a story entitled, "A Friendly Letter." It reminded me how much I love Mail. I have a cousin who lives in Scotland and we write back and forth. Whenever her letter arrives, my entire face lights up. She writes 7 pages, both sides, letters to me. I drop everything to sit and read every sentence.

The Scriptures teach us, "Encourage one another." A thirteen year old girl was inspired to write lonely people notes and send cards. Her Grandmother had given her the idea. The young lady collected names from her church and a local nursing home to write to. She was amazed at the response to her notes. People cherished hearing from her and often the recipients responded.

On an occasion when the young girl shared her story with other teens she remarked, "wouldn't it be marvelous if each person in the world would look for one lonely person to care about? But there wouldn't be enough lonely people to go around."

We have an opportunity to send a note or notes also. Many of us have issues in our life that are challenging. A note or card does make a difference. Pray about reaching out to someone. Let's make a difference and put smiles on someone's heart. I'd like you to think about the words in a poem written in the Bible entitled,

"Somehow"
Somehow, not only for Holidays
But all the long year through.
The joy you give others,
Is the Joy that comes back to you.
And the more you spend on blessing
The poor, the lonely, and sad,
The more of your heart's possessing
Returns to make you glad.

God's blessings,
Pastor Connie

Moderator's Report

Welcome August!

The council is up and running and looking forward to the fall. We are reorganizing a few of our committees and how they operate. We are excited about these changes and will be sharing them in the future. Enjoy our last month of summer.

Thanks to God,
Your Moderator,
Karen Jones

Bell Ringers



The Bell Choir needs some new bell ringers. Melinda Lard has a broken shoulder and we lost another ringer. If anyone is willing to give it a try, please contact Frank Bongard.



Coffee Hour

There are sign-up sheets on the bulletin board outside Wanda's office. Please sign up for a Sunday Coffee Hour. Our monthly potluck is on the second Sunday of each month, you can sign up for that also. Coffee Hour can be as simple as cookies or doughnuts. You may do it alone or grab a friend to work with you. The fellowship is always great, come join us! There are always people willing to help you.

Last One Out

If you are the last one to leave after coffee hour, please look at the list on the refrigerator or the one on the white board inside the fellowship door. There is a list of things to do to secure the building. Also there are names and phone numbers of people to call if necessary.

Maintenance

Hand rails will be installed. Byron Schunk and Frank Bongard will be installing two handrails in the sanctuary. They will be installed going up the side steps to make it easier to access the stage area.

Sarah Bongard's Contribution

I want to be so full of Jesus
That if a mosquito bites me
It flies away singing:



There Is Power in the Blood!

(Thanks Sarah – Love the contribution)

School Supplies

The past three years our church has helped with school supplies in the UP. This year Pastor Connie is asking for boxes of Kleenex and Crayola Crayons (24pk). The Surrey Road Amish Store has Kleenex for \$1.20, and Family Dollar and Walmart has the crayons for .50 a box.

Thanks everyone for all your help!

Clare County Baby Pantry

The baby pantry is very busy. Thank you for the onsies donated. New baby toys and cloth books are needed for the newborn backpacks. Items such as teething rings, rattles, bath books and other newborn toys would be greatly appreciated. Thanks in advance.

Corn Sale for Stone Soup Kitchen

The farmer from St. Johns will be returning after Sunday, August 2nd with another truck load of Illinois Sweet Corn. Our goal is to sell 100 dozen and donate the \$500.00 to the Stone Soup Kitchen in Farwell. Place your orders anytime. Contact Kurt Keppner at (708) 712-4476, Pastor Connie at (989) 506-6659 or Wanda at (989) 240-0717. You may also call the church office and leave your name and phone number and we will call you back..

New Hope House

New Hope is in the process of upgrading . Many physical changes are being made to the house Pastor Connie will keep the congregation informed on the progress.

Adult Sunday School



Everyone is invited to attend Sunday School at 9:30 on Sunday mornings. The class is about to start a new book. Come and join the class. The class has lots of fun while learning. There is always room for more. The class meets in the parlor, and we'd love to have you.

Women's Tea

All ladies in the congregation are invited September 10th to a women's tea. If no one has personally invited you to a table, please contact Pastor Connie. There is room for everyone. The Tea begins at 1:00. Connie from Blanche and Mabel's Floral Boutique will be sharing some items and classes she offers at the store. Looking forward to a fun afternoon.

Women's Meeting

The Women's meeting for July was canceled. August meeting is Thursday the 20th. Wanda will be contacting you with more details. If anyone would like to do a dish or a dessert for the meeting, please contact Wanda (989) 240-0717. This is our last meeting before the auction on the 30th.

Auction

We need items donated for the auction which is going to be on August 30th at 4:00pm. Auction Items may be dropped off anytime at the church, the earlier the better. We do have air conditioning now, so let everyone who suffered with us last year in the heat know that this year will be much nicer.

The office is open 10:00–2:00 Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, or bring it with you when you attend church on Sunday morning, or call Melinda or Wanda and we will make arrangements. Please help us out.

The women spent \$4,000. towards the air conditioning, and we are hoping the auction will help us replace some of the funds. The women's group also buys all of the kitchen supplies, cups, plates, napkins, coffee, etc., so anything you can donate would be greatly appreciated. It can be something you don't use anymore or it can be something you've made. It can be a service you can offer or a gift certificate. How about making your favorite recipe, you could bring that in the day of the auction, or a certificate to make something. I will even make the certificate for you. Just give me a call and let me know.

Here are some more suggestions of items for the auction. Everyone has something. Please contact Wanda: (989) 240-0717 or Melinda (517) 256-5145.

Services:

Window Cleaning
Driver for a day
Painting
Yard work
Pontoon Rides
Power Washing
Car Detailing
Use of Time Shares
Dinner Party
Catering

Bake Goods:

Yeast Breads
Sweet Breads
Cookies
Pies
Cakes
Brownies
Sweet Rolls
Casseroles
Muffins
Meals

Canned Goods:

Jams
Jelly
Pie Fillings
Apple sauce
Pickles
Fruits



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

Kurt Keppner has donated a *Sea Eagle FastCat 22 Catamaran*. It comes with bikini, fishing rod holders, 5 horse electric motor with lithium ion battery. Manual and electric pumps, and paddle. \$1500.00 minimum starting bid! Come to the auction, you know you want it!



August Birthdays

Phyllis Carrigan	8/01
Bridget Forsberg	8/01
Lily Forsberg	8/04
Rosemary Boucher	8/07
Melinda Lard	8/07
Byron Schunk	8/21
Morgan Jones	8/22



August Anniversaries

Auction

August 30th
4:00 PM

Food Available

Air Conditioned

Wes Alexander



Bob & Meredith List	8/05
Matthew & Bridget Forsberg	8/09
Bill & Paula Newkirk	8/15
Marcus & Jeana Chinn	8/18
Justin & Caitlin Walls	8/18
Byron & Jennifer Schunk	8/18
Tom & Janet Kunse	8/21
Steve & Lynn Schumacher	8/23
Kurt & Leeann Keppner	8/28

Facts & Figures: Month of July

Date	Attendance	Offering
July 5	38	\$ 1,103.00
12	41	2,193.00
19	29	729.00
26	40	1,950.00

Serving Month of August

Officiating:	Pastor Connie Bongard
Liturgist:	Dr. Kurt Keppner
Ushers:	Ron & Barb Kunse
Accompanist:	Johannes Durkin

REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

Prayer List: Phyllis Carrigan, Patty (Humphrey) Hazen, Mike Humphrey, LuAnne Humphrey, Ivah Forsberg, Nancy Orr, Patty Wiseley, Jim Sutton Bill Newkirk, and Melinda Lard.

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

