

# Clare Congregational Church

## Newsletter

February 2023



### **Comments from Pastor Connie**

"Happy Valentine's Day" Valentine's Day is one of my favorite days. I still have wonderful memories of making Valentines for my classmates. Everyone would make a mailbox or special container to put our cards into. Reading each Valentine was truly special. Even at my age, I still look forward to the Valentines I receive.

God has a special love chapter in 1 Corinthians 13. "Love is patient, love is kind, love is not envious, or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way: it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, Love NEVER ends!" vs.4-8

God is love. He is the perfect example for us to emulate. As Christians, we are told by Jesus to "love one another". His words weren't a suggestion but a commandment.

As Valentine's Day approaches, think about putting a smile on someone's heart and send a Valentine. Better yet, share the gift of love by living the words in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. Love is a gift that keeps on giving. Love motivates. Love changes perspective. Love is powerful.

"Happy Valentine's Day" I love you.

God's Blessings

Pastor Connie

## **From the Moderator's Desk**

**Moderator— Karen Jones**

**Welcome February! Along with this month comes the snow and cold temps. So of course, we have to keep the heat going in our church. We are looking at an expense to cover what is needed and to bring it up to date. If anyone has any extra they'd like to donate to this project it would be much appreciated. Indicate on your check or envelope "furnace" and we will apply it to that account. Also this month our council will be appointing two members to fill vacancies of people leaving. We are very grateful for John Allen and thank him for his many years of service. John will remain on the board as a Member At Large but will no longer have the responsibility of financial chair. We will be appointing Lynn Schumacher to take over as financial secretary. We welcome her to this position. Darcel Nicholas will be appointed to the clerks position. Welcome as well! When we meet for our annual meeting in May they will be voted in at that time. As always thank you to the council for their time and energy.**

**Have a Happy Valentine's Day.**

**Your Moderator**

**Karen Jones**

**As always—Thanks be to God!**

# **HVAC Problems in the Fellowship Hall, Office, and Classroom Addition**

We are currently experiencing problems with the steam boiler system used to heat the fellowship Hall, Office, and Classroom addition at the Church. There are components of that system that have executed their life expectancy and the need to be replaced or rebuilt.

The core of the system involves two boilers, four circulating pumps, two sets of controls, and other support components. This past fall we had to replace a leaking pressure relief tank. One of the four circulating pumps had to be replaced today, December 20, 2022. One of the circulating pumps has been replaced previously. The other two are of the same era as the one we just replaced and have the potential to fail at any time. The cost of today's work is estimated to in the area of \$300.00 and the cost of the other two will be about the same.

Additionally, we are dealing with what are believed to be venting and control issues. The resolution of these issues involves the reconfiguration of the boiler venting system for both boilers and changing some of the electronic controls on them. Initial cost estimate for this work is approximately \$750. range. It is very possible, If not likely, that additional expenses will be incurred as we go through the repair process. The total of all needed upgrades will likely exceed \$1,000.

We are attempting to work our way through these issues and maintain a comfortable environment in all areas of the Addition. These expenses are above and beyond our normal operating budget, and we will have to find revenues to cover these expenses. Please be patient with us as we work our way through this process.



Author & Bible Teacher  
**BARB ROOSE**



Comedy by  
**MICHELLE MILLER**



Music by  
**MIA KOEHNE**



*1 night – 3 hours  
Just for Women  
An evening full of laughter,  
learning, stories & music*

**SATURDAY  
MARCH 18, 2023**

**AXIOM CHURCH**  
1264 E. ISABELLA RD.  
MIDLAND, MI 48640

**6:00PM SHOW**  
5:30PM GA DOORS OPEN  
5:00PM VIP DOORS OPEN

**ADVANCE TICKETS**

\$25 Gen. Admission | \$35 VIP  
\$20 Groups of 10 or more.  
Group sales call 480-812-1100

VIP ticket includes early entry for  
preferred seating and Q+A session  
with all the speakers and artists.

Purchase tickets at **480-812-1100**  
or online at:  
**ASPIREWOMENSEVENTS.com**



If you would be inter-  
ested in attending this  
event, please contact  
**Wanda at the Clare  
Congregational  
Church.**

**989 386-7582**

Please leave a mes-  
sage and I will return  
your call.

**Office Hours: Tues.—  
Thurs. 10:00-2:00**

*1 night – 3 hours – Just for Women  
An evening full of laughter, learning, stories & music*

## GROUP ORDER FORM

**GROUP TICKETS  
ARE \$20.00** with no fees  
or taxes. You can call our  
office and order 10 or  
more to be registered  
as a group. After that, you  
can call and add on one at a  
time as needed. To order  
over the phone with a  
credit card, call  
**480-812-1100**

**FREE  
TICKET  
OFFER**  
If you purchase 10  
or more tickets,  
we will add  
**ONE FREE  
TICKET**  
as a Thank you to you,  
for getting a group  
together.

**FREE  
GIFT OFFER**  
If you purchase  
15 or more  
tickets, you will  
also receive a  
**FREE  
ASPIRE  
T-SHIRT**  
on day of show

**FREE  
GIFT OFFER**  
If you purchase  
20 or more  
tickets, you will  
also get a  
**FREE  
GIFT BAG**  
at the event  
(after  
intermission)

## **Mission Outreach Chairs**

Our missions outreach projects have grown the past few years.

Dave Forsberg will be the overseer of Pioneer Breakfast Program and the Graduation Reception. He will continue to attend the dinners provided by the church and ask the blessing. Bill and Paula Newkirk will oversee the Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. Paula creates gift bags for numerous occasions. Blankets, stockings and pillowcases are already tucked away for the kids in 2023.

Jennifer Helsel is overseeing the needs of the girls at New Hope. She has worked at the home. She knows the new supervisor. She will keep the congregation informed of the needs of the girls.

Russ Miller will oversee the gifts sent to Three Lakes Academy where Sarah Bongard teaches in the UP. When he has the information provided, he will inform the congregation of their needs.

Thank you to everyone who helps in these projects. The amount of love that is received is amazing.

If anyone has a passion for an outreach project, please chat with Pastor Connie about your ideas. Our Congregation has been very generous. For many, we are the hands and feet of Jesus.

### **Ash Wednesday**

A 7:00 Ash Wednesday service will occur on February 22nd. The service lasts about 45 minutes. This is the announcement of Lent. Hope to see you in worship.

### **Sewing Session**

Weather has interrupted our sewing together time at the church. Pastor Connie will call or send out a text with another attempt to meet together.

### **February Ladies Meeting**

Ladies of the church are invited to attend lunch and a meeting on February 23rd at noon. Look forward to seeing you then.

### **February 12 Worship**

Next Sunday (February 12) John Andrews will be singing in worship. The service will be based on God's definition of love. There will be a pot-luck following the service. Plan to attend and enjoy the fellowship.

### **Music Opportunities**

Frank Bongard is looking for band players to put a band together. Many of you heard Karen Jones share her talents during worship at Christmas. If you have any interest please let Frank know.

Also, if you'd like to sing or know someone who does, please contact Ruth Fretz, (231 388-2662). Thank you.



## February Birthdays

Michelle Reynolds 1/07

2/09 Alan Reiss  
2/09 Jennifer Helsel  
2/10 Teresa Macki  
2/14 Trudy Irwin  
2/18 Frank Bongard  
2/19 Mary jane Randle  
2/22 Gwen Tisdale  
2/23 Avery Walls  
2/24 Dick Larsen  
2/26 John Andrews  
2/28 Steve Schumacher



## February Anniversaries

2/12 Jim & Bonnie Smith

### **Facts & Figures: Month of December**

Date	Attendance	Offering
Jan. 1	16	\$ 655 .00
08	38	\$ .1250. 00
15	34	\$ 497. 00
22	20	\$ 527.00
28	29	\$ 1037.00

### **Serving: Month of January**

Officiating:	Pastor Connie Bongard
Accompanist:	LuAnne Humphrey
Liturgist:	Dr. Kurt Keppner/Bill Newkirk
Ushering :	Russ Miller & Jennifer Helsel

### **REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

### **Nursing Home/Assisted Living:**

Dick Snyder: 401 Orchard Ave. Clare MI. 48617

### **Health/Healing & Other Needs:**

Bill Franklin	Tom Johnson	Randy Thompson	
Sean Gallagher	Patty (Humphrey) Hazen	Scott Taube	Mike Humphrey
Dave Stevens	Jim Sutton		

