

Clare Congregational Church Newsletter

June 2024

Comments from Pastor Connie

“Happy 4th of July.” Recently I used the following Scripture to base my sermon on Ephesians 3:20-21.

“Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus.”

I thought these words would also be appropriate to remind us regardless of our nation—our home life or our personal life, God can and does do more than we could ever imagine. I count on those words.

I’m going to share the words of Sarah Young to think about. Also, please pray for our nation and our political leaders on all levels. We still read “In God We trust” on our money and say, “One Nation Under God” in our pledge of Allegiance. Let us be reminded how important these concepts are. Never take the words, “God bless America” for granted!

“I am the firm foundation on which you can dance and sing and celebrate My Presence. This is My high and holy calling for you; receive it as a precious gift. *Glorifying and enjoying Me* is a higher priority than maintaining a tidy, structured life. Give up your striving to keep everything under control—an impossible task and a waste of precious energy.

My guidance for each of My children is unique. That’s why listening to me is so vital for your well-being. Let me prepare you for the day that awaits you and points you in the right direction. I am with you continually, so don’t be intimidated by fear. Though it stalks you, it cannot harm you, as long as you cling to My hand. Keep your eyes on Me, enjoying Peace in My Presence.”

God’s blessings,
Pastor Connie

Moderator— John Allen

July 2024 Newsletter

So much excitement around here! So much happening. New kitchen, new landscaping, new fellowship hall chairs, new window treatments, and most importantly new worshipers. All positive changes.

I look forward to serving as Moderator in the coming year, if there is anything I can do for you, please let me know. I appreciate this opportunity!

Awesome thanks,

John Allen.

Your Moderator

Our council meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 12:15 pm. Meetings are open to everyone. Bring your lunch if you like. Hope to see you there. July council meeting will be on Tuesday, July 2nd.

School Supplies Needed

A few years ago Dave Forsberg took an interest in Sarah Bongard's kindergarten class in Curtis. He's been instrumental in helping ever since. Sarah now teaches in Newberry. She sent me a list of items needed for the upcoming school year. The needed items are listed below. If you decide to donate, please put items in the basket below the table in the fellowship hall.

- ◆ Playdough
 - ◆ Playdough Tools
 - ◆ Pencils
 - ◆ Pink erasers
 - ◆ Elmers all-purpose glue sticks
 - ◆ Dry erase markers
 - ◆ Handheld pencil sharpeners
 - ◆ Scotch tape refills
 - ◆ Colored pencils
- Students love shade options
- ◆ Low temp mini glue guns (xs)
 - ◆ Glue sticks for mini glue guns
 - ◆ Sharpie -ultra fine tip*
 - ◆ Sharpie fine tip*
- *students use mostly black but would love colors
- ◆ Old puzzles (even if pieces are missing)
 - ◆ Rug/carpet pieces (big enough for 4 to 6 students to build on)
 - ◆ Pool noodles (various colors)



Thank

You

Pastor Connie & Congregation.

Thank you so much for the graduation recognition and gift! Also thank you for the birthday card. I am so thankful for everything you have done for me and for all the support!



Thank you again!

Kara Forsberg

Another Miracle on 5th Street

As most of you know the kitchen project has been completed. Positive remarks continue to be shared. Everyone who contributed monetarily made a dream come true. The women's fellowship purchased new chairs and blinds for the fellowship room. Stories have been told about previous generations preparing meals, funeral luncheons and teas in the old kitchen. Generous givers donated in honor and memory of mothers and grandmothers who prepared some of these meals. Again, "thank you" to everyone who shared in making this restoration happen.

Retirement Party

Our Frank Bongard is retiring from McClaren Hospital in Mt. Pleasant at the end of this week. After talking with other members of the congregation, we decided we should plan a party for him. I did clear the date with Pastor Connie, to make sure they didn't already have plans. So, the party will be on July 14th (Potluck Sunday). If you know what you'd like to bring for potluck, please sign up on the sheet next to my office or call Phyllis or myself (Wanda). Cards and gifts are welcome but certainly not necessary, your attendance is sufficient. If you aren't able to attend, send him congratulations and I will see he gets your message.

Bring A Friend to Church & Sundae Sunday

Sunday August 18 is "Bring a Friend to Church Day" and "Sundae Sunday". Just bring your favorite ice cream topping for an ice cream sundae Sunday! If you forget your topping, its ok, but don't forget to bring a friend or two. Our attendance has been truly a blessing this summer. Pastor Connie would love to see us fill the sanctuary on August 18. John Andrews will be here to sing for us. It will be a great time.

A Special Birthday

We are going to celebrate Phyllis' 91st Birthday on July 28th along with our "Silent Auction and Pig Roast". Come and enjoy a cupcake and bring her lots of wishes for many more birthdays to come! We love you Phyllis. Happy Birthday!

Christmas Eve Choir

Yes, I know its early to talk about Christmas. However, I'd like to order music if there is enough interest in singing in a choir on Christmas Eve. If you are willing, please contact Pastor Connie.

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. We look forward to meeting each and everyone of you. Please come to the fellowship hall after service to provide us with that opportunity.

Adult Sunday School

There is an adult Sunday School class offered Sunday morning from 9:30-10:15 in the parlor. We have just started a new Max Lucado's book, "God Will Help You" as a guide. He always gives us a great message, and Pastor Connie always keeps the class interesting. Come and join others from the congregation. Everyone is welcome.

Member's Class

Anyone who would like to become a member of the church or learn more about the church, Please contact Pastor Connie.

Pig Roast

Tickets are available for purchase. The pig roast will be Sunday July 28th beginning at 11:30. Advance tickets are \$8.00 each. Tickets that day will be \$10.00, so get your tickets early. 100 meals will be available. Marcus Chinn is preparing the pulled pork. The meal includes a pulled pork sandwich, beans, coleslaw, mac and cheese, ice tea and lemonade. See Wanda for tickets.

Auction

WE NEED MORE AUCTION ITEMS! If you plan on bringing homemade goodies, just let me know what you have in mind so I can make up a certificate and get it on our list of available items., and you can bring in that day or I can put the phone number for them to call and order from you. The Church Auction will be on July 28th, along with the pig roast. Auction sheets will be by the items starting at 10:00 am—last call is at 1:00. If you are not present to pick up your items, you will be notified, and items may be picked up during office hours, 10am—4 pm Tuesday July30, Wednesday July 31, or August 1. 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, plane rides, the possibilities are endless. Please help us make this years auction even bigger and better than last year. Proceeds this year, along with the "Pig Roast" will go to help with church renovation projects. Certain projects may be announced later.

The sooner we have auction items, the sooner the advertising can go out. Please help us out! Currently we have some homemade wreaths, tickets to a 2024 Loon's game and 2 Mackinac sweat shirts, new pots and pans, and 2 sets of dishes, but we need lots more to have a successful event. PLEASE DONATE.

Clare County Baby Pantry

The baby pantry continues to serve the county of Clare. Pastor Connie was given some beautiful quilts that need binding sewed on. If anyone would be willing to help finish the quilts, please talk with Pastor Connie.

Ladies' Meeting — Wanda Agle

The ladies met on June 13th at the church. We each brought our own lunch and some of the of gals brought us delicious desserts. It was a great meeting, lots of laughter and fellowship. The new blinds we purchased for the Fellowship hall have been installed now and they look great.

Nancy Orr and Pastor Connie are hosting a Christmas Tea on Thursday, December 12th, weather permitting. More information on this will follow in the near future. Mark your calendars. The next meeting will be Thursday, July 11th at 12:00pm. We will be meeting at the church.

Church Picnic

Our church picnic is July 21st. Barb and Ron Kunse are hosting our picnic again this year. They are providing the drinks and sloppy joes, just bring a dish to pass. It will be a great time. Thanks Barb and Ron. If you know what you're bringing, please sign up on the board next to the office.

July Birthdays

Wendy Bicknell	07/01
Scooter Colville	07/14
Bob List	07/14
Rev. David Bandfield	07/16
Karen Jones	07/18
Kurt Keppner	07/19



July Anniversaries

Don and Karen Jones 07/28

Facts & Figures: Month of June

Date	Attendance	Offering
June 2	59	\$ 1,083 .91
9	58	1,555.00
16	33	1,277.00
23	37	1,615.00

Serving Month of July

Officiating:	Rev. David Bandfield 07/07 Pastor Connie Bongard
Liturgist:	Dr. Kurt Keppner
Ushers:	Don & Karen Jones Jim & Melinda Lard
Accompanist:	LuAnne Humphrey

REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

Tom Johnson, Patty (Humphrey) Hazen, Mike Humphrey, Lee Agle, Phyllis Carrigan, Pam Gaffner, 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



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