



July 2025 / Clare Congregational Church Newsletter

Contact Information

Contact: Clare Congregational Church
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Clare MI 48617

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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

Coffee Hour: Fellowship Hall
(after service)

Potluck: 2nd Sunday each month

Church Council Meeting:
2nd Tues. each month

Women's Meeting:
3rd Thurs. each month

Craft Day: 3rd Tues. each month

Greetings From Pastor Connie

Each day I read a devotion written by Sarah Young. Recently I read the following:

Learn to laugh at yourself more freely. Don't take yourself or your circumstances so seriously. Relax and know that I am *God with you*. When you desire My will above all else, life becomes less threatening. Stop trying to monitor My responsibilities—things that are beyond your control. Find freedom by accepting the boundaries of your domain.

Laughter lightens your load and lifts your heart into heavenly places. Your laughter rises to heaven and blends with angelic melodies of praise. Just as parents delight in the laughter of their children, so I delight in hearing My children laugh. I rejoice when you trust Me enough to enjoy your life lightheartedly.

Do not miss the Joy of My Presence by carrying the weight of the world on your shoulders. Rather, *take my yoke upon you and learn from Me. My yoke is comfortable and pleasant; My burden is light and easily borne.*

Learning to laugh is beneficial for everyone. "I love to laugh. Hee Hee"

God's blessings,
Pastor Connie



Church Picnic

The annual church picnic this year will be hosted by Dr. John and Angie Allen. The date will be July 27th. At their home: 1055 Clubhouse Dr.

Farwell MI 48622

They will be providing Pulled pork, buns and water. Bring a dish to pass and enjoy the fellowship. Thank you John and Angie.

Adult Sunday School

Pastor Connie is teaching a class on the book of Galatians. The class is fun, challenging and a great place to learn. Everyone is welcome. Come and experience great fellowship.

Back to School Supplies

Sarah Bongard has a wish list from the Newberry teachers for next year's teaching. A special driver, Jim Colville, has agreed to make 1 more trip to the U.P. with supplies. All supplies need to be at the church by August 10th. Thanks in advance for all your help with this mission project.

Tempera Paints (all colors) (Extra Brown & Green)

9X12 Construction Paper (all colors)

12X18 Construction Paper (all colors)

18X24 Construction Paper (all colors)

Chalk Paint

Kindergarten Paint Smocks

Broad Tip -Reg. Size Markers (12 Pack)

High Lighters (24Pack)

Packages of Green Construction Paper (9X12 and 12X18)

Boxes of Tissue

Coffee Hour

Our Potluck coffee hours on the second Sunday of the month need more volunteers. Please sign up so we know we have plenty of food for all! The sign up sheet is on the board next to the main office, or let Wanda know.

Stone Soup

July 8th the Clare Congregational Church is providing the ingredients for Nachos. All of the ingredients have been donated. Thank you everyone who is providing food. If anyone in the congregation would donate for the next meal, please let Dave Forsberg or Pastor Connie know.

Church Office

Proofer Needed:

Phyllis Carrigan was a great proof reader. Wanda is in need of someone to proof read until Phyllis is able to return. If someone is interested please let Wanda Know.

Bulletin Stuffer Needed:

Is there anyone who would be willing to come in on Thursdays to fold and stuff bulletins? See Wanda if you are able to help.

Thank You!

A few weeks ago Pastor Connie asked for food to help a family get over a hump. You came through with “flying colors.” Your generosity provided food and comfort. Pastor Connie received a beautiful thank you card with a note of gratitude. Thanking God for a compassionate congregation with generous and kind hearts.

Ladies’ Meeting — Wanda Agle

The Ladies’ meeting for the month of July will be on the 17th at 12:00 noon. We will be meeting at the Church. If anyone wants to bring a dish or dessert to share, please let Wanda know so she can let everyone know when she texts them the reminder. Thanks!

Craft Day

Craft Day will meet at 1:00 pm on the third Tuesday of the month. Hope to see more people this month. Bring a craft or join in on others crafts. We are making items for the Auction in August, the women’s Holiday Bazaar in November, and handouts for holidays for Pastor Connie to give out. You can even sit and watch if you don’t think you are crafty. There’s always something you can do. Looking forward to July 15th, hope you can make it!

Table Centerpieces

Have you noticed the beautiful centerpieces on the tables in the fellowship room? The ladies in the Women’s group change the table cloths and provide the outstanding centerpieces. We are blessed. Barb Kunse has done the last couple month’s, and she would love to have others volunteer to take turns. Please check with Barb and see what her plans are. We also welcome your ideas. Thanks!



Auction/Pig Roast — Frank Bongard

Tickets for the pulled pork dinner cooked by Marcus Chinn are available from Wanda. On July 6th, Wanda will be out of town and Frank will have the tickets. Tickets are \$10.00 each children 5 and under are free. The committee is hoping to sell 100 tickets before the event. The menu is pulled pork sandwich, baked beans, mac and cheese, a cookie and ice tea, lemonade or water. The date is August 16th at 5:00pm. Live auction at 6:00. Hope to see everyone there.

Holiday Bazaar

The date for the Women's Holiday Bazaar this year will be November 2nd. 9:00 am until 3:00 pm. We have received several nice donations for the bazaar, but there's always room for more. If you have Fall or Christmas items you'd like to donate please let us know. If you like to bake, we will be having the a bake sale for the Holiday Bazaar. Please contact Melinda Lard and let her know what you'd like to bake. We will also be displaying a few items in our newly added Holiday Boutique. We are collecting craft items to sell, so, let's get crafting. (Check out our monthly craft day elsewhere in the newsletter). To all the men and women, clear your calendars for this event. If you aren't working this event remember we



July Birthdays

Wendy Bicknell	07/01
Mitch Rouech	07/02
Bob List	07/14
Scooter Colville	07/14
Rev. David Bandfield	07/16
Karen Jones	07/18
Kurt Keppner	07/19
Jim Lard	07/21
Mark Bicknell II	07/25



July Anniversaries

Cody & Allee Forsberg	07/08
Don & Karen Jones	07/28

Facts & Figures: Month of June

Date	Attendance	Offering
June 1	38	\$ 895.00
8	42	1975.00
15	49	1305.00
22	33	1081.00
29	44	1340.00

Serving Month of July

Officiating:	Pastor Connie Bongard
Liturgist:	Dr. Kurt Keppner
Ushers:	John & Angie Allen
Accompanist:	LuAnne Humphrey

REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

Prayer List: Phyllis Carrigan, Tom Johnson, Patty (Humphrey) Hazen, Mike Humphrey, Jerry Forsberg, LuAnne Humphrey, Ivah Forsberg, and Felix Lyons



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