



June 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



When Jesus spoke to the people He said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

This morning I listened to a Gospel choir from Detroit who sang, "This Little Light of Mine." The rendition was one I've never heard. The choir sang from the bottom of their lungs. They jumped, jived and glowed. You could see the light of Christ shine through them. Their singing excited me.

Even though life has changed in the past few years, Jesus said "I am the same yesterday, today and forever." Those words have teeth in them. I count on the Scriptures that teach me "The Lord your God is with you, He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing." Zephaniah 3:17

Singing actually speaks to my inner being and draws me close to God. I'd love to hear special music every Sunday. We are blessed to have LuAnne play special music. John travels from Ithaca to share his talent. Randy joins us from Mt. Pleasant. Frank and Ruth also inspire us. The bell choir has played more this year than any other year since I've been here.

If anyone else in the congregation would like to share their musical talent please contact Frank Bongard, Ruth Fretz or Pastor Connie. The Bible teaches us, "Let us make joyful noise to the Lord." Looking forward to hearing from some of you with hidden talents.

God's blessings,
Pastor Connie



Moderators Report — John Allen

Summer is here! I'm sure we're all glad for that. It will pass all too soon.

The church continues to be an energetic and busy place. Lots going on.

Firstly, our annual meeting is June 29th immediately after church in the sanctuary. Please attend. Annual reports may be presented and an opportunity to ask questions will be on the agenda. This is typically a short but important meeting.

Council continues to meet on the 2nd Tuesday at 12:15. There are several openings that need to be filled. Please see John or Karen if you are interested. Get involved!

We also have two projects under way. The first is repairing our front area of the church from when the sewer repair was done last fall. The flower/rock bed needs to be done as well as the lawn. Barb Kunse is working on this and we hope to get it done this June. Cost is about \$3000. Secondly, the downstairs storage room/rooms are in need of repair. We are seeking an additional bid for this work. We have one that is approximately \$3000.

Any members of our congregation who would like to contribute are thanked in advance. Donations can be sent to the church, just note what the money is for. Thank you.

That's it for now.

Your Moderator,

John Allen

Annual Meeting

The annual church meeting will be June 29th in the sanctuary after service. The annual booklets are ready for handout. If you'd like to look it over before the meeting, Please contact the office. If you're interested in being on the council, there are some positions open.

Church Picnic

The annual church picnic this year will be hosted by Dr. John and Angie Allen. The date will be July 27th. We will have the address and more information for you in next months newsletter. Thank you John and Angie. Also, thanks to Barb and Ron Kunse for hosting last year.

Adult Sunday School

There is an adult Sunday School class offered Sunday morning from 9:30-10:15 in the parlor. Come and join others from the congregation. Pastor Connie is our Sunday School Director. Its great to see the class growing.

Importance of Volunteering — Dave Forsberg

Galatians 6:10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith. Christians who follow the example of Jesus are involved in serving to meet the needs of others. They think of serving as an opportunity rather than an obligation. This is what the bible says about opportunities.

You may ask, "what opportunities do we have here at our church to help?"

Many things: Signing up for a Sunday coffee hour after church. It does not have to be fancy, buy some donut holes or make cookies and brew coffee.

Making phone calls for potluck Sunday (2nd Sunday), to help ensure we have some food. Phyllis did this for many years, but is recovering and needs help.

Building trustee- change light bulbs, mow grass, change filters, etc.

Openings on deacons committee- help set up alter, candles, get communion ready.

Volunteer to usher a Sunday. We can pair you up with a experienced person.

Women's Fellowship is always looking for new members.

Help with our mission work. Pioneer High, New Hope Girl's, Baby Pantry, Newberry Elementary school kids, Stone Soup (Farwell Senior Center Lunches) several of our members help out occasionally and find it quite rewarding.

Take a part big or small in Easter or Christmas plays.

Help in the office folding bulletins for Sunday service.

Send cards or help with prayer chain.

The list is endless. If you can help out, please do. It will make you feel good and it is the right thing to do.

Stone Soup

Thanks to everyone who has helped with donations of time , cash and food. On May 20th they celebrated 14 years of providing 2 meals per week. Originally the lunch fed between 25 and 35 people. Presently, they serve between 150 and 175. On special holidays the numbers have reached 300. Frank Bongard, Dr. John Allen, Melinda Lard and Pastor Connie have volunteered time at the kitchen. Dave Forsberg sets up times and menus for the congregation to donate food to be prepared for lunches. Thank you to everyone who helps.

Bells

The Bell Choir played for the Memorial Service last Sunday and they did a great job. They continue practicing and are gearing up for their next performance. Awesome job. Thanks! There are opportunities for others wishing to play. If you are interested contact Frank or Pastor Connie.

Ladies' Meeting — Wanda Agle

The Ladies' meeting for June will be on the 19th at 12:00 noon. We will be meeting at the Church, We are planning on ordering pizza for this meeting. So, please let Wanda know if you plan on attending so we will have some idea how much to order. If anyone wants to bring a dessert, you are welcome to.

Craft Day

Craft Day meets at 1:00 pm on the third Tuesday of the month. Last month LuAnne taught us how to sew Star Christmas Mug Rugs. The ladies cut material and made templates for cutting out the pieces. LuAnne, Barb Kunse, Pastor Connie and Wanda enjoyed getting together. Hope to see more people next 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!

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!

Clare County Baby Pantry

The Pantry lost Trudy Rador in April. She passed away and left a major hole in the "worker bees." Prayers are sent to her family.

The Baby Pantry is in need of burp cloths and baby quilts. Yard sales are often a great place to find both items. Recently a \$500.00 grant was given to the pantry to be used for new shoes. Thanks to all who donate and work.

Coffee Hour

There are many dates available to host coffee hour, especially during the summer months. If you and a friend want to volunteer together, there is an opportunity to do so. Staying after church to socialize is an important part of knowing your church family. Sign up sheets are on the board outside the church office.

New Hope Girls

Goodies were delivered to the girls. There are 4 girls wanting to be baptized. Presently, there are problems with shortage of staff. Anxious to be able to work out details. We need these gals back in church, and they need us!



Auction/Pig Roast — Frank Bongard

Plans are underway for this annual event. It will be on August 16th. Marcus Chinn will be doing the Pig Roast. Tickets for the Pig Roast will be \$10.00 each and will be available at the office starting June 8th.

Wes Alexander will be our Auctioneer again this year. Last year we tried a silent auction, but people really preferred live, so Wes is coming back this year! We are accepting donations NOW. Please keep that in mind. The earlier the better! We will sell whatever you donate. Please contact Wanda or Frank as soon as possible so we can get the advertising out. Talent items, crafts, tools, dishes, we want it all, including sports items or tickets, baked goods, gift certificates or even handyman, yard work or house cleaning. If you let us know what you will donate, we can make up the certificates. Thanks everyone for helping out your church!

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 donation 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 this year as part of our Holiday Bazaar. We are also 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 need lots of people to also purchase to make this event successful.



CLARE COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES 2025 CAREGIVER & SENIOR EXPO

FRIDAY, JUNE 13
10AM TO 3PM
212 S. BROAD ST
HARRISON, MI 48625
989-539-8870



- Discover local agencies and organizations who serve seniors.
- Visit vendor exhibits & booths for resources, information & giveaways
- Lunch & snacks available
- Admission is free

Vendors include:

Senior Services

Foster Grandparent
program

Hospice of
Michigan

MMI

Music Therapy

MyMichigan Health
Senior Life Solutions;
Weight

Management and
Know Your Numbers

AARP

MSU Extension

Right At Home

PACE

Area Agency on
Aging

Emergency
Management

Central Michigan
District Health Dept.

Alzheimer's
Association

Medilodge of Clare

Veteran's Services

County Clerk

County Treasurer

County Sheriff

June Birthdays

Terry Tisdale	06/06
Jim Sutton	06/09
Kara Forsberg	06/16
LuAnne	06/17
Kelly Strnad	06/25
Marilyn Lawens	06/28



June Anniversaries

Terry & Gwen Tisdale	06/11
Ed & Kathy Bayless	06/13
Bill & Peg Riley	06/15

Facts & Figures: Month of May

Date	Attendance	Offering
May 4	52	\$ 1469.00
11	32	1603.00
18	33	575.00
25	35	3907.00

Serving Month of June

Officiating:	Pastor Connie Bongard
Speaker 6/01	Bill Newkirk
Liturgist:	Dr. Kurt Keppner
Ushers:	Barb & Ron Kunse
Accompanist:	LuAnne Humphrey

REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

Tom Johnson, Patty (Humphrey) Hazen, Mike Humphrey, Jerry Forsberg, Ivah Forsberg, Carol Colville, Patty Wiseley, Phyllis Carrigan, LuAnne Humphrey, 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