

Clare Congregational Church Newsletter

June 2022

Comments from Pastor Connie

Lately I've been thinking about the war in the Ukraine, shootings in the United States, the war in Afghanistan and various other tragic events. I'm not the only one either. Conversations around me also are filled with concerns and fears. My mind began to be overly consumed with thoughts of defeat.

In order to combat negativity, I sat out on my deck on a beautiful sunny afternoon, listening to the birds. God's creation is amazing. To further nurture my mind, I picked up a book on positive quotes. From the book "Lemons on Friday" I read, "The darkness I can't change is side by side with the light of the savior who changes everything". Jesus taught that there would always be war and rumors of war. However, He also said, "I will NEVER leave you or forsake you."

Luvvie Jones, a speaker and author wrote, "Loan people courage. Let people borrow your power, grit and confidence, not your fears, anxieties and doubts."

Each day we have a choice to be positive or negative. Somedays, even as much as I try, I need to borrow some courage and optimism from loved ones. I choose my friends carefully. When I need advice, I don't want to be coddled (well sometimes)! What I want is Scriptural promises. Jesus said, "I come to you so you might have life and have it abundantly." He also said, "Come to me, all of you who are burdened. My load is light. I'll carry you along."

Sometimes we need a hand to hold or words to inspire all. Sometimes we need a bit of encouragement. When we receive support, we need to then do our part and be positive. We need to be the hands and feet and the words of Jesus. Life has its challenges and its blessings. We're fortunate to be a part of the "Miracle on 5th Street Church.

God's blessings,

Pastor Connie

From the Vice Moderator's Desk

It is springtime. I know this because everything is in bloom and the calendar tells me it is even though it feels more like summer. I have two sunburns to prove it.

Hello, to all the wonderful people of our congregation. This is your vice moderator, filling in for Karen Jones, who will be gone for awhile taking care of family out of state. So, if you have any questions, you can reach me on my cell at 708-712-4476 or at my office 989-424-6360. I will do my very best to get you an answer or find the one who can answer your questions.

Since I am not the world's best writer, I will leave you with this, "Remember with God , all things are possible."

Amen.

Dr. Kurt Keppner

P.S. Pastor Connie agrees 100% with that last statement!!





Memorial Day Sunday

Sunday May 29th is Memorial Day Sunday. During worship our veterans will be honored. The colors will be presented. Patriotic songs will be sung. John Andrews will be providing special music. Looking forward to seeing you in worship.

Ladies Meeting

Due to many projects at church, the ladies cancelled their May meeting. The June meeting will be at Meredith's house. Bob is going to take the ladies on a pontoon ride around the lake. Ladies plan to meet at the church at 11:30, June 29th Please bring an appetizer to share.

Men's Breakfast

The men will meet at the church on Saturday, June 18th at 8:30 for breakfast. There were 8 men at the breakfast in May. Plan to attend for good food, fellowship and devotion.

Seamstresses Summoned

Pastor Connie has some sewing projects planned to be used as outreach. Pillow cases, tissue covers and fabric bags are needed. Pastor Connie has patterns and material necessary to complete the projects. Please contact her if you are interested.

Ding-a-Ling's

The bell ringers have been practicing and are playing on Memorial Sunday. The ringers are Lu-Anne Humphrey, Frank Bongard, Barb Kunse, Meredith List, Pastor Connie, Dr. John Allen and Angie Allen. They plan to practice throughout the summer.

Rada Sales

The order placed this month netted the Women's group another \$126.24. Way to go! Another order will be placed in either June or July. You may place your order anytime with Wanda.

Mission Opportunity

The children's Sunday school class is asking for cash or underwear for the baby pantry. Boys and girls underwear, sizes 2, 4, and 6 are needed. We will be collecting Memorial Sunday and the following Sunday.

New Hope Girls

Thank you to everyone who donated shampoo, conditioner, hair products and funds. New hair brushes were purchased for each girl. Everyone also received a cosmetic case to put in their own hair products and accessories. Thank you for putting smiles on the girls faces and hearts.

Three Lakes Academy

Ice cream for everyone! Thanks to the generous donation from a member of the congregation, all the children will have ice cream and treats at their field day. Three Lakes Academy is where Sarah Bongard teaches. She is so thankful and appreciates all the ways the congregation supports the children and staff.

Pioneer School

Sunday afternoon, May 22nd, all the pioneer graduates and guests were served a lovely reception with cake, Wanda's famous brownies, Paula's delicious punch and a card with a personal message for each graduate. Their guests enjoyed all the goodies as well. Thank you to everyone who helped with this successful reception.

Hats off to Allie Strnad

Numerous people were blessed with the delicious cupcakes Allie brought to church. She worked an extra 3 hours so she could rescue the cupcakes from being thrown away at the end of the day. Several dozen were given to New hope girls. Some were delivered to members who needed a pick-me-up. Some were shared with the McClaren housekeepers. The cupcakes sell for \$3.00 a piece. How thoughtful of a young high school student. Thank you Allie.

To Our Congregation

Please! If you know of anyone in our congregation who is suffering for any reason and needs our help or prayers, please inform us or reach out to Pastor Connie. We cannot help if we don't know there's a problem, and no one should suffer alone. We are a family and families help each other.

Hot Dog Sales

The May hot dog sale was a success. Thanks to everyone who worked. The profit from the sale was \$352.77. A special thanks to Ruth, JD, Teresa and Jim who all did double duty. The next sale is June 22nd. The work schedule is on the bulletin board outside the church office.

Pasty Sale

Northwoods Nursing Home ordered 130 pasties to serve on the Yupper Day. The dinner was a great success. The women's group received a check for over \$500.00 to add to their bank account. Thanks to the ladies who helped. Also, we are blessed to prepare them in the Doherty Hotel's licensed kitchen.

Mowing and Landscaping

Thank you to everyone who mows, weeds, mulches and spruces up the grass and flowers. Many people walk and drive by the church. Keeping the grounds lovely makes a good impression and shows the pride we have in our church.

To contact church office:

office@clarecongregational.org

989-386-7582

Office Hours: Tuesday through Thursday, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

To contact Pastor Connie: 989-506-6659

Church website: clarecongregational.org

Church Facebook Page: Clare Congregational United Church of Christ

June Birthdays

Lace Stalter 06/07

Jim Sutton 06/09

Kara Forsberg 06/16

LuAnne Humphrey 06/17

Mallorie Louch 06/24



June Anniversaries

Mark & Kathryn Bicknell II 06/04

Ron & Monica Rouech 06/23

Facts & Figures: May			Serving: Month of June:	
Date	Attendance	Offering	Officiating:	Pastor: Pastor Connie Bongard
May 1	39	\$ 1623.		Accompanist: LuAnne Humphrey
8	48	\$ 4599.		Liturgist: Dr. Kurt Keppner
15	28	\$ 1869.		Ushering: Tim & Darcel Nickolas
22	32	\$ 1412 .		

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Dick Snyder: 401 Orchard Ave. Clare MI. 48617

Health/Healing & Other Needs:

Bill Franklin	Tom Johnson	Christopher Jackson	Sean Gallagher
Patty (Humphrey) Hazen	Scott Taube	Mike Humphrey	Dave Stevens
Naja Budreau	Holly Kwiatkowski	Dan Finney	Jim Bertley
Becky Evans	David Jackson	Matthew Fretz	Mike Moore
Lee Agle			

Please help keep the prayer list current; if you know of changes, you may call the office (386-7582), leave a note for the secretary, or send an email (office@clarecongregational.org)