



CLARE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

March 2025 Newsletter



Contact: Clare Congregational Church

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Office hours: 10:00-2:00 Tues., Wed., and Thursday.

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday each month @ 12:15 (March 11)

Church Service: Sunday Morning 10:30—11:30



Comments from Pastor Connie



Happy St. Patrick's Day

Happy Spring! (I hope) Lent is on it's way. Wednesday, March 6th is the first day of Lent. There will be an Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 pm in our sanctuary.

Lent is generally thought of as a time of reflection. A serious season. I'm suggesting Lent this year is a time to smile. Recently I read these words. "One of the healthiest things you can do is learn to smile more often. When we smile, it sends a message to our whole body, setting the tone for our lives. Studies have discovered when we smile, certain chemicals are released that travel throughout our system, relaxing us and helping us stay healthy. Whether you have a reason to smile or not, make up your mind you are going to smile anyway."

Choose to be happy. Choose to keep a good attitude. Remember, Happiness is a choice you need to make. And even when you don't understand it, know that God is at work in you and He's working through you. Make up your mind that from today forward, you are going to "bloom where you are planted."

Looking forward to seeing lots of smiles in worship. "The joy of the Lord is my strength" Nehemiah 8:10

God's blessings,
Pastor Connie



Moderator News

Winter is hopefully in the rearview mirror and Spring on the horizon. Lent begins March 5th on Ash Wednesday.

The church continues to be very busy, “always something in the works”.

The gate for the stairway has been fabricated and installed. There are plans to spruce up the entry to the fellowship hall and paint the steps to the basement.. The pipes near the ceiling in the basement are to be removed. New furnace is working flawlessly.

Call list for members to call of possible weather closures is working well.

Our church will be hosting Good Friday service this year at 1:00 in the afternoon. Easter Sunday breakfast is planned, headed by Don and Karen Jones. Many thanks.

Your Moderator,

John Allen

Special Easter Dates: (All at our Church)

March 5 – Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm

April 13 – Palm Sunday

April 17 – Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 pm

April 18 – Good Friday Service 1:00 pm

April 20 – Easter Breakfast 9:00 am

April 20 – Easter Sunday Drama 10:30 am

Auction and Pig Roast

Mark your calendars for Saturday August 9th. For the pig roast and auction. Marcus Chinn is preparing the pig. Jeana Chinn and Frank Bongard are organizing the auction. Food will be served at the church from 2:30—4:30. Take out or eat in will be provided. But, we are in need of auction items. I'd like to stress how important it is for all the women to get in contact, online, by letter or in person, with sports organizations, Lions, Tigers, UofM, Michigan State and local schools for tickets, sweatshirts, pictures, memorabilia, anything and everything. The sooner, the better.

Also remember we will be collecting merchandise for the auction. If you have anything you'd like to donate please bring it in as soon as possible, when doing spring cleaning, bring any sellable item to the church, don't just throw it away! And most important, spread the word wherever you go. Advertising is one of our most important items, for all the events.

Volunteers

Volunteering is a very important part of our church. There are many areas that need help, everything from ushering, music, acting, decorating, coffee hour, maintenance, etc. Sign up sheets are often posted next to the office door, but if there's something you'd be interested in that is not posted, feel free to leave a note in the black box next to the office door. If you're interested in ushering please contact Don Jones. He is the leader for the deacons. You do not need to wait for a sign up sheet or to be ask. Volunteers are welcome anytime. Pastor Connie is always in need of new music. If you sing or play an instrument, please contact Frank Bongard or Ruth Fretz. The outreach we do at the church also needs volunteers, from baking items for the Pioneer High dinners, helping with supplies for New Hope, Baby Pantry, Pioneer High, Newberry School, or the Clare County Soup Kitchen in Farwell. The need for volunteers is endless.

Deacons

Everything is going well, except for needing ushers. Please sign up on the board next to the office or get in touch with Don Jones. (989) 329-9950.

Pioneer High School Update

We continue to support the students at Pioneer High School in a number of ways.

On Tuesday, February 11, we delivered over 50 Valentine treat bags to the students to celebrate the holiday with them. The comments we receive from students are always very positive and thankful.

We also delivered a number of items for them to use in a new positive incentive program they have developed. This program has been developed to reward these students for positive things happening in their educational and personal life. This program is already producing positive results, and we will continue supporting it.

Finally, we are starting to plan the annual Easter dinner we provide for these students. More information on this event, as well as their Graduation Ceremony, will be coming in the near future!

We continue to be blessed with the donations of returnable bottles and cans, cash, food, and other items you are giving to support this program! Thank you!

S.O. District Basketball

A number of people have asked for information on opportunities to watch Brenden Reed play basketball.

On Saturday, March 1, Brenden and his Alma Tigers Varsity A teammates will be competing in the Division 1 District Basketball Tournament at Shepherd High School. This team, which is undefeated through their regular season schedule, is one of the top ten S.O. teams in the State. Teams winning the district tournaments statewide will move to the State Championship Tournament March 22 in Grand Rapids at Calvin University. Statewide, Division 1 includes teams from Detroit, Pontiac, Lansing Area, Port Huron and other communities. They will play their first game On Saturday morning at 10:00 against a team out of the Lansing area. Their second game is scheduled for 1:00 in the championship game or the consolation game against either a team out of St. Johns or Charlotte, depending on the outcome of the first game. This team is coached by Bill Newkirk and his grandson, Cameron.

The Shepherd Tournament will consist of 8 separate divisions of various skill levels on multiple Courts at Shepherd Schools. There is no charge to attend these Tournaments.

Ladies' Meeting — Wanda Agle

Our last meeting was February 20th. We are working our details on the Women's upcoming events. The Pig Roast and Auction will be on Saturday August 9th, more information was given on page 4 of this newsletter. The date for the Holiday Bazaar will be November 1st from 9:00am—3:00 pm. We have a lot of exciting ideas for the bazaar. The next Women's meeting will be at noon on Thursday March 20th. We will be meeting at the church and I will be providing the lunch.

Adult Sunday School

Everyone is invited to attend an adult Sunday School class at 9:30 Sunday mornings. The class meets in the Parlor. A new book, Galations, written by Joyce Meyer will begin soon. The class is planning dinner and games at Frank and Pastor Connies home. Hope to see some new faces join the class.

Bell Choir

Frank Bongard would like to start bell choir practice March 11th at 1:00. He has picked out music for Palm Sunday and Memorial Day. Please let him know if you are able to play.

Craft Day

We are meeting on the third Tuesdays of the month at 1:00 in the fellowship hall. This is open to anyone who would like to do quilting, hand sewing or other crafts, bring it to the church and enjoy the fellowship. We are also wanting crafts for our bazaar. Perhaps you have an idea that you'd like to try for that. Snacks are welcome, hope to see some of you there. Wanda and Pastor Connie plan to participate.

Easter Breakfast

Our monthly potluck for April, will be our Easter Breakfast. If you are willing and want to bring a dish, please call Karen (989) 737-1627. She is organizing the breakfast so as to not have 10 people make the same dish. She is looking for all types of breakfast food, please give her a call to help support the idea and have an excellent Easter breakfast.

Building Issues

All building issues are to be directed to Bill Newkirk at: (989)513-0732. Please do not call Pastor Connie. Bill will decide to call Martin Heating, Seiter Electric, Mid Michigan Plumbing or whoever is needed. Thank you.

Used Christmas Decorations

Spring cleaning will be just around the corner before we know it. If you have anything in the Christmas line that you'd like to donate for our Holiday Bazaar, we'd love to have it.

Clare County Baby Pantry

The Baby Pantry is in need of burp cloths and newborn baby quilts. Angie Allen oversees the newborn gifts. Also boys pants 18 month to size 6 are always needed. Thank you to everyone who shares with the Baby Pantry.

Baby Shower

March 23rd during coffee hour the Women's Group is hosting a baby shower for Carter and Carmen's expected baby boy. The Women's Group will be purchasing a group gift and invite others to bring a card or gift for Carter and Carmen's unborn son.

March Birthdays

Brenden Reed	3/07
Andrew Schunk	3/08
Caitlin Walls	3/14
Matthew Forsberg	3/15
Ruth Fretz	3/18
Janet Kunse	3/21
Steve Newkirk	3/29
Justin Walls	3/31



March Anniversaries

Dave and Michelle Forsberg 03/25

Facts & Figures: Month of February

Date	Attendance	Offering
Feb. 2	23	\$ 930.00
9	33	1,361.00
16	30	13,630.00
23	27	834.00

Serving Month of March

Officiating: Pastor Connie Bongard
 Liturgist: Dr. Kurt Keppner
 Ushers: Russ Miller & Jennifer Helsel
 Accompanist: LuAnne Humphrey



REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

Prayer List: Phyllis Carrigan, Tom Johnson and family, Patty (Humphrey) Hazen, Mike Humphrey, Jerry Forsberg, Pam Gaffner, LuAnne Humphrey, Ivah Forsberg, Tiffany Marie Slater, and Jordan Grissom

(Help is appreciated in keeping the prayer list updated 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