

# **Clare Congregational Church**

## **Newsletter**

**March 2023**

**SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD (Don't be late for service)**

### **Comments from Pastor Connie**

Lent is here. Traditionally, Lent was a time of self denial and personal reflection. In some faiths, church members were asked to give something up such as chocolate, tv, cards, etc. Thinking about all that Jesus gave to others when He walked this earth, I thought it made more sense to ask the congregation to give something.

Jesus always emphasized the importance of loving, giving, and sharing. Giving time is a gift. Listening to someone who is lonely is a gift. Sending a note or card of encouragement is another gift.

During the snow storm I learned of others in the congregation who gave of themselves to help shovel out neighbors and friends. I learned how members of the congregation invited others in for coffee to become better acquainted.

Giving of one's self is not only Biblical but also beneficial. Recently I read about 7 scientific facts about the benefit of doing good.

1. Brain's pleasure centers light up releasing endorphins.
2. Decreases stress
3. Increases life expectancy
4. Makes us feel better
5. Makes us happier
6. Promotes mental health
7. Leads to more happiness over time

During Lent I'd like to invite each of you to deliberately choose to "GIVE" as a gift to God for sending us Jesus.

God's Blessings

Pastor Connie

## **From the Moderator's Desk**

**Moderator— Karen Jones**

**Welcome March!**

Even though snow is on the ground, I feel Spring is popping threw the air.

I do know we have a new heating system coming this month thanks to many donations from this giving and caring church family.

Also a new copier has been ordered for the office. The old copier was getting hard to get parts for and the copier is essential.

Our renovation committee is actively getting quotes to start on our kitchen. So exciting!! Financial support is always a need.

I hear there are rumors that an auction is in the works for June. Read the rest of your newsletter for more details. It's going to be exciting.

And... Peter Cotton Tail is hopping down the road with an Easter Drama following. You will have to come and see for yourself. Maybe reserve a seat? lol

**Thanks be to God**

**Your Moderator,**

**Karen Jones**

### **Encouragement Opportunity**

Olivia Forsberg is facing knee surgery after falling during a sporting event. Please send her a note or card of encouragement.

Olivia Forsberg -11122 S Cornwell Ave.

Clare MI 48617

### **Potluck Sunday - March**

The potluck will be on March 12th after service. Please bring a dish to pass and plan to stay for good food and great fellowship. There is a sign up sheet outside Wanda's office.

### **Ladies Meeting**

On Thursday March 30th all church ladies are invited to come have lunch provided by Ruth Fretz and Teresa Mackie. Lynn Schumacher is going to show how to make an Easter card to send to members. Ladies meet at noon.

### **Giving Opportunities**

Jen Helsel has provided a list of items to share with New Hope Girls. Please bring items and place in the missions basket under the large table in the fellowship room.

- ♦ Arts and crafts
- ♦ Paint brushes
- ♦ Chap stick
- ♦ Easter candy
- ♦ Easter socks (have been donated)
- ♦ Easer pails (have been donated)

Please bring items by 1st Sunday in April. Thank you in advance!

## **Pioneer Easter Dinner**

Dinner and goodie bags will be provided to the students and faculty on March 22nd. Paula and Bill Newkirk oversee the meal and gift bags. This truly is an outreach. Thanks to everyone who helps and participates in any way.

## **Bell Choir**

After Easter, the Bell Choir hopefully will resume playing. Anyone who would like to play, please contact Frank Bongard.

## **Maundy Thursday Service**

The Maundy Thursday Service will be April 6th at 7:00 pm in our sanctuary. The service will last about an hour. Communion will be offered.

## **Good Friday Services**

Pastor Connie has been asked to preach at the ecumenical Good Friday Service, at the Assembly of God on Colonville Road. The time will be 12:00.

## **Easter Morning**

There will be no Sunday School before service that day.

Easter Sunday Breakfast will be at 9:00 in the fellowship Hall, provided by the church council.

## **Easter Drama**

Easter Sunday a drama will be part of the morning worship service. Plan to attend and bring a guest or two with you.

## **Mother's Day**

Mother's Day is on our May's potluck Sunday. You are invited to a special dinner served after worship. Dr. Kurt, Frank, Alan, Bill, JD will be servicing. Miss Ryleigh will be the hostess. More to come next month. Please plan to attend.



## Auction



Sunday June 11th at 1:00 is our 1st auction. After worship hot dogs, salad, dessert, etc. will be provided. Wes Alexander, Pastor Connie's brother will be the auctioneer. Proceeds will go towards remodeling the kitchen and buying supplies for the kitchen.

Items such as baked goods, golf outings, restaurant certificates, a pie a month, lawn care, window washing, boat rides, dinner for 6 or 8, fishing party, handyman for a day, special pictures & glass wares, tool boxes, driver for a day, car detailing, crafts (such as: paintings, afghans, woodworking) etc., will be collected and auctioned off. If you have a talent or item to donate please call Wanda at: 989 240-0717. Please call as soon as possible so the items can be listed on the flyers, and sale bills will have the items listed. Then all items and certificates should be turned in no later than June 4th. Perishables can be brought to the church on Saturday June 10th between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.

There will be food available during the auction. Be there and bring your friends. It's going to be great! Can't wait!!





# Volunteers: Making their Passion their Purpose



*"Having a volunteer there to hold my mother's hand and read to her not only helped us when we needed relief from caregiving; but, helped my mother because she knew she wasn't alone. ProMedica's volunteers gave everyone in my family moments of peace of mind during my mother's final days."*

## WHAT IS HOSPICE

Hospice is a special kind of care designed to provide comfort care as well as spiritual and emotional support for terminally ill patients and their families. Hospice focuses on enhancing quality of life, rather than length of life. We support our patients and their families wherever they are in their health care journey and respect their goals and values.

## VOLUNTEER SERVICES\*

- Caregiver relief/support
- Bedside vigils for patients in their final hours
- Veteran volunteer support to patients who are veterans
- Art at the bedside
- Pet visits
- Friendly visits
- Reading aloud
- Bereavement support
- Music at the bedside
- Legacy – life stories
- Group activity support
- Special events

## THE HOSPICE VOLUNTEER\*\*

We depend on our hospice volunteers to help us provide the love, respect and care our patients and families need. Some volunteers interact directly with patients and families, while others prefer to work behind the scenes in the office setting. As a volunteer, you would help us decide which tasks you are comfortable performing. Our volunteers help enrich the lives of our patients by:

- Running errands for patients and families
- Staying with patients so family members can get a much-needed rest
- Reading or providing a comforting touch
- Playing or singing soothing music to patients
- Helping with office support tasks at the agency
- Providing a friendly visit to lift a patients spirits

989-772-2541

[promedica hospice.org/mountpleasant](http://promedica hospice.org/mountpleasant)

 **PROMEDICA**  
HOME HEALTH AND HOSPICE

\* Please note: not all services may be available at every agency location.

\*\* We suggest that volunteers make appropriate adjustments after significant losses in their lives, and wait a minimum of one year following the death of a loved one to volunteer.

You may have known us as Heartland. As part of ProMedica, we continue our commitment to enhancing the quality of life for patients.  
©2022 ProMedica Health System, Inc., or its affiliates \*Images taken prior to mask requirements PSC-400898-001



## **February Birthdays**

David Butler 03/06

Andrew Schunk 03/08

Caitlin Walls 03/14

Matthew Forsberg 03/15

Ruth Fretz 03/18

Doug Allen 03/26

Janet Kunse 03/21

Steve Newkirk 03/29

Kelly Edwards 03/24

Justin Walls 03/31



### **Facts & Figures: Month of February**

Date	Attendance	Offering
Feb. 05	25	\$ 659 .00
12	32	\$ 829. 00
19	24	\$ 565. 00
26	33	\$ 1104.00

### **Serving: Month of March**

Officiating:	Pastor Connie Bongard
Accompanist:	LuAnne Humphrey
Liturgist:	Dr. Kurt Keppner
Ushering :	Connie Johnson & Phyllis Carrigan

### **REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

#### **Nursing Home/Assisted Living:**

Dick Snyder: 401 Orchard Ave. Clare MI. 48617

#### **Health/Healing & Other Needs:**

Bill Franklin, Tom Johnson, Randy Thompson, Kathy Gosling, Sean Gallagher, Dave Stevens, Patty (Humphrey) Hazen, Mike Humphrey, Jim Sutton, LuAnne Humphrey



*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](mailto:office@clarecongregational.org))*