

Clare Congregational Church Newsletter

April 2023

Comments from Pastor Connie

To all the mothers, “Happy Mother’s Day“. This month we celebrate Mothers Day and also Memorial Day. Godly mothers help make great memories. There’s a reading entitled “Like Light Switches” I’d like to share. “Affirming words from Moms and Dads are like light switches. Speak a word of affirmation at the right moment in a child’s life and its like lighting up a whole roomful of possibilities.” Speaking words of affirmation in anyone’s life provides energy and hope. Watching AGT confirms over and over how words inspire. The opposite is also true. Negativity has NO place among Christians. The Scripture teaches us, “Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone,” Colossians 4:6

A lesson from a little boy entitled “Just the Right Size.” It was the day before Mother’s Day that a little boy, money tightly clutched in his hand, came to a clerk, “I want to buy a present for Mom”. Then he added, “a slip”. “What size does she wear?” “I don’t know anything about sizes.” “Is she tall,? Short? Large? Small?” The little boy answered, “ Mother is just right”. The clerk wrapped up a size 36. The following Monday the boy’s mother returned the slip and exchanged it for a size 52! Size meant nothing to his Mom. His mother had won his heart! “In an elementary school classroom a teacher asked, “How do you know your grandmother loves you?” A little boy raised his hand with enthusiasm. When called upon, he said, “ I know grandma loves me cause when I look in her eyes, I can see all the way to her heart.”

Let’s be people who look in the hearts of those God puts in our path.

God’s Blessings,

Pastor Connie

From the Moderator's Desk

Moderator— Karen Jones

What a beautiful Easter. Unfortunately, “Mr. Covid “ paid me a visit and I had to miss Easter Sunday. I found out how loving and caring our church family really is by the many texts and cards I received through my illness. Thank you.

With sadness, we say goodbye to our Kelly Edwards who has cleaned for our church for over 20 years. She will be missed by all. We sure hope to see her smiling face in worship one of these days. We do wish you well Kelly.



We welcome aboard our new employee, Jean Scheer. She will take over the cleaning position of our church. If you have any questions regarding this, feel free to discuss this with the board members. We appreciate you working through this transaction. Spring looks so exciting with all the upcoming events, The Auction , Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Father's Day, Family Picnic, and a Fall Party .

Thanks be to God,

Your Moderator,

Karen Jones

Clare Public School Students

Clean Up Church Grounds

The last two Fridays in April were very special and exciting days for our Church!

On Friday, April 21 a dozen students from Clare High School spent an hour and one half working to clean up our back and side yards. This was part of a local Earth Day observance where students from the High School walk all over town, in groups of ten to 15, helping clean up and spruce up the City and surrounding area. This help in cleaning up our back and side yards was very much appreciated. They left the Church with bottled water we provided, and headed to their next assigned site, before heading back to the High School for ice cream.

Friday, April 28, we had the pleasure of hosting a group of over twenty students from Pioneer High School and their teacher chaperones. They arrived at the Church at 11:45 AM and left to go back to the school at about 1:45. We started their time with us by serving them pizza, juice, and homemade chocolate chip cookies for lunch. They had asked if they could see the inside of the church, so we gave them a tour. The respect and awe they expressed when we entered the Sanctuary! The most common comment coming from them was "WOW"! Next, we went outside, and they worked very hard raking the front and parking lot side lawns, trimming dead growth from last summer, picking up trash, cleaning along the curbs and sidewalks. They bagged it all up and it has been hauled away.

After the work was done, we thanked them for everything they did for us, and they thanked us for all we do for them and their school. It was an awesome experience for everyone, and consensus was that this will become an annual event.

Written and submitted by:

Bill Newkirk

The Auction

Whenever a new idea or suggestion is offered, many questions are asked. The auction is a new idea for many of you. Numerous items have been donated. There is a sign-up chart outside Wanda's office. Many spaces are empty and waiting to be filled. The event is a fund raiser. However, its an opportunity for fun fellowship, laughter and memories. Invite friends. Food will be available. The entertainment is free. Lots of ways to spend money to support the improvement of the kitchen. Come and see for yourself how enjoyable the auction will be.

Sewing Day

After months of trying to find a day to get together and sew, we're going to try again. May 17 at 1:00, anyone who wants to meet in the fellowship hall to sew is welcome. We have an ironing board and an iron and two sewing machines to be shared.

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, Bill, and JD will be serving. Miss Ryleigh will be the hostess. Please plan to attend.

New Hope Girls

The Congregation has been blessed with the girls from New hope attending worship this past month. Thanks all of you for making them feel welcome. Many of them are musical, and prayerfully sometime soon will sing during worship. Also, thank you for your prayers, support and gifts that are shared with the girls.

Quilt Auction

Ila Schumacher made many quilts in her lifetime. One of her quilt tops was given to Pastor Connie. The pattern is the Bow-Tie. The quilt top will be auctioned at Yoder's Quilt Show on Friday May 18th. The proceeds from the sale of the top will be given to the women's group.

Pioneer Graduation Open House

The Clare Congregational Church has been asked to provide a reception for the Pioneer High School graduates again this year. Last year was a tremendous success. We are pleased to be able to support these kids and proud of them

Bell Choir

Meredith List wants the Bell Ringers to meet at 5:45 this Wednesday and at noon on each Wednesday following.

Farwell Band

May 21st the Farwell Band will be playing a selection of music during worship. A Free Will offering will be taken to give to the band program, to thank them and let them know we appreciate them playing for us.

To contact church office: office@clarecongregational.org

Phone: 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

May Birthdays

Barb Kunse 05/03

Tom Johnson 05/04

John Bicknell II 05/04

Mary Ann Forsberg 05/07

Andrea Walls 05/09

Carly Wolfe 05/20

Paula Newkirk 05/20

Bill Schepperley 05/28



May Anniversaries

John & Angela Allen 05//07

Facts & Figures: Month of April

Date	Attendance	Offering
April 02	37	\$ 1191.00
09	78	\$ 2139.00
16	35	\$ 878.00
23	33	\$ 1870.00
30	42	\$ 1206.00

Misc.—\$1,000.00

Serving: Month of May

Officiating:	Pastor Connie Bongard
Accompanist:	LuAnne Humphrey
Liturgist:	Dr. Kurt Keppner
Ushers:	Bob and Meredith List

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Dick Snyder: 401 Orchard Ave. Clare MI. 48617

Health/Healing & Other Needs:



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)

Bill Franklin, Tom Johnson, Randy Thompson, Kathy Gosling, Sean Gallagher, Dave Stevens, Patty (Humphrey) Hazen, Mike Humphrey, LuAnne Humphrey, Bill Newkirk, Bob Teeter, and Lee Agle



Auction



Sunday June 11th at 1:00 is our 1st auction. 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!!

