

Clare Congregational Church Newsletter

November 2023

Comments from Pastor Connie

“Happy Thanksgiving”

I love Thanksgiving. Taking time to be thankful blesses everyone. Thinking about things we take for granted and reminding ourselves of our blessings is even healthy.

The Scriptures teach us in I Thessalonians 5:16-18, “Rejoice always, pray continually, GIVE THANKS In All Circumstances; For this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” Wow! Just think how the world would change if one by one Christians around the world practiced these words written hundreds of years ago.

I’d like to throw out a challenge. How about for the month of November instead of complaining or finding fault, we give thanks. If we have to wait in line instead of grumbling we could count all our blessings. When someone annoys us, we change our attitude and remind us about the good in the individual.

I’d like the world around me to change. Being in groups of people who are positive, joyful and grateful is energizing. Medical studies have proven people who are “thankful” tend to live longer, are healthier and happier.

Praying all of you have a happy and blessed Thanksgiving and celebrate all of your blessings.

God’s blessings,

Pastor Connie

From the Moderator's Desk

Moderator— Karen Jones

As I look back at the month of October, I have seen many “helping hands” come forth. Several hands do filling and wrapping pails for the Baby Pantry, hands helping in the kitchen project, hands making new signs and many more hands preparing for a Christmas bazaar. Then comes November! Women’s fellowship baking for our Annual bake sale at Jays Sporting Goods, hands preparing food for Pioneer School’s Thanksgiving Dinner. Our “many hands” make our church what it is today. Thank you God for the gift of hands.

Thanks be to God!

Your Moderator,

Karen Jones

Our council meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at 12:15 and are open to everyone. Hope to see you there.

To contact church office:

E-mail: office@clarecongregational.org

Phone: 989-386-7582

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

Church website: clarecongregational.org



Christmas Sale

Clare Congregational Church



110 W 5th Street

Clare MI 48617

(Miracle on 5th Street Church)



Clare Congregational Church is offering an amazing opportunity. November 4th, come in out of the cold for hot chocolate, coffee, homemade cinnamon rolls and a smaller version of Bronner's in Clare, Michigan. Lots of Christmas items for you to possess for a donation. No set prices! Can't wait to see you at the church fellowship hall. It should be fun. We'll be looking for you from 9:00a.m. — 3:00p.m.



Cash or check only

Special Music

If anyone would like to sing, play an instrument, or know someone who would, please let Frank, Ruth, or Pastor Connie know.

Baby Pantry

The “Bucket Brigade” has assembled, wrapped, and delivered to the Baby Pantry 100 buckets to be distributed among the Baby Pantry recipients. Thank you to John and Angie Allen, Don Jones, Jim Sutton, Barb Kunse, Paula Newkirk, Wanda Agle, and Pastor Connie for all your work in making this mission possible.

Fellowship (Coffee Hour)

Sign up sheets are outside the office door. November and December have lots of empty dates. If you’d be interested in doing coffee hour, please sign up. Thank you.

I’d also like to thank Jim Sutton, Pastor Connie and Paula Newkirk for helping me with the Halloween Coffee hour food. Lots of food, no one left hungry. Coffee hour doesn’t have to be extravagant. It can be as simple as donuts and coffee or a full meal. It’s not about the food, it’s the fellowship and getting to know your congregation, and to welcome the new people through the doors.

Water

We are requesting cases of water for the congregation. We really appreciate your contributions. Thank you!

Deacons—Don Jones

All seems to be going well except for music. As most of you already know, our beloved organist is having surgery. We are looking for a fill in organist. Anyone who may have a person or persons who might be willing to fill in please contact Don Jones or Pastor Connie.

Regards,

Deacons Committee

Get Well Cards

Update: Phyllis still needs our prayers for her shoulder, but her surgery is healing well. Please keep her in your prayers and keep the cards going.

Phyllis Carrigan

3690 Oak Apple Ave. SE

Ada MI 49301

Renovations—Don Jones

Update: The kitchen project is back on schedule. New ceiling is in, electrical upgrade completed, and painting almost completed. The next couple months not much will be done. We want to keep the kitchen open for use through the holidays. Beginning the first week of January demolition will begin. At that time the kitchen will be closed for use. This phase of the project may take 6-8 weeks. Thanks in advance for your support and understanding.

Your Renovation Committee.

November 12th Potluck

After worship, Sunday Nov. 12th, the congregation is invited to our Thanksgiving potluck dinner. There is a sign up sheet outside Wanda's office. Please plan to help with a dish to pass and enjoy dinner with your church family.

Christmas Play December 10th

December 10th during worship service will provide an opportunity to experience the Christmas story without a traditional sermon. Plan to attend and enjoy a potluck afterwards with your church family.

Ladies' Meeting

Come join us for fellowship, fun and laughter. After the "Christmas Sale" on November 4th, if there are any cinnamon rolls left, we will be selling them on Sunday during coffee hour. Our next big event will be our "Bake Sale" at Jays Sporting Goods, on November 14th. If you love to bake, please keep this date handy. You could bring your goodies to the church on Sunday November 12th or on the day of the sale from 8:00 – 9:00 am. Thanks, we really appreciate your help. If you don't bake but love homemade cookies, bread, pies etc. make your way to Jays on the 14th of November to stock up!

The ladies voted to donate the dishwasher for the new kitchen, it was purchased through Wood's Household.

Pioneer High — Bill Newkirk

Fall Activities at Pioneer High

As we enter November, it seems hard to believe that it was just over 2 months ago that we delivered 40 welcome back gift bags to the students. We continued to support these students by delivering 40 Trick or Treat bags on October 30.

Now, we start with our first major celebration of the year by providing them with a traditional Thanksgiving turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Volunteers from the Church will be preparing and serving the students roast turkey, mashed potatoes with gravy, dressing, corn, green bean casserole, dinner rolls, and pumpkin pie topped with whipped cream. We will be serving this meal on November 14.

Upcoming events being planned at this time include Christmas dinner in December, Easter dinner in March, and assisting with a graduation party for their seniors at the end of the school year.

All of these activities are made possible through your generous donations and the ongoing youth outreach returnable can and bottle drive. Thank you for your continued support! We are making a difference in the lives of these young people!

Women's Group

This Saturday November 4th is our Christmas Sale in the fellowship Hall. Come and enjoy hot chocolate or coffee and a cinnamon roll. While you check out all the Christmas items available for donations. You'll be amazed at how many items are available.

On November 14th, we will be set up out at Jay's Sporting Goods with our annual Bake Sale from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. All sorts of goodies available. Come check it out, pies, breads, cookies and more!

Sewers

Due to busy schedules, Rebecca will plan to demonstrate a class on making travel bags in January. More information will be available in the December Newsletter.

Thank You

October was a busy month at the church. Thank you to everyone who helped prepare for the Christmas Sale. Many hands lighten the load. We saw many hands working together. Thank you. Also, all of you who dressed up for Halloween Sunday created a fun atmosphere in worship. John Andrews made everyone laugh when he dressed up and sang "Monster Mash". Thank you to Paula who prepared 45 Halloween bags for the Pioneer students. Also thank you to Wanda for the over the top coffee hour. Our church is blessed with many hands to make things special.

Special Thanks—from Wanda Agle

I would like to thank those who helped me with the coffee hour on Sunday. Thanks Paula, Jim, Pastor Connie and Dee. I appreciate all of you. Also thanks to everyone for bringing stuff up out of the basement. Thank you Barb for helping with everything!



Annual Christmas Party

The Christmas Party this year will be on Friday December 1st at 6:00pm. You can sign up anytime. The sooner the better so I have some idea how many to set up and to fix food for. The theme this year is “Angels Among Us”, and the entertainment will be awesome. John Andrews will be providing music again this year and Pastor Connie is sure to liven up the evening. You don’t want to miss this, but I need to know SOON!

I will fix the evening dinner this year again, I’m planning on a Swiss Steak dinner with all the trimming and special dessert after dinner.

The decorations in the fellowship hall will be absolutely breathtaking. So, please let me know as soon as possible. There is no cost for this fabulous event, but you must make a reservation. There will be “good will” donation boxes on the table if you’d like to donate.

Thank You,

Wanda Agle

November Birthdays

Ivah Forsberg	11/03
Jerry Forsberg	11/07
James Colville	11/08
Tom Kunse	11/10
Carol Colville	11/12
Steven Schunk	11/12
Bill Franklin	11/17
Hadley Jones	11/25
Steve Strnad	11/27
David Forsberg	11/29
Charlotte Shaner	11/30



Facts & Figures: Month of October

Date	Attendance	Offering
Oct. 1	29	\$ 2070.00
8	40	1251.00
15	23	1023.00
22	42	1477.00
29	30	1150.00

Serving month of November

Officiating:	Pastor Connie Bongard
Liturgist:	Dr. Kurt Keppner
Ushers:	John and Angie Allen
Accompanist:	

REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

Tom Johnson, Patty (Humphrey) Hazen, Mike Humphrey, Lee Agle, Phyllis Carrigan and Pam Gaffner, Glen Gale and LuAnne Humphrey



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