

Clare Congregational Church Newsletter
November 2026 *(Happy Thanksgiving)*

Contact Information

Contact:
Clare Congregational Church
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Web Site:
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Office Hours: 10am-2pm
Tues.-Wed.-Thur.

General Information

Sunday Morning Bible Study:
9:30 am

Sunday Morning Service:
10:30 am (Nursery Available)

Coffee Hour: Fellowship Hall
(after service)

Potluck: 2nd Sunday in
November

Council Meeting: Oct.10th

Women's Meeting: Oct. 19th



Comments From Pastor Connie

In the bible over 200 times we are reminded to thank God. More than 30 times in Psalms, the psalmist said, “Be thankful to God and bless His name. (Psalm 100:4) He also wrote, “It is good to give thanks unto the Lord”. (Psalm 92:1)

Thanksgiving is a part of the most intimate relationship that exists between man and God. Recently a man in our congregation received a financial blessing. Whenever he has been blessed, he passes a part of the blessing forward. My daughter Sarah happened to be one of the recipients. After one of her most challenging days she walked home discouraged and defeated. Before going in the house she picked up her mail from the box and noticed a card with a Clare return address. Once she walked through the back door she set her stack of materials down on the kitchen table and tore open the card. Inside were some lovely, encouraging words and money. Some was to use for her class and some to be used for her.

Sarah called me and shared her frustration in her classroom and her joy from an “act of kindness.” Her student also learned about a person they had never met was going to bring some delight into the classroom.

November is an excellent time to set aside some deliberate time to thank God for his blessings. Being thankful is great for our mental health. Also being in a thankful spirit provides physical health to our bodies.

Praying everyone has a blessed Thanksgiving. Also praying each of you takes time to thank God for all your blessings.



God’s blessings,
Pastor Connie





A Message from your Moderator

”Happy Thanksgiving Everyone”

Wow! Holidays are approaching. On Sunday November 8th the congregation is invited to bring a dish to our regular scheduled potluck. The 22nd of November the council will provide turkey and basic trimmings. Bring a side dish or dessert and enjoy a turkey dinner.

Thanksgiving reminds us to be thankful. We are a blessed congregation. Our doors are open. New faces appear. New people step forward to share their talents. Our building is lovely. We are fortunate to have a place to worship. We have the best Pastor in the world!

Winter will be approaching and that means extra expenses. I want to thank everyone for their financial support. Please know the generousity of each of you allows us not only to take care of our needs but to reach out to others.

Walt Whitman said “The gift is to the giver, and comes back most to him – it cannot fail.” Jesus said, “Give and it will be given to you. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.”

God Bless!

Your Moderator,
Karen Jones



Thank You from Pastor Connie

Thank you to all who gave me or sent card for pastor appreciation month. The gift card from TJ Max was greatly appreciated. Also my cake was lovely and tasty. Best of all, thank you for being so lovable.

Advent

Advent begins Sunday November 29th. Sue and Bill Leverence will be the readers and candle lighters the 1st Sunday of Advent.

1st Advent

Remembering and celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas.



Coffee Hour

There are sign-up sheets on the bulletin board outside Wanda's office. Please sign up for a Sunday Coffee Hour. Our monthly potluck is on the second Sunday of each month, you can sign up for that also. Coffee Hour can be as simple as cookies or doughnuts. You may do it alone or grab a friend to work with you. The fellowship is always great, come join us! There are always people willing to help you.

Last One Out

If you are the last one to leave after coffee hour, please look at the list on the refrigerator or the one on the white board inside the fellowship door. There is a list of things to do to secure the building. Also there are names and phone numbers of people to call if necessary.



Appointments

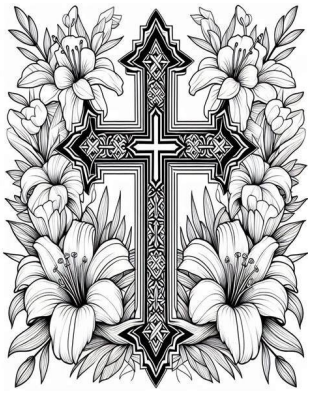
I think that I shall never see
A church that's all it ought to be;
A church whose members never stray
Beyond the straight and narrow way;

A church that has no empty pews,
Whose pastor never has the blues;
A church whose members always tithe,
And none is proud, all look alive;

Whose gossip never peddles lies,
Or make complaints or criticize;
Where all are always sweet and kind,
And all the others' faults are blind;

Such perfect churches there may be,
But none of which are known by me,
But still, we'll work and pray and plan
To make our church the best we can.

….Author Unknown



Submitted by Carol Colville



Adult Sunday School

The Adult Sunday School Class enjoyed Sloppy-Jo's and lots of other food at 4:30 in the afternoon on October 18th and then we watched a movie after that. Great movie and a relaxing evening enjoying fellowship and popcorn. Everyone seemed to have a great evening. Our class meets Sunday mornings at 9:30 in the church parlor. Everyone is welcome to attend. We have a great time!

Missionary Support Opportunity

Clarissa Root worshiped with Clare Congregational Church on October 25th. She was visiting relatives in the area before returning to her family home in Jacksonville Florida. Her destination after that will be Madagascar as a missionary. She is seeking prayer and financial support. To learn more about her, check out www.linktr.ee/clarissaroot. Her phone number is (904)476-7428. Pastor Connie also has information in her office. Pastor Connie is going to make a pledge to her workand hopes others will also.

Thanksgiving Potluck

November 22nd will be the thanksgiving Dinner. Council members will prepare the turkey. dressing, potatoes, mac and cheese and some desserts. Please plan to bring a dish and celebrate dinner with your church family.

Music Ensemble

November 22nd a new music group emerges. Sue Leverence wrote the music and the lyrics. Vocalists will be Terri, Ruth and Sue. Instrumentalists will be Sue on steel guitar, Angie on the bells, Frank on drums and high hat and Felix on bass. You won't want to miss this.

Pioneer High School Update

November 2026

This fall has been a very active time for our support of the students at Pioneer High School.

First, in late August, we delivered 30+ draw-string bags to the students. The bags were full of treats and back to school items to welcome them to the new school year.

Additionally, in late October, we packed and delivered 32 Halloween bags for them. We also left CapriSun juice packs, granola bars, fruit snacks, and other treats for them to enjoy.

Plans are well underway for the annual Thanksgiving dinner scheduled for November 17. We will be serving turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing, corn, rolls, dessert, and CapriSun. This annual dinner is always a high point of the year with the students, and for all of us from the Church who serve it to them.

We will also be supporting these young people at Christmas and Easter with traditional dinners, and their seniors after their commencement ceremony in May.

Our involvement with them is always greatly appreciated by the students and staff.

We really appreciate all that the Church congregation and friends do to support this program. Without your donations of returnable bottles and cans, money, food, and time, this program and the impact we have on the lives of these young people would not be possible.

Bells

The Bell Choir continues to practice Thursdays at 1:30. they will perform November 15thdoring worship.



CLARE Congregational Church



(Across From Post Office)

"Holiday Bazaar"



110 W 5th St.

Clare MI



Bakery

November 7th

2026 9am – 3 pm





Ph# 989 386-7582

Christmas Items

Boutique

Women's Fellowship

The women's group had decided on no November meeting, but there's a change of plans! **We will be meeting on November 19th** to finish up the end of the year. We will also discuss the results of the "Holiday Bazaar" and the "Hunters Bake Sale" out at Jay's. Decide what works and what doesn't.

December we will be having a catered luncheon on December 19th at 12:00noon.

Hunter's Bake Sale at Jay's Sporting Goods

Please support the Bake Sale at Jay's on November 14th sponsored by the Women' Group. Everyone is encouraged to bake or come and buy some goodies. Donations are also welcomed. The proceeds are used to purchase coffee supplies, cleaning supplies and paper supplies at the church. The Women's Fellowship recently donated $1,000.00 to help with the utility bills.



November Birthdays

Ivah Forsberg	11/03
Nancy Orr	11/08
James Coville	11/08
Tom Kunse	11/10
Carol Colville	11/12
Steven Schunk	11/12
Bill Franklin	11/17
Angela Colville	11/18
Hadley Jones	11/25
Steve Strnad	11/27
David Forsberg	11/29
Charlotte Shaner	11/30

Serving Month of November

Officiating: Pastor Connie Bongard
Liturgist: Dr. Kurt Keppner
Ushers: Jim Lard & Jim Sutton
Accompanist: Johannes Durkin





October Facts & Figures:

Date	Attendance	Offering
Oct. 5	32	$1,453.00
12	51	1,949.00
18	39	2,260.00
25	39	1,796.12

REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

Prayer List: Phyllis Carrigan, Patty (Humphrey) Hazen, Mike Humphrey, LuAnne Humphrey, Ivah Forsberg, Nancy Orr, Patty Wiseley, Bill Newkirk, Barb Murphy and Michael Murphy.

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