

# Clare Congregational Church Newsletter

October 2021

## Comments from Pastor Connie

“Happy Fall”! The colors are changing. There is a crispness in the air. A new direction is emerging. This time of the year my mind focuses on the upcoming holidays.

Recently, I read the following words which spoke to my heart. “Your life is a journey. Throughout that journey, it’s critical that you look in the direction that you’re going . . . and that you don’t look in the direction you’re not going. If you focus on that which is ungodly, impure, negative, sinful . . . you’ll end up going there . . . and away from God. In the end, you will end up going where you looked. And that which you dwelt on will be that which you dwelt on. Focus on those things that are consistent with your calling. You have a heavenly calling. Dwell on what is pure, high and of God. Focus on what is good. Cease dwelling on what is . . . and on that which has nothing to do with your heavenly calling. You'll end up where you are to go, when you look where you’re going.”

The Apostle states it like this in Philippians 3:13-14, “Friends, I don’t consider that I made it on my own; but one thing I do; forgetting what lies behind and moving forward to what lies ahead. I keep going toward that goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God”.

Let’s all keep moving forward. Just think, soon it will be Christmas.

God’s blessings,

Pastor Connie

## **From Our Moderator**

### **Welcome Fall !!!**

Oh how I love the seasons. Fall is my favorite... the fall leaves—the fall breeze, the change is always welcome.

We have so much to be thankful for. Our Pastor who as our spiritual leader keeps us on our toes.

The month of October is “Pastor Appreciation Month”. Let us all take a few minutes out of our busy schedules to show her how grateful and appreciative we are to call her “ Our Pastor”.

She does so much to help so many, perhaps we need to let her know how thankful we are.

Don and myself are very happy to celebrate and share the love and spiritual guidance we receive from Pastor Connie.

The church is moving forward in great directions, thanks to such great leadership.

**Thanks again Pastor Connie!**

Your Moderator

Karen Jones

## Ladies Lunch

On September 29th, seven ladies attended to meet and eat. Barb Kunse provided delicious freshly prepared cream of broccoli soup and sweet potato chili with home made, still warm, corn bread. The food and fellowship was lovely. Topics of discussion included the upcoming pasties preparation and sales, bake sale at Jay's, request for hats and mittens for school age children, and the Rada Knife and utensils fundraiser. Wanda Agle was hospitalized earlier in the day and was greatly missed. Also she had the answers to many of the ladies' unanswered questions. Barb is overseeing the pasties project. They will be hand made in the church kitchen. Pasties can be ordered anytime between now and through October 18th. The price is \$4.00 each. After the 19th pasties may be purchased during office hours.]

## Christmas Party

Our Christmas Party will be December 11th, at 6PM. Please make your reservations soon. Tickets will be available November 1st. You can reserve your tickets anytime now. There will be a Good Will donation box on each table. We need to know how many people are coming so you must have a ticket for each person. If you make reservations early, you can pick up your tickets after the 1st of November. We've been 2 years now planning, making decorations and checking the sound system... You will not want to miss it. Plan on a great evening of entertainment, dinner, lots of fellowship and fun!

## Pasties

The Women's Lunch Bunch is going to be making Pasties and selling them as a fund raiser for \$4.00 each. They will be hand made at the church by congregation members with a recipe from the UP. **YUMMY!**

We are accepting preorders now until October 18th. Please call the office at (989) 386-7582 or call or text Wanda at (989) 240-0717. They can be picked up on October 19th 2PM—6:30PM and if there are any extras they may be purchased during office hours.

## **New Hope Girls**

This month the girls were settling into being home schooled. Also, they continue to be thankful for the surprise snacks, gifts and cards. Hopefully, they will come again to worship soon.

Pumpkins and paints will be delivered in October. Also, Gwen Tisdale made each girl a beautiful, quilted Halloween bag. Paula Newkirk is filling them with snacks and gifts. Pastor Connie is busy sewing holiday pillow cases for each of them.

Thank you to everyone who is involved in this special ministry. Lives are being changed because of acts of love and kindness.

## **Pioneer News**

Once again, The Clare Congregational Church is being allowed to reach out to the youth and adults at the Pioneer Alternative School. We are being asked to help support the breakfast program for the adults. Interest has been mentioned about the Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. More details to follow. Contact Dave Forsberg with any questions.

## **Hats and Mittens Needed**

Pastor Connie's daughter, Sarah, asked if the congregation would help provide hats and mittens for students where she teaches. Last year all of the supply was depleted. The children aren't allowed to go out for recess without them. Also, many of the children are living in campers with only the bare necessities. Socks and underwear would also be appreciated. Sizes for children ages 4 through 13 years would be a great help. Thank you in advance.

## **Baby Pantry Donations**

The board of the Clare County Baby Pantry wishes to thank the congregation and individuals of the Clare Congregational Church. Recently a \$250.00 donation was given. Pastor Connie has asked that the money be used to buy warm pajamas for the children.

Also, thank you for the diapers, mac and cheese, juices, applesauce, socks, underwear, and onesies donated. We really appreciate your generous hearts.

## **To Our Congregation**

Please! If you know of anyone in our congregation who is suffering for any reason and needs our help or prayers, please inform us or reach out to Pastor Connie. We cannot help if we don't know there's a problem, and no one should suffer alone. We are a family and families help each other.

## **Halloween Bash**

Sunday, October 31st is Halloween. Everyone is invited to come in costume. There will be a "Halloween Bash" after worship in the fellowship hall. More details to be given in the upcoming church bulletins.

## **Men's Breakfast**

There will be a men's breakfast on October 16th at the church. Pancakes and eggs will be served at 8:30 a.m. Bring a friend and enjoy a great breakfast and fellowship.

## **Thank You from John Andrews**

John Andrews wishes to thank everyone for the kind words, cards, gifts and delicious Fiesta food. He was truly surprised and humbled. Music is his ministry and he appreciates being asked to come and sing.

## **Book Box**

If you have never seen a child or adult reach into the outside book box along the side of the church parking lot, you are missing a blessing. Recently, Ryleigh took books out of the box and laid them all on the grass. Then she picked one out for her Great Grandmother, Grandmother and herself. On the way back to her house, I read the book to her. She loved it so much, she took it to school with her. On Monday, she asked her teacher to read it to the class. "This is my most favorite book. I picked it out at my church's book box."

If any of you have children's or adult book you would be willing to donate, please bring them to the church office.

## **October Potluck**

Homemade soup will be provided October 10th for the potluck. Plan to bring a favorite dish to share and join your church family after worship for food and fellowship.

## **Annual Jay's Bake sale**

The women's group would like to invite everyone to participate in the annual bake sale at Jay's on November 13th; 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Food items need to be at the church by 9:00 a.m. on Saturday or taken to Jay's by 10:00 a.m. Proceeds are used by the women's group to provide cleaning supplies and paper products for the church. If you have any questions. Please contact the church office.

**Church Information :** Secretary: Wanda Agle      Phone: (989) 386-7582

Office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday 10:00 am—2:00 pm

**Web Site:** [clarecongregational.org](http://clarecongregational.org)

**E-mail:** [office@clarecongregational.org](mailto:office@clarecongregational.org)

**Council meetings are the first Tuesday of every month at 12:15(You are welcome to**

## October Birthdays

JD St. John 10/02

Lynn Schumacher 10/08

Charlie Meissner 10/14

Jack Meissner 10/14

Meghan Smith Jones 10/16

Jennifer Schunk 10/22



## October Anniversaries

James & Carol Colville 10/14

### Facts & Figures:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
September: 5	22	\$ 1535 .
12	36	\$ 1626.
19	18	\$ 1725.
26	17	\$ 4805.

### Serving this Month:

Officiating:	Pastor Connie Bongard
Accompanist:	LuAnne Humphrey
Liturgist	Dr. Kurt Keppner
Ushering :	Teresa Mackie & JD St. John

### REMEMBER IN PRAYER

#### Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Truman Glenn: c/o Green Acres, 1805 E. Remus Rd., Mt. Pleasant MI 48858

Dick Snyder: 401 Orchard Ave. Clare MI. 48617

#### Health/Healing & Other Needs:

Bill Franklin	Tom Johnson	Christopher Jackson	Sean Gallagher
Patty (Humphrey)Hazen	Scott Taube	Mike Humphrey	Dave Stevens
Naja Budreau	Holly Kwiatkowski	Dan Finney	Jim Bertley
Matthew fFetz			

*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))*