



## **Clare Congregational Church Newsletter October 2025**

### **Contact Information**

**Contact: Clare Congregational Church  
110 W 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Clare MI 48617**

**Phone: (989) 386-7582**

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

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

**Office Hours:**

**10am-2pm Tues.-Wed.-Thur.**

### **General Information**

**Sunday Morning Bible Study: 9:30 am**

**Sunday Morning Service: 10:30 am**

**Coffee Hour: Fellowship Hall  
(after service)**

**Potluck: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday each month**

**Church Council Meeting for Oct.:  
Oct. 21st, 2025**

**Women's Meeting:**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs. each month @ 12:00**

**Crafts: 2nd Thursday each month  
12:30**

## *Greetings From Pastor Connie*

As most of you know, my father recently died. He was 96 years and never complained about his life. He traveled to every state including Alaska and Hawaii. Travels also included England, Scotland, Poland, South and Central America.

The trip I was most interested in was his last journey. Laying beside him, holding his hand, and he had quite the grip, I whispered, "Dad, you can go home. Just think, your dad will be waiting for you. It's been 86 years since you have seen him. What a reunion!" Then I sort of chuckled and said under my breath, "I wonder if Mom is ready?" My Mom and Dad had been married for 52 years when she died, over 25 years ago. When my brother called to let me know Dad had gone to heaven I spent some quiet time in prayer. I asked God to help me never avoid an opportunity to share Jesus with those who didn't know Him. I asked that people would see the love of Christ through me. I asked God to pour out the Holy Spirit to those who were searching and needed direction.

Saying "goodbye" to my Dad was difficult for many reasons. However, knowing he is with so many loved ones who went before him gives me an inner peace.

On my desk is a picture of my Dad. His infectious smile brings many memories to my mind. We didn't always see eye to eye but he always expected the best. Challenged me when I wanted to give up. Stressed the value of an education and strong work ethics.

However, the greatest gift he gave me was a love for the church. My parents took us to Sunday school, youth group and worship. They were active in the church activities. My Dad taught us all about tithing and required us to do so from age 5.

Because of my Dad's understanding of the Bible and teaching us the Biblical stories all of my siblings believe in God and Jesus Christ. I'm thankful for the monetary inheritance he left me, but nothing compares with eternal inheritance I'll collect someday .

God's blessings,

Pastor Connie

## Moderator's Report

John Allen

Another month gone by! They sure go fast.

Continued thoughts and prayers for Pastor Connie and her family upon the recent passing of her father, Ray Alexander. I know she was personally touched by the attendance of so many of our congregation at her father's funeral.

The auction was a resounding success. Over \$3400 raised. The Women's Fellowship used part of that money to purchase a new freezer which is now in the basement. Thanks to all who participated.

Our Nativity Scene building has found a new home. It is permanently on a trailer which can be moved to the place where it will be displayed at the appropriate time.

The fence behind the church has been power washed and looks much better.

Don Jones is in the process of having a new railing installed on the short stairway from the fellowship hall to behind the altar.

Pastor Connie has informed me that the Woman's Fellowship is procuring a new robe for her to replace her 35 year old one. Look for it.

Thanks to Lynn Schumacher for covering the office during Wanda's vacation, October 21st through October 23rd.

That's it for now.

*John Allen*

Church Moderator

## **Adult Sunday School**

Each Sunday a group of adults meet around the parlor table to learn from one another and our text, the book of Galatians. We have many laughs and serious moments. Our class continues to grow. We always have room for one more! Come join the class at 9:30 every Sunday morning.

## **Bell Choir**

Frank would like to practice Christmas music and perform during Advent. Some of the “Ringers” will be leaving for warmer climates so we need some replacements. Practice is at 1:30 on Thursdays. If you are interested in trying to play, please contact Frank.

## **Building and Grounds Maintenance**

Steve Schumacher is our new head of maintenance. We seem to have a great team working on several areas. Thank you Steve, Frank, Bill, John and Jim. If you have any concerns or questions, please give Steve a call at 989 424-8737. They seem to keep busy. They have finished the painting and electrical in the supply room downstairs, cleaned up the brush on the East side of the building and power washed the white fence facing the fellowship hall. Trash and yard maintenance continues to be kept up. Thanks guys for a great job.



John Allen



Steve Schumacher

## **Stone Soup**

Stone soup has been blessed with many parishioners working in the kitchen and distributing food. Donations are always welcome. Last month the church provided ingredients to make lasagna. We will be addressing their needs again next month. If anyone is interested in helping, contact Dave Forsberg, Pastor Connie or Felix Lyons.

## **Canned Food Drive**

Stone Soup Kitchen is in need of canned goods such as tomatoes, spaghetti, ravioli, spaghetti o's, soups, tuna, etc. Felix Lyons over sees the distribution at the Kitchen. Let's get on board and fill up the shelves with canned goods. Cans can be brought to the church and put on the table inside the entrance. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

God's blessings,

Pastor Connie

## **Pioneer High**

### **Submitted by Bill and Paula Newkirk**

48 Welcome Back Bags were delivered to on August 18 to 48 students at Pioneer High School in Clare, on behalf of the church. This is part of the ongoing support we are providing to the students. Additionally, there are plans to continue support for the school's reward program for good behavior. Halloween bags the them in October, and holiday meals at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. We will also be assisting with their Open House at the senior graduation. These services are provided by the funding received from our ongoing can and bottle drive and cash donations we receive for the outreach program!

## Women's Meeting

As most of you have heard by now, the Pig Roast/Auction was a great success, the women took in over \$3400. Thanks Frank for all your help. We purchased a freezer from Wood's Household here in Clare and they installed and removed the old refrigerator as well. We had our September meeting at "Time Out Tavern" with 11 women in attendance. We celebrated Pastor Connie's birthday. Melinda Lard made her a beautiful birthday cake. It was a lot of fun. The women voted to donate \$250.00 to "Feed the Starving Children". We agreed to purchase a large banner from "Clare Print and Pulp" to help advertise the "Holiday Bazaar" on November 1st. We will also be setting up at "Jay's Sporting Goods" on November 14 for the annual bake sale.



Fun!



Fun!



Fun!



## **Holiday Bazaar**

The date for the Women's Holiday Bazaar this year will be November 1st 9:00 am until 3:00 pm. We have received several nice donations for the bazaar, but there's always room for more. If you have Fall or Christmas items you'd like to donate please let Wanda know. If you like to bake, we will be having the a bake sale for the Holiday Bazaar. Please contact Melinda Lard and let her know what you'd like to bake. We are collecting craft items to sell, so, let's get crafting. Contact Wanda if you have craft items to donate. To all the men and women, clear your calendars for this event. If you aren't working this event remember we need lots of people to also purchase to make this event successful. Thanks everyone!

## **Craft Day**

Crafts are happening on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 12:30 in the afternoon, before Bell practice at 1:30. Bring crafts you want to work on or help Wanda with crafts. Last month Barb Kunse and Melinda Lard helped cut out pieces for angels that will be sold at the Holiday Bazaar. Thanks Gals!

## **New Hope Girls**

Frank and Pastor Connie Bongard continue to take food items to the home every week. The girls love fresh fruits, vegetables and snacks. If anyone would like to donate any food or goodies please let Frank or Pastor Connie know.

## **Clare County Baby Pantry**

The baby pantry is busy preparing for colder weather. Coats, snowpants, boots, hats and mittens are gathered from the storage barn. Diapers leave the shelves in massive numbers. Baby back packs are prepared by Angie Allen and Trudy Irwin has sent beautiful quilts to give away. This year there are no plans to give out cleaning supplies as Christmas gifts to the clients. Money donated will be used to supply shoes to each child. Thanks to all who donate items to the pantry. Pastor Connie's family will be making a cash donation in memory of their Dad to help with the shoes.



## October Birthdays

JD St. John	10/02
Lynn Schumacher	10/08
Alex Walls	10/11
Bruce Chinn	10/14
Jennifer Schunk	10/22
Connie Johnson	10/28

## October Anniversaries

Ron & Barb Kunse	10/10
Jim & Carol Colville	10/14

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

Date	Attendance	Offering
Sept. 7	37	\$ 1345.00
14	46	1917.00
21	39	1111.00
28	37	1356.00

## **Serving Month of October**

Officiating: Pastor Connie Bongard  
 Liturgist: Dr. Kurt Keppner  
 Ushers: Don & Karen Jones  
 Accompanist: LuAnne Humphrey

## **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:**

**Prayer List:** Phyllis Carrigan, Patty (Humphrey) Hazen, Mike Humphrey, Jerry Forsberg, LuAnne Humphrey, Ivah Forsberg, and Ruth Fretz



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](mailto:office@clarecongregational.org)