



Clare Congregational Church Newsletter

October 2026 *(Happy Fall)*

Contact Information

Contact:

Clare Congregational Church
110 W 5th Street
Clare MI 48617

Phone: (989) 386-7582

Email:

office@clarecongregational.org

Web Site:

clarecongregational.org

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
October

Council Meeting: Oct. 13th

Women's Meeting: Oct. 15th

Comments From Pastor Connie

"Happy Halloween"

This time of year stirs something inside me. Changes in the color of the leaves draws me to thank God for his beautiful creations. Waking up early in the morning to view the sunrise stimulates me to praise God. Looking at the heavens with the pinks, purples and blue colors draws me to Him.

The poem, "Autumn's Grace" celebrates God's love inspired by the fall season.

Autumn's Grace

*Golden leaves drift soft and slow,
A whispered breeze, the world aglow.
Through crimson trees, the heavens sing,
Of Christ, our Savior, Lord, and King.
The harvest fields, with bounty blessed,
Reflect His love, His tender rest.
Each falling leaf, a gentle call,
To trust in Him who gave us all.
As autumn paints the earth anew,
His mercy shines in morning dew.
The cross, a beacon through the chill,
Guides our hearts to His perfect will.
So let us walk this season's way,
With faith renewed in prayer each day.
For in the fall, His grace we see,
Christ's love endures, eternally.*



HE HE HE
Come along for
the ride!



OOPS Help!
Don, directions
please!

And of course I love Halloween. Each year children of many ages come on our porch to receive a treat. I ooh and aah over their costumes. Sometimes I take pictures. I love to hear the children laugh after they receive a treat. Such joy. For many children this is one day they can be anyone they want to be. Wouldn't life be great if each of us could be who God called us to be?

Psalm 139:13-16, "For you God, created my inmost being: You knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made, Your works are wonderful."

God's blessings,
Pastor Connie



Moments from the Moderator



Fall is here with all its beauty.
I so enjoy the colors, cider and donuts,
which reminds me of food.

Coffee hours are a great time of fellowship and food.
However, as the Goblins are looking for treats, sad faces appear when
no one has prepared any. Please sign up.

Also, the Women's Fellowship will be busy putting final touches on
the bazaar November 7th. I'll be looking for you at the boutique. I may
even have some samples of Witches Brew just for you.

Church life is busy with lots to do. Beware I'll be looking around to
find you.

Your Moderator,
Karen Jones



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.

We received this letter from the Newberry Area Schools, thanking our congregation for helping the students and staff. The outreach from each and everyone of you makes a difference and touches so many hearts. We should be proud of the differences we are making.

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORKS!



NEWBERRY AREA SCHOOL
Office of the Superintendent

700 Newberry Avenue
Newberry, MI 49868

Shawn Tebo
Superintendent

Michelle Vrugink
Business Manager

Jessica Rahilly
Administrative Assistance

September 2, 2026

Dear Parishioners of Clare Congregational Church,

On behalf of Tahquamenon Area Schools, I would like to sincerely thank you for your kindness and generosity toward our students and staff.

It means so much to know that people outside of our immediate community are willing to reach out and support our school. Your thoughtfulness is a wonderful reminder that caring for children and supporting education extends far beyond the boundaries of any one community.

We are truly grateful that you thought of Tahquamenon Area Schools and chose to support our students. Your generosity and kindness are greatly appreciated and will not be forgotten.

Thank you for making a difference at TAS!

With sincere appreciation,

Shawn Tebo
Superintendent
Tahquamenon Area Schools



Anniversary Celebration **October 11th**



After worship on October 11th there will be cake and ice cream to celebrate Carol and Jim Colville's 65th wedding anniversary. We will be having dessert first, with potluck following.

Happy Anniversary to a great couple!

Sympathy Wishes

Hugs and prayers sent out to Dr. Kurt Keppner and his family for the loss of his Dad. Mr. Keppner passed away on September 19th.



Women's Tea

Thirty three women met on September 10th for a Women's Tea. Nancy Orr, Angie Allen, Joan Sharp, Barb Kunse, Carol Colville and Pastor Connie each hosted a table. Beautiful china teacups and plates were shown on the tables with teapots and luscious desserts. Everyone had an enjoyable afternoon talking and laughing with friends.

Adult Sunday School

The Adult Sunday School Class enjoyed a lovely chicken dinner September 13th, provided by Pastor Connie. 18 people attended. Thank you to everyone who attended. Everyone appeared to enjoy the food and fellowship. The class meets Sunday mornings at 9:30. Everyone is welcome.



Halloween Celebration



October 25th we will celebrate Halloween during worship and afterwards during coffee hour. Johannes has some special music planned. Non demonic costumes are welcome. Come and enjoy the treats.

Water Needed

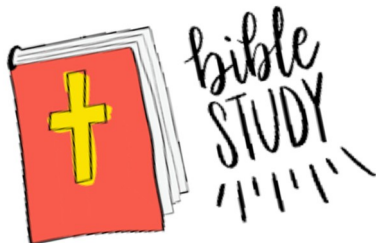
Due to all the recent activities happening at the church our supply of bottles of water have been depleted. Volunteers have been generous in the past in keeping our supply ahead. But now, we are in need. So if you appreciate having bottled water available, and you'd like to donate, you are welcome to do so.

Bottles and Cans

Bill Newkirk continues to take bottles and cans to Meijers for cash money. The revenue is used for youth projects. Presently there is over \$3,000.00 in the account. Great job! Thank you Bill, and thanks to everyone who donates to this project. Since the beginning of this project they have taken in over \$8,000.00. This jingle was dedicated to Bill Newkirk, sung to the tune of "Pop Goes the Weasel!"

Pop Can Jingle

Kick your cans and bottles to Bill,
The Benefits are dramatic
The Pioneer Kids will love what they bring
Pop cans are magic!



Bible Study

A request has been made to have a Bible study. The church is available if there is an interest. Speak to Pastor Connie if interested

Reminder

The holiday Bazaar is coming up next month on November 7th.
The Bake Sale at Jays will be on November 14th.
Please come to these events and help support your church!

Women's Fellowship

This is a busy time of year for the women's group. This month our _meeting will be on October 15th. We will be discussing our Holiday Bazaar scheduled for November 7th. We will be busy the week before the bazaar getting things set up, so try to make time to come in and help. Please let Wanda or Melinda know when you could help us out. We will also be discussing our annual bake sale out at Jay's on the 14th. Get your thinking caps on and let us know what you can bring for the bake sale(s), and when you can help get things ready for the bazaar.

Isabella County Soup Kitchen **Fund raiser**

On Sunday October 18th the Isabella County Soup Kitchen will be serving the famous Embers pork chop, potatoes, vegetable and the Embers delicious desserts along with beverages. The cost is \$25.00 per person and you must be preregistered. Phone number is 989 772-7392. The proceeds will go to help feed those coming to the food pantry.

Corn Sale for Stone Soup Kitchen

Thank you to everyone who purchased the donated sweet corn.
The congregation gave Stone Soup \$500.00

October Birthdays

JD St. John	10/02
Lynn Schumacher	10/08
Alexander Walls	10/11
Bruce Chinn	10/14
Megan Smith Jones	10/16
Jennifer Schunk	10/22
Connie Johnson	10/28



October Anniversaries

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

Serving Month of October

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



Sept.. Facts & Figures:

Date	Attendance	Offering
Sept. 6	32	\$ 1,047.00
13	35	1,331.00
20	27	1,065.00
27	36	924.00

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

