

Clare Congregational Church Newsletter

October 2022

Comments from Pastor Connie

Happy Halloween! October is such a happy month. The leaves changing colors adds such an amazing artistic gift to the world around us. Pumpkins are everywhere, cider and donuts draw me into roadside produce stands. And apple cider mills always were one of my favorites stores. Smells yummy when you walk through their doors. God appears visible in so many places as changes are made.

Psalms 8 reads like this:

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name throughout the earth!

You made your glory higher than the heavens! When I look up into the heavens, at what your fingers made—the moon and the stars that you set firmly in place— What are human beings that you pay attention to them.

You've made them only slightly less than divine. You've let them rule over your handiwork.

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name throughout the earth!

I am thankful for a God who made me only slightly less than divine. Those words helped boost my faith when I was so ill I ask God to release some of the pain or release me. I counted on those words when breathing was a major issue and very painful. I was reminded who God said I was in His heart. When speaking became impossible, knowing God created me to rule over His handiwork, gave me strength to believe I was on the mend. God's words are powerful and great encouragers. I am so thankful for a God who paints a beautiful canvas each day for me to observe His majesty. Truly Lord, How majestic is your name in all the earth!

God's blessings,

Pastor Connie

From the Moderator's Desk

Moderator— Karen Jones

Wow! Did September breeze by quickly or what??? With October approaching, we look forward to a busy fall and onset of Thanksgiving and Christmas. Pastor Connie will be serving an appreciation luncheon on October 9. Please let Wanda know at the office if you will be there or not. The first weekend of December, Wanda will be serving a Christmas dinner. This is not only a fabulous meal but it includes entertainment and beautiful decorations. Please try to join us.

A special thank you to my council members for stepping up in the absence of Pastor Connie. We certainly have a group that works well together. Thanks be to God!

As always—Thanks be to God!

Your moderator, Karen Jones

To contact church office:

office@clarecongregational.org

989-386-7582

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

To contact Pastor Connie: 989-506-6659

Church website: clarecongregational.org

Tim Nicholas

Saturday October 8th there will be a Memorial Service for here at the church at 11am for Tim Nicholas with a small luncheon in the fellowship hall after. Tim, we love and miss you!

Thank You Dinner

Sunday October 9th there will be a home cooked chicken dinner provided instead of a regular potluck. Pastor Connie wishes to recognize and thank everyone for all they do to keep the church doors open and make Clare and the world around us a better place to live. Please plan to attend. Please let Wanda know if you do plan to attend.

Halloween Bags

Paula Newkirk is packing bags for the 13 girls at New Hope and also for the students at Pioneer High. Thanksgiving dinner will be provided for Pioneer school. Planning to donate pies and special side dishes for New Hope girl also!

Hats and Mittens

We are in need of hats and mittens for 3 Rivers Academy (Sarah Bongards classes in the U.P.) Please give to Pastor Connie and she will get them to Sarah.

Knitters Needed

Angie and Dr. John Allen are putting together 75 buckets of cleaning supplies to give to the Baby Pantry clients as their Christmas gift5. We would like to put a homemade dishcloth in each. So... Pastor Connie has patterns if needed and peaches and cream yarn works well for this project. Let's get needles clicken!! Thanks in advance.

New Hope Girls Christmas

If anyone would like to take leadership over for this project please contact Pastor Connie! She would certainly appreciate the help.

Women's Meeting

Women's meetings are on the last Thursday of the month at noon. We have lots of things happening, and great fellowship. Please try to attend.

Rada

New catalogs are in . If you'd like to pick up a new catalog, or place an order, Please contact Wanda at the office. Catalogs are also on the large table in the fellowship hall.

Annual Christmas Party

December 2nd will be our annual Christmas Party. Please mark your calendars. Great food and entertainment . The decorations throughout the church will be spectacular. I can hardly wait. Theme this year is a combination of "North Pole with Santa and Elves" mixed with a bit of "Naughty and Nice" and "Believe". So, if you "believe" you might be on a list of "naughty or nice", You may want to be there to check it out. Fun Fun Fun! Please let Wanda know if you plan on attending. There is no charge, just donations. But we do need to know early, how many plan on attending.

Mowing and Landscaping

Thank you to everyone who mows, weeds, mulches and spruces up the grass and flowers. Many people walk and drive by the church. Keeping the grounds lovely makes a good impression and shows the pride we have in our church.

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.

Silent Saints

There is a saying, “It takes a village to raise a child.” I’d say, “It takes the gift of each Christian to establish a loving church.” I’d like to mention the many talents shared from our congregation. People share in the following ways.

- Flowers on the altar every Sunday.
- Trash cans taken to the road and returned to the church.
- Lawn mowed and trimmed.
- Special music provided.
- Cleaning and other supplies provided, purchased and delivered.
- Sunday school teachers.
- Bell music organized.
- Bell ringers performing.
- Pioneer Ministry.
- New Hope Ministry.
- Card senders.
- Special event planners.
- Fresh produce growers.
- Ushers and Greeters.
- Drivers to deliver gifts and needed items.
- Donations for special outreach projects.
- Baby pantry donations.
- Pastor’s encouragers.
- Kitchen clean-up helpers.
- Sound system support team.
- Coffee Fellowship providers.
- Love and support members
- Crafters
- Financial givers.
- Ryleigh supporters

(Can’t thank all of you enough. She loves her church)



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
- Ron & Barb Kunse 10/10

Facts & Figures: Month of August

Date	Attendance	Offering
Sept. 4	35	\$ 1246 .00
11	42	\$ 1598. 00
18	31	\$ 1725. 00
25	26	\$ 962.00

Serving: Month of October

Officiating:	Pastor Connie Bongard
Accompanist:	LuAnne Humphrey
Liturgist:	Dr. Kurt Keppner
Liturgist:	Bill Newkirk (October 16)
Ushering :	Phyllis Carrigan & Connie Johnson

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

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
Becky Evans	David Jackson	Matthew Fretz	Mike Moore
Sharon Jackson			

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)