

Clare Congregational Church Newsletter

October 2023

Comments from Pastor Connie

Recently I was talking to a member of the congregation about ways to increase the attendance. She reminded me about the song we sing in the fall. The song's title is "One by One".

In the book of Matthew 28:17-20 these words are recorded, "When the disciples saw Jesus, they worshipped Him; but doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, " All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you."

Every congregation I've served, I've challenged them to bring 1, yes just one person into worship service, nurture them and help them to feel comfortable.

If each one who worships here brought just one, our congregation would double. The principle works. Congregations who have practiced this Biblical teaching have increased and membership has continued to grow Prayerfully consider what I am asking. I'm praying you will take this request serious. There are so many people searching.

God's blessings,

Pastor Connie

From the Moderator's Desk

Moderator— Karen Jones

Fall is upon us. My favorite season of the year. Many activities planned that you wont want to miss! The council remains busy staying on top of all the daily needs. What a blessing to have such an attentive group. The council also appreciates all of you for making our congregation strong. God is good!!!

Thanks be to God,

Your Moderator,

Karen Jones

Our council meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at 12:15 and are open to everyone. Hope to see you there.

To contact church office:

E-mail: office@clarecongregational.org

Phone: 989-386-7582

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

Church website: clarecongregational.org



Sewing

Rebecca from the quilt shop is putting together sewing kits for any women who would be interested in getting together to sew. The date will be October 11 at 1:30 in the afternoon.

This is the project that we will be making. The kit costs \$15.00 and must be paid to Wanda in advance by October 8th, so we know how many kits she needs to put together. It will be a fun time!

Extra Produce

Thank you for those sharing extra produce. The congregation, especially the girls at New Hope enjoy produce. Sweet corn and water melons are always well received.

Special Music

If anyone would like to sing, play an instrument, or know someone who would, please let Frank, Ruth, or Pastor Connie know.

Baby Pantry

The "Bucket Brigade" will be assembling in the church basement. Sometime soon. 100 buckets will be given out from the Clare Congregational Church congregation. How exciting. Mothers have already been asking if the cleaning supply buckets will be given as Christmas gifts. Thanks to everyone who helps support these projects. The items are here at the church. We are waiting to hear when the Baby Pantry can make room to store them until Christmas time.

Fellowship (Coffee Hour)

Sign up sheets are outside the office door. Phyllis has been making calls to fill our sheets, even as she is recovering from her fall. So if you can help her out, PLEASE, sign up on the bulletin board. Otherwise, you may get a call from her requesting you to sign up. Thank you.

Water

Once again, we are requesting cases of water for the congregation. Our supplies are running low. We really appreciate your contributions. Thank you!

Get Well Cards

Update: Phyllis is still staying with her son and would like to thank everyone for sending cards and notes. She is looking forward to coming home, but is facing surgery before that can happen.

Please, lets keep her spirits high and keep her in your prayers. I'm sure more cards and notes would be appreciated. Thank you!

Phyllis Carrigan

3690 Oak Apple Ave. SE

Ada MI 49301

Halloween Celebration

Plans are in the works for a Halloween celebration after service on October 29th. There will be lots of goodies. Please dress in your Halloween best. You are welcome if you dress in costume or not. Expect spooky foods and some fun mixed in. Our fellowship following church service is a great time for everyone to mingle and get to know your fellow worshipers. You might not recognize everyone at this event with all the costumes. We are hoping lots of people will dress up. It's a good time to act silly or be yourself.

New Hope Girls

The New Hope girls will be receiving manicures thanks to Dee Lawens and her daughters Char and Marilyn. The dynamic Mother –Daughter team had a Nail Salon in Mt. Pleasant for many years. They are volunteering their time and talents to put smiles on the girls faces. We thank you gals.

They will also be decorating pumpkins donated by Jennifer Helsel. That should be a fun activity. Thanks Jen.

What a joy it has been for our congregation to have the girls From New Hope in worship service. They are so sincere and thankful for everything.

Ladies' Christmas Sale

If you have any Christmas items you'd like to donate for our November 4th sale, it would be greatly appreciated. Items must be turned in before the end of October. We will be having Hot Chocolate and Coffee and homemade cinnamon rolls. Come join us and have some fun. We will be open from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm. All Christmas items are available for donations. Cash or Check only.

Ladies' Meeting

The October Ladies' meeting will be on Thursday October 26th at 12:00 noon. All ladies are welcome. Come join us for fellowship, fun and laughter. After the "Christmas Sale" on November 4th, our next big event will be our "Bake Sale" at Jays Sporting on November 14th. If you love to bake, please keep this date handy. You could bring your goodies to the church on Sunday November 12th or on the day of the sale from 8:00 – 9:00 am. Thanks, we really appreciate your help. If you don't bake but love homemade cookies, bread, pies etc. make your way to Jays on the 14th of November to stock up!

Pioneer High — Bill Newkirk

Fall at Pioneer High in October brings changing colors, cooler temperatures, pumpkins, caramel apples, and Halloween.

Again, this year, we will be reaching out to the students of Pioneer High with Trick or Treat gift bags to celebrate Halloween. We will be providing 40 bags to the students full of treats! Everything in the bags will be provided through donations from individuals and the funds raised by the Youth Outreach can and bottle drive.

We are also planning a traditional Thanksgiving dinner for the students in November and a Christmas dinner in December. Personal care items are welcomed by these young adults and can be placed in the basket under the table in the Fellowship Hall.

If you would like to help with these events and activities through a donation of any kind, please contact Paula or Bill Newkirk at (989) 513-0732.

Thank you for your continued support of these projects! It is very much appreciated.

October Birthdays

JD St. John	10/02
Lynn Schumacher	10/08
Alexander Walls	10/11
Jack Meissner	10/14
Charlie Meissner	10/14
Meghan Smith Jones	10/16
Jennifer Schunk	10/22
Connie Johnson	10/28



October Anniversaries

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

Facts & Figures: Month of September

Date	Attendance	Offering
Sept. 3	37	\$ 706.00
10	29	1296.00
17	51	785.00
24	40	1369.00

Serving month of October

Officiating:	Pastor Connie Bongard
Liturgist:	Dr. Kurt Keppner
Ushers:	Bill & Paula Newkirk
Accompanist:	LuAnne Humphrey

REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

Tom Johnson, Patty (Humphrey) Hazen, Mike Humphrey, Lee Agle, Phyllis Carrigan and Pam Gaffner



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