

# Clare Congregational Church Newsletter

September 2021

## Comments from Pastor Connie

Psalms 91:1 reads, "He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty." These words have helped comfort me each time I sat at the woodland hospice house with my dear friend Patty. She often asked difficult questions such as "Why me?" "How come God hasn't healed me?" "What good does it do to pray?" My heart hurt as I sat and listened. My eyes filled with tears.

I pray. Then, in a morning devotion these words speak to my heart as if they are a personal answer. "Expect to encounter adversity in your life, remembering that you live in a deeply fallen world. Stop trying to find a way that circumvents difficulties. When you became a Christian, I infused My very Life into you, empowering you to live on a supernatural plane by depending on Me.

Anticipate coming face to face with impossibilities: situations totally beyond your ability to handle. This awareness of your inadequacy is not something you should try to evade. It is precisely where I want you—the best place to encounter Me in My Glory and Power. When you see armies of problems marching towards you, cry out to Me! Allow Me to fight for you. Watch Me working on your behalf, as you *rest in the shadow of My Almighty Presence*.

Patty Miller passed away Saturday, August 21.

Life doesn't always make sense. Jesus taught that there would be struggles. As Christians, we will be persecuted. Unkind things will be said about us. People will not always be kind. However, one promise we can hang onto is, "I (Jesus) will never leave you. I will never abandon you.

Even though I wanted to tell Patty, "God will heal her physically," I couldn't. What I could say was, "God loves you and He will be with you every moment of every day!"

Letting go is extremely difficult. That's where faith carries us. Sometimes, we need to help carry each other.

God's blessings,

Pastor Connie

## **Christmas Stockings**

Thank you to the four ladies who have volunteered to make Christmas stockings. If anyone else would be willing, I will supply the pattern and if you wish, fabric and batting. Thank you.

## **Women's Meetings**

Ladies of the church are invited to meet on the last Wednesday of each month at 12:00 in the Fellowship Hall. August meeting was postponed until September 1st. We will be working on sending cards to our youth and children. If anyone would like to help with these luncheons, please contact Wanda at the office.

## **Cover Up**

Thank you everyone for your generous donations of socks and underwear for the Clare County Baby Pantry. You truly make a difference.

## **Christmas Party**

Our Christmas Party will be December 11th, at 6PM. Please make your reservations soon. Tickets will be available October 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 October. We've been 2 years now planning and making decorations. You will not want to miss it. Plan on a great evening of entertainment, dinner, lots of fellowship and fun!

## **Pasties**

A new project will begin October 18th and 19th. Pasties will be made in the church kitchen. Jim Colville has volunteered to donate the potatoes and onions. Carrots are needed. There will be other items needed also and a follow-up list will be posted in the October newsletter.

## **Another Miracle on 5th**

Three little children and their Mama wish to thank you for the numerous ways you helped them stay together. A family in Clare took them all in after they fled from their home. Food, clothes, books, shoes pillows, bedding, toys and personal hygiene items were donated. Gift cards were given. Prayers were offered. Thank you for all your acts of kindness and being the hands and hearts of Jesus.

## **New Hope Girls**

This month Pastor Connie purchased 2 new bikes to take to the girls. Bill and Paula Newkirk donated a bike which has been delivered. A pizza party is being planned for the girls. Thank you to everyone who keeps the girls in your prayers and also support them with gifts and monetary contributions.

## **Baby Pantry Donations**

I am grateful every month for the donations given for the baby pantry. Even though much of this past year was a challenge, the ladies figured out a way to do a drive through.

Also, thank you to Teresa and Ruth for taking the donations to Harrison when I am not able to. I'm pleased to know the congregation continues to support this mission.

## **Men's Breakfast**

Come join us for food and conversation. All men are invited to attend the 3rd Saturday each month at 8:30 am. Our prayer is to grow together so we can help grow the church. If anyone has any questions, call Frank Bongard at (989) 506-6659.

## **Council Meetings**

Council meetings are the first Tuesday of every month at 12:15(You are welcome to bring a sack lunch) Next meeting September 7th.

**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)

## September Birthdays

Meredith List 09/03

Belinda Bicknell 09/04

Rozanne Thompson 09/08

Douglas Randle 09/13

Don Jones 09/15

Connie Bongard 09/17

Mia Trommater 09/23

Ron Rouech 09/27



### Facts & Figures:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
August: 1	31	\$ 1645 .
8	24	\$ 1320.
15	21	\$ 1563.
22	22	\$ 2385.
29	25	\$ 1655

### Serving this Month:

Officiating:	Pastor Connie Bongard
Accompanist:	LuAnne Humphrey
Liturgist	Dr. Kurt Keppner
Ushering :	Bob & Meredith List

### 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

*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)*

***Please keep Jim Carrigan in your prayers as he is once again battling cancer.***

***If you're wanting to send a card:***

***Jim Carrigan***

***11098 South Shore dr.***

***Lake Mi. 48632***

# SURPRISE PARTY

September 12th will be an opportunity to share a card or a note with John Andrews for traveling from Ithaca to bless the congregation with his inspirational music. There will be a special potluck afterwards.

Wanda is over seeing that. John has been singing in churches I have pastored for almost 30 years. Recently he talked to me about retiring because he is feeling his age. However, for all the funerals, church parties and worship services he has donated his time and talents, I would like to return an act of kindness with a **SURPRISE !!**

