



Clare Congregational Church Newsletter

September 2026

Contact Information

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Clare Congregational Church
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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
September

Council Meeting: Sept. 8th

Women's Meeting: "Women's
Tea" Sept. 10th

Comments From Pastor Connie

Fall is in the air. Changes are already evident. When we look around it is amazing at God's handiwork. Even though life makes drastic changes God remains the same.

Sarah Young writes, "Trust God in the midst of a messy day. Your inner calm need not be shaken by what is going on around you. When you start to feel stressed detach yourself from the disturbances around you. Seek God and He will share His thoughts with your eyes to see things from His perspective. Do not let your heart be troubled and do not be3 afraid. God's peace is sufficient."

Psalms 105:4 reads, "Look to the Lord and His strength; seek His face always. When problems and disappointment arises, God's word is full of wisdom and advice. Friends can listen but may lack solutions. Also, God teaches us, "Peace. I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid". John 14:27

God's blessings,
Pastor Connie



Moderator's Report

Welcome Fall! We're excited to see what the fall and winter are going to bring.

The women are looking forward to a "Tea" on September 10. Knowing the committee, I'm sure it'll be lovely.

I enjoy watching our congregation continuing to grow. Church is definitely my happy place.

Thanks be to God.

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.

Maintenance

Byron Schunk and Frank Bongard installed handrails on both sides of the altar area in the sanctuary, making access much easier. Looks good. Thank guys!

Their next project is putting shelves up in the basement.

Celebrate October 11th

After worship on October 11th there will be cake and Ice cream to celebrate Carol and Jim Colville's 65th anniversary. Dessert first! Pot luck will be as usual. Happy Anniversary!

Corn Sale for Stone Soup Kitchen

Thanks to everyone who helped with the corn sale. The Stone Soup will be blessed. All proceeds from the sale goes directly to helping keep the doors open to continue to feed people in Clare County.

New Hope House

Many repairs inside and outside are being taken care of. Pastor Connie will stop in September to find out the status of residents,

Adult Sunday School



"Never Give Up" by Max Lucado is the study book used Sunday mornings at 9:30 in the parlor. Everyone is welcome. The group is always open to new faces. Pastor Connie teaches the study. Lots of interesting discussions and a great way to start the day.

Women's Tea

September 10th at 1:00 women of this congregation and guests are invited to a Tea. Dessert and tea will be served. There will be a guest presentation. The owner from Blanche and Mable's Floral Boutique will share some ideas for seasonal decor and gift giving. Looking forward to the event. Call Pastor Connie if you have any questions.

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.

School Supplies for Newberry

Sarah Bongard sends "thank yous" on behalf of Newberry school for crayons and Kleenex. Pastor Connie and Frank will be traveling there September 18th, so if anyone has anything more to send, they will deliver. Pastor Connie also appreciates the the generosity of the congregation. She helps deliver the goods and knows first hand what a difference the church family makes.

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.

2026-27 Youth Outreach

Pioneer High School

Again, this fall, we are working on preparing our Youth Outreach Program for the students at Pioneer High School. Again, we are preparing welcome back bags for the students on their first day of school, Monday, August 24th. These bags will contain a variety of treats in a draw-string bag they can use in a number of ways during the school year. We will also be giving them bags of treats for Halloween and Valentine's Day. We are working on the menus for the dinners and gifts we will be providing them at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter. Our final activity of the year will be to host and provide treats and gifts after graduation for the graduating seniors. Finally, we have been able to provide the students with personal care items at various times throughout the school year.

None of our work with the Pioneer High students would be possible without the support of the entire Church family through your generous donations of returnable bottles and cans, cash, time, and food. Thank you, without you, the work we are doing with these young people would not be possible!

Women's Fellowship

The Women's meeting this month is going to be our "Tea" on September 10th. Our next meeting will be October 15th. At that time we will be discussing the "Holiday Bazaar" for the 1st Saturday in November. Bring your questions and suggestions. Melinda and Wanda would like to thank everyone involved in making the Auction such a success. Everyone seemed to be having a lot of fun. We had a lot of feisty bidders out there.

Thanks Wes Alexander for being our auctioneer for the evening again this year. You and your lovely lady are very special to us!

Successful Auction

Thanks to everyone who helped at the Auction. Thirty seven people attended. Lots of laughter could be heard as Wes Alexander, Pastor Connie's brother, auctioned the items off. When the boat sold the excitement level increased and a shock wave went through the fellowship room. The total intake was \$3,720.

Again thank you to everyone who donated, purchased, attended and prayed!

Dynamic Duo

Tiago and Johannes were amazing playing "Touch of the Master's Hand". Another performance is in the making during Advent. Thank you fellows for playing for us!

A New Jingle

A new jingle will be introduced September 13th celebrating Bill Newkirk's dedication to returning over \$8,000.00 worth of bottles and cans. Our song writer Sue Leverence wrote the words and Johannes chose the tune to "Pop Goes the Weasel". Looking forward to singing the new song.

Clare County Baby Pantry



Boys and Girls toddlers pajamas are needed at the pantry. Boys long pants are needed, sizes toddler to size 6. The ladies also requested toys, slightly used are fine. The shoe project is a "go" again for this year. Each child may receive one pair of new shoes this calendar year.

Thank you Angela Allen for putting together the infant baskets.

September Birthdays

- Patty Wiseley 09/01
- Meredith List 09/03
- Belinda Bicknell 09/04
- Terry Barlet 09/08
- Allison Strnad 09/13
- Don Jones 09/15
- Connie Bongard 09/17
- Ron Rouech 09/27



September Anniversaries

Steve and Kelly Strnad 9/06

Michael and Barb Murphy 9/15

Aug. Facts & Figures:

Date	Attendance	Offering
Aug 2	36	\$ 1,379.00
9	31	1,150.00
16	35	2,205.00
23	41	1,024.00
30	35	1,709.00

Serving Month of September

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



REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

Prayer List: Phyllis Carrigan, Patty (Humphrey) Hazen, Mike Humphrey, LuAnne Humphrey, Ivah Forsberg, Nancy Orr, Patty Wiseley, Bill Newkirk, and Melinda Lard.

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