

# **CLARE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWS DECEMBER 18, 2025 OUR WORSHIP TIME IS 10 A.M.**

## **THIS WEEKS CALENDAR**

*21: 9:00 SUNDAY SCHOOL*

*10:00 WORSHIP*

*2:00 YOUTH*

*22:12 NOON AA*

*6:15 WEIGHTS*

*6:45 YOGA*

**23:6-8 LIVE NATIVITY AT WITBECK'S**

*8:00 AA*

**24: CHRISTMAS EVE**

**2-4 LIVE NATIVITY AT WITBECK'S**

**7:00 CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE**

**25: MERRY CHRISTMAS**

**26: OFFICE CLOSED**

*8:00 AA*

*27: 10-4 THRIFT STORE*

*12 NOON AA*

**4-5:30 COMMUNITY DINNER**

*28: 9:00 SUNDAY SCHOOL*

*10:00 WORSHIP &*

*2:00 YOUTH*

<b>ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY, DEC 14: 85</b>
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## **DONATIONS NEEDED**

Anyone interested in donating, pies, cakes, cookies, salads etc. for our Community Dinner please let Deb Gloss or Judy Bailey know as soon as possible. We also will be giving away toilet paper, meal kits, laundry soap, dish soap, shampoo, conditioner, body wash. Any of these items may be dropped off at the church office on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday next week.

# **UP COMING EVENTS IN** **DECEMBER**

**Our Live Nativity** this year will be held on Tuesday December 23 from 6-8 and Wednesday December 24 from 2:00 - 4:00 in front of Witbecks Family Foods. *We need volunteers to stand in the stable (it has walls on 3 sides and heated floors thanks to Lee Schunk). We also need helpers to get people into their costumes and volunteers to donate cookies. If you can help there will be a sign up sheet at the back of the church and/or contact Ellen Fuller (989)240-3777 [efuller@reagan.com](mailto:efuller@reagan.com). Thanks for your help with this community ministry.*

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be December 24 at 7 p.m.**

**Our Live Nativity** this year will be held on Tuesday December 23 from 6-8 and Wednesday December 24 from 2:00 - 4:00 in front of Witbecks. We need volunteers to stand in the stable (it has walls on 3 sides and heated floors thanks to Lee Schunk). We also need helpers to get people into their costumes and volunteers to donate cookies. If you can help there will be a sign up sheet at the back of the church and/or contact Ellen Fuller (989)240-3777 [efuller@reagan.com](mailto:efuller@reagan.com). Thanks for your help with this community ministry.

**YOUTH GROUP WILL MEET ON SUNDAYS at 2pm.**  
**We will meet at the in the Education Building, at church,**  
**in the Youth Room.**  
**Hope to see you all then!! Barb Tyler**

## YOUTH CLASS IN THE SANCTUARY

Youth (we use that term loosely. If you're interested in taking part, please come join us) are invited to join us in the sanctuary at 9am for something new. We will be looking at Pastor Brian's plans for future sermons, digging deep into a scripture or topic, and creating a fun way to share our thoughts on that topic with the congregation when the week arrives. If you like to draw or paint, act, sing, dance, write or recite poetry, edit videos, write scripts, build with Lego bricks, carve butter sculptures, make balloon animals... you get the idea. Bring your skills, interests, and most of all your questions. We can't wait to share your creative expressions with the congregation. If you have any questions, please speak with Pastor Brian or Elizabeth Comiskey.

### A NOTE FROM JEAN & JAMIE BLOW

Hi-

Hope this finds you and your family well.

Mom is very weak but alert and knows what is going on. She spends most of her time in bed watching TV and napping. Maxine is still with her and one of us is with her from 11-6 every day so we can make sure she eats and is taken care of.

Gary flies down about every 4 months and spends 4-5 days with her. She really likes it when he is here. He did not retire this year but is talking about it in the summer.

I spent the last year getting used to being retired and working on my golf game. My golf swing is getting more consistent and when I am swinging well my long game is decent. I continue to work on swing consistency and am now working more on chipping a putting as that is a definite weakness.

I still have things to do around the house. I had sod put in last spring and planted some trees and shrubs. I am extending the sod in my backyard as I have decided it is easier to mow grass than fight weeds and keep adding pine straw. I will plant more perennials and shrubs that are pollinator friendly this spring. Trying to do a some and let things grow so I don't over plant. I also don't want a lot of shrubs that require trimming.



**In December we will be collecting: Printer paper  
Post-it Notes, Envelopes, Tape (Scotch, mailing, duct,  
masking etc.) Staples, Paper clips & binder clips, Pens,  
Scissors (Children's & Adult sized)  
Band-Aids, Batteries, Swifter Mop Pads, Febreze**

**OUR EXTRA MILE GIVING FOR DECEMBER WILL BE FOR SOCIETY  
OF ST. ANDREW, WHO FREELY PROVIDES ADVENT BOOKLETS AND  
LENTEN BOOKLETS FREE OF CHARGE TO US EVERY YEAR AND TO  
REPLENISH OUR PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

**REVOLVING FUND GIVING FOR THE MONTH OF NOV. 2025**

**DAYCARE BUILDING: \$310 TECH SUPPORT: \$700**

**UMCOR/Disaster Relief : \$170 CAMP: \$210**

**COFFEE HOUR/HOSPITALITY: \$213**

**INSURANCE EMERGENCY FUND: \$100**

**PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND: \$85 THRIFT STORE: \$262**

**PCCC OPER: \$2,270**

**SATURDAY SOUP: \$100.90 LOVE OFFERING: \$30 PRISON COFFEE: \$70**

**THANKSGIVING DINNER: \$215 FIC: \$40**

**DO YOU HAVE CONCERNS?FEEL FREE TO EMAIL OUR  
LEADERSHIP TEAM EMAILS: Larry Wyman Jr. : [ldwyman@charter.net](mailto:ldwyman@charter.net)**

**MaryAnn Shurlow Scott: [maryannshurlow@gmail.com](mailto:maryannshurlow@gmail.com)**

**Pastor Brian Comiskey : [pastorbrianc@clareumc.org](mailto:pastorbrianc@clareumc.org)**

**Tracy Brooks: [trbrooks8@yahoo.com](mailto:trbrooks8@yahoo.com)**

**Deb Bongard: [Bongard@live.com](mailto:Bongard@live.com)**

**Elvis Denton: [elvis@toast.net](mailto:elvis@toast.net)**

**Connie McGregor: [conniemcgregor3@gmail.com](mailto:conniemcgregor3@gmail.com)**

**Mary Lee: [mary\\_lee10@hotmail.com](mailto:mary_lee10@hotmail.com)**

**Kindra Norlander: [knorlander@michigannewspapers.com](mailto:knorlander@michigannewspapers.com)**

**Kay Moser: [kaymoser2014@gmail.com](mailto:kaymoser2014@gmail.com)**

**Macy Tyler: [macytyler@rocketmail.com](mailto:macytyler@rocketmail.com)**

**THRIFT STORE IS OPEN  
FRIDAY 10-4 AND SATURDAY  
10-4**

**Accepting donations on Thursdays 11-3  
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN  
VOLUNTEERING TO WORK IN THE STORE CONTACT DIANE  
BOUDREAU AT 989-387-9389**

# WE ACCEPT ITEMS FOR THE STORE ON THURSDAYS



## **Grief Support**

### When Grief Ambushes us

*No matter how long it's been since we've lost a loved one, there will be times when grief sneaks up on you. Maybe it's a photo or some other object that belonged to them. Special days like birthdays and anniversaries or funerals may lead to being ambushed by grief. There's a song that held a special place in both of your hearts that will bring*

*on the tears.*

*When that happens, I find it best to acknowledge the grief and not suppress it. Yes, it hurts, but we can choose to use it as a reminder to be thankful for the gift of that person in our life. I like to remember the ways my husband expressed his love for me as well as the times we spent together, from the quiet afternoons to the adventures we have in camping.*

*Most of all, remember that this is a normal part of the journey that Jesus shares with us. For those days, be gentle with yourself, and remember that it's okay to not be okay.*

*For those days, remember what Jesus has promised us.*

*"No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you." John 14:18.*

*There is a monthly Grief Support Group that meets at Mid-Michigan Health Center in Clare on the first Thursday of each month from 3:00-4:00 pm. Please contact Melissa Sweet, bereavement counselor, for more information and to register – (989) 633-1437.*

**Please Continue to Keep In Your Prayers : We lift up the leadership of our nation and the men and women serving the Armed Forces, as well as the leaders and people of other nations.**

**Deb & Troy Bongard and family on the loss of Deb's mother**

**Rose Musser and family as they deal with the loss of her nephew**

**Maezie Bauer diagnosed with Sturge Weber syndrome(niece of Scott Vanhooose)**

**Prayers for continued healing for Diane Ellsworth, Josh Enfield, Kathy Traywick**

**Those with Parkinson's, Diabetes, Alzheimer's & Lupus and other chronic diseases.**

**Those who have been diagnosed with Cancer: Linda Green(Elaine Green's daughter in-law), Patty (Humphrey)Hazen**

**OUR SHUT-INS.....**

**Pioneer Golden Estates:**

**Marge Dickey Glenda Baker**

**Sue Neff (memory care)**

**Carol Beatty Ruth Jones**

**Larry Wyman Sr.**

**The Brook, Gladwin:**

**Jean Burrows**

**Americana Seniors of Clare**

**Jan Brandon(formerly prestige place)**

**Champion Gate Assisted Living in Florida**

**Ron & Marilyn Lovell**

**In Their Own Home:**

**Barb Everts**

**Brenda Longstreth**

**Gayle White**

**Lou & Rita Bryans**

**Bill & Barb Manderbach**

**Bob Musser Jean Blow,**

**Erma Johnson**



UPDATE ON OUR  
PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND/GOOD SAMARITAN FUND  
WE HAVE ALREADY WENT THROUGH \$300 IN DECEMBER  
WE HAVE A LOT OF NEEDY PEOPLE IN OUR AREA.

# *Live Nativity*



**Clare United Methodist Church  
will be having their Live Nativity  
again this year.  
It will be held on Tuesday December 23  
from 6-8 and  
Wednesday December 24  
from 2:00 - 4:00  
in front of Witbecks Family Foods.**



**FREE**



**Saturday Soup Dinner**

**December 27**

**Clare United Methodist Church**

105 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street Clare, Michigan 48617

**4:00 – 5:30 pm**



Food Service available until 5:30 pm



Last Saturday of every Month

**\*Soups \* Sandwiches \* Coffee**



**\* Desserts**



**\*Music**



**Making Disciples of Jesus by  
Helping People Know God,  
Grow in Faith, and Share God's Love**



***We would love for you to join us!***

***If you have any questions please contact***

***Clare United Methodist church office at 989-386-2591***

**WE WANT TO WISH OUR CHURCH FAMILY MEMBERS WHO  
HAVE HAD OR ARE HAVING BIRTHDAY'S  
IN DECEMBER  
“A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!”**





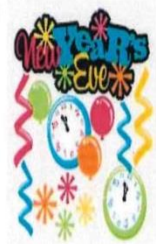

*December*  
BIRTHDAYS

- 1 *Katie David*  
*Corrine Seiter*
- 2 *Ellen Fuller*  
*Pete Norlander*
- 4 *Madeline Zastrow*
- 5 *Lynn Witbeck*
- 6 *Jackie Kelly*  
*Gayle White*
- 9 *Sharon Curtis*
- 10 *Betty Eaton*  
*Debbi Kasper*  
*Brenda Longstreth*
- 11 *Jason Rodgers*
- 12 *Dave Bremer*  
*Scott Krell*  
*Jason Goyt*
- 13 *Greg Holbrook*
- 14 *Jim Morgan*
- 18 *Bob Seiter*
- 19 *Kindra Norlander*
- 20 *Jake Anderson*  
*Courtnie Mashue-Merillat*
- 21 *Mary Lee*
- 22 *Rayna Kruskamp*
- 24 *Logan Romatz*
- 26 *Jay Warner*
- 28 *Kara(Bremer)Sutherlin*
- 30 *Natalee Kunse*  
*Tim Gallagher*
- 31 *Ramona Blouin*







Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 AA 12-130 6:15 WEIGHTS 6:45 YOGA	2 AA 8-9:30 P.M.	3 6:15 WEIGHTS 6:45 YOGA 8:00 AA	4 11:00 -3 ACCEPT CLOTHING AT THRIFT STORE 1:00 AA	5 AA 8-9:30 P.M. AA 8-9:30 P.M. 10-4 THRIFT STORE	6 FOOD TRUCK IN HARRISON 9 AM 10-4 THRIFT STORE 12 NOON AA
7 CHILDREN'S CHRIMAS PROGRAM 9:00 SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP CHURCH CONFERENCE FOLLOWING WORSHIP 2:00 YOUTH GROUP	8 11 A.M. D.A.R. AA 12-130 6:15 WEIGHTS 6:45 YOGA	9AA 8-9:30 P.M. 12 PM LADIES ADVENT LUNCHEON AT THE DOHERTY 6 P.M. ADVENT SER- VICE AT FARWELL UMC	10 6:15 WEIGHTS 6:45 YOGA 8:00 AA	11 11:00 -3 ACCEPT CLOTHING AT THRIFT STORE 1:00 AA 7:30 GATEWAY BAND CHRISTMAS CONCERT	12 10-4 THRIFT STORE AA 8-9:30 P.M.	13 10-4 THRIFT STORE 12 NOON AA 6-8 WALK THROUGH BETHLEHEM
14 CHRISTMAS IN CLARE 9:00 SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP 2:00 YOUTH GROUP 6-8 WALK THROUGH BETHLEHEM	15 AA 12-130 6:15 WEIGHTS 6:45 YOGA	16 AA 8-9:30 P.M.	17 6:15 WEIGHTS 6:45 YOGA 8:00 AA	18 11:00 -3 ACCEPT CLOTHING AT THRIFT STORE 1:00 AA	19 10-4 THRIFT STORE 6 P.M. BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE AA 8-9:30 P.M.	20 10-4 THRIFT STORE 12 NOON AA
21 9:00 SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP 2:00 YOUTH GROUP	22 AA 12-130 6:15 WEIGHTS 6:45 YOGA	23 AA 8-9:30 P.M. LIVE NATIVITY FROM 6-8 P.M.	24 CHRISTMAS EVE LIVE NATIVITY FROM 2-4 P.M. 7 P.M. CANDLELIGHT SERVICE	25 	26 AA 8-9:30 P.M. OFFICE CLOSED	27 10-4 THRIFT STORE 12 NOON AA 4-5:30 FREE COMMUNITY DINNER
28 9:00 SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP 2:00 YOUTH GROUP	29 AA 12-130 6:15 WEIGHTS 6:45 YOGA	30 AA 8-9:30 P.M.	31 	JANUARY 1, 2026  Happy New Year!	JAN. 2 AA 8-9:30 P.M.	JAN 3 10-4 THRIFT STORE 12 NOON AA