

# THE CLARION

# DECEMBER 2025

## CLARE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



### Children's Christmas Program

Will Be December 7<sup>th</sup> During Worship

Our Church Conference Will Be Held  
Following Worship On December 7<sup>th</sup>.

Women's Advent Luncheon Will Be Held  
At The Doherty Hotel On December 9<sup>th</sup> At  
12 P.M. We Will Order Off The Menu At  
Our Expense.

Advent Worship Service Will Be Held At  
Farwell United Methodist Church On  
December 9<sup>th</sup> At 6 P.M.

Gateway Community Band Christmas  
Concert Will Be Held On December 11<sup>th</sup>  
7:30 P.M. At Clare High School.

**DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>**

**CHRISTMAS IN CLARE**

**WALK THROUGH BETHELEHEM AT  
3557 COLONVILLE RD FROM 6-8 P.M.**

Blue Christmas Service will be held here  
at Clare UMC on December 19<sup>th</sup> at 6 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 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.**

**December 27 4-5:30 p.m.  
FREE COMMUNITY DINNER**

**JANUARY 17<sup>TH</sup> BEAST FEAST**

### CLARE UMC STAFF AND SCHEDULE

#### Pastor:

Pastor Brian Comiskey [pastorbrianc@clareumc.org](mailto:pastorbrianc@clareumc.org)  
**517-215-8637**

#### Leadership Team Chair:

Mary Ann Shurlow Scott

#### Administrative Assistant:

Judy Bailey: [jbailey@clareumc.org](mailto:jbailey@clareumc.org)

#### Music Director: Tracy Lubs

Clare UMC Preschool

and Child Care Center

Director: Terri Banasak: [terrib@clareumc.org](mailto:terrib@clareumc.org)

phone: 989-386-4815

#### Church Office Hours

Church Office phone: 989- 386-2591

10:00 - noon & 1-4:00 p.m.

Monday – Friday

Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School 9 a.m.

**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)





Greetings in Christ as we wait in joyful hope for the birth of our Messiah! Happy Advent and Merry Christmas! I pray your holiday season is going well and that you can experience and appreciate many meaningful moments.

The other day, I was visiting someone in a neighboring town. As I was leaving, I said, "Hope to see you soon." They smiled and responded with, "Maybe I'll see you on the way up." I was confused at first, and then I realized what they meant. They were referring to the second coming of the Lord. That idea when the rapture occurs, people will be taken up into the sky and others will be left behind. I confess, I was amused by the comment. But it got me thinking.

During this time of the year, we celebrate the birth of the Messiah, the coming of the Lord, a historic event. Then, there is the Lord's second coming, which scripture tells us, no one will know when it will occur, not even the angels in heaven. These are two dramatic and paramount occurrences in the human race. One which already happened, and one which is still anticipated. But what if there was a "Middle coming of the Lord?" A coming that happens in between those two extremes? A coming of the Lord that is hidden?

There are times in our lives when we have fallen asleep spiritually. It happens to all of us. For some reason or another, we forget that we are spiritual beings having a natural experience, rather than the other way around. We get caught up in our busy schedules and routines, focusing more on self than on helping others. Our Prayer and devotion time has slipped away from us. The worldly news sinks us into some sort of despair. Even Christmas becomes a burden because of worldly expectations.

And yet, we eventually reach a point where things begin to turn around. The burden is lifted. Life begins to improve. Our problems are resolved, or even if they're not, some sense of peace has come upon us. There is now a feeling of hope once again. This is the middle coming of the Lord. Often, we don't even know it is happening until we look back and see how things have worked out.

We are people who like drama. We think of the birth of Jesus and how he was born under extreme humbleness, in a barn, in a feeding trough. We think of the second coming with it's flash of lighting, sounds of trumpets, the sun darkened, and Jesus coming down in the clouds! The middle coming, however, is quiet, hard to observe, and elusive.

During those hard times in our lives when everything seems to be a struggle, especially during the Christmas season, try to remember to ask the Lord to come into your heart once again. Did he leave it before? No, he was with you the whole time, but ask him to come into your life, into the situation, into all that you are experiencing. Acknowledge that we can't do it without him. And you will experience the middle coming of the Lord. Merry Christmas!



## *In Loving Memory.....*

*Clare united Methodist Church's camp fund,  
received a donation in loving memory of  
Marge Gregory(Velma Cross's sister)  
From Velma Cross.*





- 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  
Courtne 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



## Christian Women Connection



**"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"**



**Thursday, Dec. 11, 2025**

**11:45 – 1:45 p.m.**



*Christmas Concert:*

**Crain Family Girls and Mom**

From Shepherd, MI

*Music to bless you and prepare  
you for the Christmas Season!*

**Inspirational Speaker: Susan**

**Sorenson**, from Ada, MI, will unwrap  
the beloved Christmas carol to ring  
in the season of celebration. **"Hark  
the Herald Angels Sing!"**

**All this plus lunch & beverage for \$21.00**

**at Cheers Neighborhood Grill**

1700 W. High St. (W M20), Mt. Pleasant, MI

Reservations are due by Dec. 9th.

Edie (989)463-3287 \* Ruth (989)492-4199

Or Lona (989) 387-4808

or e-mail Lona at [lonahamilton@yahoo.com](mailto:lonahamilton@yahoo.com)



**SAVE THIS DATE!! All Lovely Women of Clare United Methodist Church  
DECEMBER 9,2025 It is that Wonderful Time of the Year again.....**

The annual Clare United Methodist Women's ADVENT luncheon for all WONDERFUL WOMEN affiliated with the Clare United Methodist Church will be occurring on Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at the Doherty Hotel. Plan to arrive a little before 12:00 noon. Bring a white elephant gift, if you so choose to participate in the gift exchange.

We each will be responsible for ordering individually from the menu.

ADVENT SEASON IS ABOUT: THE ARRIVAL THE CELEBRATION THE ANTICIPATION THE  
REFECTION AND HOPE PEACE LOVE

JOY WILL BE OUR FOCUS! SO START HUMMING.....I HAVE JOY, JOY, JOY, JOY, DOWN IN MY  
HEAT (WHERE?) DOWN IN....

**Please confirm your attendance plan to Jeanne Shelander at 386-2063 or the Church Office.**



# CHRISTMAS IN CLARE

## DECEMBER 14TH, 2025

AT THE CLARE DEPOT - 201 W. 4TH ST.

**12PM TO 5PM**

❄️ Outdoor Holiday Market



❄️ Hot Dogs by Clare Area Kiwanis & Bubba-Q Mobile Food Truck

❄️ Dragon Martial Arts will be doing interactive demonstrations outside the Depot

❄️ Doughnut Holes, Hot Chocolate, & Coffee inside the Depot by Cops & Doughnuts

**2PM TO 5PM**

❄️ Visit Santa in his house



❄️ Town's End Clydesdale Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides

Sponsored by Stephenson Wyman Funeral Home, RB Harsh Construction,  
& Mid Michigan College

❄️ Clare County Arts Council will have Make & Take Crafts in lower level of Depot.  
White House Ornament silent auction,  
& a free book (one per family while supplies last)

**3PM**

❄️ Christmas Dog Costume Contest  
Sponsored by Family Farm and Home

**5:30PM**

❄️ Lighted Parade through Downtown Clare  
Route: McEwan St. from State St. to 3<sup>rd</sup> St.

**FOLLOWING PARADE**

❄️ Tree Lighting - West side of Depot

**6:30PM**

❄️ Christmas Caroling - Depot

**7PM**

❄️ Tesla Light Show - Brookwood Athletic Complex

**6PM TO 8PM**

❄️ Walk Through Bethlehem  
3557 E. Colonville, Clare

County-Wide Decorating Contest - Homes, Businesses, and Parade Floats

*The theme is Whoville*



**GATEWAY BAND  
PRESENTS  
"A JOYFUL CHRISTMAS"  
DEC. 11<sup>TH</sup> 7:30  
CLARE HIGH SCHOOL**



**A Note from Chippy & Judy**  
**Merry Christmas to our church Family! Thank you so much for the Love and friendliness you give to each and everyone that walks through our church and our office doors. You make our day! You make us smile. We are so thankful to be able to be here and see so much of God's love in each and**

**everyone of you. My mom and I thank you for stopping in to share, chat etc. Just know, you are all appreciated and we thank God for all of you every day! We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year "2026"!**

**You remind us of that special verse in the Bible: John 13:34: A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.**

**To My Church Family,  
I would like to thank them for the delivery of the delicious turkey dinner. Also, thanks to Connie McGregor for delivering the meal and the visit  
God Bless,  
Betty Mussell**



# **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**



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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***



### **POINSETTIAS**

If you would like to order a poinsettia as a donation to offset the purchasing cost for these plants which the "Caring Friends" will take to people from our church who can't get to church and for some elderly members of the church, then please fill out the insert in future bulletins & put it with your money in the offering box by 12/20/25. The names of the loved ones along with the giver's name will be included in the 12/24 bulletin. Caring & Sharing Friends are delivering to shut-ins right now.

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of Poinsettias

I wish to remember: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to honor: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_



# **COLLECTING COFFEE PACKETS FOR PRISONERS**

**Several churches in our area are collecting items for the prisoners. We chose to collecting instant coffee packets. We will be collecting instant coffee packets for the prison ministries through November 30th . They can be purchased on Amazon or purchased at Dollar General or if you would like to donate towards it. Just make a note it's for**

**Prison Ministries Christmas.**

**We need 150 boxes of (7).**

**SO FAR WE HAVE COLLECTED 90 BOXES**

**SO 60 BOXES TO GO???? CAN YOU HELP?**

**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**







**PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE  
YOU ARE INVITED TO A COMMUNITY  
ADVENT SERVICE ON DECEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>  
FARWELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH WILL  
BE HOSTING OUR COMMUNITY ADVENT  
SERVICE ON DECEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup> AT 6 P.M.**

**Address is: 281 Ohio St Farwell, MI**

**ATTENTION CARING FRIENDS  
POINSETTIAS ARE READY TO DELIVER**





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 AA 12-1:30 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 CHRISMAS PROGRAM 9:00 SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 WORSHIP CHURCH CONFERENCE FOLLOWING WORSHIP 2:00 YOUTH GROUP	8 11 A.M. D.A.R. AA 12-1:30 6:15 WEIGHTS 6:45 YOGA	9 AA 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 12-1:30 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 12-1:30 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 12-1:30 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