

# THE CLARION

# OCTOBER 2026

## CLARE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



### **CHURCH CONFERENCE IS SCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY OCTOBER. 25<sup>TH</sup> 6 P.M.**

**AT COLEMAN UMC  
203 JEFFERSON ST. COLEMAN, MI**

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### **NOTE OF CHANGE DAYS OF OFFICE OPERATION CHANGING TO TUESDAY - FRIDAY 10-4 P.M.**



**OCTOBER IS PASTOR  
APPRECIATION MONTH☺  
THANK YOU TO  
PASTOR BRIAN & ELIZABETH  
Jonny & Mary  
FOR ALL THEY DO!  
MAY GOD BLESS ALL YOU IN  
YOUR MINISTRY AND KNOW  
YOU ARE BOTH VERY MUCH  
APPRECIATED**

### **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 Poe: [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.***

***Tuesday – 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)**

**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)**

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

**Lenny Wixson: [Lenn.wixson@gmail.com](mailto:Lenn.wixson@gmail.com)**

**ALL SAINT'S SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 1  
IF YOU HAVE LOST A LOVED ONE IN THE  
LAST YEAR AND WANT THEIR NAMES TO  
BE MENTIONED, PLEASE CONTACT JUDY  
AT THE CHURCH OFFICE**

## *A Note From Our Pastor*



### **What If Halloween Became an Opportunity?**

October is here and the air is getting cooler, the leaves are changing color, football is happening, pumpkins are appearing, and, of course, Halloween is coming.

Let's talk about Halloween for a moment. It is one of those subjects that Christians have different feelings about. Some people enjoy the costumes, candy, laughter, and excitement of the evening. Parents may enjoy nostalgia from when they were kids, as well as "test" the candy for them to make sure it is ok.

On the other hand, there are some folks that choose not to participate because they feel there is an emphasis on...evil I guess? I understand and respect those concerns. As Christians, we should always be thoughtful about what we allow into our lives and what we choose to celebrate.

But I also wonder if there is another way to look at October 31. What if, instead of seeing Halloween as something to avoid, we see it as an opportunity?

For one evening, people who may normally spend their nights inside their homes come outside. Children and families walk through the neighborhood. Doors open. People who may have lived next door for years finally meet one another. There are smiles, conversations, laughter, and hopefully, candy!

In a world where we can spend hours looking at our phones, watching television, and living increasingly isolated lives, there is something wonderful about simply being outside and getting around other people.

In Mark 12:31, Jesus said, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Sometimes loving our neighbor begins by simply getting to know them.

I read a wonderful article about some youth of a United Methodist church in another state. The youth wanted to make Halloween more meaningful, so instead of simply going door-to-door for candy, they organized a "trick-or-treat" food drive. They visited neighbors and collected food for a local food pantry. What began as a Halloween activity became an opportunity for young people to serve, for neighbors to give, and for the church to become more connected to its community. What a great idea to practice servanthood, hospitality, generosity, friendship, and love.

Perhaps this October 31, instead of sitting behind a screen, consider sitting on the front porch. Turn on the porch light. Have some treats ready. Talk with the parents. Learn the names of the children. Introduce yourself to a neighbor you haven't met. Maybe invite someone to church. And most importantly, look for an opportunity to show someone the love of Christ. Peace always! Pastor Brian

## *A Note From Chippy*



Good News!!

God Loves You!! My mom & I recently read a book telling us how God loves us.

God loves every single part of us. His love is deeper than valleys and taller than airplanes can fly. There is nowhere we can hide from God's great love. Even though His love can't be seen, it's everywhere! God's love will never be taken away from you, no matter how you are feeling. The book referred to the scripture in our greater book "The Bible" that "Nothing at all can ever separate us from God's love." Romans 8:39

What a wonderful feeling to know He is always with us and He loves us no matter what.

So always remember, God loves you and so do I.

## **MOTHER HUBBARDS' CUPBOARD FOR OCTOBER WE WILL BE COLLECTING FOR THE PRESCHOOL CHILD CARE CENTER**

**Facial Tissue, Bags of fruit: apples, pears, Winter squash, Diapers – all sizes (1-6) Diaper wipes, Boys & girls pants, sizes 3T, 4T & 5T**

# OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Denton, Elvis
- 2 Newton, Lee
- 3 Schunk, Lee  
Good, Grant
- 5 Robison, Jessica  
Baker-Radcliffe Merri Ann
- 6 Murphy, Kelly  
Musser, Mike  
Brooks, Tracey
- 7 Staten, Pam  
Staten, Jenna
- 9 Evie Koch
- 12 Brown, Stephanie  
Stark, Amy
- 15 Mary Comiskey
- 16 Lubs, Tracy  
Velma Cross
- 17 Nevill, Jenna  
Dougherty, Linda
- 19 Seiter, Randy
- 23 Zinser, Pat
- 24 Wood, Kathy  
Bowers, Shannon
- 26 Jerred, Kathy
- 27 Brown, Jacob
- 30 Dana, Evan
- 31 Monzo, Roy  
Stanley, Robyn



## *In Our Thoughts and Prayers*

**Margaret VanHoose & family** on the loss of her loving husband, **Tom VanHoose**  
**The Family of Jean Blow**  
**Rita Bryan's and family**, on the loss of her loving husband **Lou Bryan's**.

### IN LOVING MEMORY

**Tom VanHoose** has been remembered with memorial gifts to our general fund from: Betty Mussell, Bill & Judy Poe, Steve & Amy Stark, Patricia Cruden, Carol Beatty, Dennis Hacker, Ellen Fuller, Mari Pat Terpening and to the Child Care Center from Gail Neff.

**Jean Blow** has been remembered with a memorial gift to the General fund from Betty Mussell

**Don & Jean Blow** have been remembered with a memorial Gift to the General Fund from Jamie, Gary & family

# CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S CONNECTION



## **"In the Garden!"**

**Thursday, Oct. 8, 2026**  
**11:45 – 1:45 p.m.**

**Special Feature: "Putting Your Garden to Rest for the Winter"**  
**Janice Jenkins, Elm Creek**

**Inspirational Speaker: Michelle Hoffman DeMann**, from Hamilton, MI, will share her challenges and victories in life. As a young girl seeking love and struggling with self-worth makes painful choices; she has found healing and freedom through someone who reveals her true self-worth. **"Overcoming Live's Challenges"**

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**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 Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>  
Edie (989) 463-3287 \* Ruth (989) 492-4199  
Lona (989) 387-4808 or email [Lona](mailto:Lona@lonahamilton@yahoo.com)  
[lonahamilton@yahoo.com](mailto:lonahamilton@yahoo.com)



**Clare's Family Fun Day will be October 6<sup>th</sup> from 3-7 p.m.**

**We are asking all of our church family for  
donations of cases of water, hats & gloves.**

**And will need volunteers.**

**There will be sign up sheet in the lobby that will have  
2 hour shifts**



### **ATTENTION CARING FRIENDS**

**We will be having a meeting on**

**October 14<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. in Pastor's office**

**Please join us for updates on our shut-ins.**

### **NEW CLASS INFORMATION**



**Hello everyone,**

**Greetings in Christ! I hope you all are doing well. This summer is moving  
along quickly, isn't it?**

As we moved through August, we began to think about education and spiritual  
growth opportunities. We already have some wonderful classes set to begin in  
September including :

Karen Mater will be continuing a Bible Study Sunday morning on Revelation, and  
Pastor Jim Young will be leading a Bible Basics It will be at 9am to 9:47. Please bring a Bible and something  
to write with. We will be meeting in the fellowship room in a corner. He's looking forward to seeing you  
starting the first Sunday of September. Any questions my number is 989-339-0166.

Also, we will be continuing into Season 3 of The Chosen Series on the big screen at church. These are  
wonderful opportunities for our church and our community to work on our spiritual growth, and...we need to  
continue!

On October 8<sup>th</sup> - December 10<sup>th</sup> Thursday evenings there will be a study from Lee Strobel's book "A Case  
For Christ" led by Gerry and Mary Ann Scott. Time to be announced.

Therefore, we are excited to announce the formation of a new ministry group dedicated to expanding  
educational opportunities within our church for people of all ages and stages of their faith journey. It is called  
*Education Spark*. Our goal is to explore new ways to help our congregation grow in God's Word, strengthen  
our spiritual lives, and share the message of Christ with our community.

This group will meet on a fairly regular basis to pray, brainstorm, and develop ideas for educational  
programs, Bible studies, and other opportunities that encourage spiritual growth and make learning about  
Christ more accessible to everyone. Whether you're passionate about teaching, have creative ideas to  
share, or simply want to help others grow in their faith, we would love for you to join us as we seek God's  
guidance in this important ministry.

If someone has talked to you about this group, we are looking to meet very soon. Please let us know when  
you are available and we can try to accommodate. As you know, it can be difficult to get everyone's  
schedules to match, but we'll do the best we can.

If you haven't heard about this group yet, no worries. We just started getting the word out! Please let us  
know if you want us to contact you to talk about it and get more information.

Thank you everyone! Peace and blessings always! Pastor Brian



**FREE**

**Community Dinner**

**OCTOBER 31<sup>ST</sup>**



**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***

***Our church office 989-386-2591***



# October 2026

## ALL SAINT'S SUNDAY NOV. 1



| Sun                                                                                                                                  | Mon                                                                   | Tue                                                        | Wed                                                                                 | Thu                                                                                     | Fri                                              | Sat                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>OCTOBER IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH</b><br><b>FAMILY NIGHT OUT OCT. 6 3-7 P.M.</b><br><b>CHURCH CONFERENCE IS OCT. 25 6 P.M.</b> |                                                                       |                                                            |                                                                                     | <b>1</b><br>1:00 AA<br>2:00 NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE                                       | <b>2</b><br>10-4 THRIFT STORE<br>AA 8-9:30 P.M.  | <b>3</b><br>10-4 THRIFT STORE<br>12 NOON AA                                             |
| <b>4</b><br>9:00 SUNDAY SCHOOL<br>10:00 WORSHIP                                                                                      | <b>5</b><br>OFFICE CLOSED<br>AA 12-1:30<br>6:15 WEIGHTS<br>6:45 YOGA  | <b>6</b><br>FAMILY NIGHT OUT<br>3-7 P.M.<br>AA 8-9:30 P.M. | <b>7</b><br>6:15 WEIGHTS<br>6:45 YOGA<br>8:00 AA                                    | <b>8</b><br>1:00 AA<br>6:00 GERRY'S CLASS                                               | <b>9</b><br>10-4 THRIFT STORE<br>AA 8-9:30 P.M.  | <b>10</b><br>10-4 THRIFT STORE<br>12 NOON AA                                            |
| <b>11 PASTOR APPRECIATION SUNDAY</b><br>9:00 SUNDAY SCHOOL<br>10:00 WORSHIP                                                          | <b>12</b><br>OFFICE CLOSED<br>AA 12-1:30<br>6:15 WEIGHTS<br>6:45 YOGA | <b>13</b><br>AA 8-9:30 P.M.                                | <b>14</b><br>1:00 CARING FRIENDS MEETING<br>6:15 WEIGHTS<br>6:45 YOGA<br>8:00 AA    | <b>15</b><br>1:00 AA<br>5:00 SPARK MEETING<br>6:00 GERRY'S CLASS<br>7:00 CHOIR PRACTICE | <b>16</b><br>10-4 THRIFT STORE<br>AA 8-9:30 P.M. | <b>17</b><br>10-4 THRIFT STORE<br>12 NOON AA                                            |
| <b>18</b><br>9:00 SUNDAY SCHOOL<br>10:00 WORSHIP                                                                                     | <b>19</b><br>OFFICE CLOSED<br>AA 12-1:30<br>6:15 WEIGHTS<br>6:45 YOGA | <b>20</b><br>AA 8-9:30 P.M.                                | <b>21 11:30 A.M.</b><br>JOY WALKER MEMORIAL<br>6:15 WEIGHTS<br>6:45 YOGA<br>8:00 AA | <b>22</b><br>1:00 AA<br>6:00 GERRY'S CLASS<br>7:00 CHOIR PRACTICE                       | <b>23</b><br>10-4 THRIFT STORE<br>AA 8-9:30 P.M. | <b>24</b><br>10-4 THRIFT STORE<br>12 NOON AA                                            |
| <b>25 9:00 SUNDAY SCHOOL</b><br>10:00 WORSHIP<br>6:00 CHURCH CONFERENCE<br>COLMAN UMC                                                | <b>26</b><br>OFFICE CLOSED<br>AA 12-1:30<br>6:15 WEIGHTS<br>6:45 YOGA | <b>27</b><br>AA 8-9:30 P.M.                                | <b>28</b><br>6:15 WEIGHTS<br>6:45 YOGA<br>8:00 AA                                   | <b>29</b><br>1:00 AA<br>6:00 GERRY'S CLASS<br>7:00 CHOIR PRACTICE                       | <b>30</b><br>10-4 THRIFT STORE<br>AA 8-9:30 P.M. | <b>31 HAPPY HALLOWEEN</b><br>10-4 THRIFT STORE<br>12 NOON AA<br>4-5:30 COMMUNITY DINNER |