

First Congregational Church of St. Clair



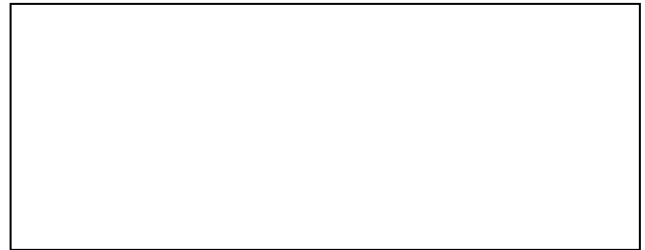
"A Just World for All"

www.firstcongsc.org | 300 Adams Street, St. Clair, MI 48079

810-329-4142

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

2019



JANUARY

HAPPY
New Year

THE CHANNEL

We are proud to be a Progressive Congregation

Worship & Sunday School: Sundays – 10 a.m.

Pastor: Reverend Alana Kelley

Communion: First Sunday of Every Month

First Congregational Church of St. Clair
United Church of Christ
300 Adams Street
St. Clair, MI 48079
(810) 329-4142
Fax: (810) 329-4420

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Facebook: FirstCongregational.UCC.St.Clair

Ephesians 4:4-6 New International Version (NIV)

⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.



Some thoughts from Pastor Alana;

My favorite Christian Mystic and Theologian is Julian of Norwich who lived during the 4th century in Norwich, England. In fact, one of my classes in Seminary was entirely about her life, her visions and her writings. She was an anchoress. An anchoress was someone who lived in a small room (called a cell) attached to a church, and never ever left there. She had a window into which she could look into the sanctuary and so participate in worship. And she had a window to the street where she could look out and people could come by and ask for prayer. The church supported their anchoress.

Julian of Norwich is celebrated by the Episcopal Church, the Church of England and the Evangelical Reformed Church. The Catholic Church respects her greatly, but she has not been canonized by the church.

Before becoming an anchoress, Julian became ill and had numerous visions that she wrote about. Her writing dealt with love and what she called “one-ing”. One-ing meant seeing the world and everything in it as connected; related, and coming from God, the Creator.

One of the conclusions that very Spiritually minded Christians like St. Julian of Norwich seem to come to, inevitably, is that all of life IS inter-connected and inter-related. It seems that when we take time to contemplate and meditate on God and on the origins of life, this one truth emerges.

It takes a lot of work to get to that place of seeing and feeling the inter-connectedness of all that is living. I’ve spoken with you before about the importance of spending time just “being”; of letting go of thoughts we are preoccupied with; of thinking about God and only God and the gifts we receive from God. Doing this is called a “practice” and believe me, it does take practice.

It seems though that those who are able to reach this point of experiencing the inter-connectedness of life also begin to enjoy and appreciate life very much. It is much easier to feel love for one another and for all of God’s created world when we have this connection.

As we begin a new year, we have an opportunity to focus on “practicing” drawing closer to God. Most likely, each of us would have our own ways of doing this. I know that I feel closest to God when I’ve been out in nature and then respond to what I’ve seen and

heard by surrounding myself with art supplies, jotting down my thoughts, and drawing or painting in a large journal full of clean white pages. My journals become “picture-books”.

So, how do you best relate to God? What do you do to allow yourself to feel the presence; to sense the inter-connectedness of all of life? Is this something you could use some “practice” at doing?

My prayer is that in this new year we will have opportunities to do some exploration of the more spiritual side of our religiousness. I’m not thinking you need to confine yourself to a cell on the 4th Street edge of the church, like Julian of Norwich did in Norwich, England (at least not unless you really want to ;-)

But perhaps in the months ahead we can do some exploration of what it means to draw closer and closer to God in the midst of our busy lives.

I wish all of you a most wonderful new year, and look forward, as we move into another year together, my fourth year with you, to surprising discoveries about our untapped spiritualities.

With You on the Journey,

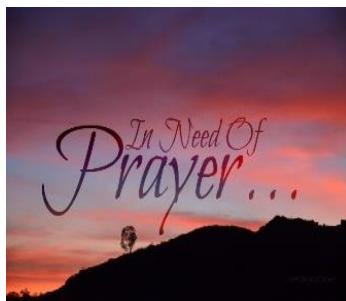
Pastor Alana



St. Julian's church in Norwich, England



St. Julian of Norwich



Mary Beth Bolla, Penny Malcolm, Carol LaVigne,
Karen (Deuane & Mary Ann's neighbor),
Donnie Whittaker, Caroline Schultz' brother, Rick,
Nancy Martin, Sue Waelens, Pearl Ewart, Vicki Kling,
Betty Pesta, David Bolla's step-daughter, Lexi,
Sarah Flum's friend, Dan, and Margaret Loranger.

Let us also remember

Dakota Hazel, Nathan Distelrath,
Edwin Summers, our elected leaders
and all who are serving in the military.



Remember, Newsletter article submission deadline is
January 20th.

“No matter who you are or
where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!”

WELCOME



Terri Temple – 3rd

Karen Galvin – 4th

Steve Hughes – 4th

Don Rice – 5th

Sarah Flum – 7th

Mary Ann Martin – 12th

Janet Cornish – 12th

Abby Thourlby – 14th

Callan Eschenburg – 20th

Calvin Rock – 27th

Russell Whittaker – 30th

Amber Flum – 30th

Scott Whittaker – 31st



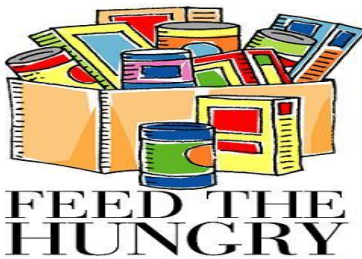
happy anniversary

Deuane & Mary Ann Martin – 10th

Dale & Cindy Frey – 11th

Don & Liana Cherni – 24th

Be the Church gathering is set for the fourth Tuesday of every month. We will meet on Tuesday, January 22, 2019, at 7pm.



THE LITTLE FOOD PANTRY NEEDS NON-PERISHABLE DONATIONS. PLEASE HELP SUPPORT THIS WORTHY MISSION.



STAFF LISTING...

Pastor:
Reverend Alana Kelley
Organist:
Denise Gregg
Vocals:
Anna Moore
Bookkeeper:
Amanda Schwehofer
Office Administrator:
Julie Wendt
Christian Ed Coordinator:
Doug Bishop
Nursery Staff:
Olivia Carlsen/Lori Lewis
Custodians: Dale & Cindy Frey

MALLARD'S LANDING SERVICE takes place the third Thursday of every month. Please join us as we provide a much-appreciated communion worship service for some of the residents. You will enjoy getting to know 'the regulars' and seeing the members of this church who live at Mallard's, too! This month's service is on Thursday, January 17th, at 9:15am.



Called to
Serve

YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL...

Please feel free to contact any member of your Church Council with any questions, comments or concerns.

Lisa Hughes - Moderator

Robert Rood - Vice Moderator

Ken Schultz - Treasurer

Caroline Schultz - Church Clerk

Deuane Martin - Trustee & Finance

Kathy Rood - Worship & Music

Mary Ann Martin - Mission & Ministry

Penny Malcolm - Christian Education

Pat O'Connor - Member at Large

Alana Kelley - Pastor



Please mark your calendar for our
Congregational Annual Meeting on February
3rd, 2019, immediately following worship.



OPEN & AFFIRMING INCLUSIVE CHURCH COVENANT

The members of the First Congregational Church of St. Clair, United Church of Christ, declare that we are a fully inclusive, open and affirming congregation. We affirm the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and believe that all people are children of God. As such, we welcome to the community of faith all people of diverse race, physical and mental abilities, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, and socio-economic status. We covenant to provide to all a safe, loving, nurturing and compassionate community.

POINSETTIAS 2018

GIVEN BY:

Margery Guinther

In Memory of Karl Guinther

Randy & Vicki Kling

In Memory of Mike & Marilyn
Kling / Leo & Joyce Gould

Deuane & Mary Ann
Martin

In Memory of Wm. & Sophie
Sewell-Comer Martin

Ann Whittaker &
Penny Malcolm

In Memory of Clifford &
Alberta Freeland

Ken & Denise Gregg

In Memory of Norman &
Helen Grob

Kathy Cilluffo

Carol LaVigne
and Family

Erwin, Ruth & Allan LaVigne

Margery Guinther

Doris Martensen, Doris
Ramsdell, Betty Winslow

Adris Hirt

Jim & Cathy Light

Our Loved Ones

Bob & Kathy Rood

In Memory of Glenna &
Gene Biemuller and
Ethel & Bob Rood

**FRIDAY MORNINGS AT
NEIMAN'S CAFÉ..**

Every Friday, 10:30 a.m-12:00 p.m.

You are welcome to stop by for a chat with Pastor Alana, enjoy some good coffee, or just appreciate a relaxing end to your week!



The Alzheimer's Support Group will meet the fourth Thursday of the month at First Congregational Church. All are welcome. The meeting in January will be Thursday, January 24th, at 1pm. For further information, please call the church (329-4142) or Mary Ann Martin (326-0798).





Volunteers make up FCC's various committees. If you would like to participate in the stewardship of the church, or have any questions or concerns about what the committees do, please reach out to the committee chairs:

Administration: David Scheel

Altar: Adelle Schwan & Liana Cherni

Altar Flowers: Marge Guinther

Care Team: Karen Galvin

Christian Education: Penny Malcolm

Inside Maintenance: Don O'Connor

Memorials: Caroline Schultz

Mission & Ministry: Mary Ann Martin

Open & Affirming: Pat O'Connor

Outside Maintenance: Randy Kling

Parish Nurse: Mary Ann Martin

Parsonage: Don Rice

Pastoral Relations: Bob Rood, Nancy Rice, Carroll Simmons

Treasurer: Ken Schultz

Ushers: Tim Galvin

Worship & Music: Kathy Rood

Worship

PHRASES LIKE worship service and service of worship are tautologies. To worship God means to serve God. Basically, there are two ways to do it. One way is to do things for God that God needs to have done—run errands for God, carry messages for God, fight on God's side, feed God's lambs, and so on. The other way is to do things for God that you need to do—sing songs for God, create beautiful things for God, give things up for God, tell God what's on your mind and in your heart, in general rejoice in God and make a fool of yourself for God the way lovers have always made fools of themselves for the one they love.

A Quaker meeting, a pontifical High Mass, the family service at Zion Episcopal, a Holy Roller happening—unless there is an element of joy and foolishness in the proceedings, the time would be better spent doing something useful.

-Originally published in *Wishful Thinking* and later in *Beyond Words*
“Wise Words from Frederick Buechner”



JANUARY DUTIES

LAY READERS:

6 – Don Rice
13 – David Scheel
20 – Lisa Hughes
27 - Vicki Kling

USHERS:

6 – D. Rice / T. Galvin
13 – T. Galvin / K. Schultz
20 - J. Light / D. Johnson
27 - A. Thourlby / D. Vernier

POWER POINT:

6 - Doreen Vernier
13 – Kathy Cilluffo
20 – Pat O’Connor
27 - David Kelley

COFFEE HOUR:

6 – Lezlynn Moore
13 – Need a Volunteer
20 - Need a Volunteer
27 - Need a Volunteer

JANUARY 6th COMMUNION SERVERS:

T. Galvin, K. Galvin, D. Rice, N. Rice

ALTAR DUTIES: Cathy Light

TRUSTEE: Dave Scheel

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – A YEAR IN REVIEW

We kicked off a new year of Sunday school with Rally Day and an ice cream social. The Christian education program continues to use “Seasons of The Spirit” curriculum. This curriculum is multi adaptive and provides the ability to teach all ages of our Sunday school students, who ranging in age from kindergarten through 8th grade and our teen helpers. Moreover, this curriculum also provides several hands-on, creative and adaptive activities that directly correspond with the lessons and scriptures each week.



Our nursery program continues to grow, and Olivia continues to be the primary caregiver in that classroom. Olivia has been instrumental this past year helping and

going above and beyond to providing creative detail, volunteering and working with new families. In the event that Olivia is not able to attend services, we also have additional substitutes/volunteer caregivers.

This past year, we have seen an overall increase of new students, student and family participation and congregational involvement. Looking at the attendance data from Easter through May 20, 2018 there were 14 students including teenagers recorded. Looking at September through December 2018, we had 21 students including teenagers. We have welcomed new families, new volunteers and families that have returned.

Over the past year, the Christian education program has been very active creating, facilitating and overseeing family engagement, community outreach and congregational involvement through ongoing activities throughout the year. The Christian education program hosted a picnic, bonfire, movie nights, craft events, game nights and presented a beautiful Christmas program to name a few activities. There were approximately 14 Christian education students involved in this year's Christmas program. Also, our church participated in the community wide vacation Bible school program which was held at the Lutheran Church.

It has truly been a spectacular year filled with a lot of exciting events and activities. Looking ahead, it is the goal of the Christian education staff and volunteers to continue this trend by providing family activities, integrating the congregation and reaching out to the community.

Douglas Bishop
Christian Education Coordinator

January 2019 at First Congregational

1	Wednesday	New Year's Day! Happy New Year!
2	Wednesday	Amanda Here 9am-12pm Trustee Reports Due
3	Thursday	Garden Club Music Planning Mtg. 9:30am

		Choir Practice 11:30-12:30 Pastor Alana's Church Anniversary
4	Friday	Neiman's Café 10:30am-12:00pm
5	Saturday	Weight Watchers 8am
6	Sunday	WORSHIP 10:00am / Epiphany / Reports Due for Annual Meeting / Choir Sings! / Communion Note: Annual Meeting Feb. 3
8	Tuesday	Trustees Meeting 4pm
9	Wednesday	Amanda Here 9am-12pm Eastern Assoc. Coordination Mtg. 11am Mission Team Meeting 2pm Council Reports Due
11	Friday	Neiman's Café 10:30am-12:30pm
12	Saturday	Weight Watchers 8am
13	Sunday	WORSHIP 10:00am Note: Annual Meeting Feb. 3
15	Tuesday	Council Meeting 6pm
16	Wednesday	Amanda Here 9am-12pm Ladies Lunch - TBA
17	Thursday	Mallard's Landing Service 9:15am Worship & Music Mtg. 10:30am Event Review Committee 1:00pm
18	Friday	Neiman's Café 10:30am – 12:30pm
19	Saturday	Weight Watchers 8am
20	Sunday	WORSHIP 10:00am / Everyone's Birthday Pot Luck Note: Annual Meeting Feb. 3
21	Monday	Channel Deadline
22	Tuesday	Community Meal 4:30-6pm Be the Church Mtg. 7pm
23	Wednesday	Amanda Here 9am-12pm
24	Thursday	Alzheimer's Support Group 1pm
25	Friday	Neiman's Café 10:30am – 12:30pm
26	Saturday	Weight Watchers 8am
27	Sunday	WORSHIP 10:00am / Health & Human Services Sunday Note: Annual Meeting Feb. 3
29	Tuesday	Harbor Impact Day
30	Wednesday	Amanda Here 9am-12pm
31	Thursday	Music Planning Mtg. 9:30am Choir Practice 11:30-12:30

Mary Beth Bolla would love to see you all
or receive mailings from you!
Please continue to keep her in your prayers.

Mary Beth Bolla
Blue Water Hospice
2795 Edison Drive #4
Marysville, MI 48040

**A new year is God's way of
saying: "No matter where
you've been or what
you've been through, you
can always start fresh."**

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