

First Congregational Church of St. Clair



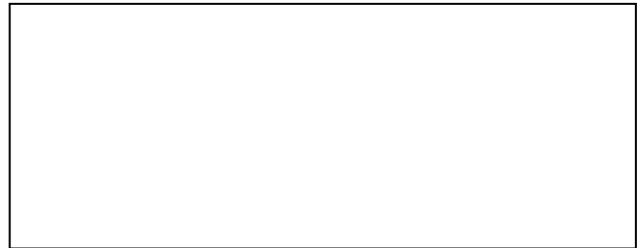
"A Just World for All"

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

810-329-4142

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

2019



APRIL

*Christ
is
Risen!*

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

E-Mail: firstcongstclair@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.firstconggsc.org

Facebook: FirstCongregational.UCC.St.Clair

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord, Jesus Christ. While they were wondering this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here. He is risen."
Luke 24:1-4,5b-6a



Some thoughts from Pastor Alana;

This Lent we have focused in worship on practices that help us to draw closer to Christ as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter.

One such practice is to spend some time at the end of each day thinking about the gifts we've received during the day. This is an excellent habit to be in, and doing this just before bedtime helps us to relax for the night. Counting our blessings each day is a certain way to draw closer to Christ. What are you most grateful for today?

As we continue our Lenten practices for the next several weeks, there are a few activities that we can look forward to.

We are collecting food for Easter Dinner for two local families. There is a signup sheet in the back of the church if you'd like to contribute food items. Monetary donations are also being accepted.

On Palm Sunday we'll have the children's palm parade. Then children will be able to parade down to Friendship Hall for the Lenten Fair, a time of fun, craft making and pretzel baking. On Holy Thursday we will participate in a joint worship service with First United Methodist Church. On Good Friday we'll worship with our Ecumenical partners at St. Peter's Lutheran.

The Ecumenical Easter Cantata is being held at Holy Cross Episcopal Church on Saturday, March 20th at 5:00 p.m. The music, written and directed by the Rev. Dr. David Vickers is the story of the empty tomb as told by Luke in chapter 24. Singers and ringers are participating from First Congregational UCC St. Clair, First United Methodist Church, Holy Family Episcopal and St. Peter's Lutheran Church.

On Easter Sunday, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt for the children after worship in the church yard at FCC UCC.

We will celebrate on that joyous day the resurrection of Jesus the Christ. On Easter, after worship we'll return to our homes, our families and friends, to celebrate Spring, rebirth, and the gratitude we feel for the rhythm of the Christian year.

What a blessing it is for us to remind ourselves that Christ is always with us. Christ is with us indeed.

With You on the Journey,

Pastor Alana



Mary Beth Bolla, Carol LaVigne,
Harrietta Ryan, Pat Sharrow & Family,
Karen (Deuane & Mary Ann's neighbor),
Rick (Caroline Schultz' brother),
Nancy Martin, Pearl Ewart, Vicki Kling,
and Margaret Loranger.

Let us also remember
Dakota Hazel, Nathan Distelrath,
all who are serving in the military,
and our elected leaders.



Remember, Newsletter article submission deadline is
April 20th.

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

WELCOME



Joshua Kennedy – 2nd

Cory O’Connor – 3rd

Erin Galvin – 7th

Harrietta Ryan – 11th

Barbara Jeffries – 13th

Chelsea Montroy – 15th

Melvina (Sis) Johnson – 17th

Robert Montroy – 25th

Rebekah Rathman-Wingrove – 25th

Margaret Loranger – 30th

Douglas Bishop – 30th



Tom & Elsa Pennewell - 3rd
Doug & Doreen Vernier - 17th
Douglas & Diane Johnson - 23rd

Be the Church gathering is set for the fourth
Tuesday of every month. We will meet on
Tuesday, April 23, 2019, at 7pm.



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



STAFF LISTING...

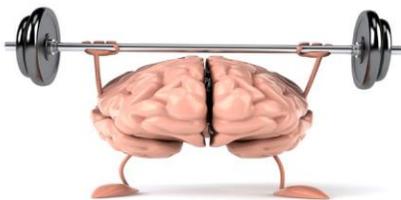
Pastor:
Reverend Alana
Kelley
Organist:
Denise Gregg
Vocals:
Anna Moore
Bookkeeper:
Amanda Schwehofer
Office Administrator:
Julie Wendt
Christian Ed Coordinator:
Doug Bishop
Nursery Staff:
Olivia Carlsen
Custodians:
Dale & Cindy Frey

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, April 18, at 9:15am.





This month's Community Meal is on
April 16th, 4:30pm-6:00pm.



You're Not Getting Older—You're Getting Better!
(or How to Improve Your Physical Health
While You Age)

Myth: There's nothing older people can do about declining health.

Fact: There are several ways to protect—and improve—your physical and mental health as you age.

These tips can help pave the way for a fit and fulfilling future. Year after year, you'll find that age really is just a number!

Commit to fitness. It's vital to exercise regularly. Physical activity not only lowers your risk of heart disease, stroke and diabetes but also improves your brain's health and allows you to do more of the activities you enjoy. Experts recommend doing moderate aerobic activity (such as walking) for 2 ½ hours each week. Even if you haven't been active in the past, it's not too late to start. Try 10 minutes of activity a few times a day and work your way up if necessary. Balance exercises are important because they help prevent falls, a leading cause of injuries as we age. Practice balance exercises 3 times a week or more. These can be as simple as standing on one foot or standing up from a sitting position without using your hands.

Get preventative screenings. These could mean living a longer, healthier life. Preventative screenings detect problems early when treatments work best. Talk with your health professional about bone density, breast cancer, colorectal cancer, diabetes, heart disease and lung cancer.

Care for your brain. Studies show that keeping your brain active throughout life is associated with a lower risk of Alzheimer's disease. Reading, learning a musical instrument or foreign language, playing games or working on puzzles that challenge your mind are all beneficial. Both social engagement and mentally stimulating activities help keep your brain healthy.

Manage chronic conditions. Finding out you have a chronic disease, such as diabetes, heart disease or high blood pressure, can be scary and overwhelming. While everyone copes differently, here are three steps you can take to better handle a serious diagnosis and still live life to its fullest:

1. **Learn about your condition.** Researching your chronic disease and asking your health care team lots of questions can give you a greater sense of control.
2. **Move your body.** First, check with your doctor to make sure it's OK to exercise. If you get the green light, being active can help you feel better physically and emotionally.
3. **Spend time with others.** Being around people who care about you can help you feel like you're not going through this alone.

Source: MyBlueMedicare; Spring, 2019

OK—it sounds simple enough! Let's commit to be fit. Get start concentrating on physical improvement with a concentrated effort to be proactive and active in our daily routines. Let me know if you need help or suggestions.

I encourage all of you to attend this month's Continental Breakfast and program from Blue Water Hospice about Palliative Care and Hospice. It is an opportunity to be educated about a topic that may help in an important time of your or a loved-one's life. Sign up at the back table.

Your Parish Nurse,

Mary Ann Martin, RN, FCN



SUSTAINING CREATION

48 Steps to Living Sustainably – Actions We Can All Take

April is here and it's Spring!! What a wonderful time of year—rebirth, renewal, re-creation, and sustainability! They all go together!

We're looking at "Getting in Deeper" with our Actions We Can All Take, this month in the category of "Home." There are four actions to consider:

- ❖ 23. Change all home lighting to energy efficient lamps. Consider LED lamps.
- ❖ 24. Install smart thermostats and timers on energy-using devices throughout your home.
- ❖ 25. Conduct an energy audit of your home and correct deficiencies. Seal those windows and door leaks.
- ❖ 26. Consider whether to repair an item rather than replacing it with something new. Take an initial step away from our disposable consumer society.

Next month is our last "Getting in Deeper" list focusing on Advocacy. Be prepared—After that we'll look at "Immersed As a Way Of Life."

To a Greener World,

Mary Ann Martin, RN and Health Advocate



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
Pat O'Connor - Trustee & Finance
Kathy Rood - Worship & Music
Marge Guinther - Mission & Ministry
Penny Malcolm - Christian Education
Jody Skonieczny - Member at Large
Alana Kelley - Pastor

CHIME CHOIR NEEDS RINGERS!

Adult Men or Women, practice is Friday mornings at 11am in Friendship Hall. No need to read music... just count to four and know your right hand from your left hand! Any questions, please speak with Adelle Schwan or Kathy Rood.





MAY BASKETS

We will be collecting individually wrapped items for our May Baskets again this year. If you are able to donate, please leave your items in the Library, clearly marked “May Baskets”. All items are due no later than April 28th. We will be packing and delivering the Baskets on Wednesday, May 1st, at 9am. Please use the sign-up sheet on the back table of the sanctuary if you can help out.



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.

The Eastern Association
Michigan Conference, United Church of Christ
5945 Park Lake Road, P.O. Box 1006
East Lansing, Michigan 48826-1006

To the Clergy and Laity of the Eastern Association

The Committee on Church and Ministry
Invites you to attend the

Service of Ordination & Installation for
Catherine “Katie” Dailey

to be held at 3:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 7th, 2019

First United Church of Christ
68651 S. Forest Ave.
Richmond, MI 48064-1365
586-727-3155

Clergy are invited to wear robes and red stoles.

A reception will follow the service.

The offering will be directed to the Eastern Association
Members-in-Discernment program.

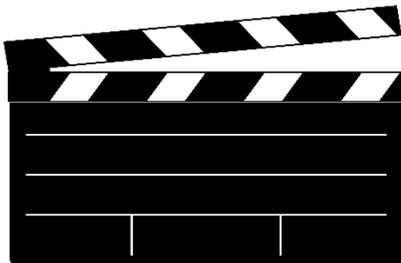
FRIDAY MORNINGS AT NEIMAN'S CAFÉ..

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, April 25th, at 1pm. For further information, please call the church (329-4142) or Mary Ann Martin (326-0798).



We want to improve the quality of the sound on the sermon videos we post. We are looking for a like-new video camera to record weekly sermons for the church web site. We need a camera that is in perfect condition and has the ability to be connected directly to the church sound system. If you have such a video camera, to either loan or give to the church, please speak with Don Rice



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: Marge Guinther

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

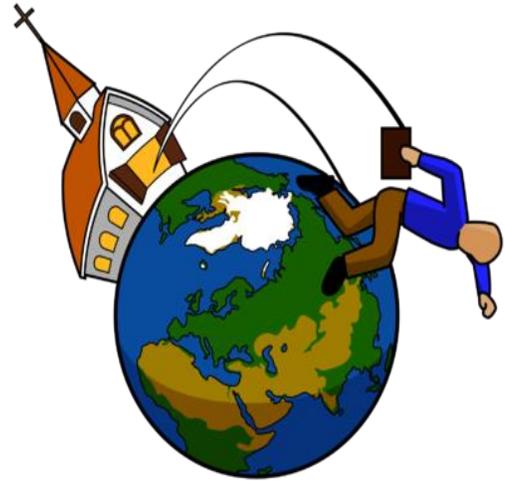
Treasurer: Ken Schultz

Ushers: Tim Galvin

Worship & Music: Kathy Rood

SPECIAL LENT MISSION

In August, Avery Skonieczny will be traveling with a group of Wayne State University students to Cusco, Peru for two weeks. They will be volunteering on a number of projects, such as medical, education, and construction. Part of their efforts include bringing basic hygiene and school supplies, as well as stuffed toys.



Avery will be collecting the following items during Lent:

Hygiene Supplies: (travel or full-sized)

Toothbrushes / Toothpaste / Deodorant / Shampoo / Bars of Soap

School Supplies:

Pens / Pencils / Markers / Crayons / Small Stuffed Toys



**Alzheimer's Support Group meets
at First Congregational Church on
Thursday, April 25th – 1pm**



APRIL DUTIES

LAY READERS:

7 – Don Rice
14 – Randy Kling
21 – Rose Crowley
28 - Bob Baden

USHERS:

7 – B. Rood / R. Kling
14 – D. Scheel / D. Kelley
21 – D. & P. O'Connor
28 – D. Rice / T. Galvin

POWER POINT:

7- Pat O'Connor
14 – Adelle Schwan
21 – David Kelley
28 - Lisa Hughes

COFFEE HOUR:

7 – Martins & Kennedys
14 – Klings
21 - Easter Sunday!
28 - M. Guinther & C. Light

APRIL 7th COMMUNION SERVERS:

David Kelley, Adelle Schwan, Doug Vernier, Doreen Vernier

ALTAR DUTIES: Nancy Rice

TRUSTEE: Brian Paret



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



Wisconsin is hosting General Synod!

June 21-25 2019

When we light just one candle in the darkness, it illuminates dimly, but when many candles are lit, and all let their lights shine, together we can bring brightness to the world.”

— The Rev. Franz Rigert, Wisconsin Conference Minister.

Complete General Synod information is available on the national UCC website: ucc.org/synod

EASTER FOOD BASKETS

Please use the sign-up sheet on the back table of the sanctuary if you are able to contribute. There are blank lines on the form if you want to sign-up for something that is not on the list. Monetary donations for a Neiman's Gift Card would be appreciated. To donate, mark a green pew envelope as "Adopted Families" or "Gift Card". Please place your items on the library shelves by Sunday, April 14th. Contact Doreen Vernier (810-329-5214) if assistance is needed with shopping or getting the food to the church. Thank you for supporting this mission project.



Performance

Easter Eve April 20, 2019 at 5:00 PM

You are my Witness

An Easter Cantata

For choir, hand bell, chimes and keyboard

Text based on Luke 24:1-49

Written and Directed by the Rev. David Vickers

For the St. Clair Ecumenical Choir

At the Holy Family Episcopal Church

115 N. 6th Street

St. Clair

Commissioned by: Rev. Alana Kelley, Rev. Ken Staib,
Rev. Joyce Partyka Staib, and Rev. John Grenfell

Donations gratefully accepted

April 2019 at First Congregational

3	Wednesday	Amanda Here 9am-12pm Lent Study 6:30pm-7:30pm Trustees Reports Due for 4-9-19 mtg.
4	Thursday	Worship & Music Mtg. 10am Choir Practice 11:30am-12:30pm
5	Friday	Neiman's Café 10:30am-12:00pm Chime Practice 11am
6	Saturday	Weight Watchers 8am
7	Sunday	WORSHIP 10:00am / Communion / Chimes Play! Katie Dailey's Ordination – First UCC Richmond – 3pm
9	Tuesday	Trustees Mtg. 4pm
10	Wednesday	Amanda Here 9am-12pm Lent Study 6:30pm-7:30pm Council Reports Due for 4-16-19 mtg.
11	Thursday	Choir Practice 11:30am-12:30pm
12	Friday	Neiman's Café 10:30am-12:00pm Glass/Hilla Wedding Rehearsal 6pm
13	Saturday	Weight Watchers 8am Glass/Hilla Wedding 5pm
14	Sunday	WORSHIP 10:00am / Lenten Fair
16	Tuesday	Community Meal 4:30pm-6:00pm Council Mtg. 6:30pm
17	Wednesday	Amanda Here 9am-12pm Ladies Lunch – The Inn on Water St-Marine City 12pm Lent Study 6:30pm-7:30pm
18	Thursday	Mallard's Landing Service 9:15am Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service-Methodist Church 7pm
19	Friday	Neiman's Café 10:30am-12:30pm Good Friday Ecumenical Service-St. Peter's 7pm
20	Saturday	Holy Saturday Weight Watchers 8am St. Clair Ecumenical Easter Cantata-Holy Family Church- 5pm
21	Sunday	WORSHIP 10:00am / Easter Sunday! / Choir Sings!
23	Tuesday	Harbor Impact Day 9am-12pm Be The Church Mtg. 7pm
24	Wednesday	Amanda Here 9am-12pm BW Hospice Presentation 9:30am
25	Thursday	Music Planning Mtg. 9:30am

		Choir Practice 11:30am-12:30pm Alzheimer's Support Group – 1pm
26	Friday	Neiman's Café 10:30am-12:00pm Chime Practice 11am
27	Saturday	Weight Watchers 8am
28	Sunday	WORSHIP 10:00am / Last Day for May Basket Items
30	Tuesday	Doug Bishop's Birthday!

