

First Congregational Church of St. Clair



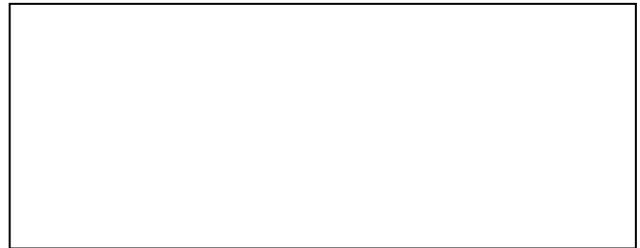
"A Just World for All"

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

810-329-4142

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

2019



MAY



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

Psalm 118:14, 19-29 ¹⁴The Lord is my strength and my might; God has become my salvation. ¹⁹Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord. ²⁰This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it. ²¹I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. ²²The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. ²³This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.



²⁴This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. ²⁵Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you, give us success! ²⁶Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord. ²⁷The Lord is God, and God has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar. ²⁸You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you. ²⁹O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good, for God's steadfast love endures forever.

Some thoughts from Pastor Alana;

Greetings to you on a day that looks to me, from the Parsonage windows, like a beautiful sunny Spring day! Of course, this being Michigan, by the time you receive and read this, there could well be snowflakes in the air; but optimist that I am, I celebrate that the weather seems to have broken and I've actually seen tulips in bloom!

You may be thinking that we're finished with Easter. Our six-week Lenten travels caused us to do some important reflecting on what is most important. And it always seems that Easter comes and goes in a quick minute as we celebrate our Risen Christ. But even after you've finished your Easter left-overs, Easter goes on.

On our Christian calendar, Easter lasts each year until Pentecost, when we celebrate the Holy Spirit descending upon the disciples and all the people who love and worship Christ.

This year, the seventh Sunday of Easter falls on June 2nd. Pentecost is June 9th. This will incidentally be the day we celebrate our Sunday School students and volunteers with thanks and recognition.

This Eastertide allows us time to celebrate and appreciate the gift we've received by the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Christ shows up for the disciples who have had their doubts about the promises Jesus made that he was to be the expected Messiah. By the Resurrection we discover that we too have received a chance at new life. We are reminded that we are loved, accepted just as we are and we are forgiven those times we separated ourselves from God.

These fifty days of Easter Sunday are important. Thanks be to God for the gift we receive from God each and every year as we celebrate our New Life in Christ. Alleluia! Amen!

With You on the Journey,

Pastor Alana



Mary Beth Bolla, Brian Paret, Jr.,
Cal Rock, Pat Sharrow & Family, Elsa Pennewell,
Karen (Deuane & Mary Ann's neighbor),
Rick (Caroline Schultz' brother), Debbie (Kathy Cilluffo's sister),
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
May 20th.

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

WELCOME

MEMORIAL DAY, MONDAY, MAY 27TH, 2019



Be the Church gathering is set for the fourth
Tuesday of every month. We will meet on
Tuesday, May 28, 2019, at 7pm.

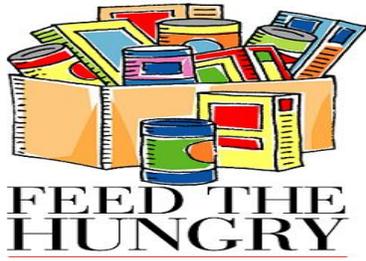




Julie Rock – 2nd
Dakota Hazel – 4th
Doreen Vernier – 5th
Jill Scheel – 6th
Lisa Hughes – 6th
Luke Sheedy – 7th
Timothy Galvin – 8th
Barbara Arevalo – 9th
Victoria Gotautas – 14th
Andrew Scheel – 22nd
Terri VanCamp – 22nd
Jake Robbins – 22nd
James Light, Jr. – 26th
Gwen Galvin – 30th
Clarence VanCamp – 31st
Randy Verbeke – 31st



Russell & Cathy Mollan – 24th
David & Alana Kelley – 11th (45yrs)
Steven & Lisa Hughes – 28th



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, May 16, at 9:15am.





This month's Community Meal is
May 21st, 4:30pm-6:00pm.



We will be having a Congregational Meeting on
Sunday, May 19th, to discuss kitchen renovations.
Please plan to attend this meeting.



BLOOD PRESSURE SUNDAY.....
May 19th, 2019



KNOW STROKE, KNOW THE SIGNS, ACT IN TIME

Stroke is a leading cause of death and serious, long-term disability in adults in the United States. About 795,000 new strokes are reported in the U.S. each year. The good news is that treatments are available that can greatly reduce the damage caused by a stroke. However, you need to recognize the symptoms of a stroke and get to a hospital quickly. Getting treatment within 60 minutes can prevent disability.

A stroke, sometimes called a “brain attack,” occurs when blood flow to the brain is interrupted. When a stroke occurs, brain cells in the immediate area begin to die because they stop getting the oxygen and nutrients they need to function. There are two major types of strokes. The first, called an ischemic stroke, is caused by a blood clot that blocks or plugs a blood vessel or artery in the brain. About 80 percent of all strokes are ischemic. The second, known as a hemorrhagic stroke, is caused by a blood vessel in the brain that breaks and bleeds into the brain.

Although stroke is a disease of the brain, it can affect the entire body. The effects of a stroke range from mild to severe and can include paralysis, problems with thinking, problems with speaking, and emotional problems. Patients may also experience pain or numbness after a stroke. Because stroke injures the brain, you may not realize that you are having a stroke. To a bystander, someone having a stroke may just look unaware or confused. Stroke victims have the best chance if someone around them recognizes the symptoms and acts quickly.

The symptoms of stroke are distinct because they happen quickly:

- Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm, or leg (especially on one side of the body)
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding speech
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination
- Sudden severe headache with no known cause

If you believe someone is having a stroke—if he or she suddenly loses the ability to speak, or move an arm or leg on one side, or experiences facial paralysis on one side—call 911 immediately! To reduce your risk of stroke, know the risk factors: High blood pressure, heart disease, smoking, diabetes, high cholesterol and physical inactivity and/or obesity.

May is Stroke Awareness Month and I always have an article about stroke in our newsletter. It is so important to know the symptoms and to know to call 911 as soon as possible. There are many, many written resources about stroke. If you would like some more detailed information, please let me know. Remember the FAST acronym. F=facial drooping, A=arms unevenly weak, S=Speech slurred, T=Time to call 911. The information this year is from the National Institute of Health, phone 1-800-352-9424, www.stroke.nih.gov

Your Parish Nurse,

Mary Ann Martin, RN, BAS, FCN



Sustaining Creation

48 Steps to Living Sustainably—Actions We Can All Take

This is our next to last “Getting in Deeper” category with 3 suggestions for Community actions.

27. Challenge your faith community to become a Center for Climate Justice. Host the “Sustaining Creation—A Faith Journey” Series.

28. Change your personal economics to support local based business such as Community Co-Operative and Credit Unions, etc.

29. Begin a sharing cooperative with neighbors, church, club and/or family members. Does everyone really need all the same tools and garden equipment or can we share?

Interesting challenges, right? Next month will be the last “Getting in Deeper” ideas on Advocacy.

Courtesy of Rev. Terry Gallagher, www.SustainingCreation.org,
revterrygallagher@gmail.com

To a Greener and Sustainable Future,

Mary Ann Martin, Parish Nurse



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



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.

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, May 23, at 1pm. For further information, please call the church (329-4142) or Mary Ann Martin (326-0798).



We will gather in Friendship Hall on May 19th to enjoy a breakfast potluck during the actual worship service. Hence, Breakfast Church! The sign-up sheet is on the table in the back of the sanctuary. There are lots of ways in which to help from providing food to helping setup and cleanup. If you are bringing a food item, please bring it between 9:30 and 9:45, that way we can get started right at 10:00 a.m. I also urge you to invite friends and family . . . we always have plenty and it's a wonderful opportunity for fellowship. Any questions see Kathy Rood. Thanks!





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

Housekeeping: Kathy Cilluffo

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



Please continue to keep Mary Beth 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



SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2019

EASTERN ASSOCIATION SPRING MEETING

Human Trafficking

What Churches Need to Know

When: May 11, 2019 9 am – 2 pm

8:30 am registration

Where: First Congregational Church St. Clair UCC

300 Adams St., St. Clair, MI 48079

***Speaker – Erin Oginsky of the
Michigan Abolitionist Project***

*Lunch will be served – Please indicate your preference when
registering.*

*Register through the mail using the registration form below Send it
to:*

Rev. Jane Rathman

3281 Bluewater Drive

Burtchville, Michigan 48059

or

Register on line to: Rev. Kim Newport

Or Call First Church UCC St. Clair and let the Office Admin know you'll

be coming- register and pay the day of the meeting (810)329-4142

Pay on-site the day of the event. Cash or checks made payable to:

Eastern Association

Cost: \$10 per adult \$5 per youth (12-18) \$20 max per family

Childcare will be available.

Eastern Association Spring Meeting

Registration Form



EASTER LILIES

Don & Nancy Rice

In Memory of D.F. & Mary Underwood

Pat Sharrow

In Memory of John Hart & Hazel Mitchell

Deuane & Mary Ann Martin

In Memory of Comer Martin /
William & Sophie Sewell

Marge Guinther

In Memory of Karl Guinther

Lezlynne Moore

In Memory of Fred Moore

Doug & Doreen Vernier

In Memory of Their Parents

Ken & Denise Gregg

In Memory of Norman & Helen Grob

Ann Whittaker & Penny Malcolm In Memory of Clifford & Alberta Freeland



RECOGNITION SUNDAY JUNE 2, 2019

If you are a 2019 Graduate, know of a graduate (high school or beyond) and wish to have them recognized in church on our Recognition Sunday, please use the sheet on the back table of the sanctuary, or call the office to leave your information. (No later than May 26th)



W O R K D A Y A T T H E C H U R C H

Looking for workers – Saturday, May 18, from 9am-12pm. We will be cleaning the outside beds, laying mulch and planting flowers. Many hands will make the job go faster. Bring yard work tools, a few wheel barrows are needed. Lunch will be served at noon. There is a sign-up sheet on the table at the back of the sanctuary. If you haven't participated in the past, we have a good time. It's a great way to get to know people. Contact Randy Kling (810-813-9307) if you have questions.



I always look forward to our Coffee Hour. Not only are there treats, but what I like best is the opportunity to talk and listen to the great people of First Congregational. We have a sign-up sheet on the back table that gives us the dates and also tells us which committee is responsible for obtaining hosts and hostesses for certain months. Worship and Music, Missions, Church Council, Trustees and Christian Education are the committees involved. The name of the committee is listed next to the month. All the other months are open for anyone to volunteer. If you can only volunteer for a certain month and you are not part of the committee responsible, that is okay, too! As a host or hostess, you can make it as simple or as fancy as you want. You can co-host or do it by yourself . . . whichever you prefer. We even have a couple who help clean-up every time they are at church!!!!!! Because people tend to be so busy during the summer months, the church provides cookies and lemonade, but we still need people to sign-up to organize those Sundays. Thanks to all of you that have offered to help in the past and those who will help us in the future months!!!!

Any questions see Kathy Rood.



The Christian education students have had a very busy month. They helped to create a giant palm tree which is currently in the lounge to help celebrate Palm Sunday. Also, the Lenten Fair was a tremendous success. On Easter Sunday, the Christian Education students have their annual Easter egg hunt followed by Easter crafts in the basement. Thank you to all of our families, volunteers and congregation members who helped make these activities successful, donated items and volunteered. Make sure you check out the churches Facebook page for pictures. Douglas Bishop – CE Coordinator

May 2019 at First Congregational

1	Wednesday	Amanda Here 9am-12pm Deliver May Baskets Embracing Interfaith Cooperation Study 6:30pm-7:30pm
2	Thursday	Choir Practice 11:30am-12:30pm
3	Friday	NO Neiman's Café 10:30am-12:00pm Office Closed
4	Saturday	Weight Watchers 8am
5	Sunday	WORSHIP 10:00am / Communion / Choir Sings! SC Community Singers Concert- FCC @ 4pm Pulpit Exchange = Rev. Kim Newport
8	Wednesday	Amanda Here 9am-12pm Trustee Reports Due for 5-14-19 mtg. Embracing Interfaith Cooperation Study 6:30pm-7:30pm
10	Friday	Neiman's Café 10:30am-12:30pm
11	Saturday	Weight Watchers 8am EA UCC Spring Mtg. – FCC 8:20am-2:30pm David & Pastor Alana's 45 th Anniversary
12	Sunday	WORSHIP 10:00am / Mother's Day
14	Tuesday	Trustees Meeting 4pm
15	Wednesday	Amanda Here 9am-12pm Last Ladies Luncheon 12pm – TBD Council Reports Due for 5-21-19 mtg.
16	Thursday	Mallard's Landing Service 9:15am
17	Friday	Neiman's Café 10:30am-12:30pm
18	Saturday	Weight Watchers 8am Church Clean-Up & Planting 9am-12pm (lunch provided)
19	Sunday	WORSHIP 10:00am / Breakfast Church / Blood Pressure Sunday / Congregational Meeting Michelle Brown's Installation @ St. Matthews-Adair – 3pm
20	Monday	Channel Deadline
21	Tuesday	Harbor Impact Day 9am-12pm Community Meal 4:30pm-6:00pm Council Meeting 6:30pm
22	Wednesday	Amanda Here 9am-12pm
23	Thursday	Alzheimer's Support Group 1pm
24	Friday	Neiman's Café 10:30am-12:00pm
25	Saturday	Weight Watchers 8am
26	Sunday	WORSHIP 10:00am
27	Monday	Memorial Day! (Office is Closed)

28	Tuesday	Be the Church 7pm
29	Wednesday	Amanda Here 9am-12pm
30	Thursday	Ascension Day! Music Planning Mtg. 9:30am Choir Practice 11:30am-12:30pm
31	Friday	NO Neiman's Today