

First Congregational Church of St. Clair



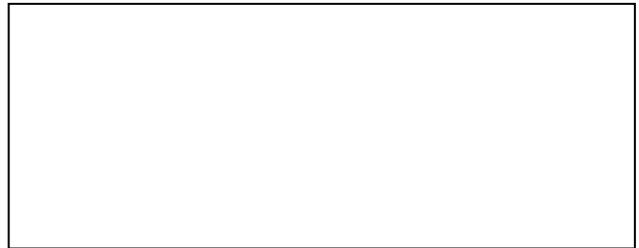
"A Just World for All"

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

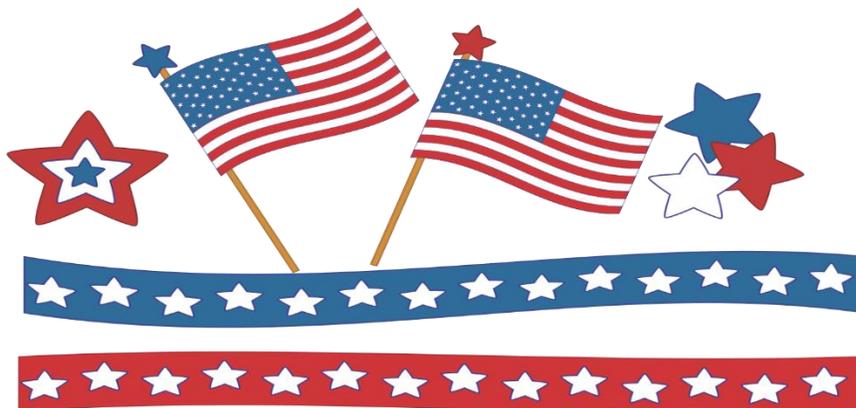
810-329-4142

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

2019



JULY



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

¹ The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; ² for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers. Psalm 24:1-2



Some Thoughts from Pastor Alana:

July 1, 2019

Scripture reminds us in many places that the earth belongs to God and not to us. We are directed to be stewards of God's earth.

At our Environmental Stewards meetings, we've talked a lot about what we need to be doing to preserve the earth and all who inhabit it. These conversations have been inspiring and hopeful.

At the end of May, I attended a wonderful three-day conference about how we're doing as far as creation care goes. I was with a group of about a hundred concerned people; pastors, seminary professors, urban farmers, writers, and environmentalists; (and one Vice President of the United States of America, Al Gore.)

Everything we heard the first day or two seemed like bad news. We learned about how weather patterns have changed dramatically because of the warming of the oceans, melting ice caps and the rising water levels and evaporation all of this creates. We were warned years ago by scientists that CO₂ was warming the earth's atmosphere and that as it did this our weather would become more and more extreme.

We were warned of rains, tornadoes and hurricanes coming in abundance, causing the flooding of farm fields; we were warned of forest fires and of drought that would force people to leave their homes causing mass migrations. Everything that was predicted has been happening and we are told that unless we give up our fossil fuels and make other extreme changes it will only get worse.

God asked us to care for creation. So far, it seems that all we are doing is using it up.

As our conference was coming to a close, we were informed that more coal mines have closed since Trump has been occupying the Oval Office of the White House. This may seem like a bad thing but it's actually a good thing. The sales and installation of solar and wind energy products has increased steadily and reliance on fossil fuels has decreased. This is also good news. If coal miners could be taught the care and installation of solar and wind energy sources, their lives would improve. (We read recently of a coal plant that put solar panels in because it is so much cheaper and cleaner than coal, oil or gas.)

So, at church we've been sharing a lot about what we can be doing. We can reduce our use of plastics for starters. This will not be an easy task. But if we let our grocery store

managers know that we're trying not to use plastic, and will not buy products packaged in plastic, perhaps we will make an impression. Many biodegradable products are replacing plastics that last for hundreds of years.

We can also ask for and support any legislation that has to do with caring for the earth. (Drilling for oil in Alaska will not be helpful. Supporting the Green New Deal is more likely to be helpful.)

Finding out which candidates support climate care is important and is surely something we can all do. And then we can vote so that we're voting in a way that allows for creation care to happen all the time.

God has given us many blessings, and with them come responsibility. May we learn all we can about earth care and climate change. May we ask for guidance as we find ways to make a difference in this world that we borrow from God and our children.

With You on the Journey,

Pastor Alana



Deuane & Mary Ann Martin's Son-In-Law,
Mary Beth Bolla, Carroll Simmons, Brian Paret, Jr., Katie Paret,
Cal Rock, Elsa Pennewell, Carroll Simmons, Tammy Kelley,
Diane Edmundson (Doreen Vernier's sister), Cindy Frey,
Pearl Ewart, Vicki Kling, and Margaret Loranger.

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



Remember, Newsletter article submission deadline is
July 20th.

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

WELCOME

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





Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City

By Matthew Desmond

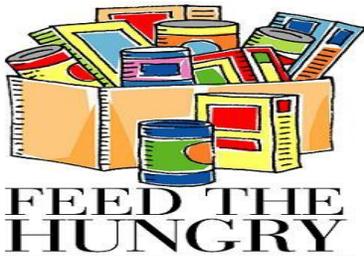
All General Synod delegates and visitors have been encouraged to read this book. Desmond is a keynote speaker in Milwaukee. *Evicted* is a very readable book about a very difficult topic; poverty and the struggle for housing in Milwaukee. Desmond shares stories about eight families and the challenges they face in securing adequate housing for themselves and their families. Milwaukee's story is a United States story.



Nicole Whittaker – 10th
Jody Skonieczny – 10th
Donald Light – 12th
Caroline Light – 12th
Debra Maxwell – 16th
Timothy Galvin, Jr. – 18th
Carroll Simmons – 22nd
Lorrie Harrison – 25th
Vicki Kling – 30th
Rachel Montroy – 30th



Michael & Nancy Kennedy - 3rd
Kevin & Lorrie Harrison - 5th
Randy & Vicki Kling - 15th
Travis & Christina Baker - 19th



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



Please continue to keep Mary Beth in your prayers.

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



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, July 18, at 9:15am.





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

**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!



MAN UP!



Take Control of Your Health

June was Men's Health Month and I didn't get to write an article, so I am taking author's prerogative to write the article in July!! Happy Belated Men's Health Month! Regular health exams, screenings, and tests can help find problems early when there is an opportunity for treatment to be the most effective. By getting the right health services, screenings and treatments, you are taking steps to help your chances of living a longer, healthier life. Your age, health and family history, lifestyle choices (such as what you eat, how active you are, whether you smoke), and other important factors impact what type of screenings you need, and how often you need them.

High blood pressure, diabetes, cancer, and heart disease are more common among men than women!

Schedule an annual checkup with your primary care physician (PCP), and during that time, talk about these screenings.

- Colorectal Cancer
- Prostate Cancer
- Lung Cancer
- Blood Pressure
- Cardiovascular Disease
- Diabetes

For more information, visit menshealthnetwork.org.

Here's to a good summer and a healthy life! Come on, men, set an example and get into see your PCP now! It's time to take control of your health!

Your Parish Nurse,

Mary Ann Martin, RN, BAS, FCN

Source: cdc.gov; Harris Poll

American Academy of Family Physicians



YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL...

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

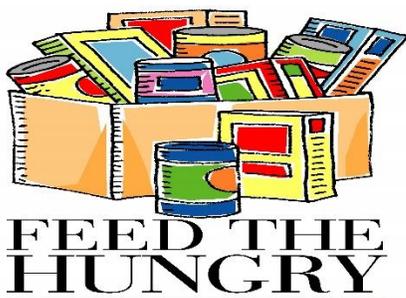
Lisa Hughes - Moderator
Robert Rood - Vice Moderator
Ken Schultz - Treasurer
Caroline Schultz - Church Clerk
Pat O'Connor - Trustee & Finance
Kathy Rood - Worship & Music
Marge Guinther - Mission & Ministry
Penny Malcolm - Christian Education
Jody Skonieczny - Member at Large
Alana Kelley - Pastor



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.

The Alzheimer's Support Group will meet the fourth Thursday of the month at First Congregational Church. All are welcome. This month's meeting will be Thursday, July 25th, at 1pm. For further information, please call the church (329-4142) or Mary Ann Martin (326-0798).



Two Food Pantries?

You've probably noticed the reminders every week asking us to purchase a few extra items at the grocery store for our **Little Food Pantry**. And soon we will be asking everyone to bring in items for the **Ecumenical Food Pantry**.

So, what is going on? Are there two food pantries? What's the difference? Should we support one or the other or both?

YES, there are indeed two food pantries. Each one fills a different need. And YES, we should support both if we are able to do so. The need is great.

The **Little Food Pantry** (that's the small red cupboard next to the entrance to the Christian Education wing) is stocked with non-perishable food that can be taken as needed by anyone who runs a bit short at any time. It serves as a source for emergency or last-minute food.

The **Ecumenical Food Pantry** provides enough food for a week for a family, and may be accessed once a month by a person or family who signs up ahead of time. The amount of food provided is matched to the size of the family. In addition to food, items such as paper and cleaning

products may be provided. Last year the Ecumenical Food Pantry supplied more than 50,000 pounds of food to 1,905 households in the St. Clair area.

The **Little Food Pantry** is supplied by our congregation. The **Ecumenical Food Pantry** is supplied by food drives by groups such as the Postal Service and East China Schools, and donations from various groups, businesses and churches including ours. It is staffed by members of nine different churches in the St. Clair Area, each one taking a month. First Congregational UCC has taken the month of September for many years.

September is just around the corner, and in preparation for our support of the **Ecumenical Food Pantry**, we are asking for everyone to begin shopping the sales at the groceries. The August Channel will include an article explaining in detail how the pantry functions, and how we can help, but there are always certain items in short supply. (Please note that some of the clients served are singles or couples, and some are large families, so the pantry can use a range of item sizes.)

Greatest Need: **Canned meats (beef, tuna fish, chicken)**
 **Canned Beef Stew and Roast Beef/
 Corned Beef Hash**
 Chili (with meat, vegetarian, or no beans)
 Canned fruit
 Applesauce

Other items that are always needed:

Canned Pasta (ravioli, spaghetti, Spaghetti-O, etc)
Spaghetti Sauce-all flavors and Spaghetti Noodles
Meal Helper Kits
Packaged dry potato and rice dishes
Canned or bottled juices
Canned vegetables
Canned tomatoes

Pancake Mix & Syrup
Powdered Milk
Cereals
Catsup & Mustard
Boxed Jello

If you have any questions, please contact Micki Baden 586-457-0457 or micki.baden@gmail.com





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: Ann Whittaker

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

July 2019 at First Congregational

3	Wednesday	NO Amanda today Trustee Reports Due
4	Thursday	Independence Day! Fireworks Parking Lot Fundraiser
5	Friday	Neiman's Café 10:30am-12:30pm
6	Saturday	Weight Watchers 8am
7	Sunday	WORSHIP 10:00am / Communion
9	Tuesday	NO Trustees Meeting
10	Wednesday	Amanda Here 9am-12pm
12	Friday	Neiman's Café 10:30am-12:30pm
13	Saturday	Weight Watchers 8am Garden Club Tour Earth Day Camp – 9am-12:30pm Here at FCC
14	Sunday	WORSHIP 10:00am
15	Monday	Start Kitchen Renovation
16	Tuesday	Endowment Fund Bank Mtg. 1:30pm Community Meal 4:30pm-6pm NO Council Mtg.
17	Wednesday	Amanda Here 9am-12pm
18	Thursday	Mallard's Landing Service 9:15am
19	Friday	Neiman's Café 10:30am-12:30pm
20	Saturday	Weight Watchers 8am Channel Deadline
21	Sunday	WORSHIP 10:00am
23	Tuesday	Be the Church Mtg. 7pm
24	Wednesday	Amanda Here 9am-12pm
25	Thursday	Music Planning Mtg. 9:30am Alzheimer's Support Group 1pm
26	Friday	Neiman's Café 10:30am-12:30pm Boat Races Parking Lot Fundraiser
27	Saturday	Weight Watchers 8am Boat Races Parking Lot Fundraiser
28	Sunday	WORSHIP 10:00am
30	Tuesday	Harbor Impact Day 9am-12pm

EARTH CAMP

7/13/19

9AM – 12:30PM

AGES: 5-12

CRAFTS, GAMES, PRIZES

First Congregational Church UCC

See Doug Bishop or Penny Malcolm for more information

The Christian education students recently helped plant flowers in the courtyard, we had approximately 21 students all together participate during breakfast church activities.

The Christian education committee is working hard on developing earth camp, which will take place on July 13 from 9 AM until 12:30 PM. Students ages five through 12 are invited to participate. There will be games, crafts, prizes and learning opportunities regarding sustainability and how to care for our earth. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the church for anyone interested in volunteering during earth camp. We're going to need several volunteers to help facilitate the different stations during this activity. If you have any questions, please see Doug or Penny.

Douglas Bishop BA, MSP

Dear Church Family,

A few weeks ago, I visited a Women's Shelter in Port Huron. I was taking them leftovers from our Community Meal. I asked one of the Managers what they needed most right now. She *immediately* said "**Bath Towels**". After speaking to our Mission Coordinator, Marge Guinther, we decided this would be a good short-term project for our church. During the months of JUNE, JULY and AUGUST we will be collecting NEW and GENTLY USED BATH TOWELS and BEACH TOWELS. They often have children at the shelter with their Mom. I thought the beach towels would be fun for the kids. They do NOT need hand towels or wash cloths. Please put your donation on the round table in the church library, right off of the Lounge area. Each week or two, I will take whatever has been donated to the women's shelter. Thanks so much in advance,
Karen Galvin





Sustaining Creation

48 Steps to Living Sustainably—Actions We Can All Take

These are the final three actions for “Getting in Deeper” and then we will move to our final category “Immersed As A Way of Life”—in other words, pretty serious! The topic is Advocacy and here are three ways you can advocate:

30. Write Congress monthly on the urgent need for Federal measures to reduce the emission of CO₂.

31. Advocate for an economic pricing system that includes the total environmental cost of a product in its price.

32. Recognize that this is an issue of climate justice as the world’s poor experience the first and worst of the terrible effects. So advocate for greater US contributions to the UN based “Green Carbon Fund”.

Source: Rev. Terry Gallagher, revterrygallagher@gmail.com