

First Congregational Church of St. Clair



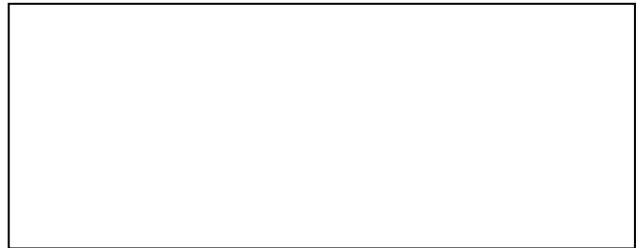
"A Just World for All"

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

810-329-4142

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

2020



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
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Website: www.firstconggsc.org

Facebook: FirstCongregational.UCC.St.Clair

Some thoughts from Pastor Alana

July, 2020



“but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint”. Isaiah 40:31

British clergyman G. Campbell Morgan told the story of a man whose shop had been burned in the great Chicago fire of 1871. The man arrived at the ruins the next morning carrying a table. He set up the table in the midst of the charred debris, and above it placed a sign that said, 'Everything lost except wife, children and hope. Business will be resumed as usual tomorrow morning.'

After such a heavy loss, where did he get his hope? From his circumstances? Certainly not. From good timing? No. From other victims of the fire? There's no indication that he did. How many others faced the future with such positive determination? If this man saw a bright future for himself and his family, it was because he made a choice to have hope.

John Maxwell, in *Leadership Wired* Newsletter wrote, "Hope is in the DNA of men and women who learn from their losses. When times are tough, they choose hope, knowing that it will motivate them to learn and turn them from victims into victors."

It isn't easy to have hope during difficult times; but if we practice being hopeful, it gets easier.

I remember times when one of my sons would come home describing his day as terrible. He'd complain that someone was being mean to him at school. I almost always reassured him by saying that he was not the problem and that there was nothing wrong with him; that in fact, he is a perfect child of God. Most likely, the person being mean was feeling poorly about himself. Perhaps other people were making fun of him. "You can choose whether or not you will accept those comments or you can imagine yourself in a protective bubble of God's love and know that any and all of those negative comments will not break through. And you can try to set a good example for the one who is trying to hurt you." We can choose hope and ignore hurt directed at us, knowing that we are beloved by God, always.

We make choices about how we will experience our lives. We make choices about how we will remember the past or anticipate our future. We make choices about how we will respond. Christ says plainly that we should love, forgive and choose hope.

With You on the Journey,

Pastor Alana

(based on the candidating sermon preached at First Congregational Church of Saint Clair, MI. United Church of Christ. 11/15/15.)

IN NEED OF PRAYER

Nancy Rice, Tommy Galvin, Collette Carlsen, Rennie Fandrick, Erik Nguyen, Shirley Paret, Holly Weatherford, Barbara White, Barb Hanneke, Brian Paret, Jr., Cal Rock, everyone fighting the virus and the families of those who have lost that fight.

Also, remember Edwin Summers, Cameron Coverly, Dakota Hazel, Nathan Distelrath, all who are serving in the military, first responders, medical personnel, and our elected officials.

Be kind to one another.



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

BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

Roger Thompson – 8th

Nicole Whittaker – 10th

Jody Skonieczny – 10th

Donald Light – 12th

Caroline Light – 12th

Cody DeBoer – 14th

Timothy Galvin, Jr. – 18th

Erik Nguyen – 21st

Carroll Simmons – 22nd

Jennifer Whittaker – 24th

Lorrie Harrison – 25th

Vicki Kling – 30th

Rachel Montroy – 30th

Beckham DeBoer – 30th



Michael & Nancy Kennedy – 3rd

Kevin & Lorrie Harrison – 5th

Randy & Vicki Kling – 15th

Travis & Christina Baker – 19th

Carol & Dan Robbins – 28th

*When it rains it pours, but you didn't even notice
it ain't rainin' anymore; its hard to breathe when
all you know is the struggle of staying above
the rising water line. Well, the sky is finally open,
the rain and wind stopped blowin', but you're
stuck out in the same old storm again...
You hold tight to your umbrella, well, darlin'
I'm just tryin' to tell ya, that there's always been
a rainbow hangin' over your head.*

~"Rainbow" by Kacey Musgraves~

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



The Little Food Pantry needs non-perishable donations.



OPEN AND 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.



YOUR LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE...

Please feel free to contact any member of the Committee with any questions, comments or concerns. Serving alongside the Pastor are...

- Pat O'Connor - Moderator
- Nancy Rice - Vice Moderator
- Don Rice - Treasurer
- Dave Scheel - Church Clerk
- Don O'Connor - Member
- Randy Kling - Member
- Brian Paret - Member
- Jody Skonieczny - Member
- Marge Guinther - Member



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATE

Families will continue to receive updates via Facebook and mail weekly. Although we are unable to gather in person, we still have a fantastic opportunity to learn and grow with each other virtually. Please continue to check the churches Facebook page for updates regarding Christian education summer curriculum.



PASTOR PARISH RELATIONS...Nancy Rice, Carroll Simmons, and Barb Arevalo serve on the Pastor Parish Relations Team to support Pastor Alana in her ministry. The group meets quarterly. While you are encouraged to speak directly to Pastor Alana about concerns you have with her, sometimes it's easier to speak with a member of the PPR Team. Those Team members are available to hear your concerns and will share them with her.

We are now accepting donations for an updated Audio/Visual Equip. Ctr.



The A/V Team has begun researching various means of projecting and sharing our Worship Service during our gatherings and outside the walls of the church, and would be happy to hear your suggestions and/or ideas. If you would be able to donate to this project, please mark your check or envelope "A/V Equipment".

Any questions, please speak with Don Rice or Brian Paret.

JULY DUTIES

TECHNOLOGY: David Kelley,

Don Rice, Brian Paret

MUSIC: Denise Gregg, Anna Moore

READERS: Fantastic Volunteers!

Online Giving
is simple and easy!

The option for ONLINE GIVING has been established through a program called Tithe.ly. A link has been posted on our Facebook page, on our web site, and through our weekly E-News. Please remember our stewardship of the church during this unusual period.



A new American Flag has been donated by Dave & Jill Scheel in honor the memory of their fathers; Fred Scheel who served in the US Navy during WWII and Arnold Wilke who served in the US Army during WWII.

Both men were working class Americans who belonged to the UCC Church.

They would have been 103 on July 4 and July 5, 2020.

What a lovely tribute! Thank you, Dave & Jill.



See You in September?

YES! September is the month when we staff and supply the Ecumenical Food Pantry. This year the COVID-19 pandemic will most likely cause a few changes in how the distribution process operates, but our community still needs the service provided by the pantry.

The Ecumenical Food Pantry is supplied by donations and food drives by groups such as the Postal Service, Rotary Club, and donations from various groups, businesses and churches including ours. The 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, cleaning products, and small vouchers for gas and groceries may be provided. Last

year the Ecumenical Food Pantry supplied more than 48,000 pounds of food to 3,353 households in the St. Clair area. It is staffed by members of eight churches in the St. Clair area, each one taking a month or two. First Congregational UCC has taken the month of September for many years.

Believe it or not, September is just around the corner. The August Channel will include an article explaining in detail how the pantry will function this year, and how we can help. In early August I will give updates on what the pantry needs most, whether it is money and/or food donations. I will also post the sign-up sheets where you can sign up to work one or more Tuesday or Thursday afternoon/evening shifts.

(Our church members also support the **Little Food Pantry** (that's the small red cupboard next to the entrance to the Christian Education wing) and 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.)

Micki Baden Micki.baden@gmail.com or (586) 457-0457

**WE ARE MEETING IN THE CHURCH YARD
ON SUNDAY'S AT 10AM UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.
WE WILL CONTINUE TO LIVE STREAM
THROUGH OUR FACEBOOK PAGE
AND THE LINKS PROVIDED
IN THE WEEKLY
E-NEWS.**



THANK YOU FROM MALLARD'S LANDING...

"We miss you here at Mallard's Landing. The residents can't wait to have service and all be in one room again...TOGETHER! Hope to see you soon. Also, a very BIG thanks for the goodies for the staff, it is much appreciated! Brandi Vernier – Activity Director

Health Care Ministry

Happy July!

One of many changes, while we have been home, is Mary Ann Martin turning over the Parish Nurse Ministry with her move. We want to thank her for her many years of excellent care and developing a solid foundation to move forward. Mary Ann will continue to lead the Alzheimer's Support Group that meets at our church every 4th Thursday at 1pm.



Going forward, we will be called the Health Care Ministry. Elsa P, Avery S. & Bonnie L. Elsa & I have 100 years of experience between us, and Avery brings a new perspective, enthusiasm & current knowledge. We look forward to developing this new chapter.

Wanted to share this graft regarding heat exhaustion & heat stroke. As the weather warms up, this is good information.

Stay safe & healthy,
Bonnie



HEAT EXHAUSTION

OR

HEAT STROKE

Faint or dizzy



Throbbing headache



Excessive sweating



No sweating



Cool, pale, clammy skin

Body temperature above 103°
Red, hot, dry skin



Nausea or vomiting



Nausea or vomiting

Rapid, weak pulse



Rapid, strong pulse



Muscle cramps



May lose consciousness



- Get to a cooler, air conditioned place
- Drink water if fully conscious
- Take a cool shower or use cold compresses

CALL 9-1-1

- Take immediate action to cool the person until help arrives



[Weather.gov/socialmedia](https://www.weather.gov/socialmedia)
[Weather.gov/heat](https://www.weather.gov/heat)



@SacramentoOES
[SacramentoReady.org](https://www.SacramentoReady.org)



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Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 11am
St. Clair High School



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St. Clair, MI 48079

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those in
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