

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ST. CLAIR



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



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

**300 Adams Street, St. Clair, MI 48079
810-329-4142**

**www.firstcongs.org
firstcongs@gmail.com**

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

February 12, 2023

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

† Those who are able, may stand.

CHIMES

O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing

PRELUDE

This Little Light of Mine

WELCOME

Dr. Guerreno

Welcome to First Congregational Church of Saint Clair, United Church of Christ, where no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you're welcome here. Many thanks to all who are here for this worship service. Greetings to those of you with us on the Facebook Livestream. And a big thank you to all who are helping with this morning's worship service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Announcements are in the back of this bulletin.)

† **HYMN**

God of the Ages, Who with Sure Command
NCH592 vs 1, 3, 4

† **CALLING ON GOD AND OPENING PRAYER**

Pat O'Connor

The LORD, our God, is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love!

The LORD is good to all. His compassion is over all he has made.

All God's works give thanks, and all God's people are blessed!

The LORD is good to all. Let all creation speak of God's glory and tell of God's power. The kingdom of God is an everlasting kingdom, and God's dominion endures throughout all generations. The LORD is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds.

That we may be nourished in peace and have God's word as law; that true religion may increase in our hearts; that the strong arm of God may defend us, we offer now this prayer of thanksgiving and praise.

Let us pray.

**Eternal God, without whom life has no meaning but with whom there is always promise and hope, we worship you. Grant, we pray, that we would be renewed in spirit today. Grant us renewal of faith and courage. Give to us fresh awareness of all we have been given: the heritage of those who went before us; their sacrifices by which this church and nation have come to be ours. Even in these days of turmoil and worry, keep before us the awareness that our lives stand firmly on the foundation of your love. Cleanse us. Forgive us and make us strong, that we would be your servants in the struggle for justice and peace; your children, members of one family forever, through Jesus, the Christ.
Amen.**

**The children are excused for Sunday school during
Yes, Jesus Loves Me.**

THE FIRST READING

Psalm 146, NRSV
Pat O'Connor

MUSICAL MEDITATION

The Church's One Foundation

THE SECOND READING

Matthew 5:13-16, Ruden
The Gettysburg Address
Dr. Guerreno

SERMON

"Abraham Lincoln: A Biographical Sermon"
Dr. Guerreno

† HYMN

God Bless America
Irving Berlin, 1888-1989
Verse Two, Barbara K. Lundblad, 2002

God bless America, land that I love.
Stand beside her and guide her,
through the night with a light from above.
From the mountains to the prairies,
to the oceans white with foam,
God bless America, my home sweet home.
God bless America, my home sweet home.

God bless the world we love,
stranger and friend.
Go before us, restore us with a hope
that despair cannot end.
Ev'ry people, ev'ry nation,
mighty ocean, heaven's dome!
God bless the world we love, our only home.
God bless the world you love, our only home.

JOYS, CONCERNS, AND INVITATION TO PRAY

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY

Make Me A Channel of your Peace

†OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Gather Us, O God
SPP45

Gather us, O God,
Body, spirit, soul and mind.
Gather us, O God,
one in union now with you.

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**In your presence, Holy One, blessing abounds, blessing seen and unseen, felt and unfelt. In your presence challenge abounds, as well, challenge seen and not, felt and not. Seeking blessing, then, and also seeking challenge, we bring you gifts, knowing that in giving we become like you. Becoming like you does bring blessing and it does bring challenge. Bless us, Great God. Challenge us, Mighty One, all in the name and spirit of your Son, who has told us you are love.
Amen.**

† CLOSING HYMN

God Be with You
NCH81 vs 1 & 4

† BENEDICTION

† POSTLUDE

Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...

Harrietta Ryan, Eric Fandruck, the Family of Cliff Freeland, II, Joan Westbrook, Matthew Pennewell, Emerson Stone, Jan Yager, Rachel O'Connor, Gary Westbrook, Marge Guinther, Barb Jeffries, Genie Lucyk, Ann Whittaker. Also, remember Edwin Summers, Cameron Coverly (Army-deployed in Europe), Nathan Distelrath, all who are serving in the military, first responders, medical personnel, and our elected officials.

TODAY'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Don O'Connor

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Kathy Tricomo

MUSIC: Denise Gregg, Anna Moore

USHERS: Jim Light, Doug Johnson

READER: Pat O'Connor

POWER POINT: Sam Tricomo

NEXT WEEK'S READER: Don Rice

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON

"The Dangerous, Relentless Love of God"

Psalm 2, CEV Matthew 17;1-9, CEV

2/19/23 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Don O'Connor

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Kathy Cilluffo

MUSIC: Denise Gregg, Anna Moore

USHERS: Pat O'Connor, Don O'Connor

READER: Don Rice

POWER POINT: Pat O'Connor

2/26 – READER: Jacilyn Sanders

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.

~CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS~

INTERIM CHUCK GUERRENO

Chuck can be reached at the church 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Thursday through Friday, 11:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., on Saturday, and 8:00 a.m. – 12 p.m., on Sunday. Chuck can also be reached at stclairinterim@gmail.com and (989) 980-0061.

SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Pastoral Search Committee is continuing to update the church profile. In order to find the right pastor for our congregation, we are asking for your input! On Sunday, February 19 at the end of the service, we will be distributing a short survey. Please take 5 minutes to complete the survey. We value your participation! The search committee members are: Co-Chairs Avery Skonieczny & Don Rice, Rose Crowley, Mike Kennedy, Don O'Connor. Kathy Rood, Kathy Cilluffo, Sam Tricomo, Vicki Kling and Ash Currie. We are available for your questions and concerns regarding the pastoral search in person or email at firstcongsc@gmail.com.

ONE MINUTE SURVEY

If you haven't already completed the one minute mini survey, please fill out the form (blue paper) and return to the envelope. Both are located on the back table of the sanctuary. Thanks!

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday is February 22. Services in the area are as follows: Holy Family Episcopal Church, 12 p.m., with imposition of ashes, no Holy Communion. St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 7 p.m., with imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.

LENTEN ECUMENICAL SERVICES

Ecumenical services will be held at noon on March 1 & 8 at Holy Family Episcopal and will also be held at noon on March 15, 22, & 29 at St. Peter's Lutheran. A simple lunch provided (soup & bread) followed by a very brief service at our tables to include prayer, reading part of gospel lesson and a discussion question. No pressure, you can listen and take it all in or actively participate.

CURIOUS ABOUT CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?

If you're wondering about becoming a church member, please speak with Pat O'Connor or Chuck to set up a time to chat. Your questions about the United Church of Christ and this church specifically will be answered.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

There is Sunday School for children aged 5-12. The children will be excused to attend Sunday school during music following the opening prayer. Teachers and an assistant teacher will bring the children to the Lounge after class has ended. There is a nursery where parents may go with their younger children if they choose to. It's a comfortable room where children may play. There is a changing table in the bathroom in the lounge.

PASTOR'S EMERGENCY FUND

Our Communion Offerings are usually placed in a Pastor's Emergency Fund. Those needing emergency assistance are screened and, when available, funds are provided.

LITTLE FOOD PANTRY

This small pantry is a community outreach program sponsored by The Mission Team of this church. It is stocked twice-weekly with non-perishable food. Donation requests may change but the need to feed does not.

The color of February
is always RED.
The RED Food Pantry
helps make sure the hungry are fed.

February Pantry Needs
(1) Kraft mac & cheese
(2) Mashed potatoes (box or pouch)
(3) Hearty soups
(4) Valentine sweets
cake mix/frosting, candy, etc.

For Pets - Canned cat or dog food

Please leave your food donations in the elevator room on the shelves labeled THE LITTLE RED FOOD PANTRY.

Any questions...please call Nancy Kennedy @810-329-3790.

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you are interested in donating altar flowers, please contact Bev Stewart at (810) 329-2147 or (810) 300-2664

HYMN LYRICS

HYMN

God of the Ages, Who with Sure Command
NCH592 vs 1, 3, 4

God of the ages,
who with sure command
brought forth in beauty
all the starry band
of shining worlds in splendor
through the skies,
our grateful songs
before your throne arise.

From war's alarms,
from deadly pestilence,
with steadfast care
be ever our defense;
Your love and faith within
our hearts increase;
with bounteous goodness
nourish us in peace.

Refresh your people
on life's toil some way;
lead us from night to
never ending day;
With truth and love
guide us through error's maze,
and we shall give
you glory, laud, and praise.

HYMN

God Bless America
Irving Berlin, 1888-1989
Verse Two, Barbara K. Lundblad, 2002

God bless America, land that I love.
Stand beside her and guide her,
through the night with a light from above.
From the mountains to the prairies,
to the oceans white with foam,
God bless America, my home sweet home.
God bless America, my home sweet home.

God bless the world we love,
stranger and friend.
Go before us, restore us with a hope
that despair cannot end.
Ev'ry people, ev'ry nation,
mighty ocean, heaven's dome!
God bless the world we love, our only home.
God bless the world you love, our only home.

HYMN

God Be with You
NCH 81 vs 1 & 4

God be with you till we meet again;
By good counsel guide, uphold you,
With a shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.

Refrain:

Till we meet, till we meet,
Till we meet at Jesus' feet;
till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
Keep love's banner floating o'er you,
Smite death's threatening wave before you:
God be with you till we meet again.

Refrain:

Till we meet, till we meet,
Till we meet at Jesus' feet;
till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.