

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.firstcongsc.org

firstcongsc@gmail.com

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

February 19, 2023
Transfiguration Sunday

† Those who are able, may stand.

CHIMES

Sweet Hour of Prayer

PRELUDE

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

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.)

† CALLING ON GOD

Don Rice

We gather for worship, that the Spirit of God might move among us, binding us with people of faith in every time and place.

God's Spirit moves within us, making strong within us the good news of Jesus Christ for all people.

God's Spirit moves through us, making us channels of God's love.

In worship, we open ourselves to the Spirit of the Living God, made known through Jesus, God's Christ.

† HYMN

Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling
NCH59 vs 1 & 3

† OPENING PRAYER

Don Rice

Let us pray.

Gather us in, Mysterious Maker God,

that being close to you we will work to bring in what you intend for your creation.

Weave us into one, Sweet Savior of All,

that we will live your ways and create communities of faith and peace.

Gather us in, Powerful Spirit of Renewal,

that treasuring the past we will boldly shape the future.

Weave us into one, Holy One in Three,

that together we may be signs of your presence, weavers of your world and witnesses to your coming. Gather us in this day, that we might gather strength from you.

Amen.

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

THE FIRST READING

Psalm 2, CEV
Don Rice

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Your Love, O God, Has Called Us Here

THE SECOND READING

Matthew 17;1-9, CEV
Dr. Guerreno

SERMON

“The Dangerous, Relentless Love Of God”
Dr. Guerreno

† HYMN

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing
NCH42 vs 1, 2, 3, 4

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

The God of Abraham Praise

†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

**Faith is what you would have from us, Creator God. Faith is the food you would give us. Faith is the air you would have us breathe and the water you would have us drink, and we do thank you. Help us to be faith when it is needed around us. We pray you, in faith, to use our gifts, to use who we are and what we do and where we do it. Use these gifts, money we give for your church, to bring in the fullness of faith today, tomorrow and always in the name of Jesus, the Christ.
Amen.**

† CLOSING HYMN

Jesus Shall Reign
NCH300 vs 1, 3, 5

† BENEDICTION

† POSTLUDE

Glorious Things of You Are Spoken



One License #A720797

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...

Harrietta Ryan, Eric Fandrlick, 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 Cilluffo

MUSIC: Denise Gregg, Anna Moore

USHERS: Karen Galvin, Tim Galvin

READER: Don Rice

POWER POINT: Jody Skonieczny

NEXT WEEK'S READER: Jacie Sanders

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON

"The Worst Thing About Jesus"

Psalms 32, NRSV Matthew 4:1-11, Ruden

2/26/23 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Don O'Connor

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Don Rice

MUSIC: Denise Gregg, Anna Moore

USHERS: Pat O'Connor, Don O'Connor

READER: Jacie Sanders

POWER POINT: Kathy Tricomo

3/5 – READER: Nancy Rice

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 following the opening prayer during Yes, Jesus Loves Me. 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

Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling
NCH59 vs 1 & 3

Holy Spirit, ever dwelling
in the holiest realms of light;
Holy Spirit, ever brooding
o'er a world of gloom and blight;
Holy Spirit, ever raising
earthbound souls to glory high;
Living, life imparting Spirit;
you we praise and magnify.

Holy Spirit, ever working
through the church's ministry;
Quickening, strengthening, and
absolving, setting captive sinners free.
Holy Spirit, ever binding
age to age and soul to soul,
In community unending
you we worship and extol.

HYMN

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing
NCH42 vs 1, 2, 3, 4

O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
The glories ever echoing
the triumphs of God's grace!

My gracious Savior and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth
abroad the honors of your name.
Jesus! The name that calms our fears,

that bids our sorrows cease
Is music in the sinner's ears,
is life, and health and peace!

Glory to God, and love and praise
be ever, ever given
By all the saints in every age,
the church in earth and heaven.

HYMN

Jesus Shall Reign
NCH300 vs 1, 3, 5

Jesus shall reign wher-e'er the sun
does its successive journeys run;
God's realm shall stretch from
shore to shore till moons
shall wax and wane no more.

People and realms of every tongue
dwell on God's love with sweetest song,
And infant voices shall proclaim
their earliest prayers in Jesus' name.

Let every creature rise and bring
tributes of praise for all to sing;
Angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud amen.