

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ST. CLAIR



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Blessed is the one whose
transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.



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

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firstconggsc@gmail.com**

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

February 26, 2023
First Sunday of Lent

† Those who are able, may stand.

CHIMES

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

PRELUDE

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

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

Lord Jesus, Who Through Forty Days
NCH 211 vs 1, 2, 3, 4

† CALLING ON GOD

Jacie Sanders

In every time prophets have come to call the people of God to repentance and newness of life. We too are called to admit our sin and to commit ourselves again to follow in God's way. Let us pray.

† OPENING PRAYER

Jacie Sanders

We confess, gracious God, we are not worthy of your love for us. You come to us in Jesus, revealing your love for all people, suffering pain for us—still we do not turn to you in love and obedience. We do what we ought not to do, and we leave undone much of what we ought to do. Speak the word, O God, and we shall be made free. Forgive us, receive us and give us courage to serve you with renewed hearts and wills, through the grace of your Christ. Amen.

Do not fear. I say to you in Jesus' name, your sin is forgiven. Your faith has made you free. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation:
The old has passed away, the new has come. Thanks be to God!

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

THE FIRST READING

Psalm 32, NRSV
Jacie Sanders

MUSICAL MEDITATION

It Is Well with My Soul

THE SECOND READING

Matthew 4:1-11, TEV
Dr. Guerreno

SERMON

"The Worst Thing About Jesus"
Dr. Guerreno

† HYMN

Beneath the Cross of Jesus
NCH190 vs 1 & 3

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

Be Still My Soul

†OFFERTORY RESPONSE

We Praise You, O God

We praise you, O God,
our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion
our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you,
we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name,
glad praises we sing.

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**With music and with song we praise you, Holy God. With music and with song we speak to you of gratefulness and joy. We also speak to you of these things with our giving. We are grateful and we are joyful for what is good in our lives, and we are grateful and joyful that what is not good could become that way through your love and our effort. We are grateful and we are joyful, and so we give to bring about what you would have, in the name and spirit of your Son, Jesus, the Christ.
Amen.**

† CLOSING HYMN

God of Grace and God of Glory
NCH436 vs 1, 3, 5

† BENEDICTION

† POSTLUDE

Lord Dismiss Us with Your Blessing



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...

Harrietta Ryan, Eric Fandrlick, Matthew Pennewell, Emerson Stone, Jan Yager, Rachel O'Connor, Joan 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, Don Rice
MUSIC: Denise Gregg, Anna Moore
USHERS: Pat O'Connor, Don O'Connor
READER: Jacie Sanders
POWER POINT: Kathy Tricomo

3/5 - NEXT WEEK'S READER: Nancy Rice

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON

"Chemistry And Miracles"

1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11

3/5/23 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Don Rice
SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Jacie Sanders
MUSIC: Denise Gregg, Anna Moore
USHERS: Don Rice, Tom Pennewell
READER: Nancy Rice
POWER POINT: Kathy Cilluffo
COMMUNION: Kathy Cilluffo

3/12 – READER: Elsa Pennewell

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. 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.

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

Lord Jesus, Who through Forty Days
NCH211 vs 1, 2, 3, 4

Lord Jesus, who through forty days
for us did fast and pray,
Teach us with you to mourn our sins,
and close by you to stay.

As you with Satan did contend,
and did the victory win,
O give us strength to persevere,
in you to conquer sin.

And through these days of penitence,
and through this Passion tide,
Yes, ever more, in life and death,
O Christ, with us abide.

Abide with us, till when this life
of suffering shall be past,
An Easter of unending joy
we may attain at last.

HYMN

Beneath the Cross of Jesus
NCH190 vs 1 & 3

Beneath the cross of Jesus
I gladly take my stand,
the shadow of a mighty rock
within a weary land;
A home within the wilderness,
a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat,
and the burden of the day.

I take, O cross, your shadow
for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine
than the sunshine of Christ's face;
Content to let the world go by,
to know no gain or loss,
my sinful self my only shame,
my glory all the cross.

HYMN

God of Grace and God of Glory
NCH436 vs 1, 3, 5

God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

Cure your children's warring madness;
bend our pride to your control.
Shame our reckless, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
make our broken spirits whole,
make our broken spirits whole.

Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the search for your salvation
be our glory ever more.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.