



First Congregational Church

300 Adams Street, St. Clair, MI 48079
"No matter where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here."

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Channel

A monthly publication of First Congregational Church of St. Clair, UCC



United Church of Christ – First Congregational Church of St. Clair

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Facebook/First Congregational Church UCC of St. Clair

(810) 329-4142

2023

February

When Abigail Adams died late in 1818, her husband John, the second president of the United States, received a letter of condolence from his successor, Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson advised Adams that

“time and silence” were the only medicines for his grief, and closed by saying, “God bless you and support you under your heavy affliction.”

Adams answers, “While you live, I seem to have a bank at Monticello on which I can draw for a letter of friendship and entertainment when I please. . . .”

I believe in God and his wisdom and benevolence, and I cannot conceive that such a Being could make such a species as the human merely to live and die on this earth. If I did not believe in a future state, I should believe in no God. This universe, this all, this [Greek, “totality”] would appear with all its swelling pomp, a boyish firework.

What about you? What do you think? What about “the God question”?

Christmas was just a few weeks ago, and now we come to February in a new year. What about the God question? I don’t know about you, but I answered it for myself a long time ago and haven’t felt much need to reconsider it. God? God in Jesus Christ? You focus on love and goodness and patience and forgiveness. You focus on friendship and generous self-giving and wonder. You focus on a future present all around you in what is true and beautiful and kind.

The rest of life? Yes, it’s real but it is not permanent. In 7 billion years, or so, when the sun becomes a red giant and our oceans boil away; when Earth is a cold, dark cinder, a piece of cosmic flotsam drifting in the Milky Way--when nothing is but God, it will still matter that you and I lived. It will matter because God will remember. God will care. Safe and sound in the heart of God will be the love you gave away and the dreams you helped come true, the revenge you replaced with forgiveness and the meaning your life knew. In the heart and mind of God it will matter that you lived.

How? Why?

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him is life, and that life is the light of all people [John 1.1-4, NRSV].

“The light shines in the darkness,” says St. John. And the darkness will never, never put it out.

God is good. See you in church. And bring someone with you!

Chuck



Dr. Charles Guerrero

Chuck can be reached at the church
Thursday through Friday 10:00 – 4:30,
Saturday 11:00 – 4:30,
and Sunday 8:00 – noon.

Chuck can also be reached at
stclairinterim@gmail.com

and (989) 980-0061.



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

**ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT
CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?**

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

2/5 – Jody Skonieczny
2/12 – Sam Tricomo
2/19 – Pat O'Connor
2/26 – Kathy Tricomo

Usher Teams

2/5 – Cal Eschenburg, Paul Lydy
2/12 – Jim Light, Doug Johnson
2/19 – Pat O'Connor, Don O'Connor
2/26 – Karen Galvin, Tim Galvin

Facebook – Livestream

2/5 – Don Rice
2/12 – Kathy Tricomo
2/19 – Kathy Cilluffo
2/26 – Don Rice



Don & Pat O'Connor

SUNDAY MORNING
WORSHIP
SCHEDULE

February 2023

Sunday Steward
Don O'Connor

Communion
Cathy Light

Lay Readers
2/5 – Kathy Cilluffo
2/12 – Pat O'Connor
2/19 – Don Rice
2/26 – Jacilyn Sanders

Power Point



Kathy Cilluffo	02/02
Bonita Hazel	02/06
Richard Malcolm III	02/10
Dan Robbins	02/11
Tom Pennewell	02/12
Carol Robbins	02/15
Patricia O'Connor	02/17
Mackenzie Ireland	02/23
Nana Black	02/25



Please be advised that several members of our congregation have received emails and/or texts from our interim, Chuck Guerreno requesting assistance with purchasing gift cards for them.

THIS IS A SCAM.

PLEASE DO NOT OPEN OR RESPOND TO THESE EMAILS/TEXTS.

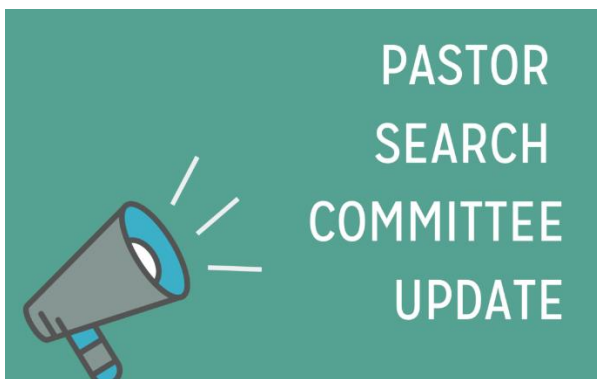
BLOCK THESE FROM YOUR CELL OR EMAIL ACCOUNT.



Our first Mission meeting for 2023 is scheduled for:

Wednesday, February 15 at 2 p.m.

Please email Kathy Cilluffo to let her know if you are able to attend. New members are always welcome. This meeting will involve discussing projects that we might like to work on this year. We meet approximately 4 times a year.



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.



THE LITTLE RED FOOD PANTRY Is

The color of February 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.



The 2023 Congregation
Annual Meeting
will be held on Sunday,
February 5th, 2023
Immediately following worship.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Red Flags for the General Public

Human trafficking victims often exhibit one or more of the following:

Victims may work and live at the same place.

A victim often lacks the freedom to leave their working or living conditions; they are often escorted when they travel.

Victims are often kept under surveillance when they are taken somewhere.

Victims may not even know their address.

Victims may exhibit signs of abuse, such as bruises, cuts, burns, scars, prolonged lack of healthcare or malnourishment.

Victims may exhibit fear, anxiety, depression, nervousness, hostility, flashbacks, or drug/alcohol addiction, and commonly avoid eye contact. Victims may not be in control of their own money.

Victims often have no, or few, personal possessions. They frequently have no identifying documents, such as a driver's license or passport.

Victims may have their communication restricted or controlled, or have a third party translate for them.

Victims may have inconsistencies in their story.

Victims may have brands, scars, clothing, jewelry, or tattoos indicating someone else's ownership.

Victims may not admit that they are victims, and may not ask for help.

Human trafficking situations can be dangerous to you if you attempt to intervene. If you suspect human trafficking, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 888-373-7888 or Call 911.



Altar Flowers

If you wish to donate altar flowers

please contact:
Bev Stewart
(810) 329-2147
(810) 300-2664



**2023
PFLAG
MEETINGS**

JANUARY 26	FEBRUARY 23
MARCH 30	APRIL 27
MAY 25	JUNE 29
JULY 27	AUGUST 31
SEPTEMBER 28	OCTOBER 26
NOVEMBER 16	DECEMBER 28

All 2023 meetings will be held at
McLaren Port Huron - Drew Classroom

LGBTQIA+

The poster features a light blue background with a yellow sun and white clouds at the top. The meeting dates are listed in two columns. At the bottom, there is a rainbow flag graphic and the text 'All 2023 meetings will be held at McLaren Port Huron - Drew Classroom' surrounded by colorful stars.

