

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.”**

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# WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

March 12, 2023

Third Sunday of Lent

† Those who are able, may stand.

## ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers today are presented by JoAnn Kindsvater in loving memory of Joseph and Joan Kindsvater.

## CHIMES

Be Now My Vision

## PRELUDE

My Faith, It is an Oaken Staff

## 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

Elsa Pennewell

Deep inside all humankind there is a place of faith.

**a place of trust and hope and love, without which there can be no peace.**

Jesus, says, "Let the children come to me. Do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." Hear this, people of God: come now as children of your Creator,

**with innocence of heart and unlimited hope,**

with trust that makes you vulnerable,

**and with love that is easy and quick, in the name of Jesus Christ.**

**† HYMN**

In The Cross of Christ I Glory  
NCH193 vs 1 & 4

The God of Jesus Christ is a God of love and mercy. Grateful for grace and seeking blessing, we pray together.

**† OPENING PRAYER**

Elsa Pennewell

**God of love and mercy, in the quiet peace of morning we gather in this holy space to sing praise to you and to be touched by your Spirit. We offer grateful thanks for the gift of sabbath rest and renewal. We pray that through our worship we may be recreated in your likeness once more. Let your cleansing Spirit enter our lives, that the shadows of our souls may be pierced by the brilliance of your light. Let our destructive thoughts be transformed into expressions of beauty, reflecting your uncompromising love. We pray in the name of our Redeemer. Amen.**

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

**THE FIRST READING**

Psalm 107:1-3, 23-30 NRSV  
Elsa Pennewell

**MUSICAL MEDITATION**

My Faith, it is an Oaken Staff

**THE SECOND READING**

Matthew 8:23-27, Ruden  
Dr. Guerreno

**SERMON**

“Weather and Miracles”  
Dr. Guerreno

Continue Lenten sermon series,  
“Much Ado About Miracles”

**† HYMN**

Be Still, My Soul  
NCH488 vs 1, 2, 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**

Stand By Me

**†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**

**All the time and in all of life, Creating and Loving God, there are beginnings and there are endings. The constant is your love, the love you have for us in and through Jesus, your Christ. The constant is your care, your grace, your mercy for all that is. We give lovingly, gratefully and with grace. We give asking only this in return: how would you have us use what you give us? How would you have us use our gifts, your gifts? What would you have us do? Speak to us, Holy God, that we would be full and rich and at peace, in Christ's holy name. Amen.**

**† CLOSING HYMN**

Ask Me What Great Thing I Know  
NCH49 vs 1 & 4

## † BENEDICTION

## † POSTLUDE

Thanks to God for My Redeemer

## ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers today are presented by JoAn Kindsvater in loving memory of Joseph and Joan Kindsvater.



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### **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 Rice

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Kathy Cilluffo

MUSIC: Char Rams, Anna Moore

USHERS: Don Rice, Tim Galvin

READER: Elsa Pennewell

POWER POINT: Jody Skonieczny

3/19 - NEXT WEEK'S READER: Jody Skonieczny

### **NEXT WEEK'S SERMON**

"Physics And Miracles"

Psalms 85:1-8-13, NRSV    Matthew 14:22-33, Ruden

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## **3/19/23 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

SUNDAY STEWARD: Don Rice  
SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Don Rice  
MUSIC: Denise Gregg, Anna Moore  
USHERS: Randy Kling, Bob Rood  
READER: Jody Skonieczny  
POWER POINT: Sam Tricomo

3/26 – READER: Karen Galvin

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:firstcongsc@gmail.com).

## **LENTEN ECUMENICAL SERVICES**

Ecumenical services will 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.

## **LENTEN FAIR**

Inviting all children to a Lenten Fair, being held in the Friendship Hall at 10:00 a.m., Sunday March 19th. There will be crafts to make. It will be lots of fun and we hope to see you there.

## **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.

For March this year,  
Lent is our guide.  
We honor sacrifice  
For the ONE who died.

Stocking the pantry  
With food we share  
Will show others  
A prayer is there.

March pantry needs:  
Cereal  
Canned Fruit  
Canned Tuna  
Mashed Potatoes (in pouch)  
Spaghetti Sauce (in a can)

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

In The Cross of Christ I Glory  
NCH193 vs 1 & 4

In the cross of Christ  
I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of time;  
All the light of sacred story  
gathers 'round it's head sublime.

Bane and blessing,  
pain and pleasure,  
by the cross are sanctified;  
Peace is there that knows no measure,  
joys that through all time abide.

HYMN

Be Still, My Soul  
NCH488 vs 1, 2, 3

Be still, my soul:  
for God is on your side;  
bear patiently the cross of grief and pain;  
Leave to your God to order and provide;  
in every change God faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul: your best eternal friend  
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still my soul;  
for God will undertake  
to guide in future days as in the past.  
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;  
all now mysterious shall be clear at last.  
Be still, my soul: the waves and wind still know  
how Jesus' power ruled them long ago.

Be still, my soul:  
the hour will soon be here  
when we shall be with God whom we adore,  
with disappointment gone, no grief nor fear,  
sorrow replaced with joy forever more.  
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,  
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

## HYMN

Ask Me What Great Thing I Know  
NCH49 vs 1 & 4

Ask me what great thing I know  
that delights and stirs me so,  
What the high reward I win,  
whose the name I glory in:  
Jesus Christ, the crucified.

This is that great thing I know;  
this delights and stirs me so:  
Faith in Christ who died to save,  
Christ who triumphed o'er the grave,  
Jesus Christ, the crucified.