


FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ST. CLAIR



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



**I will hear what God the
LORD will speak: for he
will speak peace to his
people, and to his saints...**

—Psalm 85:8

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

**300 Adams Street, St. Clair, MI 48079
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WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

March 19, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Lent

† Those who are able, may stand.

CHIMES

Beautiful Jesus

PRELUDE

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

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**

Beautiful Jesus
NCH44 vs 1, 2, 3

† **CALLING ON GOD**

Jody Skonieczny

The light of God in Jesus Christ does strengthen us!

The light of God in Jesus Christ is our truth and our joy, our meaning and our purpose.

† **OPENING PRAYER**

Jody Skonieczny

Let us pray. As we worship this day. O God, make yourself known to us. We bring doubt.

Help us not be afraid of it, but to see you in the dull ache of uncertainty.

We bring questions.

Help us to live without every answer. Help us to remember that in darkness even a small light shines and leads.

We bring pain.

If you cannot take it away, help us to be grateful for what healing you can give.

We bring joy.

Help us to share it, knowing joy grows when it is given away.

In all we bring to you, Holy One, be here now. Be here, in Christ's holy name. Amen.

† HYMN

Beautiful Jesus
NCH44 vs 4

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

THE FIRST READING

Psalm 85:8-13, NRSV
Jody Skonieczny

MUSICAL MEDITATION

O Savior, Let Me Walk with You

THE SECOND READING

Matthew 14:22-33, NRSV
Dr. Guerreno

SERMON

“Physics and Miracles”
Dr. Guerreno

Continue Lenten sermon series,
“Much Ado About Miracles”

† HYMN

I've Got Peace Like a River
NCH478 vs 1 & 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

We are Marching in the Light of God
Performed by the Choir

†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

Beyond our words and beyond our feelings, beyond our songs and beyond our silence, you are God. You are the giver of all gifts. You are the one from whom all good does come and always will. These gifts, we pray . . . use them for good. These gifts, we pray . . . use us for good. These gifts, we pray . . . bring good out of evil, bring good out of wrong, bring good out of indifference and fear. These gifts, we pray, are yours, Holy God, in the name and spirit of your Son, our Lord. Amen.

† CLOSING HYMN

Go, My Children, with My Blessing
NCH82 vs 1 - 2

† BENEDICTION

† POSTLUDE

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing



One License #A720797

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, Don Rice

MUSIC: Denise Gregg, Anna Moore

USHERS: Randy Kling, Karen Galvin

READER: Jody Skonieczny

POWER POINT: Pat O'Connor

3/26 - NEXT WEEK'S READER: Karen Galvin

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON

"Attitude And Miracles"

Psalm 67 John 5:1-9

3/26/23 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Don Rice

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Kathy Tricomo

MUSIC: Denise Gregg, Anna Moore

USHERS: Jim Light, Jacie Sanders

READER: Karen Galvin

POWER POINT: Pat O'Connor

4/2 – READER: Pat O'Connor

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.

EASTER LILIES

The altar will be decorated with four white Lilies on Easter Sunday. If you would like to make a donation toward the Lilies in Memory of or in Honor of a loved one, please fill out the form located on the back table of the sanctuary. Please return the form, with your donation, to the church office no later than April 4th. These memorials will be included in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

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 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 19. 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.

HYMN LYRICS

HYMN

Beautiful Jesus
NCH44 vs 1, 2, 3

Beautiful Jesus, Head of all creation,
God and the blessed Mary's child:
I want to love you, praise and adore you,
joy of my soul, so long desired.

Beautiful springtime, lovely, green, and hopeful,
all earth exhales its sweet perfume:
Jesus is sweeter, Jesus is purer
sad hearts at this, rejoice and bloom.

Beautiful sunshine, clear, so lovely, moonlight,
stars shine like angels, ranked through space:
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines clearer,
in perfect beauty, love, and grace.

HYMN

Beautiful Jesus
NCH44 vs 4

All earthly beauty, all celestial radiance
fade when compared to Jesus' face.
Let me not cherish beauties that perish;
let me this lovely good embrace.

HYMN

I've Got Peace Like a River
NCH478 vs 1 - 4

I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river, in my soul.
I've got faith like a river in my soul.

I've got faith like an anchor,
I've got faith like an anchor,
I've got faith like an anchor, in my soul
I've faith like an anchor got anchor in my soul.

HYMN

Go, My Children, with My Blessing
NCH82 vs 1 - 2

Go, my children,
with my blessing, never alone;
Waking, sleeping, I am with you,
you are my own;
In my love's baptismal river
I have made you mine forever,
Go, my children,
with my blessing, you are my own.

Go, my children,
fed and nourished, closer to me;
Grow in love and love by serving,
joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you,
here with tender comfort stilled you;
Go, my children,
fed and nourished, joyful and free.