

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](http://www.firstcongsc.org)  
[firstcongsc@gmail.com](mailto:firstcongsc@gmail.com)

# **WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 26, 2023

† Those who are able, may stand.

**CHIMES**

There is A Balm In Gilead

**PRELUDE**

Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior

**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 AND OPENING PRAYER**

Karen Galvin

This is the word of God, according to the prophet Joel: It shall come to pass that I will pour out my spirit on all people.

**Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy. Your young people shall see visions, and your old shall dream dreams.**

People of God, we have been baptized into one Spirit and one body through Jesus Christ.

**Let us worship God.**

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

God is spirit, and those who worship God must worship in spirit and in truth. Let us pray:

**We thank you, living God, that in Jesus Christ you have built a house not made with hands, a people among whom you live. We thank you that you have called us and that we belong to you. We come now longing to know the touch of your spirit, that we may be encouraged to serve you in the world. Come to us, that we may recognize you and sing your praise, the name of Jesus, the Christ.  
Amen.**

**†HYMN**

**Holy God, We Praise Your Name  
NCH276 vs 1 & 4**

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

**THE FIRST READING**

**Psalm 67, NRSV  
Karen Galvin**

**MUSICAL MEDITATION**

**Now Thank We All Our God**

**THE SECOND READING**

**John 5:1-9, NRSV  
Dr. Guerreno**

**SERMON**

**“Attitude and Miracles”  
Dr. Guerreno**

**† HYMN**

**When I Survey the Wondrous Cross  
NCH224 vs 1 & 4**

**JOYS, CONCERNS, AND INVITATION TO PRAY**

## † THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be 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

In the Land of the Living

## †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

You are love, Holy God. Jesus tells us that, and our lives tell us that. You are perfect love. You are infinite love. You are love beyond description. Jesus says so. Our lives say so. So here are these gifts. We thank you for loving us. We thank you for encouraging us to love each other. We wonder why it's so hard. Help us, Holy One, love each other as best we can, knowing that in the giving of these we make a commitment to do just that, in the name of your Son, our Lord.  
Amen.

## † HYMN

Savior, Again to Your Dear Name  
NCH80 vs 1, 2, 3, 4

## † BENEDICTION

## † POSTLUDE

Blessed Assurance



One License #A720797

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...**

Eric Fandrlick, Joan Westbrook, Matthew Pennewell, Emerson Stone, Jan Yager, Rachel O'Connor, 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 Tricomo

MUSIC: Denise Gregg, Anna Moore

USHERS: Jim Light, Jacie Sanders

READER: Karen Galvin

POWER POINT: Pat O'Connor

NEXT WEEK'S READER: Pat O'Connor

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**4/2/23 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

SUNDAY STEWARD: Kathy Cilluffo

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Kathy Cilluffo

MUSIC: Denise Gregg, Anna Moore

USHERS: Pat O'Connor, Don O'Connor

POWER POINT: Ash Currie

COMMUNION: Nancy Rice

4/9 – READER: Rose Crowley

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## **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~**

### **WELCOME CHUCK GUERRENO**

Chuck can be reached at the church 10:00 – 4:30 Thursday through Friday, 11:00 – 4:30 on Saturday, and 8:00 – noon on Sunday. Chuck can be reached at [stclairinterim@gmail.com](mailto: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 4. 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](mailto:firstcongsc@gmail.com).

## **LENTEN ECUMENICAL SERVICES**

The final service will be held at noon on March 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. 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.

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

Holy God, We Praise Your Name  
NCH276 vs 1 & 4

Holy, God, we praise your name;  
Sovereign God, we bow before you;  
All on earth your scepter claim,  
all the heavenly hosts adore you.  
Infinite your vast domain,  
everlasting is your reign.

Holy Father, Holy Son, Holy Spirit,  
Three we name you,  
While in essence truly one,  
undivided God we claim you;  
So we gather reverently  
to adore the mystery.

### HYMN

When I Survey The Wondrous Cross  
NCH224 vs 1 & 4

When I survey the wondrous cross,  
on which the Christ of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all.

## HYMN

### Savior, Again to Your Dear Name NCH80 vs 1, 2, 3, 4

Savior, again to your dear name we raise  
with one accord our parting hymn of praise;  
We join to bless you ere our worship cease,  
then, in the silence, wait your word of peace.

Grant us your peace upon our homeward way;  
with you began, with you shall end the day;  
Guard all the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,  
that in this house have called upon your name.

Grant us your peace, as day turns into night;  
stay with us till the coming of the light;  
Keep safe all those who call upon your name,  
for dark and light to you are both the same.

Grant us your peace through out our earthly life,  
our balm in sorrow, and our stay in strife;  
Then, when your voice shall bid our conflict cease,  
call us, O God, to your eternal peace.