

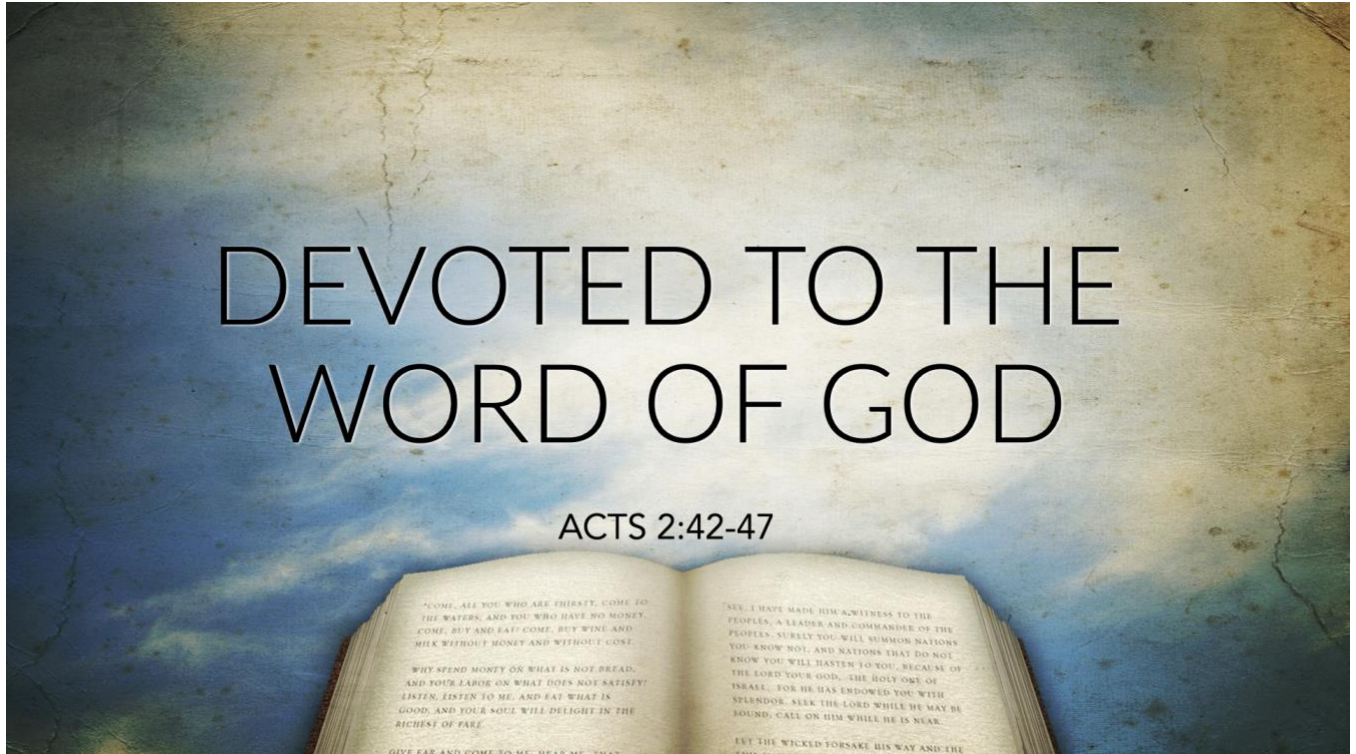
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ST. CLAIR



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

# DEVOTED TO THE WORD OF GOD

ACTS 2:42-47



**“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

April 30, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Easter

† Those who are able, may stand.

**CHIMES**

Where Charity and Love Prevail

**PRELUDE**

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

**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**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise  
NCH1 vs 1 & 4

† **CALLING ON GOD AND OPENING PRAYER**

Kathy Cilluffo

Psalm 145:8-13 (NRSV), adapted

The LORD, our God, is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love!

**The LORD is good to all. His compassion is over all he has made.**

All God's works give thanks, and all God's people are blessed!

**The LORD is good to all. Let all creation speak of God's glory and tell of God's power. The kingdom of God is an everlasting kingdom, and God's dominion endures throughout all generations. The LORD is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds.**

That we may be nourished in peace and have God's word as law; that true religion may increase in our hearts; that the strong arm of God may defend us, we offer now this prayer of thanksgiving and praise.

Let us pray.

**Eternal God, without whom life has no meaning but with whom there is always promise and hope, we worship you. Grant, we pray, that we would be renewed in spirit today. Grant us renewal of faith and courage. Give to us fresh awareness of all we have been given: the heritage of those who went before us; their sacrifices by which this church and nation have come to be ours. Even in these days of turmoil and worry, keep before us the awareness that our lives stand firmly on the foundation of your love. Cleanse us. Forgive us and make us strong, that we would be your servants in the struggle for justice and peace; your children, members of one family forever, through Jesus, the Christ. Amen.**

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

**THE FIRST READING**

Acts 2:42-47, NRSV  
Kathy Cilluffo

**MUSICAL MEDITATION**

They'll Know We Are Christians

**THE SECOND READING**

John 10:1-10, NRSV  
Dr. Guerreno

**SERMON**

"Trouble At The Potluck Diner"  
Dr. Guerreno

**† HYMN**

**Ask Me What Great Thing I Know**  
NCH49 vs 1, 3, 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**

Lord of the Dance

## **†OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

Shepherd, Lead, Lead Me in Your Righteousness

NCH774

Shepherd, lead, lead me in your righteousness,  
make your way plain before my face.  
For it is you God, you, God only,  
who makes me to lie down in safety.

## **†PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**In your presence, Holy One, blessing abounds, blessing seen and unseen, felt and unfelt. In your presence challenge abounds, as well, challenge seen and not, felt and not. Seeking blessing, then, and also seeking challenge, we bring you gifts, knowing that in giving we become like you. Becoming like you does bring blessing and it does bring challenge. Bless us, Great God. Challenge us, Mighty One, all in the name and spirit of your Son, who has told us you are love. Amen.**

## **† CLOSING HYMN**

**God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending**

NCH565 vs 1 & 4

## **† BENEDICTION**

## **† POSTLUDE**

Sing to the Mountains



One License #A720797

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

Bryce C. DeLand, Bonnie Lanschott, and Family, Dave Scheel, Harrietta Ryan, Eric Fandrlick, Bob Baden, 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: Kathy Cilluffo

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Don Rice

MUSIC: Denise Gregg, Anna Moore

USHERS: Randy Kling, Bob Rood

READER: Kathy Cilluffo

POWER POINT: Jacie Sanders

NEXT WEEK'S READER: Deana Currie

**NEXT WEEK'S SERMON**

"What If You're Not 'Born Again'?"

Acts 9:1-20 John 3:1-17 & 14:1-6

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**5/7/23 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

SUNDAY STEWARD: Don Rice

COMMUNION: Jill Scheel

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Kathy Tricomo

MUSIC: Denise Gregg, Anna Moore

USHERS: Jim Light, Jacie Sanders

READER: Deanna Currie

POWER POINT: Pat O'Connor

5/14 – READER: Don Rice

## **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).

### **MISSIONS**

The First Congregational Mission Team has been hard at work! Mission Team activities so far this year include:

Christian Children's Fund  
Hygiene Supplies/Harbor Impact  
Little Red Food Pantry  
Conference/Christmas Fund 2022

East China Food Service/School Lunches  
St. Clair Middle School/High School Band  
Marine City MS Harpoon Club Support  
(a program to help potential drop outs from leaving school)  
Emergency Clothing/Gearing & Pine River  
Gift Cards/Easter families  
Our Churches Wider Mission  
Conference Dues

The Mission Team is also looking into starting a Lunch Buddy program next school year at one of the elementary schools. This will not be a donation of funds but of our time to mentor at-risk students. We just want to get a feel for how many people might be interested in taking part in this before we approach the school district. Kathy Cilluffo currently takes part in Port Huron School's program at Woodrow Elementary. Kathy meets with a student weekly on typically the same day of the week. Time spent with the student is during their 30 minute lunch period. Woodrow has a dedicated room. The student can eat their school lunch or you may pick up something from a fast-food restaurant. For this program, a background check needs to be done and I assume that will be the same for East China as well. If you are interested, just send Kathy a quick email at [kcilluffo57@yahoo.com](mailto:kcilluffo57@yahoo.com) with your interest and any questions you may have.

If you wish for your offering to go to Mission, please designate Missions on your check and/or your offering envelope.

The next Mission Meeting is Wednesday, May 17, at 2 p.m., in the lounge.

### **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

A congregational meeting will be held today Sunday, April 30, 2023, immediately following worship.

## **SEARCH COMMITTEE**

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## **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. 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.

## **CHILD FUND UPDATE**

Paulo turned 18 years old on April 14. He lives in Brazil and our church has financially supported him for 12 years. We've also communicated with him regularly through handwritten letters and they are in a binder, which has always been in the church lounge. The binder will be relocated in the church library at the end of April. When Paulo becomes 18, he automatically, ages out of financial support from a sponsorship. Paulo is our last adopted child. The Mission Team has



chosen to opt out, at this time, of supporting the Child Fund Program.

## **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.

April is awesome!  
Spring is, too!  
Easter arrives  
And our lives are new.

But hunger is not.  
There is always a need.  
Pantry donations  
Provide help, indeed.

April pantry food needs:  
Cereal  
Canned Fruit  
(fruit cocktail, peaches, pineapple)  
Knorr Pasta or Rice Pouches

Easter extras:  
Basket Fillers  
(candy, etc.)  
Cake Mix/Frosting Tubs  
Cookies

Please leave your food donations in the elevator room on the shelves labeled THE LITTLE RED FOOD PANTRY.

## **ALTAR FLOWERS**

If you are interested in donating altar flowers, please contact Bev Stewart at (810) 329-2147.

## HYMN LYRICS

### HYMN

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise  
NCH1 vs 1 & 4

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious,  
the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious,  
your great name we praise.

So perfect your glory,  
so brilliant your light,  
your angels adore you,  
all veiling their sight;  
All praise we now render  
as your angels do:  
in awe at the splendor  
of light hiding you.

### HYMN

**Ask Me What Great Thing I Know**  
NCH49 vs 1, 3, 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.

Who is life in life to me?  
Who the death of death will be?  
Who holds all my days secure,  
in God's heart where love is sure?  
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.

**HYMN**

**God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending**

NCH565 vs 1 & 4

God, whose giving knows no ending,  
from your rich and endless store,  
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,  
costly cross, grave's shattered door;  
Gifted by you, we turn to you  
offering up ourselves in praise;  
Thankful song shall rise forever,  
gracious donor of our days.

Lend your joy to all our giving,  
let it light our pilgrim way;  
From the night of anxious keeping,  
loose us into generous day.  
Then when years on earth are over,  
and we've lived our human span,  
God, fulfill beyond our dreaming,  
all our stewardship began.