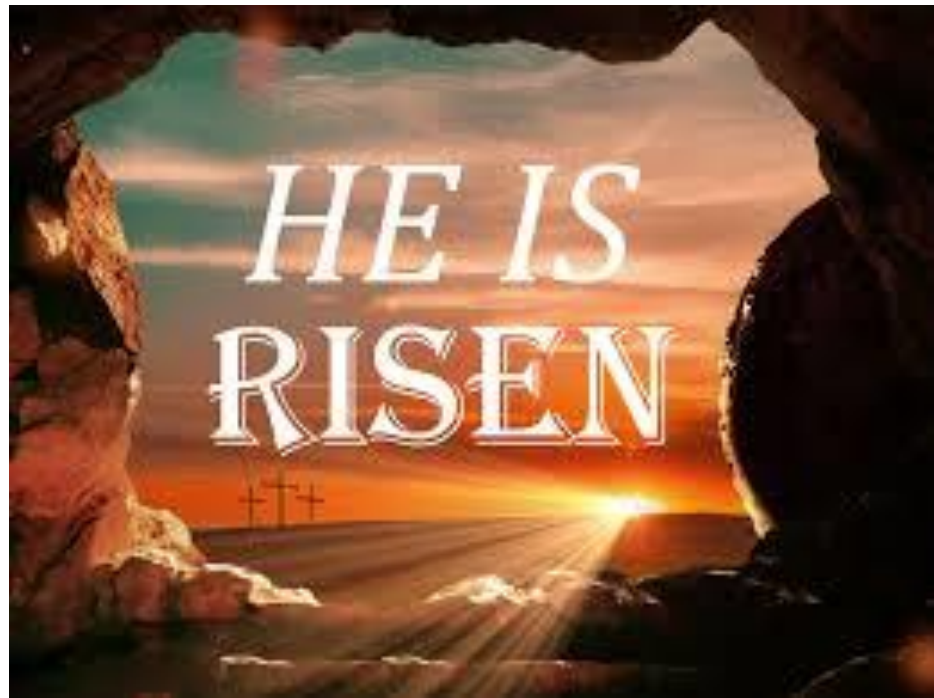


FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ST. CLAIR



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
firstcongsc@gmail.com

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

April 9, 2023
Easter Sunday

† Those who are able, may stand.

ALTAR EASTER LILIES

Altar Easter Lilies are provided today by Marge Guinther in memory of Karl C. Guinther; Carol LaVigne in memory of her mother, Ruth, father Erwin, and brother Allan; Ken & Denise Gregg in memory of Norman & Helen Grob; and Bev Stewart in memory of her grandparents, Maurice & Mary Henry; and Michael & Martha Muzechenko.

CHIMES

Now the Green Blade Rises

PRELUDE

Yours is the Glory, Resurrected One

WELCOME

Rev. Michelle Brown

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.)

GOSPEL LESSON

John 20:1-18

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Kathy Rood

God is good!

All the time!

And all the time!

God is good!

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good. Let all the people proclaim,
"God's steadfast love endures forever!"

God's steadfast love endures forever!

The Lord is my strength, my song, and my salvation! Shouts of joy resound in the tents of the righteous!

God's steadfast love endures forever!

The Lord's right hand has done mighty things!

We will not die but live. We will proclaim what the Lord has done.

We enter the gates of the Lord and give thanks, for this is the day the Lord has made!

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

†UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and Living God, like a tomb's darkness that gives way to light, open us this day to newness of life; open us to your love, to your acceptance, to your forgiveness, to your peace; open us to one another, and to the possibilities you have in store for us. Give us hope for the future and a passion for life here and now. We pray in the name of the One who destroyed death, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

†ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news! "All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name!" In the name of the risen Christ, we are forgiven!"

In the name of the risen Christ, we are forgiven! Glory to God! Amen.

†HYMN

Christ the Lord is Risen Today
NCH233 vs 1, 2, 3

There is no Sunday School today.

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 65:17-25
Kathy Rood

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Alleluia, Alleluia Give Thanks

THE SECOND READING

Acts 10:34-43
Rev. Michelle Brown

SERMON

Being A Witness
Rev. Michelle Brown

† HYMN

There is a Name I Love to Hear
NCH52 vs 1, 2, 3

JOYS, CONCERNS, AND INVITATION TO PRAY

OFFERTORY

“Yes, He Did”
Sung by Choir

†OFFERTORY RESPONSE

We Live by Faith and Not by Sight

We live by faith and not by sight;
no gracious words we hear
From Christ who spoke as none e'er spoke,
who still we know is near.

Help then, O Christ, our unbelief;
and may our faith abound
To call on you when you are near
and seek where you are found.

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God, we offer these gifts as our testimony to your glory and as our commitment as your disciples. Bless our gifts to your work in the world and to your reign here on earth. Through your blessing of our gifts, may death be destroyed and hope fill all of creation. Amen.

COMMUNION

INVITATION

Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene and the other women, on that same day sat at the table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

This is the joyful feast of the people of God, where God is made known to us. Men and women, youth and children, come from the east and the west, from the north and the south and gather about Christ's table.

This table is for all who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people. Jesus Christ turns no one away from his table.

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION, SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ's body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

† HYMN

The Strife is O'er
NCH 242 vs 1, 2, 3

† BENEDICTION

† POSTLUDE

Crown Him with Many Crowns

ALTAR EASTER LILIES

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One License #A720797

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...

Bryce C. DeLand, Bonnie Landschoot and Family, Dave Scheel, Harietta Ryan, Eric Fandruck, 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 Rood

POWER POINT: Jody Skonieczny

COMMUNION: Nancy Rice

NEXT WEEK'S READER: Rose Crowley

4/16/23 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Kathy Cilluffo

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Jacie Sanders

MUSIC: Denise Gregg, Anna Moore

USHERS: Karen Galvin, Tom Pennewell

POWER POINT: Kathy Cilluffo

4/23 – READER: Jacie Sanders

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 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.

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.

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

Christ the Lord is Risen Today
NCH233 vs 1, 2, 3

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, glad heavens, and earth reply: Alleluia!

Let the Victor's people sing, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!
Dying once, Christ lives to save, Alleluia!
Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia!
God has opened paradise, Alleluia!

HYMN

There is a Name I Love to Hear
NCH52 vs 1, 2, 3

There is a name I love to hear,
I love to sing its worth;
It sounds like music to my ear,
the sweetest name on earth.

Refrain:

O how I love, Jesus,
O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus,
whose love has first found me.

It tells my Savior's love for all;
Christ died to set us free;
Whatever problems may befall,
we'll live in dignity.

Refrain:

O how I love, Jesus,
O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus,
whose love has first found me.

It bids me serve amid the wrath
God's people face each day,
And sheds along life's troubled path
bright sunshine on my way.

Refrain:

O how I love, Jesus,
O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus,
whose love has first found me.

HYMN

The Strife is O'er
NCH242 vs 1, 2, 3

The strife is o'er, the battle done,
the victory of life is won;
The song of triumph has begun.
Alleluia!

Refrain:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The powers of death have done their worst,
but Christ their legions has dispersed:
Let shouts of holy joy outburst.
Alleluia!

Refrain:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The three sad days are quickly sped,
Christ rises glorious from the dead:
All glory to our risen Head!
Alleluia!

Refrain:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!