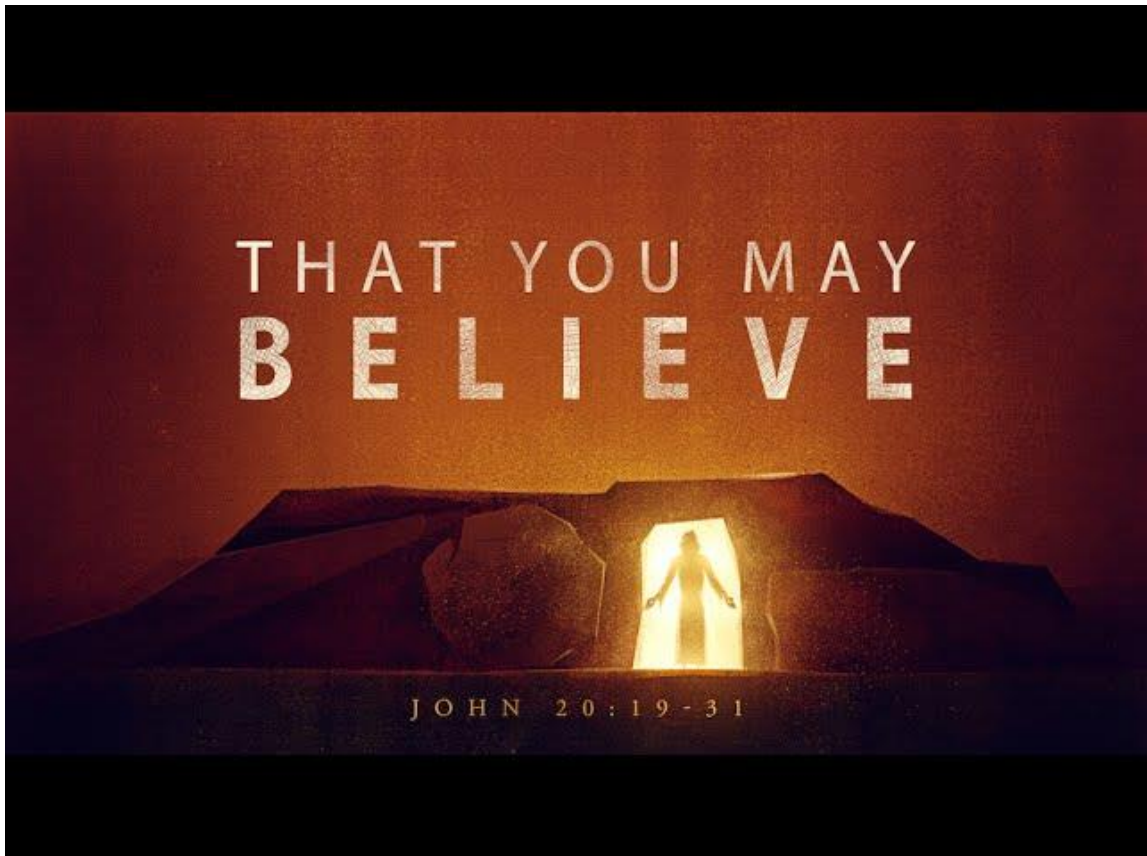


FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ST. CLAIR



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 16, 2023

Second Sunday of Easter

† Those who are able, may stand.

CHIMES

Lord, Prepare Me to be a Sanctuary

PRELUDE

Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing

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.)

†**HYMN**

In All Our Living
NCH499 vs 1 & 2

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rose Crowley

Praise God in the sanctuary!

Praise God in the highest heavens!

Sing of mighty deeds and glorious love!

Sing of amazing greatness and abundant grace!

Bang on your drums! Crash the cymbals!

Make melody with flutes and strings and pipes!

Celebrate with laughter and dancing, for Christ is alive!

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord, for Christ is risen indeed!

†OPENING PRAYER

Alpha and Omega, our Beginning and End, we come to you this day with praise on our lips and joy in our hearts. We come to you with doubt in our minds and despair in our bones. From all sorts of places and with all manner of thoughts, we come into your presence to offer you worship and praise. Breathe upon us with your Spirit, that we may sense the peace and the glory of your presence with us. Amen.

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

THE FIRST READING

**John 20:19-31
Rose Crowley**

MUSICAL MEDITATION

The Day of Resurrection

THE SECOND READING

**Revelation 1:4-8
Rev. Michelle Brown**

SERMON

**Breathe on Me, Breath of God
Rev. Michelle Brown**

†HYMN

**Breathe on me, Breath of God
NCH292 vs 1, 2, 3, 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

These Things Did Thomas Count

†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 the, 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

Risen Christ, you proclaim us blessed when we believe even where we have not seen. Bless these gifts, given in faith and hope, that they may be visible reminders of your presence in the world. May those who cannot believe without seeing, see in these gifts your loving grace – a grace present and available to all. Amen.

† HYMN

You are the Seed
NCH428 vs 1 & 2

† BENEDICTION

† POSTLUDE

Sweet, Sweet Spirit



One License #A720797

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...

Bonnie Landschoot and Family, Dave Scheel, Harietta Ryan, Eric Fandrick, 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, Jacie Sanders

MUSIC: Denise Gregg, Anna Moore

USHERS: Karen Galvin, Tom Pennewell

READER: Rose Crowley

POWER POINT: Kathy Cilluffo

NEXT WEEK'S READER: Jacie Sanders

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON

"The Chuck Guerreno Story"

Psalm 116:1 TEV Psalm 116:12-29 TEV

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

SUNDAY STEWARD: Kathy Cilluffo

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Kathy Cilluffo

MUSIC: Denise Gregg, Anna Moore

USHERS: Nikki Perry, Tim Galvin

READER: Jacie Sanders

POWER POINT: Sam Tricomo

4/30 – READER: Kathy Cilluffo

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

In All Our Living
NCH499 vs 1 & 2

In all our living, we belong to God;
and in our dying, we are still with God;
So, whether living, or whether dying,
we belong to God; we belong to God.

God sent Christ Jesus to be our shalom,
to show us mercy and healing love;
So in our living, and in our dying,
Christ is our shalom; Christ is our shalom.

HYMN

Breathe on me, Breath of God
NCH292 vs 1, 2, 3, 4

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew
That I may love the way you love
and do what you would do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
Until with you I will one will,
to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
stir in me one desire;
That every earthly part of me
may glow with holy fire.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I never die,
But live with you the perfect life
of your eternity.

HYMN

You are the Seed
NCH428 vs 1 & 2

You are the seed that will grow a new sprout;
you're a star that will shine through the day;
You are the yeast and a small grain of salt,
a beacon to glow in the night.
Go, my friends, go to the world,
proclaiming love to all,
messengers of my forgiving peace,
eternal love.

You are the dawn that will bring a new day;
you're the wheat that will bear golden grain;
You are a sting and a soft, gentle touch,
my witnesses where-e'er you go.
Be, my friends, a loyal witness,
from the dead I am eternal love
till the end of the world.