

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ST. CLAIR



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

I LOVE THE LORD BECAUSE
HE HEARS MY VOICE AND MY
PRAYER FOR MERCY.

PSALM 116:1

**“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 23, 2023

Third Sunday of Easter

† Those who are able, may stand.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Today's altar flowers are in honor of Beverly Stewart's daughter and son-in-law, Noel and Jody Kellogg, on their 31st wedding anniversary.

CHIMES

Sweet Hour of Prayer

PRELUDE

What a Covenant

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

I Sing the Mighty Power of God
NCH12 vs 1, 2, 3

† CALLING ON GOD AND OPENING PRAYER

Jacie Sanders

The morning light of God's new day is the love of God in Jesus Christ.

The rising of the sun can be trusted, even when it cannot be seen.

The eternal sky shows us the faithfulness of God.

Forever changing, forever the same.

Dawn and sunset, cloud and wind, snow and rain.

Light and shadow, heat and cold.

All familiar in the world we know, and in a world we have never seen and will never see.

Known and unknown, seen and unseen, we worship God in Jesus Christ.

Holy One, Creator God, each moment we live is fresh and unique, yet like so many others. Each minute is new, yet so often little different from every minute we have known. Months and millennia, seasons and aeons, all pass under your steady, caring eye, yet this day has never been before and will never be again. We know you would have it used with patience and honesty, self-awareness and self-giving, affection and resolve and compassion. Be here now so clearly among us, so surely within each one, that your will is done and your kingdom does come, in the name of him who taught us to pray together, “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, the power and the glory forever. Amen”

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

THE FIRST READING

Psalm 116:1, 12-29 TEV
Jacie Sanders

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Send Me, Lord

SERMON

“The Chuck Guerreno Story”
Dr. Guerreno

† HYMN

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing
NCH459 vs 1 & 3

JOYS, CONCERNS, AND INVITATION TO PRAY

OFFERTORY

Christ Beside Me

†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

Your Christ did say to us, Holy One, that those who worship must worship in spirit and in truth, and so we do: we worship you in spirit and in truth. We give you these gifts in spirit and in truth, trusting that in spirit and in truth we would be made ready for what else would have us give. In such a way we grow, becoming more fully your children. We pray in the name of your Christ. Amen.

† CLOSING HYMN

Like a Tree Beside the Waters
Tune: Hyfrydol

† BENEDICTION

† POSTLUDE

God Our Author and Creator

ALTAR FLOWERS

Today's altar flowers are in honor of Beverly Stewart's daughter and son-in-law, Noel and Jody Kellogg, on their 31st wedding anniversary.



One License #A720797

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...

Bryce C. DeLand, Bonnie Landschoot and Family, Dave Scheel, Harietta 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, Kathy Cilluffo

MUSIC: Denise Gregg, Anna Moore

USHERS: Nikki Perry, Tim Galvin

READER: Jacie Sanders

POWER POINT: Sam Tricomo

NEXT WEEK'S READER: Kathy Cilluffo

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON

"Trouble At The Potluck Dinner"

Acts 2:42-47 John 10:1-10

4/30/23 - NEXT WEEK'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

5/7 – READER: Deana Currie

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.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

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

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. 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 lives in Brazil and is 17 years old now. He will be 18 in April, 2023. Please enjoy reading about him, too. His photo and binder will remain on the piggy bank table until next spring.

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

I Sing the Mighty Power of God
NCH12 vs 1, 2, 3

I sing the mighty power of God
that made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad,
and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained
the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at God's command,
and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of our God
that filled the earth with food;
God formed the creatures with a word,
and then pronounced them good.
Oh, how your wonders are displayed,
where-e'er I turn my eye;
If I survey the ground I tread,
or gaze upon the sky!

On earth there's not a plant or flower
but makes your glory known,
The clouds arise and spread their
showers by order from your throne.
All life is but a gift from you
and ever in your care;
Wherever people gather,
you, O God, are present there.

HYMN

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing
NCH459 vs 1 & 3

Come, O Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing your grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unfailing love.

O to grace how great a debtor
daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it,
wander from the love I've known;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
seal it for your very own.

HYMN

Like a Tree Besides the Waters
Tune: Hyfrydol

Like a tree beside the waters,
nurtured by your loving care,
We, O God, your sons and daughters,
your enduring witness bear.
In each passing generation
may your voice of love be heard.
Bless, we pray, this congregation
with your holy, living Word.

Like a tree beside the river,
drawing life from holy steams,
Fill us with your love forever;

recreate our hopes and dreams.
Through the storms of life sustain us
by the wisdom of your grace.
May the changing of the seasons
find us in your warm embrace.

We, beside the living waters,
drink from your eternal life.
Give to all, your sons and daughters,
faith that rises over strife.
O Living God, most glorious,
strengthen us for life today.
By the hope of timeless promise
guide your church upon the Way.