

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

May 14, 2023

Sixth Sunday of Easter

† Those who are able, may stand.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Today's altar flowers are in memory of Christine Moore, Mother of Frederick S. Moore. In honor of Harriet Moore Engelgau, sister of Frederick S. Moore. Also honoring Lezlynn's daughters who are new mothers, Annie Moore and Lindsay Moore.

CHIMES

Jesus The Joy Of Loving Heart

PRELUDE

We Are Marching

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

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You
NCH4 vs 1 & 4

† CALLING ON GOD Psalm 1 (NRSV), adapted Don Rice

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;

but their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield its fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

OPENING PRAYER

Don Rice

In the name of Jesus, God's Christ, led by God's Holy Spirit, we gather for worship. Let us pray.

Blessed God, Ruler of all creation, from all manner of living we come to this holy time, this place of peace.

Here we would humble ourselves and feel the touch of your Spirit.

Here we offer our dreams of your service.

Here we bring our deepest need and highest hope, and seek what you would have us do. Teach us now, again, your word and your purpose.

and make us now, again, your people.

Speak to us, O God, through your Son, that in faith we would walk his way together.

When we are weary help us to be strong, and when we are strong help us to serve you gladly, bravely and with trust, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

THE FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 30:15-20, CEV
Don Rice

MUSICAL MEDITATION

More Love To You, O Christ

THE SECOND READING

Luke 14:25-27, Ruden
Dr. Guerreno

SERMON

"Hate Your Mother"
Dr. Guerreno

† HYMN

God Made from One Blood
NCH427 vs 1-4

JOYS, CONCERNS, AND INVITATION TO PRAY

OFFERTORY

I Will Trust In The Lord

†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

Giving, Loving God, you tell us this and we believe it: as all families are created, so is all creation one family! As all families are sisters and brothers together, so is all creation one family. Use these gifts, we pray, to help us behave as one family and so be one family. Help us behave as you would have, that we would not forget we are all your children, loving and giving, holy and pure in spite of what is worst about us, in the name of Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

† CLOSING HYMN

Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us
NCH583 vs 1-4

† BENEDICTION

† POSTLUDE

On River Jordan's Banks I Stand

ALTAR FLOWERS

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One License #A720797

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...

Kathy Cilluffo and Family, Bryce C. DeLand, Bonnie Landschoot and Family, Amber Deel, Dave Scheel, Harietta Ryan, Eric Fandruck, 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 Cilluffo

MUSIC: Denise Gregg, Anna Moore

USHERS: Pat O'Connor, Don O'Connor

READER: Don Rice

POWER POINT: Ash Currie

NEXT WEEK'S READER: Jacie Sanders

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON

"Details About The Future"

Isaiah 2:1-8 Acts 1:6-12

5/21/23 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Don Rice

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Don Rice

MUSIC: Denise Gregg

USHERS: Karen Galvin, Tim Galvin

READER: Jacie Sanders

POWER POINT: Kathy Cilluffo

5/28 – READER: Nancy 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~

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. 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.

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 for us to meet and they can eat their school lunch or I 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 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.

GRADUATION SUNDAY

If you have any high school and/or college graduates please be sure to complete the form located on the back table of the sanctuary or you may contact either Penny Malcolm or Wendy at the church office.

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.

"May, more than any other month,
wants us to feel most alive."

- Fennel Hudson

From start to finish
We celebrate in May.
Cinco de Mayo, our Mothers,
Then, Memorial Day.

Celebrate another way.
Keep the pantry alive.
Help feed others.
Then, we'll all thrive.

May pantry food requests
Canned Fruit
(fruit cocktail, peaches, pineapple)
Canned Chicken & Canned Tuna
Spaghetti & Spaghetti Sauce
Memorial Day picnic food or supplies

Please leave food donations in the elevator room on one of the shelves labeled 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

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You
NCH4 vs 1 & 4

Joyful, joyful, we adore you,
God of glory, God of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before you,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the storms of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus
which the morning stars began;
Boundless love is reigning o'er us,
reconciling race and clan.
Ever singing, move we forward,
faithful in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us onward
in the triumph song of life.

HYMN

God Made from One Blood
NCH427 vs 1-4

God made from one blood
all the families of earth,
the circles of nurture
that raise us from birth,
Companions who join us
to work through each stage
of childhood and youth
and adulthood and age.

We turn to you, God,
with our thanks and our tears
for all of the families
we've known through the years,
The intimate networks
on whom we depend
of parents and partners
and children and friends.

Through families we've tasted
the value of trust
and felt what it means to
be loving and just,
Yet families have also
betrayed their best goals,
mistreating their members
and bruising their souls.

Help families in all
of their various forms
to face with integrity
struggles and storms;
Grant peace to our homes
that will nurture the bud
of peace for the families
you made from one blood.

HYMN

Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us
NCH583 vs 1-4

Like a mother who has borne us,
held us close in her delight,
Fed us freely from her body,
God has called us into life.

Like a father who has taught us,
grasped our hand and been our guide,
Lifted us and healed our sorrows,
God has walked with us in life.

Though as children we have wandered,
placed our trust in power and might,
Left behind our brothers, sisters,
God still calls us into life.

When we offer food and comfort,
grasp our neighbor's hand in love,
Tread the path of peace and justice,
God still walks with us in life.