

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 7, 2023

Fifth Sunday of Easter

† Those who are able, may stand.

CHIMES

The Church's One Foundation

PRELUDE

His Eye Is On The Sparrow

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.)

† **CALLING ON GOD**

Deana Currie

Genesis 1 and 2, KJV, adapted

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep.

And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good:

and God divided the light from darkness.

And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night.

And the evening and the morning were the first day.

And on the seventh day God rested from all his work which he had made.

And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

Let us worship God.

† HYMN

Praise to the Living God
NCH8 vs 1, 2, 4

OPENING PRAYER

Deana Currie

Genesis 2, KJV, adapted

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul.

And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there he put the man whom he had formed.

You have given us your world, O God. You have given us all creation to watch and use, guard and protect, have and hold. When we abuse your gift of this world, forgive, we pray. And when we act as you want us to act and do what you want us to do, let it be to your glory and your praise, in the name of your Christ. Amen.

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

THE FIRST READING

Acts 9:1-20, TEV
Deana Currie

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Nothing Can Trouble

THE SECOND READING

John 3:1-17
Dr. Guerreno

SERMON

“What If You’re Not ‘Born Again’?”
Dr. Guerreno

† HYMN

Great Is Your Faithfulness
NCH423 vs 1 & 3

JOYS, CONCERNS, AND INVITATION TO PRAY

OFFERTORY

Come My Way My Truth My Life

†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

Praise is what you would have from us, Creator God. Praise is the food you would give us. Praise is the air you would have us breathe and the water you would have us drink, and we do praise you. For mercy and for faithfulness, for love and comfort and peace and strength we praise you, and ask you one thing only: lead us. Help us be these things when they are needed around us. Use our gifts, who we are and what we do and where we do it. Use these gifts, money we give for your church, to bring in the fullness of what you have in mind in us and through us, today, tomorrow and always in the name of Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

COMMUNION

Invitation

Sharing the Story

Blessing the Elements

The Meal is Served

Thanksgiving After the Meal

† CLOSING HYMN

Called As Partners in Christ's Service
NCH495 vs 1 & 4

† BENEDICTION

† POSTLUDE

Go Make A Difference



One License #A720797

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...

Kathy Cilluffo and Family, 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: Don Rice

COMMUNION: Jill Scheel

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Kathy Tricomo

MUSIC: Denise Gregg, Anna Moore

USHERS: Jim Light, Jacie Sanders

READER: Deana Currie

POWER POINT: Pat O'Connor

NEXT WEEK'S READER: Don Rice

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON

"Hate Your Mother"

Deuteronomy 30:15-20, CEV Luke 14:25-27, Ruden

5/14/23 - NEXT WEEK'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

5/21 – 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. 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.

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

Praise to the Living God
NCH8 vs 1, 2, 4

Praise to the living God,
the God of love and light,
Whose word brought forth
the myriad suns and set
the worlds in flight;
Whose infinite design,
which we but dimly see,
Pervades all nature,
making all a cosmic unity.

Praise the living God,
from whom all things derive,
Whose Spirit formed upon this sphere
the first faint seeds of life;
Who caused them to evolve,
unwitting, toward God's goal,
Till humankind stood on the earth,
as living thinking souls.

Praise the living God,
around, within, above,
Beyond the grasp of human mind,
but whom we know as love.
In these tumultuous days,
so full of hope and strife,
May we bear witness to the Way,
O Source and Goal of life.

HYMN

Great Is Your Faithfulness NCH423 vs 1 & 3

Great is your faithfulness,
O God, Creator,
with you no shadow of turning we see.
You do not change,
your compassions they fail not;
all of your goodness forever will be.

Refrain:

Great is your faithfulness!
Great is your faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed
your hand has provided,
Great is your faithfulness,
God, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace so enduring,
your own dear presence
to cheer and to guide.
Strength for today
and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine
with ten thousand beside.

Refrain:

Great is your faithfulness!
Great is your faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed
your hand has provided,
Great is your faithfulness,
God, unto me!

HYMN

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

NCH495 vs 1 & 4

Called as partners in Christ's service,
called to ministries of grace,
We respond with deep commitment
fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing,
side by side and friend with friend.
Equal partners in our caring
to fulfill God's chosen end.

So God grant us for tomorrow
ways to order human life
That surround each person's sorrow
with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living,
our compassion to increase,
Messengers of faith, thus giving
hope and confidence and peace.