

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ST. CLAIR



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

*Blessed is the nation
whose God is the Lord,
and the people whom
he hath chosen for his own
inheritance.*

**“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

June 11, 2023

Second Sunday after Pentecost

† Those who are able, may stand.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers today are presented by Cathy and Jim Light, in loving memory of her father, 2nd Lt. Vern Becker. He served in the Army Air Corps (Air Force) during World War II, a bombardier-navigator on B-29's. He was killed in action December 7, 1944, over China. We especially remember him near his birthday, June 12.

CHIMES

My Hope Is Built

PRELUDE

The God Of Abraham Praise

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

Elsa Pennewell

Easter has come and gone, but the Creator's love remains.

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

Easter has come and gone, but the Creator's world is made new and fresh.

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Because creation itself speaks to us of a God beyond imagining,

and because heaven and earth tell the glory of God,

and because we worship One who is and was and will be,

we speak and sing God's praise, in the name of God's crucified and risen Christ!

† HYMN

You Servants of God, Your Sovereign Proclaim
NCH305 vs 1 & 4

OPENING PRAYER

Elsa Pennewell

To know what God would have is the meaning of faithfulness.

To know what God would have is the purpose of prayer.

Let us pray.

Meaning and purpose, Mighty God, come to us as creation is made new again. This world, yours and ours, greets us daily with life and growth, charming and delighting us, speaking to heart and mind of your intention for everything alive. Be here now, we pray. Touch us with hope if we will let you. Touch us with dreams and visions if we will allow it. You have our attention. We pray you, help us to hold it where it belongs, that we might become what you would have us be. We pray in the name of the risen Christ. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Psalm 33:1-12, NRSV
Elsa Pennewell

MUSICAL MEDITATION

I Come With Joy

THE SECOND READING

Matthew 9:18-26, Ruden
Dr. Guerreno

SERMON

"There's This Guy, Jesus. . . ."
Dr. Guerreno

† HYMN

Crown with Your Richest Crowns
NCH301 vs 1, 4, 5

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

On Eagle's Wings

†OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy,
God the Almighty!
Early in the morning
we praise your majesty.
Holy, holy, holy!
Merciful and Mighty!
God in three persons,
blessed Trinity!
Holy, holy, holy!

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We do praise you now, Holy One, Father / Mother, Son and Holy Spirit; Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. We praise you, Three In One, because you have come to us as a gift, because you are giving and because your very nature is to give and that nature is also in us. We are made in your image, and so we give, as well. These gifts are for you to use through this church, the body of your Christ. These gifts are yours. Use them and use us as you see fit, in his name. Amen.

† CLOSING HYMN

Jesus Shall Reign
NCH300 vs 1, 3, 5

† BENEDICTION

† POSTLUDE

Sing of the Lord's Goodness

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One License #A720797

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...

Bryce C. DeLand, Dave Scheel, Harietta Ryan, Eric Fandrick, 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: Dave Scheel

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Jacie Sanders

MUSIC: Denise Gregg

USHERS: Karen Gavin, Tim Galvin

READER: Elsa Pennewell

POWER POINT: Kathy Cilluffo

NEXT WEEK'S READER: Jody Skonieczny

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON

"God The Father, God The Mother"

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19, NRSV Hosea 11:1-4, 8-9, TEV

6/18/23 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Dave Scheel

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Kathy Cilluffo

MUSIC: Denise Gregg

USHERS: Jim Light, Jacie Sanders

READER: Jody Skonieczny

POWER POINT: Pat O'Connor

6/25/23 READER: Karen Galvin

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

Sunday school will resume after Labor day. Through the summer, there will be pew packets located under the back table in the sanctuary for children. There is a nursery where parents may go with their younger children if they choose to. It's a comfortable room where children can 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 dropouts from leaving school)
Emergency Clothing/Gearing & Pine River
Gift Cards/Easter families
Our Churches Wider Mission
Conference Dues
Donation made to the Special Olympics of Michigan
Donation made to the Heifer Project during the 10x match period

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, June 21, 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.

June is a joy!
School comes to an end.
We cherish each father.
Enjoy time with a friend.

Kids are home,
Ready to eat.
Food in the pantry
makes a meal complete.

JUNE PANTRY NEEDS

Canned Fruit

Fruit Cocktail, Peaches, Pineapple

Cereal

Kraft Mac & Cheese

SUMMER SUN EXTRAS

Ketchup

Mustard

Relish

Salad Dressing

Pasta Salad

Pasta Salad in a box

ex: Betty Crocker

Suddenly Salad

Please leave food donations in the elevator room on one of the shelves labeled: THE LITTLE RED FOOD PANTRY.

Questions? Please call Nancy Kennedy at (810) 329-3790.

HYMN LYRICS

HYMN

You Servants of God, Your Sovereign Proclaim
NCH305 vs 1 & 4

You servants of God,
your Sovereign proclaim,
and publish abroad
that wonderful name:
The name, all victorious,
of Jesus extol,
who, sovereign and glorious,
now rules over all.

Then let us adore
and render God's right,
all glory and power,
all wisdom and might,
All honor and blessing
with angels above,
and thanks never ceasing
and infinite love.

HYMN

Crown with Your Richest Crowns
NCH301 vs 1, 4, 5

Crown with your richest crowns
the Lamb upon the throne;
Hark! how the heavenly anthem
drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
of Christ who died for you,
And to your risen Savior
bring your thanks for life made new.

Crown Christ who rules in peace,
whose power a septre sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease,
and all be prayer and praise:
Christ's reign shall have no end,
for 'round those wounded feet
a fragrant garden shall extend
forever green and sweet.

Crown Christ who holds the years,
embracing space and time,
Creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime;
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For you have died for me;
Your praise shall never,
never fail through-out eternity.

HYMN

Jesus Shall Reign
NCH300 vs 1, 3, 5

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does it successive journeys run;
God's realm shall stretch
from shore to shore till moons
shall wax and wane no more.

People and realms of every tongue
dwell on God's love with sweetest song,
And infant voices shall proclaim
their earliest prayers in Jesus' name.

Let every creature rise and bring
tributes of praise for all to sing;
Angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud amen.