

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

July 23, 2023

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

† Those who are able, may stand.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Today's altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God in tender, loving memory for Sean Blair Nathaniel Kennedy by Michael and Nancy Kennedy. Sean was their first child and was stillborn 46 years ago on July 29, 1977.

CHIMES

Nearer, My God, to You

PRELUDE

O Holy Spirit, Root of Life

WELCOME

Dr. Chuck 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

Pat O'Connor

Adapted from Psalm 145, NRSV

The LORD, our God, is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love!

The LORD is good to all. His compassion is over all he has made.

All God's works give thanks, and all God's people are blessed!

The LORD is good to all.

Let all creation speak of God's glory and tell of God's power.

The kingdom of God is an everlasting kingdom, and God's dominion endures throughout all generations.

The LORD is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds.

† HYMN

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

† OPENING PRAYER

Pat O'Connor

Truly, God is present here. In the name of Jesus, God's Christ and led by God's Holy spirit we gather for worship. Let us pray.

Because you are holiness, O God, and because our lives are touched by your holiness, hear us now as together we pray in thanks and adoration. And when we act in such a way that thanksgiving cannot come, when our adoration holds weakness, shortcoming and small value, forgive us. As only you can, lift us up and make us strong again. Let your holiness transform what is not holy in us, that our lives would shine with peace and wholeness and health. We pray in the name of Jesus, your Christ. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Matthew 13:24-30, NRSV
Pat O'Connor

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Be Now My Vision

THE SECOND READING

Matthew 13:36-43, NRSV
Dr. Chuck Guerreno

SERMON

"When You Just Can't Wait To Fix What's Wrong"
Dr. Chuck Guerreno

† HYMN

Be Now My Vision
NCH451 vs 1, 2, 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

Golden Breaks the Dawn

†OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,
the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him,
for he is your health and salvation!
Come, all who hear;
now to his temple draw near,
join me in glad adoration!

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Mighty God, our lives are complicated. Our lives are complex. Sometimes our lives are great burdens. Other times they are simple and wonderful, easy and fun. These are your gifts, given from that complicated and simple, complex and wonderful living we do. Use them. Use us. Bring about what you would have for your creation through your children, that you would be happy, that you would be pleased and we would be fulfilled. We pray in the name and spirit of your son. Amen.

† CLOSING HYMN

Take My Life, God, Let It Be
NCH448 All

† BENEDICTION

† POSTLUDE

I Look to You in Every Need

ALTAR FLOWERS

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PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...

Jessica Lemmen, Bryce C. DeLand, 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: Tom Pennewell

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Jacie Sanders

MUSIC: Denise Gregg

USHERS: Karen Galvin, Tim Galvin

READER: Kathy Rood

POWER POINT: Ash Currie

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON

"Who Built Your Bridges?"

Psalms 105:1-11, 45b Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

7/30/23 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Tom Pennewell

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Kathy Cilluffo

MUSIC: Denise Gregg

USHERS: Jim Light, Nikki Perry

READER: Jacie Sanders

POWER POINT: Pat O'Connor

8/6/23 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 has reviewed four applicants, none are active at this time. The search continues. 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 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 kkilluffo57@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.

Say "Hi" to July.
It sparkles and shines.
People will too
when we are kind.

Kindness is caring
at its very best.
Feeding a stranger
is feeding a guest.

July pantry needs
Canned fruit
Canned pasta
Mashed Potatoes
(box or bag)
Peanut Butter
Summer extras
Picnic Supplies
(condiments, boxed pasta salad, etc.)

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

For questions, please call Nancy Kennedy (810-329-3790).

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

Be Though My Vision N451 vs 1, 2, 4

Be now my vision,
O God of my heart;
nothing surpasses
the love you impart
You my best thought,
by day or by night,
waking or sleeping,
your presence my light.

Be now my wisdom,
and be my true word;
ever within me,
my soul is assured;
Mother and Father,
you are both to me,
now and forever
your child I will be.

Sovereign of heaven,
my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys,
O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart,
whatever befall,
still be my vision,
O Ruler of all.

HYMN

Take My Life, God Let It Be
NCH448 All

Take my life, God let it be
consecrated faithfully.
Take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my spirit, let it move
at the impulse of your love.
Take my intellect and use
all its powers as you choose.

Take my will; your will be done!
Make your will and mine be one.
Take my heart, and by your grace
make it your dwelling place.

Take my love and help it grow;
let my loving overflow.
Take me now, and help me be
part of Christ's community.