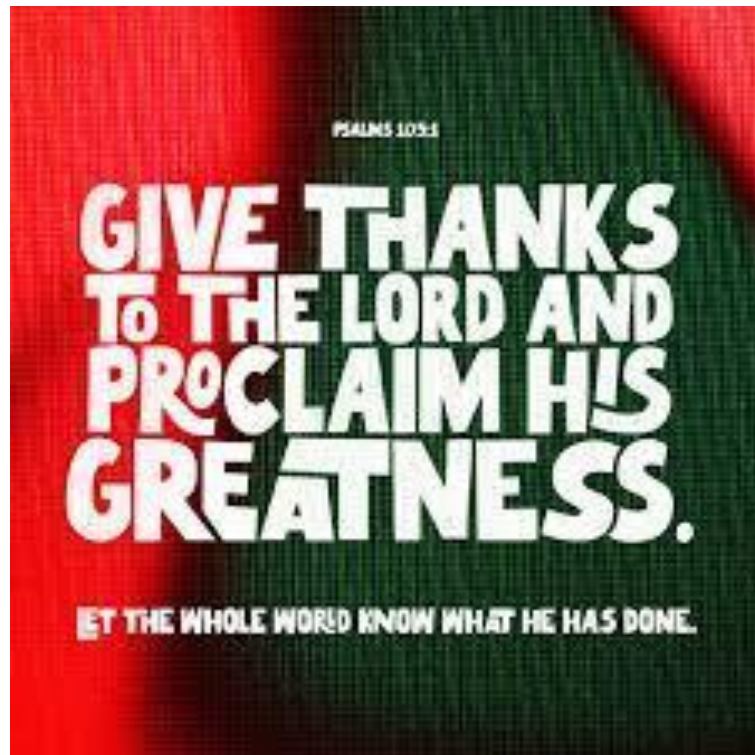


FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ST. CLAIR



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](http://www.firstcongsc.org)  
[firstcongsc@gmail.com](mailto:firstcongsc@gmail.com)**

# WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

July 30, 2023

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

† Those who are able, please stand.

**CHIMES**

Bring Forth the Kingdom

**PRELUDE**

Enter in the Realm of God

**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**

Jacie Sanders

We gather for worship, that the Spirit of God might move among us, binding us with people of faith in every time and place.

**God's Spirit moves within us, making strong within us the good news of Jesus Christ for all people.**

God's Spirit moves through us, making us channels of God's love.

**In worship, we open ourselves to the Spirit of the Living God, made known through Jesus, God's Christ.**

† **HYMN**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise  
NCH1 vs 1 & 4

† **OPENING PRAYER**

Jacie Sanders

Gather us in, Mysterious Maker God,

**that being close to you we will work to bring in what you intend for your creation.**

Weave us into one, Sweet Savior of All,

**that we will live your ways and create communities of faith and peace.**

Gather us in, Powerful Spirit of Renewal,

**that treasuring the past we will boldly shape the future.**

Weave us into one, Holy One in Three,

**that together we may be the signs of your presence, weavers of your world and witnesses to your coming. Gather us in this day, that we might gather strength from you. Amen.**

**THE FIRST READING**

Psalm 105:1-11, 45*b*, TEV  
Jacie Sanders

**MUSICAL MEDITATION**

When Love is Found

**THE SECOND READING**

Matthew 13:31-33, Ruden  
Dr. Guerreno

**SERMON**

“Who Built Your Bridges?”  
Dr. Chuck Guerreno

**† HYMN**

Forward through the Ages  
NCH377 All

**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**

God Created Heaven and Earth

## †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

**Faith is what you would have from us, Creator God. Faith is the food you would give us. Faith is the air you would have us breathe and the water you would have us drink, and we do thank you. Help us to be faith when it is needed around us. We pray you, in faith, to use our gifts, to use 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 faith today, tomorrow and always in the name of Jesus, the Christ. Amen.**

## † CLOSING HYMN

God of Grace and God of Glory  
NCH436 vs 1, 2, 5

## † BENEDICTION

## † POSTLUDE

You Are The Seed

**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: Dave Scheel, Kathy Cilluffo  
MUSIC: Denise Gregg  
USHERS: Elsa Pennewell, Nikki Perry  
READER: Jacie Sanders  
POWER POINT: Pat O'Connor

**NEXT WEEK'S SERMON**

"Hiroshima"

Psalm 33:12-22, CEV Hebrews 11:1-3, CEV

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**8/6/23 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

SUNDAY STEWARD: Dave Scheel  
COMMUNION: Vicki Kling  
SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Jacie Sanders  
MUSIC: Denise Gregg  
USHERS: Pat O'Connor, Don O'Connor  
READER: Kathy Cilluffo  
POWER POINT: Pat O'Connor

8/13/23 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](mailto: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 [firstcongscc@gmail.com](mailto:firstcongscc@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 [kcilluffo57@yahoo.com](mailto: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.

August's sun will brighten each day.  
God's son will enlighten our way.  
Guide us in service,  
Oh, Lord, we pray.

August pantry needs:  
Canned Green Beans  
Canned Corn  
Canned Fruit  
Kraft Mac & Cheese  
Canned Pasta with or without meat  
Peanut Butter  
Spaghetti and Spaghetti Sauce  
Canned Tuna Fish

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

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise  
NCH1 vs 1 & 4

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, your great name we praise.

So perfect your glory, so brilliant your light,  
your angels adore you, all veiling their sight;  
All praise we now render as your angels do:  
in awe at the splendor of light hiding you.

### HYMN

Forward through the Ages  
NCH377 All

Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,  
move the faithful spirits at the call divine;  
Gifts in differing measure, hearts of one accord,  
manifold in service, one the sure reward.

Refrain:

Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,  
Move the faithful spirits at the call divine.

Wide grows God's dominion, reign of love and peace;  
for it we must labor, till all strivings cease.  
Prophets have proclaimed it, teachers testified,  
poets sung its glory, martyrs for it died.

Refrain:

Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,  
Move the faithful spirits at the call divine.

Not alone we conquer, not alone we fall;  
in each loss or triumph, lose or triumph all.  
Bound by God's far purpose in one living whole,  
move we on together to the shining goal.

Refrain:

Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,  
Move the faithful spirits at the call divine.

## HYMN

God of Grace and God of Glory  
NCH436 vs 1, 2, 5

God of grace and God of glory,  
on your people pour your power;  
crown your ancient church's story;  
bring its bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the facing of this hour,  
for the facing of this hour.

From the evils that surround us  
and assail the Savior's ways,  
from the fears that long have bound us  
free our hearts for faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the living of these days,  
for the living of these days.

Save us from weak resignation  
to the evils we deplore;  
let the search for your salvation  
be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
serving you whom we adore,  
serving you whom we adore.