

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
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**www.firstcongsc.org
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WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

August 13, 2023

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

† Those who are able, please stand.

CHIMES

Here I Am, Lord

PRELUDE

O Come To Me, You Weary

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**

Jacie Sanders

Adapted from Psalm 118, NRSV

O give thanks to our God, whose steadfast love endures forever.

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to our God!

This is the gate of virtue and honor.

The righteous shall enter through it.

This is the day God has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

O give thanks to our God, whose steadfast love endures forever.

† **HYMN**

For Beauty of the Earth

NCH28 All

† OPENING PRAYER

Jacie Sanders

Let us pray:

Thank to you, great God of life, for the lives you have given us.

lives of joy and sorrow, lives of peace and racket, and calm and worry,

lives of fear and excitement, and boldness and impatience, confidence and faith—

thank you for life itself, and for our lives, as well. We give you our lives, asking only that you would use us well,

with love and mercy, and patience and forgiveness, that we would know and see the fullness of your reign not only in us but wherever we look,

not just today but always, in the name of Jesus, your Christ, who taught us this prayer and told us to pray it together: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time or trial and deliver us from evil, for the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

[English Language Liturgical Consultation, 1988]

THE FIRST READING

1 Kings 19:1-9, CEV
Jacie Sanders

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Blessed Assurance

THE SECOND READING

1 Kings 19:10-18, CEV
Dr. Guerreno

SERMON

“When You Don’t Know What To Do”
Dr. Guerreno

† HYMN

Jesus Shall Reign
NCH300 vs 1, 3, 5

JOYS, CONCERNS, AND INVITATION TO PRAY

OFFERTORY

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

†OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Seek Ye First

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and it's righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you;
Allelu, alleluia!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you,
seek and ye shall find,
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you;
Allelu, alleluia!

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Your gifts do surround us, Holy God. Your care, your compassion, your generosity: blessing is everywhere we look. Too often we don't see it. In giving our eyes are opened. In giving we see. In giving we notice. In giving we are aware. Blessing comes from giving and giving comes from blessing. Here we are, then, Holy God, giving again. Teach us to see. Help us to be aware. Open our eyes, that giving and blessing would surround us, no matter what, in the name and spirit of your Son. Amen.

† CLOSING HYMN

Go, My Children, with My Blessing
NCH 82 All

† BENEDICTION

† POSTLUDE

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...

Carol Carroll, Susan Couch, 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 to pray for 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, Don Rice
MUSIC: Denise Gregg
USHERS: Karen Galvin, Tim Galvin
READER: Jacie Sanders
POWER POINT: Kathy Cilluffo

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON

"Jesus At His Insulting Best"

Psalm 105:1-6, NRSV Matthew 15:21-28, NRSV

8/20/23 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Dave Scheel
SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Kathy Cilluffo
MUSIC: Denise Gregg
USHERS: Dave Scheel, Jacie Sanders
READER: Don Rice
POWER POINT: Jody Skonieczny

8/27/23 READER: Dave Scheel

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 anxiously awaiting new applicants. 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 firstconqsc@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.

MISSIONS MEETING

There will be a Missions meeting Wednesday, August 16, at 2 p.m.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a congregational meeting today immediately following worship.

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.

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

For the Beauty of the Earth
NCH 28 All

For the beauty of the earth,
for the splendor of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,

Refrain:

God of all, to you we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light,

Refrain:

God of all, to you we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild,

Refrain:

God of all, to you we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the good that love inspires,
for a world where none exclude,
For a faith that never tires,
and for every heart renewed,

Refrain:
God of all, to you we raise
this hymn of grateful praise.

HYMN

Jesus Shall Reign
NCH300 vs 1, 3, 5

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its 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.

HYMN

Go My Children, with My Blessing
NCH82 All

Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone;
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own;
In my love's baptismal river
I have made you mine forever,
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.

Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me;
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here's my Spirit's power filled you,
here with tender comfort stilled you;
Go, my children, fed and nourished,
joyful and free.