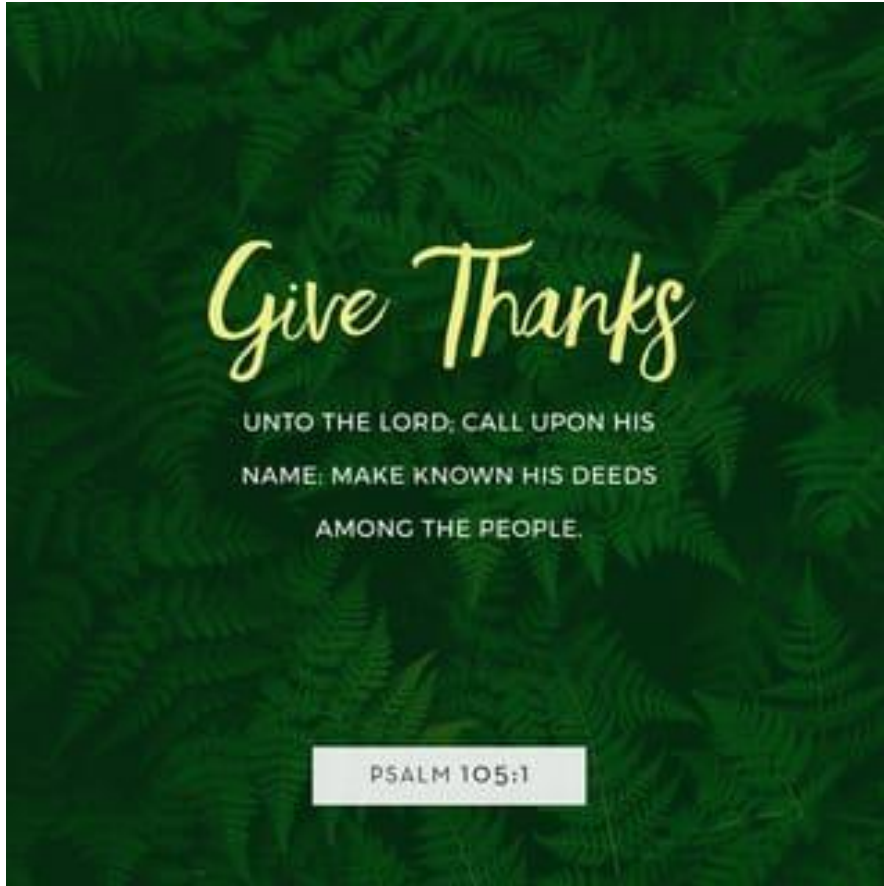


FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ST. CLAIR



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

August 20, 2023

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

† Those who are able, please stand.

CHIMES

People Need The Lord

PRELUDE

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

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.)

† **HYMN**

When Morning Gilds the Skies
NCH86 vs 1, 3, 4

† **CALLING ON GOD** Psalm 19:1-4, NRSV, adapted Don Rice

The heavens are telling the glory of God! The day proclaims God's majesty, and the night declares what it knows.

There is no speech.

There are no words,

but the creation speaks with joy of its Creator.

Let the words of each mouth and the meditations of each heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, our rock and our redeemer.

† **OPENING PRAYER**

Don Rice

Let us pray:

Mighty One, our God, Giver of all life and Keeper of each, let peace be upon us now. Let your comfort and your mercy touch us where we need to be touched. Lift our eyes and our hearts to you,

then challenge us to be bearers of peace and comfort, that joy would not make us smug and heartbreak not make us bitter Loving God, Giver of Grace, lead us into caring service in the name of Jesus, your Christ, who taught us to pray together. “Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.”

THE FIRST READING

Psalm 105:1-6, NRSV
Don Rice

MUSICAL MEDITATION

I'll Shout The Name of Christ Who Lives

THE SECOND READING

Matthew 15:21-28, NRSV
Dr. Guerreno

SERMON

“Jesus At His Insulting Best”
Dr. Guerreno

† HYMN

We Love Your Realm, O God
NCH312 vs 1, 3, 5, 6

JOYS, CONCERNS, AND INVITATION TO PRAY

OFFERTORY

Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace

†OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Seek Ye First

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and its 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

With word and music we praise you, Holy God. With word and music we speak to you of gratefulness and joy. We speak to you of these things, as well, with our giving. We are grateful and we are joyful for what is good in our lives, and we are grateful and joyful that what is not good can become good through your love and our effort. We are grateful and we are joyful, and so we give to bring about what you would have, and what we would have, as well, in the name and spirit of your Son, Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

† CLOSING HYMN

Great Is Your Faithfulness
NCH 423 All

† BENEDICTION

† POSTLUDE

My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less



One License #A720797

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...

Diane & Doug Johnson & Family, Carol Carroll, Susan Couch, Bryce C. DeLand, Harietta Ryan, Eric Fandrlick, 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, Kathy Cilluffo
MUSIC: Denise Gregg
USHERS: Dave Scheel, Jacie Sanders
READER: Don Rice
POWER POINT: Jody Skonieczny

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON

"Prayer"

Psalm 138, CEV Luke 5:1-11, NRSV

8/27/23 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Dave Scheel
SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Don Rice
MUSIC: Denise Gregg
USHERS: Nikki Perry, Tim Galvin
READER: Dave Scheel
POWER POINT: Sam Tricomo

9/3/23 READER: Marge Guinther

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 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.

MISSIONS MEETING

There will be a Missions meeting Wednesday, September 20, at 2 p.m.

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

When Morning Gilds The Sky
NCH86 vs 1, 3, 4

When morning gilds the skies,
my heart awaking cries,
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Alike at work and prayer,
one purpose I declare:
may Jesus Christ be praised!

Discordant humankind,
in this your concord find,
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Let all the earth around
ring joyous with the sound:
may Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, while life is mine,
my canticle divine,
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this the eternal song,
through all the ages long:
may Jesus Christ be praised!

HYMN

We Love Your Realm, O God
NCH312 vs 1, 3, 5, 6

We love your realm. O God,
all places where you reign.
We recognize, with hope and joy,
the world as your domain.

We recognize, with pain,
that we have not achieved
the faithfulness of our resolve
when we at first believed.

Beyond our brokenness,
we seek to know your ways
of deep communion, solemn vows,
and hymns of love and praise.

We know your truth will last.
We trust your reign is sure.
Equip us for those daily tasks
that help your world endure.

HYMN

Great Is Your Faithfulness
NCH423 All

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!

Summer and winter,
and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
to your great faithfulness, mercy and love.

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!