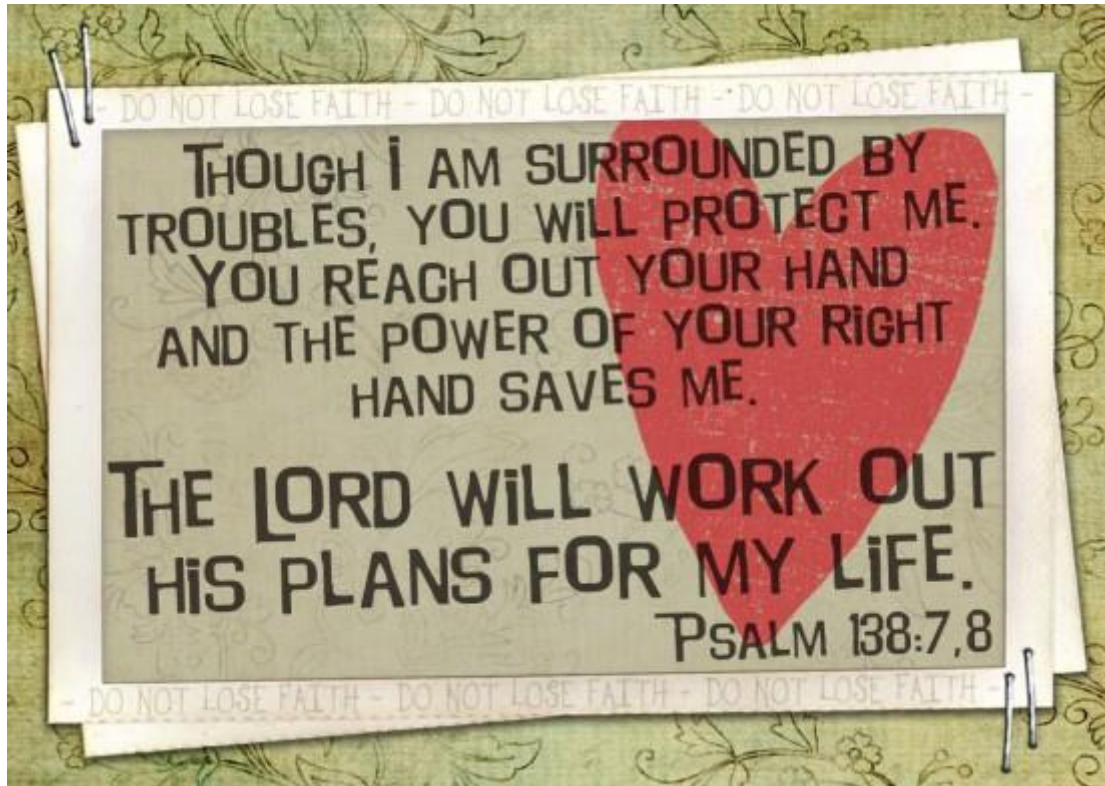


FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ST. CLAIR



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 27, 2023

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

† Those who are able, please stand.

CHIMES

Amazing Grace

PRELUDE

Jesus Lover of My Soul

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**

All People That on Earth Do Dwell
NCH7 vs 1, 3, 4

† **CALLING ON GOD**

Dave Scheel

The grace of our LORD Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts and your voices!

We lift them to God.

Lift up your spirits! Lift up your minds!

We lift them to God.

Let there be peace and purpose in this place.

Let there be boldness and challenge, new awareness and fresh understanding.

Let there be worship, in the name of Jesus, the Christ.

Amen!

† OPENING PRAYER

Dave Scheel

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Creating and Loving God, gather us as one. Gather our scattered selves, our fragmented lives, our separate dreams and our solitary dwelling places—gather us as one, that we would be now, again, your waiting and hopeful people, your church, the body of your Christ. Gather us and speak to us in ways we understand. Hold us close and give us something to do. Show us your way and help us to follow it. Gather us now, again, in Jesus' name. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Psalm 138, NRSV
Dave Scheel

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Draw Us in The Spirit's Tether

THE SECOND READING

Matthew 6:5-13, Ruden
Dr. Guerreno

SERMON

"Prayer"
Dr. Guerreno

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.

† HYMN

Father Almighty, Bless Us
NCH518 All

JOYS, CONCERNS, AND INVITATION TO PRAY

OFFERTORY

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

†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

To be empty before you in prayer, Holy One, is blessing and burden. To listen to what you would have is blessing and burden. To give is blessing and burden, and so is to receive. Here us, then, as both blessed and burdened we bring you these gifts and offer you ourselves, as well, that through blessing and burden what you have in mind will happen in us, through us, and around us, and the fullness of your love would be seen and felt everywhere. In the name and spirit of your Son we do pray. Amen.

† CLOSING HYMN

Savior, Again to Your Dear Name
NCH80 vs 1 & 4

† BENEDICTION

† POSTLUDE

I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me



One License #A720797

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...

Nikki Perry, Diane & Doug Johnson & Family, 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: Dave Scheel

POWER POINT: Sam Tricomo

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON

"How To Catch A Little Fox"

Song of Songs 2:13-17, CEV 1 Thessalonians 3:7-13, CEV

9/3/23 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Don O'Connor

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Jackie Sanders

MUSIC: Denise Gregg

USHERS: Karen Galvin, Tim Galvin

READER: Marge Guinther

POWER POINT: Sam Tricomo

9/10/23 READER: Nancy Rice

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.

ECUMENICAL FOOD PANTRY

The Ecumenical Food Pantry is one of church's missions. We need donations and workers! The Ecumenical Food Pantry is supported by nine local churches and serves clients in the city of St. Clair and the townships of St. Clair, China, and East China. The pantry is located in the Eddy Building. Here's how it works:

- Around 3:45 p.m., team leader(s) arrive at the pantry with a list showing how many clients we will be serving that evening.
- At 4:00 p.m., our church's volunteers arrive.
- Between 4:00 – 5:00 p.m., we pack bags with a week's worth of food for each family on the list; the amount packed depends on the size of the family.
- At 5:00 p.m., the first family will arrive to pick up their food and may receive soap, toilet paper, etc., if they need it. (Clients call ahead and are assigned a time to arrive to the pantry, beginning at 5:00 p.m., and scheduled every 10 minutes until 7:00 p.m.). We may finish early depending on the number of clients.

Workers: September is our month to staff the Ecumenical Food Pantry. We expect to need workers for Tuesday evenings from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. There will be a sign-up sheet on the table at the back of the church. If you have not worked the Pantry before, please consider it - an experienced worker will always be working with you, so lack of experience shouldn't hamper your desire to volunteer. There will also be a space to sign if you would be available as a last-minute substitute. If you have any questions, please call Kathy Cilluffo at 810-289-8032 email: kcilluffo57@yahoo.com or Barb Fandrick at 810-919-3873

email: barbfandrick@gmail.com. The maximum number of workers needed each evening is 4.

Donations: Bring non perishable items to our church in the elevator room, the first set of metal shelves marked for the pantry opposite entry door. You may also donate cash or check to the church, marked for the Ecumenical Food Pantry.

**Greatest Need: Canned meats (beef, tuna, chicken)
Canned Beef Stew, Roast Beef, Corned Beef Hash
Chili (with meat, vegetarian or no beans)
Canned fruit and applesauce**

Other items that are always in short supply:

- Canned Pasta (ravioli, spaghetti, Spaghetti O's, etc.)
- Spaghetti Noodles
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Meal Helper Kits
- Packaged Dry Potato and Rice Dishes
- Canned or Bottled Juices
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Tomatoes
- Cereals
- Pancake Mix and Syrup
- Powdered Milk

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

All People That on Earth Do Dwell
NCH7 vs 1, 3, 4

All people that on earth do dwell,
sing out your faith with cheerful voice;
Delight in God whose praise you tell,
whose presence calls you to rejoice.

Enter the sacred gates with praise,
with joy approach the temple walls.
Extol and bless our God always
as people whom the Spirit calls.

Proclaim again that God is good
whose mercy is forever sure,
Whose truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.

HYMN

Father Almighty, Bless Us
NCH518 All

Father almighty, bless us with your blessing;
answer in love your children's supplication;
Hear now our prayer, the spoken and unspoken;
hear us, Eternal God.

Christ of compassion, carry all who seek you
to pastures green beside the peaceful waters;
Most tender guide, in ways of cheerful duty
lead us, good Shepherd.

Mother of mercy, from your watch and keeping
no space can part, nor hour of time remove us;
Give us your good, and save us from our evil,
Infinite Spirit.

HYMN

Savior, Again to Your Dear Name

NCH80 vs 1 & 4

Savior, again to your dear name we raise
with one accord our parting hymn of praise;
We join to bless you ere our worship cease,
then, in the silence, wait your word of peace.

Grant us your peace throughout our earthly life,
our balm in sorrow, and our stay in strife;
Then, when your voice shall bid our conflict cease,
call us, O God, to your eternal peace.