



First Congregational Church

300 Adams Street, St. Clair, MI 48079

"No matter where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here."

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Channel

A monthly publication of First Congregational Church of St. Clair, UCC



United Church of Christ – First Congregational Church of St. Clair

firstcongsc@gmail.com

www.firstcongsc.org

Facebook/First Congregational Church UCC of St. Clair

(810) 329-4142

September 2023



Interim

Dr. Charles Guerrero

Chuck can be reached at the church
Thursday through Friday 10:00 – 4:30, Saturday
11:00 – 4:30,
and Sunday 8:00 – noon.
Chuck can also be reached at
stclairinterim@gmail.com
and (989) 980-0061.



PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Pastoral Search has reviewed four
applicants to date, none are active.

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



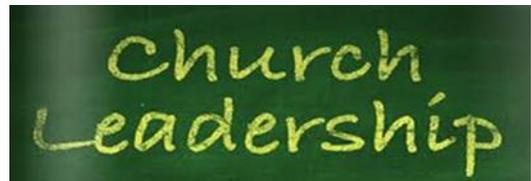
ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?

If you're interested in learning 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.



Altar Flowers

If you wish to donate altar flowers
please contact:
Bev Stewart
(810) 329-2147



The Leadership Team will meet in the lounge
on Tuesday, September 21, at 6 p.m.
If you have any questions,
please contact Pat O'Connor.



Calvin & Julie Rock
 Andrew & Jody Skonieczny
 Cody & Jennifer DeBoer



THE LITTLE RED 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.



Cal Eschenburg, Jr.	9/3
Anna Moore	9/5
Lindsay Baden	9/9
Andrew Skonieczny	9/10
Zoey Hildreth	9/12
Deuane Martin	9/16
Jacie Sanders	9/18
James Light	9/18
Janiene McCartney	9/18
Amelia Hirst	9/19
Douglas Johnson	9/24
Stephanie Shapiro	9/24
Madison Montroy	9/27
Shannon Johnson	9/29

S is for SEPTEMBER,
 SCHOOL, and a SNACK,
 plus pantry SUPPLIES for a meal
 or a backpack.

SEPTEMBER pantry requests
 Cereal
 Peanut Butter
 Soup
 Spaghetti
 Spaghetti Sauce - canned, please.

SINGLE-SERVE items
 Cereal Bars
 Fruit Bars
 Pudding Cups, etc.

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

If you have questions, please call Nancy Kennedy (810-329-3790).

SUNDAY MORNING

WORSHIP
 SCHEDULE

September 2023

Sunday Steward

Don O'Connor

Communion

JoAn Kindsvater

Lay Readers

9/3 – Marge Guinther

9/10 – Nancy Rice

9/17 – Jacie Sanders

9/24 – Elsa Pennewell

Power Point

9/3 – Sam Tricomo

9/10 – Pat O'Connor

9/17 – Ash Currie

9/24 – Kathy Cilluffo

Usher Teams

9/3 – Karen Galvin, Nikki Perry

9/10 – Jim Light, Jacie Sanders

9/17 – Pat O'Connor, Don O'Connor

9/24 – Nikki Perry, Tim Galvin

Facebook – Livestream

9/3 – Jacie Sanders

9/10 – Kathy Cilluffo

9/17 – Don Rice

9/24 – Jacie Sanders

Please remember if you are unable to fulfill your worship duty, please be certain to find a substitute.



Beginning September 6:

4th Street (Clinton to Orchard)

5th Street (Clinton to dead end)

2nd Street (Vine to cul de sac)

6th – 9th Street (Thornapple)

3rd to 6th Street (Cass)

The contractor will begin milling and resurfacing the roads listed above. It is anticipated that this project will take approximately 2 weeks to complete.

Regular work hours during construction will be 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

During construction, mail delivery and rubbish pick-up will not be interrupted.

Congregational Meeting



There will be a Congregational Meeting and Vote immediately following worship on September 17.

Please review the following.

“Stewardship in 2023:

Where Does The Money Go?" Economic Presentation Number Three

Most of us who have been attending First Congregational Church for some time know this, but newer members may be confused as to where their monetary donations and pledges are allocated. We have three major budget categories: General Fund, Mission Fund and Capital Reserve Fund. Congregants can decide how much to designate to each fund. Non-designated contributions are deposited into our General Fund. That is one reason it is important to pledge your gifts.

General Fund (GF): This is the largest budget category and is managed by the Leadership Committee. Our annual income comes from the following resources: Pledged income; Non-pledged gifts; plate collections; church rent, savings interest; Church Endowment Fund and the Barbara Moore Fund. Income funds are required for the general day-to-day operational expenses of the church. The majority of our costs are salary and benefits for a full time Pastor; and salaries and FICA for 4 part-time staff: Organist, Secretary, Bookkeeper, Custodian. This absorbs a majority of our GF expenditures.

The next largest GF category of operational costs are: Maintenance of all facilities such as, church, building, parsonage, grounds, utilities, office equipment, supplies, and insurance.

The smallest GF category is the Leadership Committee and committee managed programs: Worship and Music, Fellowship/Marketing, Christian Education, and Association dues.

Mission Fund: This fund is managed by the Mission Committee Chair who also sits on the Leadership Committee. It supports projects and

commitments outside of our church, and within our community. Income for this fund is derived from pledged and non-pledged gifts. Income and expenses are considered "in/out", which means income and respective expenses are for designated purpose. Traditional mission projects include Ecumenical Food Pantry, Little Food Pantry, Neighbors in Need, Holiday Gift Baskets, and One Great Hour of Sharing. The Mission Committee may also make special requests to the congregation for short-term needs in the community.

Capital Reserve Fund: Managed by the Leadership Committee, this fund supports major capital projects, some of which require Congregational approval. Capital projects may include structural and mechanical improvements; renovations and repairs to Church, and Parsonage costing over \$500; new office equipment, and large-scale grounds improvement and beautification. A minimum threshold amount of \$20,000 is maintained in Capital Reserve Savings for any emergency repairs due to major damage from weather or other hazardous conditions.

As you can surmise it is important to designate where your monetary gifts should be allocated. In order for your leaders to effectively plan the annual budgets, it is important to recognize that our church expenses go up about 2-3% each year due to inflation and related costs of living. In, 2019, we witnessed a substantial turn-around in Pledged gifts vs. Non-pledge gifts. That turn-around also improved the volume of Pledged giving. Be part of that movement. We ask you, once again, to pledge your gifts for Year 2024 as you consider ways to support our church and mission projects next year.

Originally prepared by Ken Schultz, Church Treasurer 2019. Updated 8/23 by Don Rice, Church Treasurer 2023



Thanks to all the people who signed up to volunteer at the Ecumenical Food Pantry during September. We have all time slots filled, but if interested in being on the substitute list, contact Kathy Cilluffo or Barb Fandrick and we'll add your name to the list.

The Mission Team has chosen 5 organizations for whom to give donations of \$500 each. This list comes from the Community Foundation's \$10,000 match (which was met early on) but we are donating directly to each of these organizations:

Harbor Impact Ministries
Birthday gifts for individuals in the "Birthday Room."

Sanborn Gratiot Memorial Home
Games specifically designed for seniors to enhance their memory and cognitive skills.

Hunter Hospitality House
Kroger gift card(s) for non perishable food basics as needed in each house, for each guest's unique needs.

Friends of the St. Clair River
Water quality monitoring equipment for classrooms

(kid size waders and water chemistry testing kits)

Old Newsboys Association of Port Huron
Toward the purchase of 38 pairs of shoes, 38 pair of socks, and 38 packages of underwear.
The next Mission Team Meeting is September 20 at 2 p.m.



IT'S IMMUNIZATION TIME

Flu Shot
Shingles Shot
Pneumonia
Covid
TD/DTAP
(tetanus/diphtheria, whooping cough)

You should check with your Doctor to see if you are up to date with your immunizations.

According to recommendations from Mayo Clinic, adults 65 and above should be up to date with the flu shot, shingles, and pneumonia vaccines.

Flu season is from October to May. Most cases are in late December to early March. It is best to get your flu vaccine early in the season, ideally by the end of October.



CORONA VIRUS – 19

EG.5 corona virus subvariant now dominant in the US. The new corona virus variant, EG.5 now accounts for the largest portion of covid infections in the US according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Health experts state EG.5 (ERIS) made up 17.3% of new cases.

WHO (World Health Organization) has categorized EG.5 as a variant under monitoring (this is a step below variants of interest or concern.)

The updated Covid Boosters to be distributed this fall are not designed to target EG.5.

Symptoms of EG.5 are similar to covid:

Fever
Cough
Fatigue
Muscle Aches
Headache

