

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF ST. CLAIR**



**“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

September 17, 2023

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

† Those who are able, please stand.

WELCOME

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.

CHIMES

Lord, Speak To Me, That I May Speak

PRELUDE

There's A Wideness In God's Mercy

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Announcements are in the back of this bulletin.)

†HYMN

I Sing The Mighty Power of God
NCH12 vs 1, 2, 3

† CALLING ON GOD

Jacie Sanders

The morning light of God's new day is the love of God in Jesus Christ.

The rising of the sun can be trusted, even when it cannot be seen.

The eternal sky shows us the faithfulness of God.

Forever changing, forever the same.

Dawn and sunset, cloud and wind, snow and rain.

Light and shadow, heat and cold.

All familiar in the world we know, and in a world we have never seen and never will.

Known and unknown, seen and unseen, we worship God in Jesus Christ.

†OPENING PRAYER

Jacie Sanders

Let us pray:

Holy One, Creator God, each moment we live is fresh and unique, yet like so many others. Each minute is new, yet so often little different from every minute we have known. Months and millennia, seasons and aeons, all pass under your steady, caring eye, yet this day has never been seen before and will never be again. We know you would have it used with patience and honesty, self-awareness and self-giving, affection and resolve and compassion. Be here now so clearly among us, so surely within each one, that your will is done and your kingdom does come, in the name of him 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, the power and the glory forever. Amen.”

THE FIRST READING

Revelation 21:1-6a, TEV
Jacie Sanders

MUSICAL MEDITATION

God's Actions, Always Good And Just

THE SECOND READING

Genesis, selected, CEV
Dr. Guerreno

SERMON

“Punctuated Equilibrium”
Dr. Guerreno

†HYMN

Great Is Your Faithfulness
NCH423 vs 1, 2, 3

JOYS, CONCERNS, AND INVITATION TO PRAY

OFFERTORY

Be Still, For The Spirit Of The Lord

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Spirit of the Living God

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Your Christ did say to us, Holy One, that those who worship must worship in spirit and in truth, and so we do: we worship you in spirit and in truth. We give you these gifts in spirit and in truth, trusting that in spirit and in truth we would be made ready for what else would have us give. In such a way we grow, becoming more fully your children. We pray in the name of your Christ. Amen.

†CLOSING HYMN

Called As Partners in Christ's Service
NCH495 vs 1 & 4

†BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

Sing A New Song To The Lord



One License #A720797

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...

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: Don O'Connor

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Don Rice

MUSIC: Denise Gregg

USHERS: Karen Galvin, Tim Galvin

READER: Jacie Sanders

POWER POINT: Pat O'Connor

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON

Begin series, "The Ten Commandments"

Sermon: "Biblical Religion"

Psalm 145:1-8, NRSV Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20, NRSV

9/24/23 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Don O'Connor

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Jacie Sanders

MUSIC: Denise Gregg

USHERS: Paul Lydy, Tim Galvin

READER: Elsa Pennewell

POWER POINT: Kathy Cilluffo

10/1 - READER: Kathy Rood

**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 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.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a congregational meeting and vote immediately following today's worship.

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.

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).

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UCC OF ST. CLAIR**

Office Hours:
Tuesday – Friday
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Office phone: 810-329-4142

CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Charles Guerreno	Interim Minister
Pat O'Connor	Moderator
Don Rice	Treasurer
Denise Gregg	Organist
Penny Malcolm	Christian Education
Tim Galvin	Sound Technician
Wendy Drinkard-Wojtas	Office Administrator
Kristie Lamb	Bookkeeper
Cindy Frey	Custodian

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