

**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 24, 2023

Seventeenth 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

In The Midst of New Dimensions

PRELUDE

We Worship You, God

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Announcements are in the back of this bulletin.)

† CALLING ON GOD

Psalm 33.1-2, 12, 16-18 (NRSV), adapted Elsa Pennewell
Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous!

Praise befits the upright.

Praise the LORD with the lyre, make melody to him with the harp of ten strings.

Sing to him a new song! Play skillfully on the strings with loud shouts.

Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD,
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.

A king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.

Truly the eye of the LORD, is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love.

† HYMN

We Worship You, God
NCH26 vs 1, 3, 5

†OPENING PRAYER

Elsa Pennewell

To God in Jesus Christ be all glory and praise!

Let us pray:

Almighty God, we pray your blessing on the church in this place. Here may the faithful find comfort and challenge, imagination and peace. Here may the smug and arrogant find faith, and the anxious be encouraged. Here may the tempted find help, and the sorrowful comfort. Here may the weary find rest, and the strong renewed. Here may the old be refreshed and the young be inspired, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Psalm 145:1-9, NRSV
Elsa Pennewell

MUSICAL MEDITATION

O How I Love Jesus

THE SECOND READING

Matthew 20:1-16, NKJV
Dr. Guerrero

SERMON

“When God Loves The Wrong People”
Dr. Guerrero

†HYMN

O How Glorious, Full Of Wonder
NCH558 vs 1, 3, 4

JOYS, CONCERNS, AND INVITATION TO PRAY

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.

OFFERTORY

Morning Has Broken

† **OFFERTORY RESPONSE**
God

Spirit of the Living

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**

Great God, you are holy. You are sacred. You can be frightening. We're grateful for your love, love which binds us to you and to each other in and through your Christ. Help us never to forget the power and strength of that love. When fear assaults us and when the future seems more than we can take or the past is too much to bear, help us remember your love, love for which we are grateful and for which we give these gifts. Use them and use us with love, that love would come to all creation and mark what does come and what will come and what is, in the holy name of Jesus, your Christ. Amen.

† **CLOSING HYMN**

Go My Children, With My Blessing
NCH82 All

† **BENEDICTION**

† **POSTLUDE**

Glorious Things Of You Are Spoken



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, Jacie Sanders

MUSIC: Denise Gregg

USHERS: Paul Lydy, Tim Galvin

READER: Elsa Pennewell

POWER POINT: Kathy Cilluffo

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON

Begin series, "The Ten Commandments"

Sermon: "Out In The Desert To Die"

Exodus 17:1-7, NRSV Philippians 2:4-11, NRSV

10/1/23 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Kathy Cilluffo

COMMUNION: Cathy Light

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Kathy Cilluffo

MUSIC: Denise Gregg

USHERS: Dave Scheel, Tom Pennewell

READER: Kathy Rood

POWER POINT: Jody Skonieczny

10/8 - READER: Barb Fandrick

**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 has resumed. 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, October 18, 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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