

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
OF ST. CLAIR**



**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**

***YOU MUST HAVE  
THE SAME  
ATTITUDE THAT  
CHRIST JESUS HAD.***

***PHILIPPIANS 2:5***

**“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](http://www.firstcongsc.org)  
[firstcongsc@gmail.com](mailto:firstcongsc@gmail.com)**

# WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

October 1, 2023

Eighteenth 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

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

## PRELUDE

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Announcements are in the back of this bulletin.)



## †HYMN

God Is Truly With Us  
NCH68 vs 1 & 3

## †CALLING ON GOD

Kathy Rood

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 will never see.

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

**†OPENING PRAYER**

Kathy Rood

**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 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 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, the power and the glory forever. Amen.”**

**THE FIRST READING**

Philippians 2:4-11, NRSV  
Kathy Rood

**MUSICAL MEDITATION**

Here I Am, Lord

**THE SECOND READING**

Exodus 17:1-7, NRSV  
Dr. Guerreno

**SERMON**

“Out In The Desert To Die”  
Dr. Guerreno

**†HYMN**

God Of Our Life  
NCH 366 vs 1, 2, 3

# JOYS, CONCERNS, AND INVITATION TO PRAY

## OFFERTORY

Come To The Table

## † 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.**

## COMMUNION

Invitation  
Sharing The Story  
Blessing The Elements  
The Meal Is Served  
Thanksgiving After The Meal

## †CLOSING HYMN

Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer  
NCH18 vs 1, 2, 3

## †BENEDICTION

## †POSTLUDE

Bring Forth The Kingdom Of God



One License #A720797

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...**

Cal Eschenburg, 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: Kathy Cilluffo

COMMUNION: Cathy Light

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Kathy Cilluffo

MUSIC: Denise Gregg, Ken Madeleine

USHERS: Dave Scheel, Tom Pennewell

READER: Kathy Rood

POWER POINT: Jody Skonieczny

**NEXT WEEK'S SERMON**

Sermon: "What Does God Expect?"

Isaiah 5:1-7, several translations

Luke 12:49-56, Cotton Patch translation

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**10/8/23 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

SUNDAY STEWARD: Kathy Cilluffo

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Jacie Sanders

MUSIC: Denise Gregg

USHERS: Don Rice, Tim Galvin

READER: Barb Fandrick

POWER POINT: Sam Tricomo

10/15 - READER: Jody Skonieczny

**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](mailto:stclairinterim@gmail.com) and (989) 980-0061.

### **SEARCH COMMITTEE**

The Search Committee has invited a prospective minister to tour St. Clair in October. 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](mailto: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.

October colors  
The world we see  
With once-a-year beauty  
Before the winter-to-be.

See the beauty of others.  
Feel the hunger they hide.  
Shop and share with  
Kindness as your guide.

October pantry needs  
Cereal  
Canned Fruit  
Peanut Butter  
Mashed Potato Pouches  
Rice Side Dish Pouches  
Soup  
Spaghetti  
Canned Spaghetti Sauce  
October pantry extra  
**HALLOWEEN TREATS**

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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