

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**

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[firstcongsc@gmail.com](mailto:firstcongsc@gmail.com)**

# WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

September 3, 2023

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

† Those who are able, please stand.

## ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers are in celebration of the second wedding anniversary, September 4, of Jordan and Amanda Kellogg. Jordan is the grandson of Beverly Stewart.

## CHIMES

The God of Abraham Praise

## PRELUDE

Take Up Your Cross

## 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.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS (Announcements are in the back of this bulletin.)

Avery Skonieczny - Search Committee Update

## † HYMN

Praise To The Living God  
NCH8 vs 1, 3, 4

† **CALLING ON GOD** John 1:1-5, 14, NRSV, adapted Kathy Rood  
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God.

**He was in the beginning with God.**

All things came into being through him.

**In him was life, and that life was the light of all humankind.**

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not put it out.

**The Word became flesh and lived among us.**

We have seen his glory, glory as of God's only Son, full of grace and truth.

## † OPENING PRAYER

Kathy Rood

Let us pray:

**Infinite God, you who fills the universe with your presence and dwells in every human heart, seeking grace and renewal we worship you. Help us to know you in each other, in the hungry and the stranger, the sick and the prisoner, that we may be made whole by the fruits of justice. Make us glad with welcome and healing, and set us to praise you in all we do, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## THE FIRST READING

Song of Songs 2:13-17, CEV  
Kathy Rood

## MUSICAL MEDITATION

Here, O My Lord I See

## THE SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 3:7-13, CEV  
Dr. Guerreno

## SERMON

“How To Catch A Little Fox”  
Dr. Guerreno

## † HYMN

Now Thank We All Our God  
NCH419 vs 1, 2, 3

## 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

Be Still, My Soul

## †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

**In all our living. Holy God, we pray to be grateful. In the small and large moments of our lives, whether we live in a major or a minor key, whether we live with happiness or without it we pray to be grateful. Gratitude leads us to you. Gratitude leads us to love. In gratitude we give you these pieces of ourselves, these parts of who we are, and pray you to love others with and through these pieces of us. We pray you to love us, too, that gratefully and generously we would continue to live as you would have, and so bring your love to a world sorely lacking it in too many places. In the name and spirit of your Christ, Amen.**

## COMMUNION

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

## † CLOSING HYMN

O Grant Us, God, A Little Space  
NCH516 vs 1, 3, 5  
Tune: St. Falvian #342

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## † BENEDICTION

## † POSTLUDE

Take My Life, God, Let It Be

## **ALTAR FLOWERS**

Altar flowers are in celebration of the second wedding anniversary, September 4, of Jordan and Amanda Kellogg. Jordan is the grandson of Beverly Stewart.



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 Fandrlick, 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

COMMUNION: JoAn Kindsvater

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Don O'Connor, Jacie Sanders

MUSIC: Denise Gregg

USHERS: Pat O'Connor, Don O'Connor

READER: Kathy Rood

POWER POINT: Sam Tricomo

### **NEXT WEEK'S SERMON**

"How To Fix What's Wrong With You"

Psalm 119:33-40, TEV Galatians 2:1-10, CEV

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### **9/10/23 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

SUNDAY STEWARD: Don O'Connor

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Kathy Cilluffo

MUSIC: Denise Gregg

USHERS: Jim Light, Jacie Sanders

READER: Nancy Rice

POWER POINT: Pat O'Connor

9/17/23 READER: Jacie Sanders

### **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 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](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 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.

## **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).



## HYMN LYRICS

†HYMN

Praise To The Living God  
NCH8 vs 1, 3, 4

Praise to the living God,  
the God of love and light,  
Whose word brought forth the myraid  
suns and set the worlds in flight;  
Whose infinite design, which we but dimly see,  
Pervades all nature, making all a cosmic unity.

Praise to the living God,  
who knows our joy and pain,  
Who shares with us our common life,  
the sacred and profane,  
God toils where'er we toil,  
in home and mart and mill;  
And deep within the human heart  
God leads us forward still.

Praise to the living God,  
around, within, above,  
Beyond the grasp of human mind,  
but whom we know as love.  
In these tumultuous days,  
so full of hope and strife,  
May we bear witness to the Way,  
O Source and Goal of life.

†HYMN

Now Thank We All Our God  
NCH419 vs 1, 2, 3

Now thank we all our God  
with heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things has done,  
in whom this world rejoices,

Who, from our parents' arms,  
has blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love,  
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God  
through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts and  
blessed peace to cheer us,  
And keep us still in grace,  
and guide us when perplexed,  
And free us from all ills  
in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God  
our Maker now be given.  
To Christ, and Spirit, too,  
our help in highest heaven adore,  
For thus it was, is now,  
and shall be ever more.

**†CLOSING HYMN**

O Grant Us, God, A Little Space  
NCH516 vs 1, 3, 5  
Tune: St. Flavian #342

O grant us, God, a little space  
from daily tasks set free.  
We meet within this holy place  
and find security.

Yet this is not the only place  
your presence may be found;  
On daily work you shed your grace,  
and blessings all around.

Work shall be prayer, if all be

wrought as you would have it done;  
And prayer, by you inspired and taught,  
shall then with work be one.