

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**

**www.firstcongsc.org
firstcongsc@gmail.com**

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

September 10, 2023

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

† Those who are able, please stand.

CHIMES

I Come With Joy

PRELUDE

Here, O My Lord, I See You Face To Face

WELCOME

Rev. Jacquie Patt

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**

Christ Is Made The Sure Foundation

NCH400 vs 1, 2, 3

† **CALLING ON GOD** (Inspired by Psalm 149)

Nancy Rice

Let our praise today be made new.

May we sing a new song, pray a new prayer, dance a new dance, and speak and hear a new word.

Let the faithful delight in the Holy One's marvelous acts.

From the seats in the sanctuary to the couches in our homes.

Let us glorify God with our voices, the work of our lives, and the joy of our souls.

Glory to God! Praise the Holy One!

† **OPENING PRAYER**

Nancy Rice

Let us pray:

God who journeys with us, we give thanks to be gathered in your presence. May we acknowledge you in the brightness of the day and in the stillness of the night. Provide us a vision of your reign on earth and in our lives. Make us your witnesses to a world in

need of hope and peace. Infuse us with your love, and may this time gathered as your people transform us to reflect your goodness in the world. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Psalm 119:1-2, 33-40, NRSV
Nancy Rice

MUSICAL MEDITATION

I Want Jesus To Go With Me

THE SECOND READING

John 14:15-27, NRSV
Rev. Jacquie Patt

SERMON

“An Invitation To A Promise”
Rev Jacquie Patt

† HYMN

Lord, I Want To Be A Christian
NCH454 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

God’s Eye Is On The Sparrow

†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

Gracious God, thank you for the gifts you give and allowing us to be gift givers as well. May our generous offerings bear fruit to nurture our community, our neighbors, and all creation. Amen.

† CLOSING HYMN

Joyful, Joyful We Adore You
NCH4 vs 1, 2, 4

† BENEDICTION

† POSTLUDE

Standing At The Future's Threshold



Service prayers for the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost were written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ.

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

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Kathy Cilluffo

MUSIC: Recorded by Denise Gregg

USHERS: Jim Light, Jacie Sanders

READER: Nancy Rice

POWER POINT: Ash Currie

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON
"Punctuated Equilibrium"
Genesis, selected Revelation 21:1-6, NRSV

9/17/23 - NEXT WEEK'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

9/24/23 READER: Elsa Pennewell

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 firstcongsc@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 worship, September 17.

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

Christ Is Made The Sure Foundation
NCH400 vs 1, 2, 3

Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of our God and precious,
binding all the Church in one;
Holy Zion's help forever,
and our confidence alone.

To this temple, where we call you,
come, O God of Hosts, today!
With your constant, loving kindness
hear your people as they pray.
Give your fullest benediction:
grace to follow Christ the Way.

Here renew your servants' vision,
that by faith they may attain
peace and hope, renewed compassion,
strength to comfort those in pain,
Tears and grief transformed to gladness
in your everlasting reign.

†HYMN

Lord, I Want To Be A Christian
NCH454 vs 1, 3, 4

Lord, I want to be a Christian
in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

Refrain:

In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more holy
in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

Refrain:
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus,
in my heart, in my heart.
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

Refrain:
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus, in my heart.

†CLOSING HYMN

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You
NCH4 vs 1, 2, 4

Joyful, joyful, we adore you,
God of glory, God of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before you,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the storms of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

All your works with joy surround you,
earth and heaven reflect your rays,
Stars and angels sing around you,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain,
teach us what our praise should be.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus
which the morning stars began;
Boundless love is reigning o'er us,
reconciling race and clan.
Ever singing, move we forward,
faithful in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us onward
in the triumph song of life.