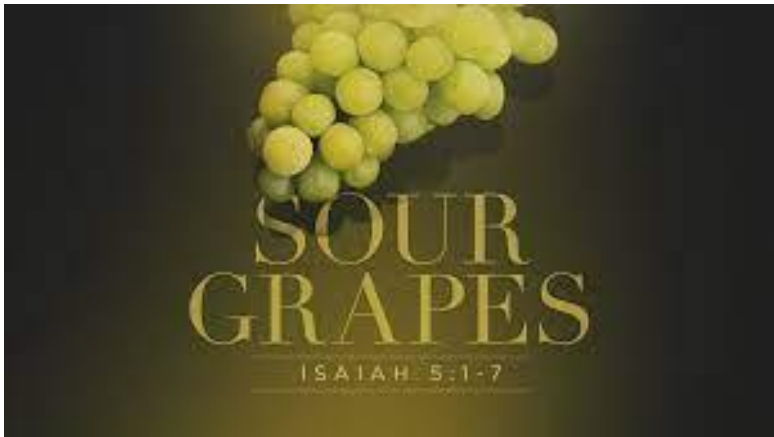


**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF ST. CLAIR**



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

October 8, 2023

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

† Those who are able, please stand.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Today's altar flowers are in honor of Pat O'Connor's mother, Illa Matthews.

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

My Faith, It Is An Oaken Staff

PRELUDE

The Church's One Foundation

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

† CALLING ON GOD

Barb Fandrick

Adapted from Ezekiel and Isaiah

The LORD God, says, I will give you a new heart and a new mind. I will take away your stubborn heart of stone and give you a new heart.

All flesh is grass.

But the word of our God endures forever.

Its beauty is like the flower of the field.

But the word of our God endures forever.

When the breath of the LORD blows upon it the grass withers.

But the word of our God endures forever.

The grass withers and the flower fades.

But the word of our God endures forever.

† HYMN

You Servants Of God, Your Sovereign Proclaim
NCH 305 vs 1 & 4

†OPENING PRAYER

Barb Fandrick

The sovereign majesty of God does call us to love and adore God in Jesus Christ. Let us pray.

Infinite God, you fill the universe with your presence yet live in every human heart. With hearts seeking grace and minds seeking renewal, we worship you. Help us to know you in each other, in the hungry and in the stranger, the sick and the prisoner, that we would 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

Isaiah 5:1-7, CEV

Barb Fandrick

**The children are excused for Sunday School during
Yes, Jesus Loves Me.**

MUSICAL MEDITATION My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less

THE SECOND READING

Luke 12:49-56

Cotton Patch translation

Dr. Guerreno

SERMON

“What God Expects”

Dr. Guerreno

†HYMN

God Of Grace And God Of Glory

NCH 436 vs 1, 3, 5

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

Spirit, Spirit Of Gentleness

† 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 of spirit of your Christ, Amen.

†CLOSING HYMN

Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing
NCH 77 vs 1 & 2

†BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

Every Time I Feel The Spirit

ALTAR FLOWERS

Today's altar flowers are in honor of Pat O'Connor's mother, Illa Matthews.



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

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Jacie Sanders

MUSIC: Denise Gregg

USHERS: Don Rice, Tim Galvin

READER: Barb Fandrick

POWER POINT: Pat O'Connor

COFFEE HOUR: Kathy Rood and Max Fichter

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON

Sermon: "Why People Get Stuck Where They Are"

Exodus 32:1-14, CEV

10/15/23 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Kathy Cilluffo

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Don Rice

MUSIC: Denise Gregg

USHERS: Karen Galvin, Nikki Perry

READER: Jody Skonieczny

POWER POINT: Kathy Cilluffo

10/22 - READER: Kathy Cilluffo

**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 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.

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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