

**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 15, 2023

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

† Those who are able, please stand.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Today's altar flowers are in loving memory of Erwin and Ruth LaVigne and Alan by their family.

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

I Want Jesus To Go With Me

PRELUDE

When I Survey The Wondrous Cross

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Announcements are in the back of this bulletin.)

†CALLING ON GOD

Jody Skonieczny

Deep inside all humankind there is a place of faith,

a place of trust and hope and love, without which there can be no peace.

Jesus says, "Let the children come to me. Do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." Hear this, people of God: come now as children of your Creator,

with innocence of heart and unlimited hope,

with trust that makes you vulnerable,

and with love that is easy and quick, in the name of Jesus Christ.

†HYMN

Rejoice, You Pure In Heart

NCH55 vs 1, 3, 5

†OPENING PRAYER

Jody Skonieczny

The God of Jesus Christ is a God of love and mercy. Grateful for grace and seeking blessing, we pray together.

God of love and mercy, in the quiet peace of morning we gather in this holy space to sing praise to you and to be touched by your Spirit. We offer grateful thanks for the gift of sabbath rest and renewal. We pray that through our worship we may be recreated in your likeness once more. Let your cleansing Spirit enter our lives, that the shadows of our souls may be pierced by the brilliance of your light. Let our destructive thoughts be transformed into expressions of beauty, reflecting your uncompromising love. We pray in the name of our Redeemer. Amen.

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

THE FIRST READING Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23, CEV J. Skonieczny

MUSICAL MEDITATION Jesus Calls Us, O'er The Tumult

THE SECOND READING Exodus 32:1-14, CEV Dr. Guerreno

SERMON

“Why People Get Stuck Where They Are”

Dr. Guerreno

†**HYMN** Take My Life, God, Let It Be NCH448 vs All

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, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

† **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**

All the time and in all of life, Creating and Loving God, there are beginnings and there are endings. The constant is your love, the love you have for us in and through Jesus, your Christ. The constant is your care, your grace, your mercy for all that is. We give lovingly, gratefully and with grace. We give asking only this in return: how would you have us use what you give us? How would you have us use our gifts, your gifts? What would you have us do? Speak to us, Holy God, that we would be full and rich and at peace, in Christ's holy name. Amen.

† **CLOSING HYMN**

Amazing Grace, How Sweet The Sound
NCH547 vs 1, 4, 5

† **BENEDICTION**

† **POSTLUDE**

Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing



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, Don Rice

MUSIC: Denise Gregg

USHERS: Karen Galvin, Nikki Perry

READER: Jody Skonieczny

POWER POINT: Kathy Cilluffo

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON

Sermon: "When Too Much Is Going Wrong"

Isaiah 45:1-7, TEV Matthew 22:15-22, Ruden

10/22/23 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Kathy Cilluffo

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Jacie Sanders

MUSIC: Denise Gregg

USHERS: Jim Light, Paul Lydy

READER: Kathy Cilluffo

POWER POINT: Pat O'Connor

10/29 - 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 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).

ECUMENICAL FOOD PANTRY REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2023

Barb Fandrick and I would like to thank each and every one of you who contributed in helping us with the Ecumenical Food Pantry for the month of September. Because of the generous donations of funds and food donations, we were able to supply the pantry with 435 pounds of food! We kept the refrigerator stocked with eggs and milk and freezer with hot dogs. We have an additional \$434.56 that we will send to the pantry to purchase food as needed.

In September, we served 83 families with a total of 189 people and packed approximately 3,029 pounds of food and non food items. Our team of helpers for the month were: Beverly Stewart, Pat & Don O'Connor, Elsa Pennewell, Karen Galvin, Vicki & Randy Kling, Nancy Rice, Mary Paquette, Paul & Laurel Lydy, Shannon and Debbie Porter, Lezlynne Moore and Bob Olsen. Without your help, this would be an impossible task.

Looking forward to working with Barb again next September, and just a reminder that we can still take food to the pantry throughout the year in addition to donating to our own Little Red Food Pantry!! Just leave your donations on the rack across from the door in the elevator room stating which pantry it is for.

Very grateful, Kathy Cilluffo and Barb Fandrick

**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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