

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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**WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**  
October 22, 2023  
Twenty-First 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**

The God Of Abraham Praise

**PRELUDE**

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(Announcements are in the back of this bulletin.)

†**HYMN**

For The Beauty Of The Earth

NCH28 vs 1, 3, 4

†**CALLING ON GOD**

Kathy Cilluffo

Give praise to God! Praise the Lord of hosts!

**From mountain top and hillside, from ocean's depth and river's edge,  
from factory and office;**

from doors and windows and websites, in song and in poem, prayer and hymn, praise the God who is eternal and infinite, near and far, beneath, above, below, behind and beside.

**Praise we now the God of Love, made known in and through Jesus,  
God's Christ.**

Give praise to God! Praise the Lord of Hosts!

†**OPENING PRAYER**

Kathy Cilluffo

Let us pray. Eternal God, without whom life has no meaning, but with whom there is always promise and hope, we worship you. Grant, we pray, that we would be renewed in spirit today.

**Grant us renewal of faith and courage. Give to us fresh awareness of  
all we have been given, the heritage of those who went before us by**

**whose countless sacrifices this church and nation have come to be ours.**

Cleanse us, forgive us and make us strong, that we may be what you have made us to be:

**your servants in the struggle for justice and peace; your children, members of one family forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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

**THE FIRST READING** Psalm 96:1-9, NRSV Kathy Cilluffo

**MUSICAL MEDITATION** All My Hope On God Is Founded

**THE SECOND READING** Matthew 22:15-22, Ruden Dr. Guerreno

**SERMON** "When Too Much Is Going Wrong" Dr. Guerreno

**†HYMN** Creator God, Creating Still NCH278 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** Abide With Me

**† 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

Mighty God, Gentle God, God of all that is and was and will be, you have created us to be like you. You have made us to create, to give ourselves in bringing about something new, and so we try. We give and we give. We try to be like you and, wonder of wonders, with your help sometimes we are. For the gift of creation and for the gift of giving, we thank you and bring you these gifts, that what has never been before will come into being, in the name of your Son, our Lord. Amen.

†CLOSING HYMN      Lead On Eternal Sovereign      NCH573 All

## †BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE      Lord Of The Dance



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 Fandruck, 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: Jim Light, Paul Lydy

READER: Kathy Cilluffo

POWER POINT: Pat O'Connor

COFFEE HOUR: Kathy Cilluffo

## **NEXT WEEK'S SERMON**

Sermon: "The Meaning Of Life"

Psalm 1, NRSV Matthew 22:34-40, Ruden

## **10/29/23 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

SUNDAY STEWARD: Kathy Cilluffo

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Don Rice

MUSIC: Denise Gregg

USHERS: Pat O'Connor, Don O'Connor

READER: Jacie Sanders

POWER POINT: Ash Currie

11/5 - READER: Bonnie Landschoot

## **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, November 15, 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).

### **PIPE SCREAMS**

The Leadership Committee will be sponsoring Pipe Screams this year. The Leadership Committee is asking for donations of Halloween candy for Pipe Screams. The church will be open from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., on Tuesday, October 31. Denise will be playing all of her scariest organ music to welcome St. Clair trick or treaters to have a treat on us. All are welcome to join us.

### **COFFEE HOUR**

Coffee hour is each Sunday immediately following worship. There are several Sundays available to host coffee hour. Please be sure to check out the sign-up sheet on the back table of the sanctuary.

### **CHIME PRACTICE**

Please join us for chime practice. You do not need to read music to play the chimes. Chime practice will be held each Sunday 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., beginning November 12 and will conclude November 26.

### **MISSIONS**

The Mission Team will be assisting the St. Clair Animal Control during the month of November. Donations of gently-used blankets and towels are needed. Donations can be left on the shelving directly across from the door in the elevator room. The next Missions Meeting will be Wednesday, November 15, at 2 p.m.