

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF ST. CLAIR



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Acts 4:32-5:11

At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband. Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.

**“No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey,
you’re welcome here.”**

**300 Adams Street, St. Clair, MI 48079
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**www.firstcongsc.org
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WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

November 12, 2023

Twenty-Fourth 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

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

PRELUDE

Sheltered By God's Loving Spirit

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Announcements are in the back of this bulletin.)

†HYMN

God Of Ages, Who With Sure Command NHC592 vs 1 & 4

† CALLING ON GOD AND OPENING PRAYER

Rose Crowley

Psalm 145:8-13 (NRSV), adapted

The LORD, our God, is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love!

The LORD is good to all. His compassion is over all he has made.

All God's works give thanks, and all God's people are blessed!

The LORD is good to all. Let all creation speak of God's glory and tell of God's power. The kingdom of God is an everlasting kingdom, and God's dominion endures throughout all generations. The LORD is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds.

That we may be nourished in peace and have God's word as law; that true religion may increase in our hearts; that the strong arm of God may defend us, we offer now this prayer of thanksgiving and praise.

† OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Now Thank We All Our God

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.

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

In your presence, Holy One, blessing abounds, blessing seen and unseen, felt and unfelt. In your presence challenge abounds, as well, challenge seen and not, felt and not. Seeking blessing, then, and also seeking challenge, we bring you gifts, knowing that in giving we become like you. Becoming like you does bring blessing and it does bring challenge. Bless us, Great God. Challenge us, Mighty One, all in the name and spirit of your Son, who has told us you are love. Amen.

†CLOSING HYMN

Now Is The Time Approaching NCH609 vs 1 & 2

†BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah



One License #A720797

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...

Harrietta Thourlby-Ryan & family, Diane Liebetreu and her family, Jerry Cooley, Cal Eschenburg, Diane & Doug Johnson & Family, Carol Carroll, Susan Couch, Bryce C. DeLand, Harrietta Ryan, Eric Fandrlick, Matthew Pennewell, Emerson Stone, Jan Yager, Rachel O'Connor, Marge Guinther, Barb Jeffries, 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: Tom Pennewell
SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Kathy Cilluffo
MUSIC: Denise Gregg
USHERS: Dave Scheel, Tom Pennewell
READER: Rose Crowley
POWER POINT: Jacie Sanders
COFFEE HOUR: Don & Nancy Rice

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON

Sermon: "Two Cheers For The Pilgrims"
Psalm 46, NRSV Revelation 21:1-7, TEV

11/19/23 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Tom Pennewell
SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Don Rice
MUSIC: Denise Gregg
USHERS: Nikki Perry, Tim Galvin
READER: Nancy Rice
POWER POINT: Pat O'Connor
COFFEE HOUR: Nikki Perry

11/26 - 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 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 firstconggsc@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

There will be no Sunday School November 26, December 17, and December 31. There are pew packs located under the table in the back of the sanctuary for the children. Beginning 2024, Sunday School will be held the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month.

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.

On behalf of the Mission Team, I give my thanks for each and everyone of you who helps care for the hungry in our community by donating dollars or dropping off food for the pantry.

November changes
the world outside.
Change hunger's hold
with help we provide.

November pantry needs:

Cereal
Boxed Hot Chocolate Packets
Canned Fruit
Canned Pasta with Meat
Hearty Soups

Thanksgiving Extras For Pantry:

Mashed Potato Pouches
Boxed Stuffing
Canned Beans or Corn
Biscuit or Muffin Mix
Dessert Mix
Bagged or Boxed Cake or Cookies

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).

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

We have received our list of adopted families for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We have 3 families, consisting of 5 adults and 6 children. We will send each family a gift card for Thanksgiving, and a gift card and presents for the children for Christmas. The Giving Tree is set up in the lounge, with tags for Christmas gifts for the children. Please remember to sign up on the white papers, corresponding to the number(s) of your tags. These gifts (wrapped, no bow, please) need to be returned to church by December 10, to the marked shelves in the elevator room. They will be delivered by Karen and Tim Galvin and the delivery team. Thank you for your generous spirit; any questions, please call Cathy Light, (810) 329-4875. The next Missions Meeting will be Wednesday, November 15, at 2 p.m.

BLUE CHRISTMAS

The annual Ecumenical Blue Christmas Service will be held at Holy Family Episcopal Church Sunday, December 17, at 2 p.m.