

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

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

December 31, 2023 – First Sunday After Christmas

† 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

Away in a Manger

PRELUDE

Were You There On That Christmas Night?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Announcements are in the back of this bulletin.)

† CALLING ON GOD

Kathy Rood

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and goodwill!

Out of God's own being, Jesus comes to bring love and light to all people.

God is love, and those who worship God must worship in spirit and in truth.

God is love. Those who worship God must worship with awareness and with intended good.

The heavens are telling the glory of God!

The skies shout out God's praise, and the earth reveals God's majesty.

The heavens tell the glory of God, but God's love is told in human hearts.

Let us worship God in Jesus Christ!

†HYMN

Joy To The World!

NCH132 All

†OPENING PRAYER

Kathy Rood

The church of Jesus Christ is the body of Jesus Christ, alive and active in God's world. God is love. Those who worship God must worship in spirit and in truth.

Love is not just a feeling. Love is more than just being nice.

The heavens are telling the glory of God!

**To love is God's clearest and most plain command.
The heavens tell the glory of God, but God's love is told in human
minds and hearts.
God is with us in this place! Amen.**

THE FIRST READING Isaiah 61:10a-11, TEV Kathy Rood

MUSICAL MEDITATION Jesus, Name Above All Names

THE SECOND READING Luke 2:25-33, TEV Dr. Guerreno

SERMON "The Stubborn, Patient Love Of God" Dr. Guerreno

†HYMN Angels, From The Realms Of Glory
NCH126 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 What Child Is This?

† OFFERTORY RESPONSE Emmanuel, Emmanuel

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us,
his name is called Emmanuel.

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All of life is your gift, Holy God, and we are grateful. All of life is your gift, so why are we so often troubled and tempted to hoard it? All of life is your gift. Why is it hard sometimes for us to give freely and fully of ourselves and what we have? All of life is your gift, O God, but these questions come to us often. Let them be answered in our living. Let them be answered by our love and our self-giving. Let them be answered as you would have. Your Spirit is upon us, the same Spirit which was upon your Christ. Lead us to living like his, as we pray in his name. Amen.

†CLOSING HYMN

Hark The Herald Angels Sing
NCH144 All

†BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

Shine, Jesus Shine



One License #A720797

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...

Barb Jeffries' family, Diane Liebetreu and her family, Jerry Cooley, Carol Carroll, Susan Couch, Bryce C. DeLand, Eric Fandruck, Matthew Pennewell, Emerson Stone, Jan Yager, Rachel O'Connor, Marge Guinther, 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, Don Rice

MUSIC: Denise Gregg **USHERS:** Jim Light, Jacie Sanders

READER: Kathy Rood **POWER POINT:** Kathy Cilluffo

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON

Sermon: "Wonder, Passion And Stars"
Isaiah 61:1-6, CEV Matthew 1:1-12, CEV

1/7/23 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Tim Galvin
SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Don Rice
MUSIC: Denise Gregg USHERS: Randy Kling, Bob Rood
READER: Elsa Pennewell POWER POINT: Kathy Cilluffo

READER 1/14/24 – 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 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 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

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.

THE LITTLE RED 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.

Do you remember
the story of December?
The guiding light?
The holy night?

Jesus's birth
defines our worth.
We must be aware
of others' despair.

December food pantry needs
Cereal
Canned Chicken, Tuna, and Pasta w/Meat
Peanut Butter
Spaghetti and Spaghetti Sauce (canned)
Hearty Soups

December holiday extras
Canned Fruit
Muffin/Biscuit Mix
Cake Mix/Frosting Tub
Cookie Mix
Candy

Please leave donations in the elevator room on any one of the shelves labeled LITTLE RED FOOD PANTRY.

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.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Our sanctuary is beautifully decorated for the Christmas season, from Advent through Epiphany. Our thanks to those who donated Poinsettias.

Karl Heilman and Ken Van Northwick
In memory of Don and Lilly Carlesimo, Louis and Elizabeth Heilman.

Carol LaVigne
In memory of her family.

Deana Currie
In memory of Donna Jasmin and Theodore Currie.

Marge Guinther
In memory of her husband, Karl Guinther.

Dennis and Kathleen Wegner
In memory of their friend, Rob Butz.

Kenneth and Denise Gregg
In memory of Alfred Gregg.

Travis and Christina Baker
In memory of Norman and Helen Grob.