

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
January 7, 2024 – First Sunday After Epiphany

† 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

Breathe On Me, Breath Of God

PRELUDE

God The Spirit, Guide and Guardian

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

† CALLING ON GOD

Elsa Pennewell

The Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth, the life and light of humankind.

Great is God's love for us. Alleluia!

Jesus says, I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but have the light of life.

We have seen the light of Christ, light like a star shining in the sky. Like the Magi, we have come to worship.

Glory be to God, and to Jesus Christ, the Word of light! Glory to him in whom God is made known in the power of the Holy Spirit.

†HYMN

The First Nowell
NCH139 All

†OPENING PRAYER

Elsa Pennewell

To God in Jesus Christ be all glory! We too have seen his star and have come to worship him. Let us pray.

Loving God, you come to us in Jesus yet too often we do not welcome you, living in the world as if we do not know you. Showing your love for all peoples you guided sages from a distant land to worship Jesus, your

child. We know this, yet too often choose to limit our love. Denying our connection with all humankind, we build walls instead of bridges. Forgive us, Loving God, and give us new hearts to love and serve you. Write your Word within us. Make yourself known to us as we live each day, in the name of Jesus, the Christ, him in whom you have mostly fully revealed yourself. Amen.

THE FIRST READING Isaiah 60:1-6, CEV Elsa Pennewell

MUSICAL MEDITATION O Day Of Radiant Gladness

THE SECOND READING Matthew 2:1-12, CEV Dr. Guerreno

SERMON “Wonder, Passion And Stars” Dr. Guerreno

†HYMN Who Would Think That What Was Needed
NCH 153 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 Wonder Of Wonders, Here Revealed

† OFFERTORY RESPONSE Jesus, Name Above All Names

Jesus, name above all names,
beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.
Emmanuel, God is with us,
blessed Redeemer, Living Word.

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Whether the star shines or not, whether there are wise men and women around us or not, whether the child is born and protected or not, Holy God, we are your children. We bring you our gifts because you give us your gifts. You give us yourself. We give you ourselves, asking only that you use us well, asking only that you use us wisely, knowing that as you do use us we become more and more what you made us to be, and so more and more content in the name of your Christ. Amen.

COMMUNION

Invitation

Sharing The Story

Blessing The Elements

The Meal Is Served

Thanksgiving After The Meal

†CLOSING HYMN

What Child Is This
NCH148 All

†BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

All Things Bright And Beautiful



One License #A720797

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...

Barb Jeffries' family, Diane Liebetreu and her family, Carol Carroll, Susan Couch, Bryce C. DeLand, Eric Fandrlick, 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: Tim Galvin

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Don Rice

MUSIC: Denise Gregg USHERS: Randy Kling, Bob Rood

READER: Elsa Pennewell POWER POINT: Kathy Cilluffo

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON

Sermon: "Whose God Is God?"

Psalm 27:1-3, 8-14, NRSV Matthew 22:34-40, Ruden

1/14//24 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Tim Galvin

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Kathy Cilluffo

MUSIC: Denise Gregg USHERS: Karen Galvin, Tim Galvin

READER: Bonnie Landschoot POWER POINT: Jody Skonieczny

READER 1/21/24 – Jody Skonieczny

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 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

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.

For January
Give thanks and sing
For the baby king.
Worship him
With food you bring

January Food Pantry Needs

Cereal

Canned Fruit

Peanut Butter

Rice

Soup

Spaghetti

Canned Spaghetti Sauce

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.