

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](http://www.firstcongsc.org)  
[firstcongsc@gmail.com](mailto:firstcongsc@gmail.com)**

**WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**  
March 3, 2024 – Third Sunday In Lent

† Those who are able, please stand.

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

Altar flowers are given by Jim and Cathy Light in loving memory of their parents, Orlo and Vivian Light and Boris and Janet Paajanen.

**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**

Where Charity And Love Prevail

**PRELUDE**

God The Spirit, Guide And Guardian

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

**† CALLING ON GOD**

Nancy Rice

The LORD God says, I will give you a new heart and a new mind. I will take away your stubborn heart of stone and give you a new heart.

**All flesh is grass.**

But the word of our God endures forever.

**Its beauty is like the flower of the field.**

But the word of our God endures forever.

**When the breath of the LORD blows upon it the grass withers.**

But the word of our God endures forever.

**The grass withers and the flower fades.**

But the word of our God endures forever.

**†HYMN**

Come Now, Almighty God  
NCH275 All

## †OPENING PRAYER

Nancy Rice

The sovereign majesty of God does call us to love and adore God in Jesus Christ. Let us pray.

**Infinite God, you fill the universe with your presence, yet live in every human heart. With hearts seeking grace and minds seeking renewal, we worship you. Help us to know you in each other, in the hungry and in the stranger, the sick and the prisoner, that we would be made whole by the fruits of justice. Make us glad with welcome and healing, and set us to praise you in all we do, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## THE FIRST READING

Psalm 146, CEV

Nancy Rice

## MUSICAL MEDITATION

Rock Of Ages

## THE SECOND READING

Luke 16:19-31, Ruden

Dr. Guerreno

## SERMON

**LENTEN SERMON SERIES,  
“STORIES JESUS TOLD”**

Dr. Guerreno

**“What Do The Rich Deserve?”**

## †HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling  
NCH43 vs 1 & 4

## 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

Spirit, Spirit Of Gentleness

## † OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you.  
My heart is glad to say the words:  
You are Holy, Lord!

## † PRAYER OF DEDICATION

In all our living, Holy God, we pray to be grateful. In the small and large moments of our lives, whether we live in a major or a minor key, whether we live with happiness or without it we pray to be grateful. Gratitude leads us to you. Gratitude leads us to love. In gratitude we give you these pieces of ourselves, these parts of who we are, and pray you to love others with and through these pieces of us. We pray you to love us, too, that gratefully and generously we would continue to live as you would have, and so bring your love to a world sorely lacking it in too many places. In the name and spirit of your Christ. Amen.

## COMMUNION

Invitation  
Sharing The Story  
Blessing The Elements  
The Meal Is Served  
Thanksgiving After The Meal

## † CLOSING HYMN

Your Servants of God, Your Sovereign Proclaim  
NCH305 vs 1, 3, 4

## † BENEDICTION

## † POSTLUDE

Every Time I Feel The Spirit



One License #A720797

## **PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...**

Diane Liebetreu and her family, Carol Carroll, Susan Couch, Bryce C. DeLand, Eric Fandrick, 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

COMMUNION: Kathy Cilluffo

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Jacie Sander

MUSIC: Denise Gregg USHERS: Paul Lydy, Tom Pennewell

READER: Nancy Rice POWER POINT: Kathy Cilluffo

COFFEE HOUR: Don and Pat O'Connor

### **NEXT SUNDAY'S SERMON**

"What If You Can't Be Perfect?"

Psalm 51:1-20, TEV Luke 15:1-10, Ruden

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### **3/10/24 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

SUNDAY STEWARD: Don Rice

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Kathy Cilluffo

MUSIC: Denise Gregg USHERS: Randy Kling, Nikki Perry

READER: Elsa Pennewell POWER POINT: Jody Skonieczny

READER 3/17/24 – 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

You can MARCH in step  
or beat your own drum.  
and support a cause  
where you are from.

Make MARCH the month  
you make the choice  
to step up  
for a hungry voice.

March pantry food needs: green beans, cereal, canned fruit, peanut butter, Easter side dishes or desserts, and Easter basket treats.

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

For questions, please contact 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.

## **EASTER LILIES**

The altar will be decorated with four white Lilies on Easter Sunday. If you would like to make a donation toward Lilies in memory of or in honor of a loved one, please fill out the form located on the back table of the sanctuary, return the form with your donation to the church office. These memorials will be included in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

## **MISSIONS**

The Mission Team has decided on their projects for the year. The month of March we will be collecting for BWARM (Blue Water Area Rescue Mission). They pack a lunch each day for 60 men to take to their jobs. We would like to help them. We need: brown paper bags, granola bars, sandwich bags, snack zip-lock bags, fruit cups, dry coffee creamers, apples, peanut butter. If you

choose to participate please bring your donation to the church any Sunday in March.