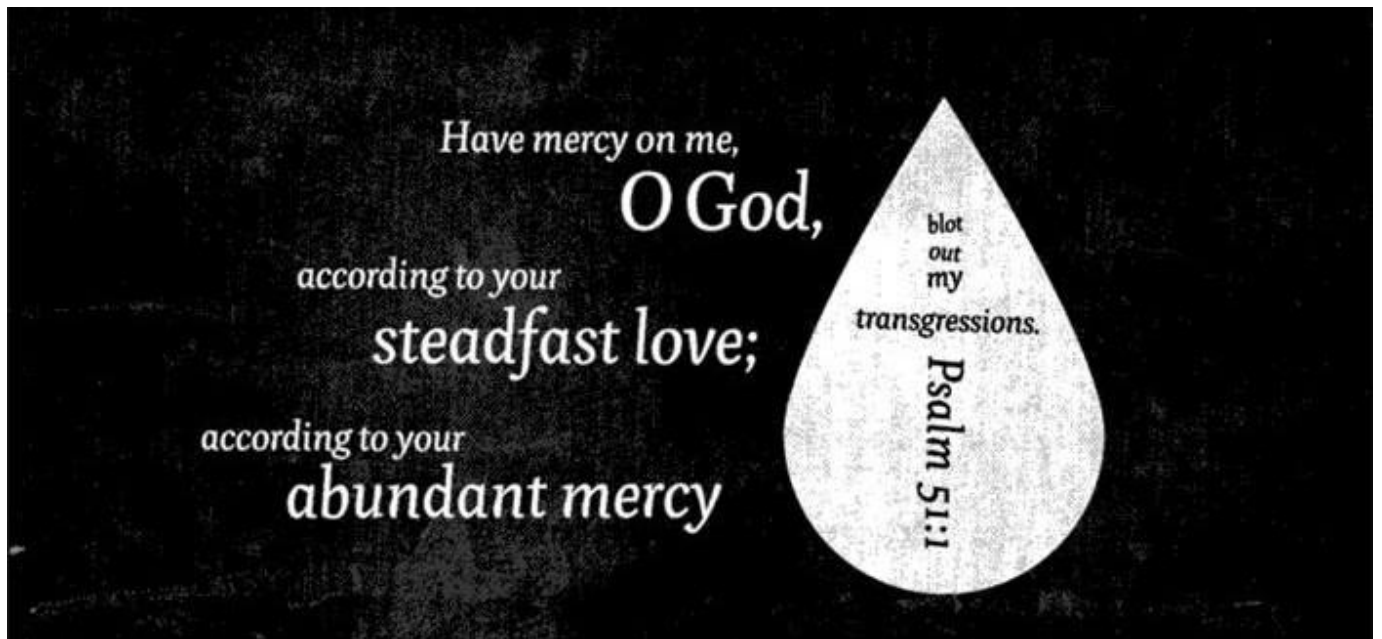


FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF ST. CLAIR



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
March 10, 2024 – Fourth Sunday In Lent

† Those who are able, please stand.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers are gifted from Joe and JoAn Kindsvater in memory of loved ones.

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

There Is A Balm In Gilead

PRELUDE

Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us

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

† CALLING ON GOD

Elsa Pennewell

We gather for worship, that the Spirit of God might move among us, binding us with people of faith in every time and place.

God's Spirit moves within us, making strong within us the good news of Jesus Christ for all people.

God's Spirit moves through us, making us channels of God's love.

In worship, we open ourselves to the Spirit of the Living God, made known through Jesus, God's Christ.

†HYMN

Come Now, Almighty God
NCH275 All

†OPENING PRAYER

Elsa Pennewell

Gathered as God's people, we praise the One whose love has sought and found us. Gathered as God's people, we join in prayer.

Loving and Giving God, we do praise you, even as we admit we have wronged you and strayed from your ways. We saw you hungry and did not feed you. We saw you cold and naked, and did not clothe you or offer your warmth. We heard of your imprisonment and did not come to visit you. We watched you grieve your loss and were too embarrassed to comfort you. We saw many opportunities to serve you but avoided you in the shadows of our own convenience. Help us recognize the wrong we do, that we may turn to your for forgiveness. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.

In Christ there is death.

In Christ there is resurrection.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, believe the good news of the Gospel!

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

The Children Are Excused For Sunday School

THE FIRST READING

Psalm 51:1-10, TEV

Elsa Pennewell

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Just As I Am Without One Plea

THE SECOND READING

Luke 15:1-10, Ruden

Dr. Guerreno

SERMON

**LENTEN SERMON SERIES,
"STORIES JESUS TOLD"**

Dr. Guerreno

"When You Can't Be Perfect"

†HYMN

Lord, I Want To Be A Christian
NCH454 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

I Want To Walk As A Child Of The Light

† 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

Truly, Mighty God, there is wonder all around us, wonder we overlook, wonder we don't see, just as there is wonder we notice and wonder we enjoy. You give us wonder, we give you thanks. These tokens of thanks are measurable. They are useful. They can do your work in ways we can't. In such a way then, Mighty God, help us continue to measure your love and to respond with equal measurement, that the fullness of your love would be all around us, in the name and spirit of your Son. Amen.

†CLOSING HYMN

**Breathe On Me, Breath Of God
NCH292 All**

†BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

I Greet You, Sure Redeemer



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 Rice

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Don Rice

MUSIC: Denise Gregg USHERS: Tim Galvin, Karen Galvin

READER: Elsa Pennewell POWER POINT: Jody Skonieczny

NEXT SUNDAY'S SERMON

"When You Just Can't Wait To Fix What's Wrong"

Isaiah 61:1-4, 10-11, CEV Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43, Ruden

3/17/24 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Don Rice

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Don Rice

MUSIC: Denise Gregg USHERS: Tom Pennewell, Nikki Perry

READER: Jody Skonieczny POWER POINT: Jacie Sanders

READER 3/24/24 – Karen Galvin

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.

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.

POTLUCK FOR PEACE, - TOPIC: YOUNG LIVES

All are cordially invited to the home of Rose and Joe Crowley, March 16, 5 - 8 P.M., (213 Sixth Street) as we strive to wage peace in this time of war. This month's theme is about and for young people. We know that this war on Gaza, and all wars, impact children the most. We will speak of two young Americans who gave their lives for peace, but not by killing others. March 16 is "Rachel Corrie Day", the anniversary of a 23-year-old young woman's death, who gave her life for peace. RSVP to Rose by March 12 at rocrowley@yahoo.com.