

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
EASTER SUNDAY
March 31, 2024

† Those who are able, please stand.

EASTER LILIES

In memory of Barb Fandrick's husband Rennie Fandrick.
In memory of Carroll Simmons' family and friends.
Remembering Bev Stewart's past and present family.

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

Christ Arose!

PRELUDE

Crown Him With Many Crowns

Choir

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Announcements are in the back of this bulletin.)

†EASTER PROCLAMATION

Mark 16:1-8, TEV

†HYMN

Christ The Lord Is Risen Today

NCH233 All

† CALLING ON GOD

Bonnie Landschoot

Easter morning takes us by surprise, awakening us not only to new hope but also to the doubt and despair rooted in our lives. Let us now confess to God.

If at times we deny you: God forgive. If at times we wash our hands of responsibility: God forgive. If at times we cast our lot with powerful oppressors and seek to buy freedom with tainted money: God forgive.

In the bright light of Easter morning our sin is exposed, even as God's love and power are revealed.

Tender God, we are bold to come before you and ask you to forgive us. Help us to leave behind our foolish doubt so that with joy we may witness to your awesome deeds in Jesus, the Risen One.

Hear the Good News: In raising Jesus from the dead, God has brought life and immortality to light.

By God's great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

In the name of Jesus Christ I say to you: our sin is forgiven.

All things are made new. Christ is with us always!

ACT OF PRAISE (sung)

Soar we now where Christ has lead, Alleluia!

Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!

Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Alleluia!

Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

THE FIRST READING Acts 10:34-43, NRSV Bonnie Landschoot

MUSICAL MEDITATION That Easter Day With Joy Was Bright

THE SECOND READING John 20:1-18, CEV
Dr. Guerreno
Bonnie Landschoot

SERMON "When Darkness Knows Your Name" Dr. Guerreno

†HYMN The Strife Is O'er NCH242 vs 1, 2, 3

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 The Shadows Of The Cross Choir

† OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts To Heaven

Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise:
sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise;
he who on the cross a victim for the world's salvation bled
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, now is risen from the dead.

† PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Mighty and Loving God, you raised your Christ on Easter, and on Easter we too are lifted up. Your care, your compassion, your generosity: blessing is everywhere we look. Too often we do not see it, but in giving our eyes are opened. In giving we see. In giving we notice. In giving we are aware. Blessing comes from giving and giving comes from blessing. So here we are, Holy God, giving again. Teach us to see. Help us to be aware. Open our eyes, that giving and blessing would surround us, no matter what, in the name and spirit of your Son, the Risen Christ. Amen.

† CLOSING HYMN

The Day Of Resurrection

NCH245 All

† BENEDICTION

† POSTLUDE

Come To The Tomb

Choir



One License #A720797

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...

Peter Payne, 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: Pat O'Connor, Don O'Connor

READER: Bonnie Landschoot POWER POINT: Kathy Cilluffo

NEXT SUNDAY'S SERMON

"Heart And Soul"

Acts 4:32-5:11, NRSVUE John 20:24-29, NRSVUE

4/7/24 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Kathy Cilluffo

COMMUNION: Nancy Rice

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Kathy Cilluffo

RECORDED MUSIC: Denise Gregg

USHERS: Dave Scheel, Tom Pennewell

READER: Pat O'Connor POWER POINT: Ash Currie

READER 4/14/24 – 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 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.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a congregational meeting immediately following worship April 21, 2024.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Do you have something you would like shared to our social media platforms? For any news, events, or stories you'd like to share with our community, please reach out to Karl Heilman in person, message our Facebook page or email him at kheilman84@yahoo.com. Let's continue to spread God's love together! Feel free to like, share, and engage with our content as we strive to connect and uplift one another through the power of social media. Check out our Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/First.Congregational.UCC.St.Clair?mibextid=ZbWKwl>.