

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
May 5, 2024 – Sixth Sunday Of Easter

† 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

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

PRELUDE

In Christ, There Is No East Or West

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

†HYMN

I Sing The Mighty Power Of God NCH12 vs 1, 2, 3

† CALLING ON GOD

Nikki Perry

The morning light of God's new day is the love of God in Jesus Christ.

The rising of the sun can be trusted, even when it cannot be seen.

The eternal sky shows us the faithfulness of God.

Forever changing, forever the same.

Dawn and sunset, cloud and wind, snow and rain.

Light and shadow, heat and cold.

All familiar in the world we know, and in a world we have never seen and will never see.

Known and unknown, seen and unseen, we worship God in Jesus Christ.

†OPENING PRAYER

Nikki Perry

Holy One, Creator God, each moment we live is fresh and unique, yet like so many others. Each minute is new, yet so often little different from every minute we have known. Months and millennia, seasons an aeons, will pass under your steady, caring eye, yet this day has never been before and will never be again. We know you would have it used with patience and honesty, self-awareness and self-giving, affection

and resolve and compassion. Be here now so clearly among us, so surely within each one, that your will is done and your kingdom does come, in the name of him who taught us to pray together, “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, the power and the glory forever. Amen.”

THE CHILDREN ARE EXCUSED FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

THE FIRST READING	Psalm 98, CEV	Nikki Perry
MUSICAL MEDITATION		Blessed Quietness
THE SECOND READING	John 15:1-8, Ruden	Dr. Guerreno
SERMON	“Why Are You Here?”	Dr. Guerreno
†HYMN	Come, O Fount Of Every Blessing	NCH459 vs 1 & 3
JOYS, CONCERNS, AND INVITATION TO PRAY		
OFFERTORY		Blessed Assurance
† OFFERTORY RESPONSE		Spirit Of The Living God

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

† PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Your Christ did say to us, Holy One, that those who worship must worship in spirit and in truth, and so we do: we worship you in spirit and in truth. We give you these gifts in spirit and truth, trusting that in spirit and truth we would be made ready for what else you would have us give. In such a way we grow, becoming more fully your children. We pray in the name of your Christ. Amen.

COMMUNION

Invitation

Sharing The Story

Blessing The Elements

The Meal Is Served

Thanksgiving After The Meal

†HYMN

Like a Tree Besides The Waters

Tune: Hyfrydol

†BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

The Church's One Foundation



One License #A720797

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...

Jeannette Botright, Peter Payne and his family, Diane Liebetreu and her family, Carol Carroll, Susan Couch, Bryce C. DeLand, Eric Fandrick, Matthew Pennewell, Emerson Stone, Jan Yager, Rachel O'Connor, 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

COMMUNION: Jill Scheel

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Don Rice

MUSIC: Denise Gregg USHERS: Jacie Sanders, Tom Pennewell

READER: Nikki Perry POWER POINT: Kathy Cilluffo

NEXT SUNDAY'S SERMON

"When You Don't Get What You Want"

Psalm 97, CEV Acts 16:6-15, NRSV

5/12/24 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Don Rice

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Jacie Sanders

MUSIC: Denise Gregg USHERS: Pat O'Connor, Don O'Connor

READER: Jody Skonieczny POWER POINT: Pat O'Connor

READER 5/19/24 – Dave Scheel

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 has recently interviewed two prospective pastors and are moving forward with discussions. The Conference continues to receive interested applicants. The search committee members are Co-Chairs Avery Skonieczny & Don Rice, Rose Crowley, Mike Kennedy, Don O'Connor, Kathy Rood, Kathy Cilluffo, 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. May Sunday School dates are May 5 and May 19.

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.

MAY I ask,
MAY I please,
For help for the hungry
Not everyone sees.

Wish I MAY,
Wish I might,
We become one
And fight this fight.

MAY Pantry Food Needs

Cereal

Canned Chicken/Tuna

Kraft Mac & Cheese

Spaghetti/Spaghetti Sauce

Canned Pasta

MAY Pantry Food Extras

Mother's Day Meal Side Dishes/Desserts

Memorial Day Meal Side Dishes

(Boxed Salad Kits, Chips, etc.)

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

Any questions? Please call 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.

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>.

CHIME PRACTICE

Chime practice will begin April 21 following worship at 11:30 a.m. Practices will be held April 21, 28, May 5, and 12. Performance scheduled for May 19.

GRADUATION SUNDAY

Graduation Sunday will be June 2. If you know of any graduates from high school or college, please let us know, be sure to include what school and degree.