

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF ST. CLAIR



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

May he give you the desire of your heart
and make all your plans succeed.

Psalm 20:4



**“No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey,
you’re welcome here.”**

**300 Adams Street, St. Clair, MI 48079
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**www.firstcongsc.org
firstcongsc@gmail.com**

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

June 16, 2024 – Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

† Those who are able, please stand.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers today are presented by Cathy and Jim Light, in loving memory of her Father, 2nd Lt. Vern Becker, killed in action December 7, 1944, over the South China sea; and in honor of all Fathers everywhere.

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

For The Fruits Of This Creation

PRELUDE

My Song Is Love Unknown

†HYMN

For The Beauty Of The Earth
NCH28 vs 1, 3, 4

† CALLING ON GOD

Nikki Perry

Give praise to God! Praise the Lord of hosts!

**From mountaintop and hillside, from ocean's depth and river's edge,
from factory and office;**

from doors and windows and websites, in song and in poem, prayer and hymn, praise the God who is eternal and infinite, near and far, beneath, above, below, behind and beside.

**Praise we now the God of Love, made known in and through Jesus,
God's Christ.**

Give praise to God! Praise the Lord of Hosts!

†OPENING PRAYER

Nikki Perry

Let us pray. Eternal God, without whom life has no meaning, but with whom there is always promise and hope, we worship you. Grant that we would be renewed in spirit today.

Grant us renewal of faith and courage. Give to us fresh awareness of all we have been given, the heritage of those who went before us and by whose countless sacrifices this church and nation have come to be ours.

Cleanse us, forgive us and make us strong, that we may be what you have made us to be:

your servants in the struggle for justice and peace: your children, members of one family forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Psalm 20, TEV
Nikki Perry

MUSICAL MEDITATION

The Family Prayer Song

THE SECOND READING

John 3:1-17, TEV
Dr. Guerreno

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Dr. Guerreno
Pat O'Connor

SERMON

“When Your Prayers Don’t Work”
Dr. Guerreno

†HYMN

Creator God, Creating Still
NCH278 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, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY

Gather Us In

† OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Now Thank We All Our God

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mother's arms, has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

† PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Mighty God, Gentle God, God of all that is and was and will be, you have created us to be like you. You have made us to create, to give ourselves in bringing about something new, and so we try. We give and we give. We try to be like you and, wonder of wonders, with your help sometimes we are. For the gift of creation and for the gift of giving we thank you, and bring you these gifts, that what has never been before will come into being, in the name of your Son, our Lord. Amen.

†HYMN

O Day Of God, Draw Near
Tune: Festal Song NCH164
Words: NCH611 vs 1, 2, 3

†BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

Precious Lord, Take My Hand



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: Dave Scheel

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Kathy Cilluffo

MUSIC: Denise Gregg USHERS: Paul Lydy, Tom Pennewell

READER: Nikki Perry POWERPOINT: Ash Currie

COFFEE HOUR: Cathy Light

NEXT SUNDAY'S SERMON

"When Life Goes Very Wrong: The Book Of Job"

Psalm 8, TEV Job 1:1, 2:1-10, TEV

6/23/24 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Dave Scheel

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Don Rice

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

READER: Karen Galvin POWERPOINT: Ash Currie

READER 6/30/24 – Nancy Rice

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/CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

After a unanimous vote, Pastor Julia DiFiore accepted our call as our new pastor. We are beyond thrilled and excited to have Pastor Julia, beginning August 7.

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. No Sunday school during the summer months.

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.

In the month of June
We want to shout!
We have summer sun
And school is out!

More meals at home.
More mouths to feed.
Share what you can
Because there is a need.

June pantry needs
Cereal
Canned Chicken
Potato Pouches
Boxed Summer Salad
Summer/Picnic Side Dishes or Condiments

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

For 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.

MISSIONS

Our Mission Team's May and June Project is delivering deserving treats for our essential workers. Following is the schedule of treats for deserving essential workers: June 3 - June 7 – SNAP, June 10 - June 14 - St. Clair County Dispatch, June 17 - 21 - Blue Water Area Rescue Mission (BWARM), June 24 - 28 - Friends of the St. Clair River and Dept of Public Works.

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=ZbWkwI>.

ORDER FOR RECEPTION OF MEMBERS
June 16, 2024

INVITATION

SENTENCES

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

UCC STATEMENT OF FAITH

Given in the Form of a Doxology, revised and adopted in 1981.

**We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,
and to your deeds we testify:**

**You call the worlds into being,
Create persons in your own image,
and set before each one the ways of life and death.**

**You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness
and sin.**

**You judge people and nations by your righteous will
declared through the prophets and apostles.**

**In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and
Risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common
lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world
to yourself.**

**You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues,
and races.**

**You call us into your church
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be your servants in the service of others,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world
and resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.**

**You promise to all who trust you
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
your presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in your realm which has no end.**

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

ADDRESS

QUESTION ABOUT PARTICIPATION

Let us, the members of First Congregational United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

We welcome you with joy into the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

GREETING OF CHRISTIAN LOVE

PRAYER

NEW MEMBERS

Deborah Porter
Shannon Porter