

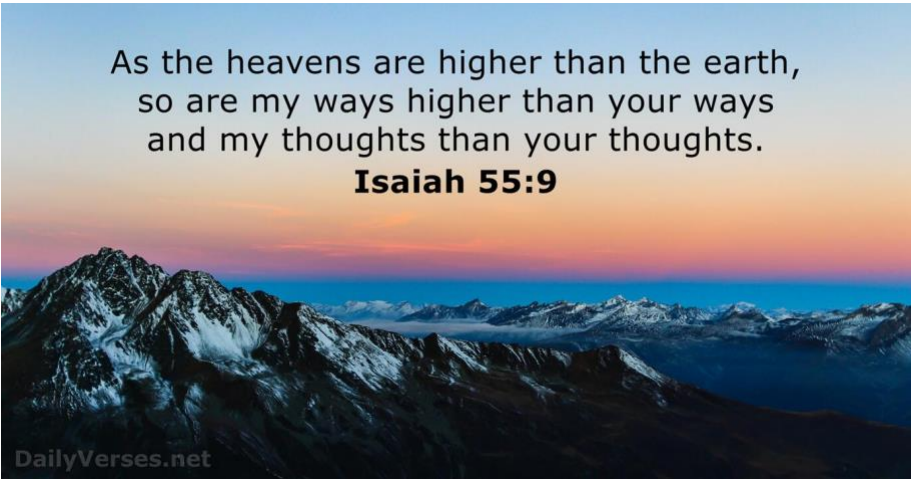
**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF ST. CLAIR**



**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Isaiah 55:9



**“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
July 28, 2024 – Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

† Those who are able, please stand.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Today's altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God in tender, loving memory for Sean Blair Nathaniel Kennedy by Michael and Nancy Kennedy. Sean was their first child and was stillborn 47 years ago on July 29, 1977.

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

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

PRELUDE

O Master, Let Me Walk With You

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Announcements are in the back of this bulletin.)

† **HYMN**

Praise To The Living God
NCH8 vs 1 & 4

† **CALLING ON GOD**

Kathy Rood

Psalm 19:1-4, NRSV, adapted

The heavens are telling the glory of God! The day proclaims God's majesty, and the night declares what it knows.

There is no speech.

There are no words,

but the creation speaks with joy of its Creator.

Let the words of each mouth and the meditations of each heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer.

†OPENING PRAYER

Kathy Rood

Mighty One, our God, Giver of all life and Keeper of each, let peace be upon us now. Let your comfort and your mercy touch us where we need to be touched. Lift our eyes and our hearts to you, then challenge us to be bearers of peace and comfort, that joy would not make us smug and heartbreak not make us bitter.

Loving God, Giver of Grace, lead us into caring service in the name of Jesus, your Christ, 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 and the power and the glory forever.” Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:1-9, NRSV

Kathy Rood

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Lord, Speak To Me

THE SECOND READING

John 6:1-14, CEV

Dr. Guerrero

SERMON

“When Trouble Gives Way To Hope”

Dr. Guerrero

†HYMN

O For A World

NCH575 All

JOYS, CONCERNS, AND INVITATION TO PRAY

OFFERTORY

Open My Eyes, That I May See

† **OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

I Will Trust In The Lord

I will trust in the Lord, I will trust in the Lord,
I will trust in the Lord, till I die.
I will trust in the Lord, I will trust in the Lord.
I will trust in the Lord, till I die.

† **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

With word and music we praise you, Holy God. With word and music we speak to you of gratefulness and joy. We speak to you of these things, as well, with our giving. We are grateful and we are joyful for what is good in our lives, and we are grateful and joyful that what is not good can become good through your love and our effort. We are grateful and we are joyful, and so we give to bring about what you would have, and what we would have, as well, in the name and spirit of your Son, Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

† **CLOSING HYMN**

We Shall Overcome
NCH570 All

† **BENEDICTION**

† **POSTLUDE**

Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing



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: Tom Pennewell

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Jacie Sanders

MUSIC: Denise Gregg USHERS: Karen Galvin, Tim Galvin

READER: Kathy Rood POWER POINT: Kathy Cilluffo

COFFEE HOUR: Leadership Committee

8/4/24 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Don O'Connor

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Don Rice

MUSIC: Denise Gregg USHERS: Randy Kling, Bob Rood

READER: Kathy Cilluffo POWER POINT: Pat O'Connor

READER 8/11 – Barb Fandrick

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~

SEARCH COMMITTEE/CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

After a unanimous vote, Pastor Julia DiFiore's 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.

A summer-high sky
Means it's time for July.
Picnics and parties.
Fun foods to try.

Hunger in any season
We must amplify.
A pantry donation
Can be your reply.

JULY pantry requests:
Cereal
Canned Chicken or Tuna
Mac & Cheese
Mashed Potato Pouches
Canned Pasta with or without Meat
Peanut Butter

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

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 [@First Congregational Church UCC of St. Clair](#) and our Instagram page at [@firstcong.churchofst.clair](#).

MISSIONS

September is our month to staff the Ecumenical Food Pantry. We need workers for Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 4 to 7 p.m. There will be a sign-up sheet on the table in the back of the church. If you have any questions, please call Kathy Cilluffo at 810-289-8032 or by email at kcilluffo57@yahoo.com or Barb Fandrick at 810-919-3873 or by email barbfandrick@gmail.com.

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UCC OF ST. CLAIR**

Office Hours:
Tuesday – Friday
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Office phone: 810-329-4142

CHURCH STAFF

Pat O'Connor	Moderator
Don Rice	Treasurer
Denise Gregg	Organist
Penny Malcolm	Christian Education
Tim Galvin	Sound Technician
Wendy Drinkard-Wojtas	Office Administrator
Kristie Lamb	Bookkeeper
Cindy Frey	Custodian

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