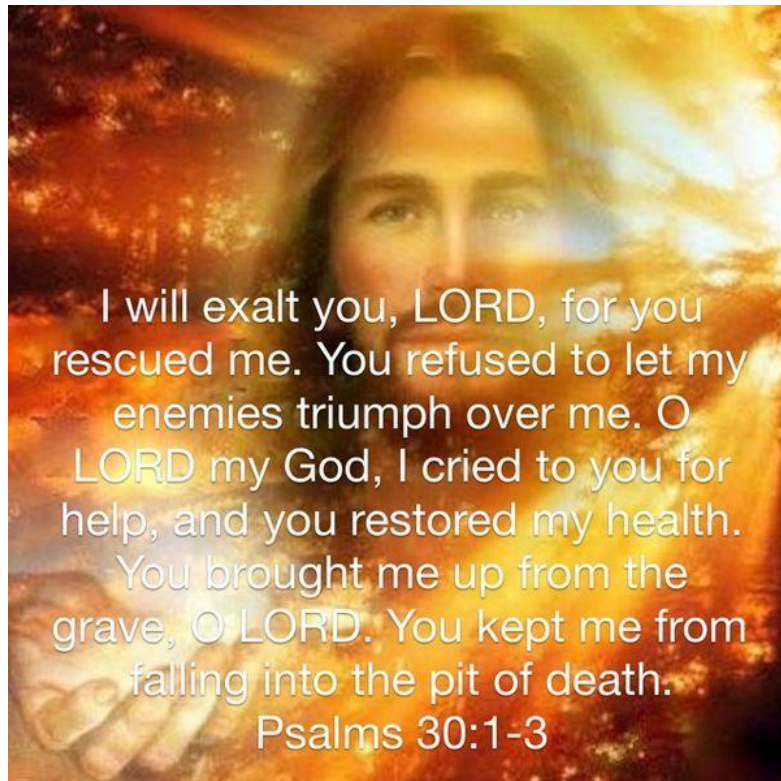


FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ST. CLAIR



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

July 7, 2024

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

† Those who are able, may stand.

CHIMES

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

PRELUDE

O Jesus, I Have Promised

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. Many thanks to all who are here for this worship service. Greetings to those of you with us on the Facebook Livestream. And a big thank you to all who are helping with this morning's worship service.

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

† **CALLING ON GOD**

Pat O'Connor

Adapted from Psalms 33 and 46, NRSV

Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous!

Praise the LORD, with the lyre. Sing to him a new song.

Happy is the nation whose God is LORD, the people he has chosen as his heritage.

A king is not saved by his great army. A warrior is not delivered by his great strength.

The war horse is a vain hope for victory. By its great might it cannot save.

God is our shelter and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

The LORD of hosts is with us. The God of Jacob is our refuge.

† HYMN

God of the Ages, Who with Sure Command
NCH592 vs 1, 3, 4

† OPENING PRAYER

Pat O'Connor

That we may be nourished in peace and have God's word as law; that true religion may increase in our hearts; that the strong arm of God may defend us, we offer now this prayer of thanksgiving and praise. **Eternal God, without whom life has no meaning but with whom there is always promise and hope, we worship you. Grant, we pray, 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; their sacrifices by which this church and nation have come to be ours. Even in days of turmoil and worry, keep before us the awareness that our lives stand firmly on the foundation of your love. Cleanse us. Forgive us and make us strong, that we would be your servants in the struggle for justice and peace; your children, members of one family forever, through Jesus, the Christ. Amen.**

THE FIRST READING

Psalm 85:8-13, NRSV
Pat O'Connor

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Take My Life, God, Let It Be

THE SECOND READINGS

Amos 5:18-24, NKJV
Dr. Guerreno

SERMON

"Patriotism And Christianity"
Dr. Guerreno

† HYMN

God Bless America
Irving Berlin, 1888-1989
Verse Two, Barbara K. Lundblad, 2002

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

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

†OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,
the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him,
for he is your health and salvation!
Come, all who hear;
now to his temple draw near,
join me in glad adoration!

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Take these gifts, Holy One. Take them and use them. Take these gifts. Take them and use us, the givers of these gifts. We could not give if you did not give first, and so we say, keep giving, Mighty God, that we would have more to give ourselves. Keep giving, Mighty God, that your love would uplift us and carry us to new heights of service and self-giving, and in such work find in ourselves greater depths than we ever imagined before. Use us, Mighty God, in the name of Love, even Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

COMMUNION

Invitation
Sharing the Story
Blessing the Elements
The Meal is Served
Thanksgiving After the Meal

†CLOSING HYMN

How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies
NCH594 All

† BENEDICTION

† POSTLUDE

How Firm A 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: Tom Pennewell

COMMUNION: Laurel Lydy

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Jacie Sanders

MUSIC: Denise Gregg

USHERS: Dave Scheel, Nikki Perry

READER: Pat O'Connor POWER POINT: Kathy Cilluffo

7/14/23 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Tom Pennewell

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Kathy Cilluffo

MUSIC: Denise Gregg

USHERS: Jim Light, Jacie Sanders

READER: Karen Galvin POWER POINT: Jody Skonieczny

7/21/24 READER: Bonnie Landschoot

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

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.

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.

LITTLE 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).

OFFICE CLOSED

The office will be closed for the Independence holiday on July 4 and 5. The office will resume regular business hours on Tuesday, July 9.

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](https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalChurchUCCofStClair) and our Instagram page at [@firstcong.churchofstclair](https://www.instagram.com/firstcong.churchofstclair).

HYMN LYRICS

HYMN

God of the Ages, Who with Sure Command
NCH592 vs 1, 3, 4

God of the ages,
who with sure command
brought forth in beauty
all the starry band
of shining worlds
in splendor through the skies,
our grateful songs
before your throne arise.

From war's alarms,
from deadly pestilence,
with steadfast care
be ever our defense;
Your love and faith
within our hearts increase;
with bounteous goodness
nourish us in peace.

Refresh your people
on life's toilsome way;
lead us from night
to never-ending day;
With truth and love
guide us through error's maze,
and we shall give
you glory, laud and praise.

HYMN

God Bless America

Irving Berlin, 1888-1989

Verse Two, Barbara K. Lundblad, 2002

God bless America, land that I love.
Stand beside her and guide her
thru the night with a light from above.
From the mountains to the prairies,
to the oceans white with foam.
God bless America,
my home sweet home.
God bless America,
my home sweet home.

God bless the world we love,
stranger and friend.
Go before us, restore us
with a hope that despair cannot end.
Ev'ry people, ev'ry nation,
mighty ocean, heaven's dome!
God bless the world we love,
our only home.
God, bless the world we love,
our only home.

HYMN

How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies

NCH594 All

How beautiful, our spacious skies,
our amber waves of grain;
our purple mountains as they rise
above the fruitful plain.
America! America!
God's gracious gifts abound,
and more and more we're grateful
for life's bounty all around.

Indigenous and immigrant,

our daughters and our sons:
O may we never rest content
till all are truly one.

America! America!

God grant that we may be a
sisterhood and brotherhood
from sea to shining sea.

How beautiful, sincere lament,
the wisdom born of tears,
the courage called for to repent
the bloodshed through the years,
America! America!

God grant that we may be a nation
blessed with none oppressed,
true land of liberty.

How beautiful, two continents,
and islands in the sea
that dream of peace,
non-violence, all people living free.

America! America!

God grant that we may be
a hemisphere where people
here all live in harmony.