

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ST. CLAIR



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

But We Sailed From
Philippi After The Feast Of
Unleavened Bread, And Five
Days Later Joined The Others
At Troas, Where We Stayed
Seven Days.

Acts 20-6

BibleWordings.com

**“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

August 4, 2024 – Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

† Those who are able, may stand.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers are in loving memory of Liza Grace Thourlby from her mother, Harrietta Ryan and sisters, Abby, Jamie, and Nana.

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

Hope Of The World

PRELUDE

Glorious Things Of You Are Spoken

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Announcements are in the back of this bulletin.)

†HYMN

In Christ There Is No East Or West
NCH395 vs 1 – 4

† CALLING ON GOD

Kathy Cilluffo

This is the gathering.

From time immemorial, people have gathered to honor God.

They have gathered to be caught up in the Spirit of God.

They have gathered—we have gathered—to worship the Lord our God.

There is nothing we ever do that is more important.

Then let us join our hearts and souls in singing to God!

†OPENING PRAYER

Kathy Cilluffo

Gracious God, you are with us in every time of change, you journey with us in transition. Today, we are on the cusp of something new and exciting, but also something that brings no small amount of anxiety. But we recall anew your abundant love, your deep compassion, and most importantly your presence beside us. We thank you for all the talents and gifts our congregation as we look forward to sharing them with our new pastor in the coming weeks, months and years. We thank you for the many events and experiences that led us to this liminal space. We thank you for the many ways you have blessed us and continue to be present with us. We pray that we can continue to work together as a community with you by our side. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Ephesians 4:1-16, NRSV
Kathy Cilluffo

MUSICAL MEDITATION

We Are Your People

THE SECOND READING

Acts 20:1-6, NRSV
Pastor Michelle Brown

SERMON

“Liminal Space”
Pastor Michelle Brown

†HYMN

They'll Know We Are Christians
W&R595 vs 1- 4

JOYS, CONCERNS, AND INVITATION TO PRAY

OFFERTORY

You Are My All In All

† OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Jesus, Name Above All Names

Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior,
glorious Lord. Emmanuel, God is with us,
blessed Redeemer, Living Word.

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We hope, O God, that you enjoy gifts as much as we do. We thank you for all the gifts you have given us and bring these gifts now as a sign of our love and good will toward you. Grant, as with all our gifts, that they may be used wisely and well, and that your name may be glorified, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

COMMUNION

INVITATION

Jesus said: I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst.

In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.

This table is for all Christians who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people, for Jesus Christ turns no one away from His table.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION, SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ's body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

†CLOSING HYMN

Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing
NCH77 vs 1 & 2

†BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

I Sing A Song Of The Saints Of God



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 Fandruck, 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 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

COMMUNION: Vicki Kling

8/11/24 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Don O'Connor

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Jacie Sanders

MUSIC: Denise Gregg USHERS: Dave Scheel, Nikki Perry

READER: Barb Fandrick POWER POINT: Kathy Cilluffo

COFFEE HOUR: Leadership Committee

READER 8/18 – 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~

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.

August is precious.
Summer's end is near.
But unlike each season,
Hunger is always here.

THE RED PANTRY's here, too.
Its purpose is clear..
Food is available
Every season, every year.

August Food Pantry Requests:

Canned Chicken
Cereal
Mac & Cheese
Pasta Salad (boxed)
Mashed Potato Pouches
Peanut Butter
Summer Snack Foods

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

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.