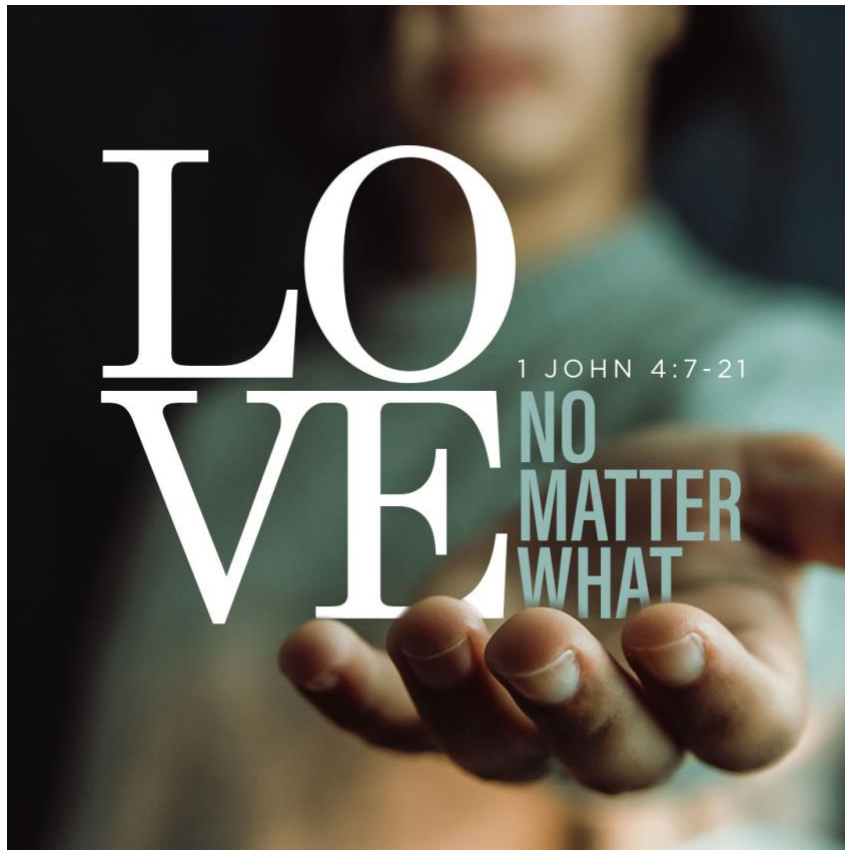


FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ST. CLAIR



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

August 11, 2024 – Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

† Those who are able, may 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 and you'll be loved here!

CHIMES

My Song Is Love Unknown

PRELUDE

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

† GATHERING SONG

Be Still My Soul

NCH488 All

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Announcements are in the back of this bulletin.)

† CALLING ON GOD

Barb Fandrick

Voice 1: Words!

Voice 2: By them the universe was created: planets and moons, stars and sky, all living things, day and night.

People: We come today to worship and adore the Creator of this world and this day.

Voice 1: Ancient words!

Voice 2: Words spoken long ago. The Scriptures we hold as central to the practice of our faith.

People: We come today to open the ancient words that will give us strength for our journeys.

Voice 1: Logos!

Voice 2: The Word through whom God created everything.

The light that shines in the darkness and will not be put out.

People: We come today to seek the Logos-Word of God revealed to us in Christ.

Voice 1: The Word!

Voice 2: Jesus Christ—the Bread of Life—known to us in brokenness. Through Christ, we celebrate One Bread and One Body brokenness. Through Christ, we celebrate the One Bread and the One Body.

People: We come in our brokenness to become one body in Christ.

Voice 1: Living Word!

Voice 2: The Word that opens our eyes to recognize the Spirit of Christ. The Word that makes friends of strangers on the journey. The Word that warms our hearts with the Good News and sends us rejoicing.

People: We come to be changed—healed, reconciled, and revived—by the Living Word of God.

Voices 1 and 2: Come, friends, Let us go on a journey together. Let us be changed by the Word in our midst today. Let us sing and give praise to our God. And may the Church be resurrected again this day. Amen!

†HYMN

There Is A Name I Love To Hear

NCH52 All

†OPENING PRAYER

Barb Fandrick

We are gathered here by God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We are gathered here to rest – to find the refreshment the Spirit offers us. We are gathered here to hear again Christ’s words of life. We are gathered here because the Father has had compassion on us. Come, let us worship our God.

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

Holy One, we confess that we are not always able to see your handiwork in the people and things around us. We do not always see your image in our neighbors, and we do not always see your creative fingerprints in the good things in our world. Our eyes and our hearts need your transformation, and we too often take our sinful perspectives for granted. Transform our eyes and hearts with your Holy Spirit, so we may see the light of your creation and the love of redemption that we have in Jesus. Help us to see and

live according to Jesus's vision and life. Hear our prayers as we continue our confession in silence...

†ASSURANCE OF PARDON

THE FIRST READING 1 John 4:7-16, NRSV Barb Fandrick

MUSICAL MEDITATION Only A Shadow Carry Landry

THE SECOND READING 1 John 4:17-21, NRSV Pastor Julia DiFiore

SERMON "Love No Matter What" Pastor Julia DiFiore

†HYMN There's A Wideness In God's Mercy NCH 23 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.

OFFERTORY O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

† 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

†CLOSING HYMN In The Midst Of New Dimensions NCH391 All

†BENEDICTION

You go nowhere by accident.
Wherever you go, God is sending you.
Wherever you are, God has put you there.
God has a purpose in your being right where you are.
Christ, who indwells you by the power of his Spirit,
wants to do something in and through you.
Believe this and go in his grace, his love, his power.
In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

†POSTLUDE

God Be With You



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 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

8/18/24 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Don O'Connor

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Kathy Cilluffo

MUSIC: Denise Gregg USHERS: Jim Light, Jacie Sanders

READER: Nancy Rice POWER POINT: Jody Skonieczny

COFFEE HOUR: Leadership Committee

READER 8/25 – 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~

CURIOUS ABOUT CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?

If you're wondering about becoming a church member, please speak with Pat O'Connor or Pastlor Julia 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 Fandruck at 810-919-3873 or by email barbfandruck@gmail.com.