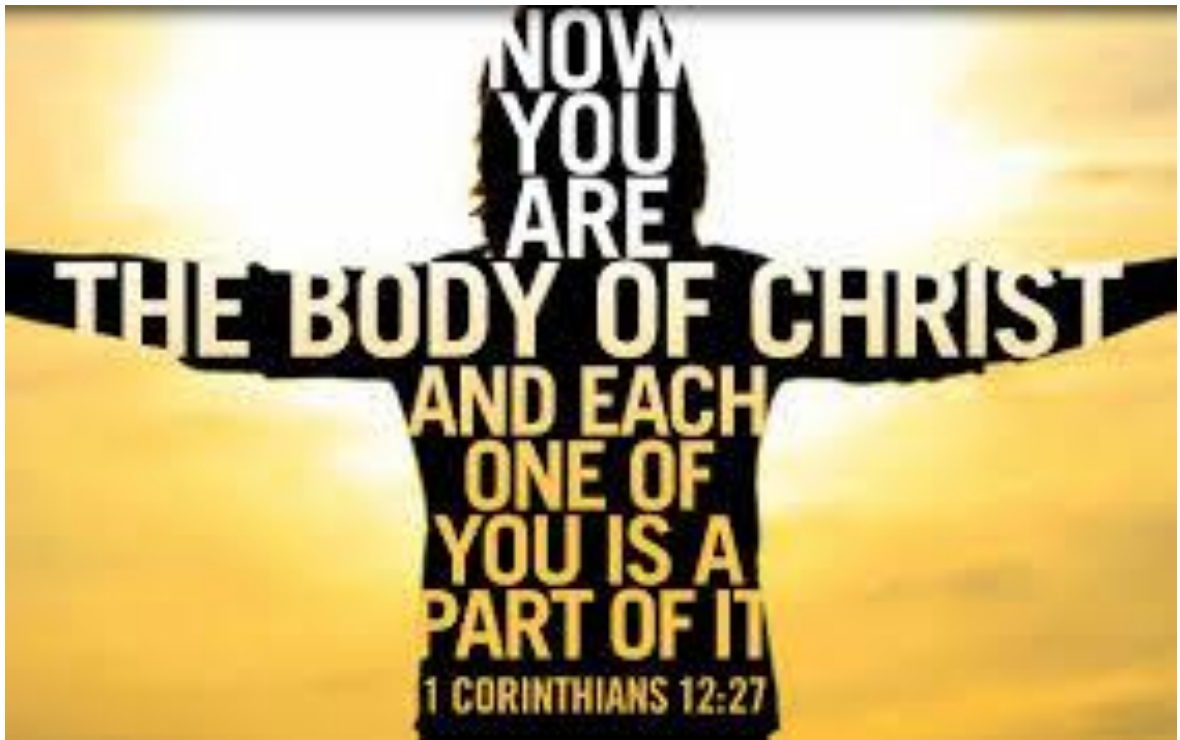


FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ST. CLAIR



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 18, 2024 – Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

† Those who are able, may stand.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers for this Sunday are in celebration of the 60th Wedding Anniversary of Phil and Barb Williams from their daughter, Melissa Williams.

WELCOME

Welcome to First Congregational Church of Saint Clair, United Church of Christ, where **(ALL) no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you're welcome and loved here.**

CHIMES

Leaning On The Everlasting Arms

PRELUDE

Sanctuary

†GATHERING SONG

Come Now is the Time to Worship
written by Brian Doerksen

Come, now is the time to worship
Come, now is the time to give your heart
Come, just as you are to worship
Come, just as you are before your God
Come

One day every tongue will confess You are God
One day every knee will bow
Still the greatest treasure remains for those
Who gladly choose You now.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Announcements are in the back of this bulletin.)

† CALLING ON GOD

Nancy Rice

Leader: "Now concerning spiritual gifts," brothers and sisters, "there are varieties of gifts,"

People: "But the same Spirit;"

Leader: "And there are varieties of service,"

People: "But the same Lord;"

Leader: "And there are varieties of activities,"

People: "But it is the same God who empowers all of them in everyone."

Leader: To each person "is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." "All gifts are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as the Spirit wills." So let us now come to worship the One who gifts each of us to serve and glorify God.

†HYMN

Jesus, Lover Of My Soul

NCH546 All

†OPENING PRAYER

Nancy Rice

Rabbi Jesus, Teacher of teachers, thank you for empowering us to know and grow in wisdom and truth. You challenge us and stretch us and open us. You grant us grace to grow over time. We bless you for your patience and welcome. It gives us the confidence to draw near. See us here, at your feet, ready to go deeper, ready for the new life it will bring. Speak Lord, we're listening...

pause for a moment of silent meditation....

(Leader) And all God's People said, Amen!

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION (pastor)

For the times when we fail to notice others' needs, help us to change.

ALL: For our apathy for those you've entrusted to us, help us to change.

For the amount of time we spend focused on ourselves, help us to change.

ALL: For failing to pray for others, help us to change.

For times when we have only focused on ourselves, help us to change.

For times when we expect or demand our own wants or desires and neglect to ask You Jesus, what you want, help us to change. Please forgive us for our selfishness as we silently confess all that keeps us from following you...

†ASSURANCE OF PARDON (pastor)

My beloved Church family, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem. It is he who will redeem us from all our sins. In Christ, we are forgiven!

THE FIRST READING Psalm 133 Nancy Rice

MUSICAL MEDITATION Abide With Me

THE SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 Pastor Julia DiFiore

SERMON “When We Are One” Pastor Julia DiFiore

†HYMN We Are Your People NCH309 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 Like The Murmur Of A Dove’s Song

† 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 Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer NCH18 vs 1 & 2

†BENEDICTION

Now it is time to go into the world, be the hands of Christ, be the feet of Christ, be the love of Christ to all you meet, that for the sake of Christ, they experience the light of Christ within you. May the Spirit of Christ help you in all this, I pray in the name of the Creator, Redeemer and Holy Sustainer, Amen.

†POSTLUDE

We Are Called To Be God's People



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 Fandrlick, 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, Kathy Cilluffo

MUSIC: Denise Gregg USHERS: Jim Light, Jacie Sanders

READER: Nancy Rice POWER POINT: Jody Skonieczny

8/25/24 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Don O'Connor

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Don Rice

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

READER: Dave Scheel POWER POINT: Jacie Sanders

READER 9/1 – Karen Galvin

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 Pastor 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.