

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 25, 2024 – Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

† Those who are able, may stand.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers today are from Lezlynn Moore in memory of Charles F. and Barbara Moore, father and step-mother of Lezlynn's late husband, Fred S. Moore.

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

The God Of Abraham

†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

Dave Scheel

Leader: Almighty ever living and loving God, we are here to be with you and accept your invitation of unity with you in ways that are transforming to us.

ALL: We ask you Father, Son and Spirit One, dance with us, change us into reflections of you as we join together worshiping you. Amen.

†HYMN

There's A Wideness In God's Mercy

NCH23 vs 1 & 2

†OPENING PRAYER

Dave Scheel

Leader: Give us, O Lord, steadfast hearts, which no unworthy thought can drag downward, unconquered hearts, which no tribulation can wear out, upright hearts, which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside.

All: Bestow upon us also, O Lord our God, understanding to know you, diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you, and faithfulness that may finally embrace you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

†PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION & RECEIVING GRACE

Holy One, forgive us when we neglect seeing you in others. Have mercy on us Lord, when we don't reflect your spirit to those you place before us. Help us to be open to your transformation, that all will feel invited by seeing your radical hospitality expressed through us. Thank you for hearing our hearts desire Jesus, thank you for your Grace that we can walk in the truth of your forgiveness, for we love you Lord, help us to Love you more. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Genesis 18:1-8

Dave Scheel

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Come, You Faithful, Raise The Strain

THE SECOND READING

Luke 24:13-31

Pastor Julia DiFiore

SERMON

“There's Room At The Table”
Blessing Of The Backpacks

Pastor Julia DiFiore

†HYMN

Great Is Your Faithfulness

NCH423 vs 1 - 3

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

Now Thank We All Our God

† 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 Leaning On The Everlasting Arms NCH471 vs 1 - 3

†BENEDICTION (*open hands*)

God for us, we call you, Father.

God with us, we call you, Jesus.

God within us, we call you, Holy Spirit.

You are the eternal mystery that enables,
enfolds, and enlivens all things,

Even us and even me.

Every name falls short of your goodness and greatness.

We can only see who you are in what is.

We ask for such perfect seeing.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be.

Amen.



One License #A720797

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...

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, Don Rice

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

READER: Dave Scheel POWER POINT: Jacie Sanders

9/1/24 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Dave Scheel

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Jacie Sanders

MUSIC: Denise Gregg USHERS: Karen Galvin, Tim Galvin

READER: Karen Galvin POWER POINT: Kathy Cilluffo

COMMUNION: JoAn Kindsvater

READER 9/8– 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~

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](#) 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 Fandruck at 810-919-3873 or by email barbfandruck@gmail.com.