



First Congregational Church

300 Adams Street, St. Clair, MI 48079
"No matter where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here."

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Channel

A monthly publication of First Congregational Church of St. Clair, UCC



United Church of Christ – First Congregational Church of St. Clair

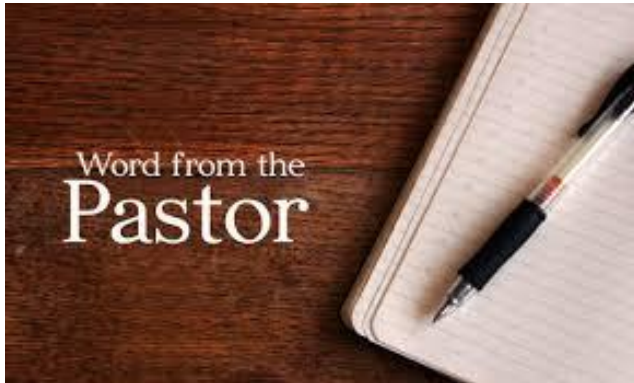
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(810) 329-4142

September 2024



Hello Beloved church family and friends,
It's hard to believe the first Sunday of September will be my 4th Sunday with you. Wow, time has flown by! I am so grateful to God for calling me here to be with all of you. I am very excited to see what our Lord has planned for us. I believe it is going to be an amazing adventure for His Glory! Speaking of plans, keep your eyes and ears peeled for announcements about a weekly Bible Study and weekly Prayer meeting, coming soon.

Thank you to those who have turned in your spiritual assessments, these will be very helpful as we journey through growing the ministerial teams of the church. So please, as soon as others complete your form, please turn it in as soon as possible. As each person develops in the gifts God has given, I can't say enough about the joy you will experience. We were created for purposes that Christ has placed in us. Trust and believe, the key to a flourishing life is to live fully in being the you that God created you to be. I am blessed and excited to journey with you in this discovery and to walk with you as you learn ways to celebrate your gifts.

As I look out my prayer room window right now, the rain is gently falling. In the distance, I hear the slight rumbles of thunder that will

probably edge its way closer. I see the beautiful flowers outside the window and the bird bath that our squirrel friends and birds often gather to quench their thirst from. It is a quiet Tuesday morning as I write this, the leaves are slightly dancing to the wind. The thought comes to mind, how often do we pause to see the many creations of God giving praise to God? It is a good question to ask ourselves, are we taking the time daily to praise Him? Psalm 150 verse 6 says, "Let everything that breathes praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!" In Luke 19, when Jesus' followers were praising Him, the religious leaders told Jesus to silence them. Jesus said, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out." Jesus takes praise even further to tell us, even things that don't breathe will praise. For me, this tells me that all things created by God can offer praise. Here is what I encourage all of you to do. Not just in good times, but especially in the midst of hard times, fearful times, times of joy, times that are life giving and life taking, and especially in times when it doesn't seem possible, praise him anyway. Praise Him! With your first breath awake in each morning saying, "Great are you Lord our God, King of the universe who brings forth life from your breath, joy from your spirit, and salvation from your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Praise you and may all you have created, praise your Holy Name, for I love you Jesus, help me to love you more! Amen."

I thank and praise God for all of you and for those I have yet to meet! May the joy and peace of Christ be with you always,
Pastor Julia (aka PJ)



Sunday school will be held the 2nd and 4th Sunday each month unless otherwise noted. The first day of Sunday school will be September 8, followed by September 22.



Cal Eschenburg, Jr.
Lindsay Baden
Andrew Skonieczny
James Light



Join Pastor Julia starting August 9th, Friday's 9am-Noon at T.A.P. Cafe for a time of

COFFEE WITH THE PASTOR

to ask any questions you ponder, or to just have conversation. No judgement, ask anything. All are invited.



If you wish to donate altar flowers please contact:
Bev Stewart
(810) 329-2147

Do you have spiritual questions you would like to ask, but are afraid to ask?
Or maybe you would like a judgement free safe space with a pastor?
Starting August 9th
Join Pastor Julia for Coffee and Conversation on Fridays from 9am - Noon at the T.A.P. Cafe
No topics are off limits! All are invited!
All will be respected!



ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?
If you're interested in learning 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.



Andrew & Jody Skonieczny



COFFEE HOUR

Coffee hour is each Sunday immediately following worship. There are several Sundays available to host coffee hour. Please be sure to check out the sign-up sheet on the back table in 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:

<https://www.facebook.com/First.Congregational.UCC.St.Clair?mibextid=ZbWKwL>



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 2024

Sunday Steward
Dave Sheel

Communion
JoAn Kindsvater

Lay Readers

9/1 – Bonnie Landschoot
9/8 – Nancy Rice
9/15 – Jacie Sanderss
9/22 – Elsa Pennewell
9/29 – Nikki Perry

Power Point

9/1 – Kathy Cilluffo
9/8 – Pat O'Connor
9/15 – Anthony Currie
9/22 – Kathy Cilluffo
9/29 – Pat O'Connor

Usher Teams

9/1 – Pat O'Connor, Don O'Connor
9/8 – Paul Lydy, Tom Pennewell
9/15 – Pat O'Connor, Don O'Connor
9/22 – Dave Scheel, Nikki Perry
9/29 – Paul Lydy, Tom Pennewell

Livestream

9/1 – Jacie Sanders
9/8 – Kathy Cilluffo
9/15 – Don Rice
9/22 – Jacie Sanders
9/29 – Kathy Cilluffo

Please remember if you are unable to fulfill your worship duty, please be certain to find a substitute.



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.

September is bright
With fall's color show
Brighten a pantry patron's day
Using the list below.

SEPTEMBER
pantry food needed

- Canned Beans
- Canned Corn
- Canned Pasta with/w/o Meat
- CEREAL
- Mac 'n Cheese
- Mashed Potato Pouches
- Rice Pouches
- PEANUT BUTTER

Soup

Spaghetti
Spaghetti Sauce-no glass, please

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).



The Mission team is gearing up for our September Ecumenical Food Pantry duties. We have a full roster of volunteers that will be helping bag food for the clients that come in during the month on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We have some Memorial monies that were earmarked for the pantry that we will use to buy milk and eggs as well as other items that might be needed during September.

We made two, \$300 donations last month:

One to the "Kind Human 4 Human Kind" group for school supplies for backpacks.

The other to the "District 11D2 Lions Helping Kids Fighting Cancer" at Michigan's only pediatric oncology center. They are collecting fun items for patients and families for long chemo therapy and hospital stays at the center.

We are grateful for the church offerings made to the Mission Team that enable us to do the great work we do in helping others.



September is National
Suicide Prevention Month

Our Health Care Ministry Team is dedicated to raising awareness and providing resources to prevent suicide and support those who may be struggling with their mental health.

Let's read, train, and advocate for hope and healing.

Learn more and get involved:

Michigan Suicide Prevention Plan:

<https://scccmh.org/education-outreach/mhfa/>

Free Mental Health First Aid Training:

<https://scccmh.org/education-outreach/mhfa/>

988 Helpline Info:

<https://988lifeline.org/talk-to-someone-now/>

Together, we can make a difference. 988 Helpline Materials have been ordered and will be available for anyone to have and share.

An announcement will be made during our Sunday Worship Service when they arrive!



Recovery Fest 2024
Will be held Saturday,
September 14, 2024,
at Pine Grove Park, Port Huron

1 pm - Event starts
4:30 pm - 5k run/walk
6 pm - Softball Tournament Starts

Details:

Entire day events

All recovery meeting 1pm
Corn Tournament 2 pm
Petting Zoo 2 - 6pm
Bounce house - all day
Face painting 2 - 7pm
Art Fair - all day
Dunk Tank - starts at 4:30,
Judges get dunked at 6pm
Live bands - 2 - 6 pm
BBQ - 2 pm
Vendors 1 pm to dusk

Also we will have 75 vendors
and few other family fun surprises

TRANSGENDER MICHIGAN

Transgender
HEALTH FAIR

Saturday, Oct 5, 2024
at Affirmations, Ferndale
1:00pm - 4:00pm

Get Free Screenings
& Information

Vaccines

For more information:





www.transgendermichigan.org



A BEWITCHING BIRTHDAY

Transgender Michigan
Anniversary
Halloween
Rachel's Birthday

November 2, 2024 1-5pm
Affirmations, Ferndale

TRANSGENDER MICHIGAN'S
TRANSGENDER

JOB FAIR

Nov 14, 2024
1 - 4 PM
Affirmations, Ferndale

GET YOUR DREAM CAREER HERE



transgendermichigan.org/trans-job-fair



Happy
fall
& Y'all

