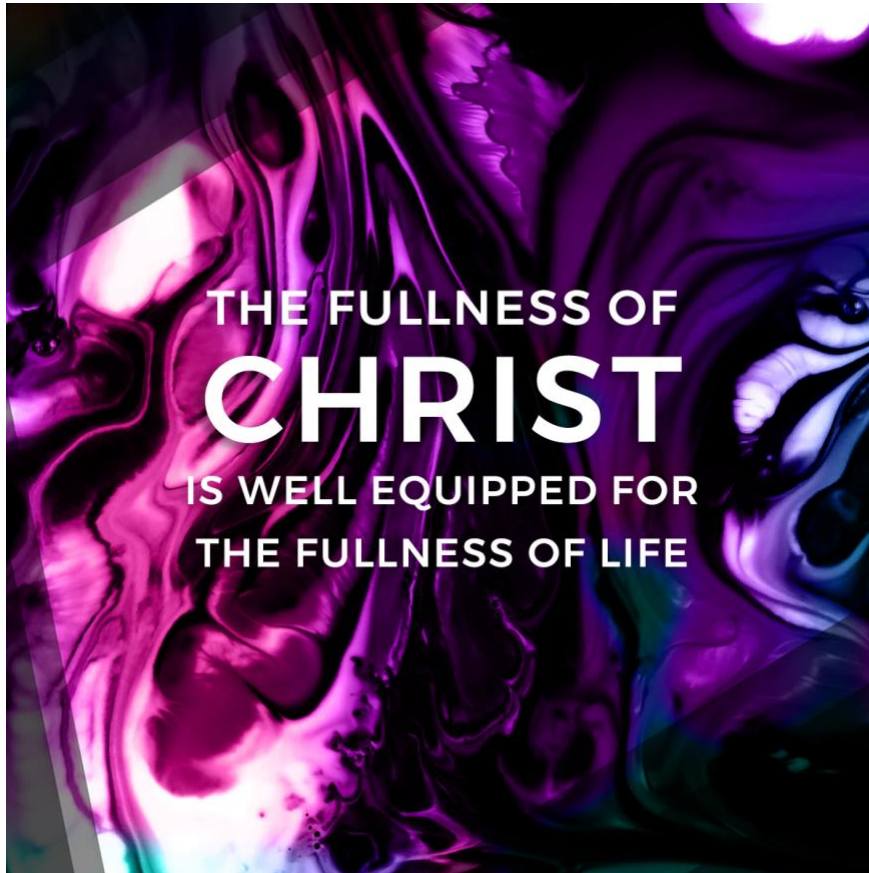


FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ST. CLAIR



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](http://www.firstcongsc.org)  
[firstcongsc@gmail.com](mailto:firstcongsc@gmail.com)**

## **WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

September 15, 2024 – Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

† Those who are able, please stand.

### **CHIMES**

Kum Ba Yah

### **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.**

### **†GATHERING SONG**

City Of God

Awake from your slumber, arise from your sleep  
A new day is dawning, for all those who weep.  
The people in darkness, have seen a great light  
The Lord of our longing, has conquered the night.

Chorus: Let us build the city of God, may our tears be turned into dancing. For the Lord our light and our love, has turned the night into day.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(Announcements are in the back of this bulletin.)

### **† CALLING ON GOD**

Jacie Sanders

Leader: Christ is with us

**People: Christ is in our midst**

Leader: Let us pray

**People: Gracious God, gentle in your power and strong in your tenderness, you have brought us forth from the womb of your being and breathed into us the breath of life. We know that we do not live by bread alone but by every Word that comes from You. Feed our deep hungers with the living word that you give us in Jesus Christ. May Jesus' promise, "where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them, be fulfilled in us. Make us a joyful company of your people so that with the**

**faithful in every place and time we may praise and honor you, God Most High. Amen.**

**†HYMN**

The Church's One Foundation  
NCH386 vs 1, 2, 4

**†OPENING PRAYER**

Jacie Sanders

Leader: Lord, in this hour of worship, help us to see where we are devoted in our lives to things other than our faith. Bring us back to you. Give us a hunger for biblical teaching that is after nothing short than the fullness of Christ. In your Holy name Jesus we pray,

**People: Amen.**

**†PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION & ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

**All: Heavenly Father, forgive us when we become so consumed with the details of life that we do not see the opportunities that you have placed before us. Open our eyes to your call to extend love, by communicating with grace and by speaking truth in the world around us. Give us obedient and wise hearts that allow us to see your Kingdom and speak with your words. We pray these things in the name of the one who is your Word, Christ Jesus. Hear our prayers as we continue our confession in silence...**

Leader: Our Lord God hears the cries of our hearts, and thanks be to Jesus for the Grace given us this day, for we are forgiven.

**All: Amen!**

**FIRST READING**

Acts 2:42-47  
Jacie Sanders

**MUSICAL MEDITATION**

I Need Thee Every Hour

**THE SECOND READING**

2 Timothy 3:14-17  
Pastor Julia DiFiore

**SERMON SERIES**

“Devoted Series; Week 3: Teaching”  
Pastor Julia DiFiore

## †HYMN

How Great Thou Art  
W&R51 vs 1, 3, 4

## 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:** *Please place your offering in the plate at the back table at your convenience upon entering or leaving. Or use the QR code on the pew by the envelopes.*

## PRAYER OF BLESSING FOR TITHES & OFFERINGS

## †CLOSING HYMN

I Want Jesus To Go With Me  
NCH490 vs 1, 2, 3

## †BENEDICTION (open hands)

May God bless you and keep you. May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May God look upon you with kindness and give you peace. Amen.

## †POSTLUDE

Onward Christian Soldiers



One License #A720797

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...**

The family of George R. "Dick" Thompson, Peter Payne and his family, Diane Liebetreu and her family, Carol Carroll, Susan Couch, Bryce C. DeLand, Eric Fandrlick, Matthew Pennewell, Emerson Stone, 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: Dave Scheel

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Don Rice

MUSIC: Brian Winters USHERS: Pat O'Connor, Don O'Connor

READER: Jacie Sanders POWER POINT: Kathy Cilluffo

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**9/22/24 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

SUNDAY STEWARD: Dave Scheel

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Jacie Sanders

MUSIC: Denise Gregg USHERS: Dave Scheel, Nikki Perry

READER: Elsa Pennewell POWER POINT: Anthony Currie

READER 9/29 – Nikki Perry

**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.

### **CHOIR**

Choir practice resumes Thursday, 9/19, 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

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.

### **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).

### **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](mailto: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**

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.