

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
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WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

September 1, 2024 – Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

† Those who are able, may stand.

CHIMES

Great Is Your Faithfulness

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

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

Bonnie Landschoot

Leader: We worship in the name of God the Father:

People: who, through Christ, has chosen us and blessed us with every spiritual blessing that heaven has to offer.

Leader: And of the Son:

People: whose blood forgives our sins and sets us free.

Leader: And of the Holy Spirit:

People: who guides us and enables us to join in God's plan of unity and salvation for the whole world.

All: Praise to the Trinity!

†HYMN

I Come With Joy
NCH349 vs 1 - 4

†OPENING PRAYER

Bonnie Landschoot

Leader: They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread; and to prayer.

All: Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.

Leader: All the believers were together and had everything in common.

All: They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.

Leader: Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts.

All: They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.

Leader: Give us sincere hearts Lord Jesus, that we may hear your Word this day, and respond to it with our lives.

ALL: Amen.

†PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION & ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Father, Son and Spirit One, we have often chosen ourselves, neglecting to share fellowship with our neighbor. When offended we grow silent and isolated. With your transforming grace oh God, you can help us to Love better and grow a desire to share you. Thank you Lord Jesus for your eternal Grace that makes all things new. We love you Lord, help us to love you more, Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Acts 2:42-47
Bonnie Landschoot

MUSICAL MEDITATION

When Love Is Found

THE SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Pastor Julia DiFiore

SERMON SERIES

Devoted Series-Week 1-Communion

Pastor Julia DiFiore

COMMUNION

(Please come forward, grape juice is clear and wine is grape)

†HYMN

O Word Of God Incarnate

NCH315 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

Change My Heart, O 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

Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life

NCH331 vs 1- 3

†BENEDICTION (*open hands*)

Go forth into the world and be of good courage, render no one evil for evil. Strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, help the afflicted, honor all people, Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; and the blessing of our Almighty Creator, Redeemer and Holy Sustainer, be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

†POSTLUDE

Be Strong In The Lord



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, 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: Dave Scheel

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Jacie Sanders

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

READER: Bonnie Landschoot POWER POINT: Kathy Cilluffo

COMMUNION: JoAn Kindsvater

9/8/24 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Dave Scheel

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Kathy Cilluffo

MUSIC: Denise Gregg USHERS: Paul Lydy, Tom Pennewell

READER: Nancy Rice POWER POINT: Pat O'Connor

READER 9/15 – Jacie Sanders

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

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. 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

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.