

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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**www.firstcongsc.org
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WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

September 8, 2024 - Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

† Those who are able, please stand.

CHIMES

Precious Lord Take My Hand

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

Don Rice

Leader: Therefore, brothers, sisters and siblings, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,

All: by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith,

Leader: with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

All: Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us

consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

†HYMN

My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less
W&R405 vs 1 & 2

†OPENING PRAYER

Don Rice

Leader: They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to Holy Spirit, open our minds to the truth that hurts and the truth that heals. Open our hearts to the love that challenges and the love that embraces. Remove anything that hinders our unity with you and each other that we may be one in You and You in us.

ALL: Amen.

†PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION & ASSURANCE OF GRACE

ALL: Lord please forgive us for the ways we have neglected fellowship. Help us move beyond simple offenses with each other that keep us from being together and give us a renewed desire to live our faith in Christ centered and Christ honoring communities.

Leader: Thanks be to Christ for His Grace!

ALL: Amen

THE FIRST READING

Acts 2:42-47
Don Rice

MUSICAL MEDITATION

There's A Sweet, Sweet Spirit

THE SECOND READING

Hebrews 10:23-25
Pastor Julia DiFiore

SERMON SERIES

“Devoted Series; Week 2: Fellowship”
Pastor Julia DiFiore

†HYMN

How Can I Keep From Singing?
W&R424 vs 1 & 2

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

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
W&R59 vs 1 & 3

†BENEDICTION (open hands)

Go forth into the world and be of good courage, hold fast to that which is good, render to no one, evil for evil. Strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, help the afflicted, honor all people, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. May our Holy Triune God, bless you to accomplish all this. Amen.

†POSTLUDE

Go Now In Peace



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, Kathy Cilluffo

MUSIC: Denise Gregg USHERS: Paul Lydy, Tom Pennewell

READER: Don Rice POWER POINT: Pat O'Connor

COFFEE HOUR: Ken Van Nortwick & JoJo DiFiore

9/15/24 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Dave Scheel

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Don Rice

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

READER: Jacie Sanders POWER POINT: Anthony Currie

READER 9/22 – Elsa Pennewell

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](#) 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.