

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 22, 2024 – Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

† Those who are able, please stand.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers are celebrating the September birthdays of Annie and Lindsay, daughters of, and Aggelis, grandson of, Lezlynn and the late Fred S Moore.

CHIMES

Blest Be The Tie That Binds

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

Elsa Pennewell

Almighty God, creator of all things seen and unseen, we thank you for always being near us. Help us to be mindful of your presence. May our hearts dance in joy as we participate with you and each other in fellowship, prayer and worship in order to glorify you with all that we are. We ask these and all things in your Holy name Jesus.

All: Amen.

†HYMN

More Love To You, O Christ
NCH456 vs 1, 2, 3

†OPENING PRAYER

Elsa Pennewell

Father, Son and Spirit One, thank you for making a way that we can talk with and commune with you. Help us all to have a deeper commitment and passion for prayer in our lives. Help us in this hour, to turn our hearts and minds toward your presence here. For we are your servants oh God, speak to us Lord, for we are listening.

All: Amen.

†PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION & ASSURANCE OF GRACE

PJ: Contempt is so painful, To be dismissed, disregarded
Questioning instead of dignity. Accusation instead of personhood.

People: I have felt its sting and hollowness, as have you, my Jesus

Help me hear the needed messages

Help me let go of what isn't true or helpful

Heal my wound... *Time of silent confession.*

PJ: I have wielded the weapon of contempt fully conscious of its destructive power, I have launched it from conditioning, in ignorance and reaction, you never have, my Jesus.

People: Forgive me and heal all I have hurt

Make my ways like yours, my Jesus

Deliver me from a spirit of judgment, criticism, and contempt

Help me see all as you see them- beloved and needed

Especially those who are hard to love... *Time of silent prayer.*

PJ: I am most ashamed of aiming contempt at you, my Jesus.

People: For rejecting you, judging you, making demands of you

I am so very sorry, forgive me, renew me, abide in me so there is

More of you and your ways seen in me,

PJ: More of your grace extended through us

For the healing of the world.... *Time of silent prayer.*

PJ: Thank you for your Grace Holy One which is new each day. Praise be to you our Lord Jesus Christ, for we are forgiven!

All: AMEN!

FIRST READING

Acts 2:42, Matthew 6:5-15
Elsa Pennewell

MUSICAL MEDITATION

I Must Tell Jesus

FCC ROCK TIME

THE SECOND READING

John 17
Pastor Julia DiFiore

SERMON SERIES

“Devoted Series; Week 4: Prayer”
Pastor Julia DiFiore

†HYMN

I Heard The Voice Of Jesus Say
NCH489 vs 1, 2, 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

All Hail The Power Of Jesus’ Name
NCH304 vs 1, 2, 4

†BENEDICTION (*open hands*)

I pray that you all may be One with our Holy God, They in you, and you in them. That you may grow in participatory prayer as a Divine Dance. That you may encounter a renewed spirit and desire to spend time alone with Jesus daily. That you may gain all that is Christ so that others may encounter him in you. I ask this in the name of the Creator, Redeemer and Heavenly Sustainer, Amen.

†POSTLUDE

I'm So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me



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 Fandrick, 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, Jacie Sanders

MUSIC: Denise Gregg USHERS: Dave Scheel, Nikki Perry

READER: Elsa Pennewell POWER POINT: Anthony Currie

COFFEE HOUR: Don & Pat O'Connor

9/29/24 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Dave Scheel

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Karl Heilman

MUSIC: Denise Gregg USHERS: Paul Lydy, Tom Pennewell

READER: Nikki Perry POWER POINT: Pat O'Connor

READER 10/6 - Kathy Rood

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.

CHIMES

The first chime choir practice will take place this Sunday, the 22nd, after coffee hour. All are welcome!

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.