



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

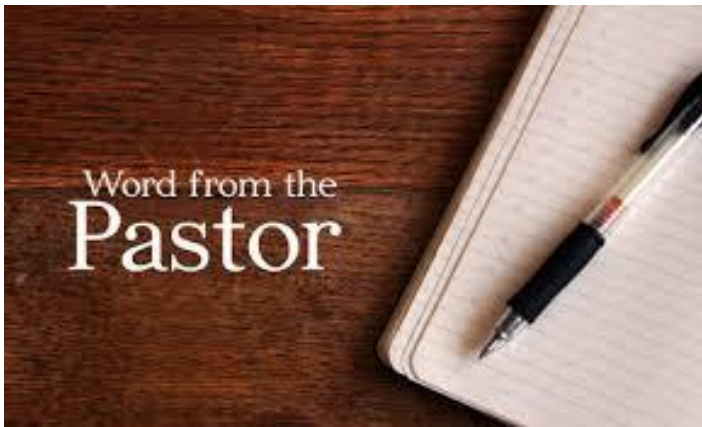
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Facebook/First Congregational Church UCC of St. Clair

(810) 329-4142

November 2024



Hello beloved of God,
As you receive this letter, I will still be on retreat. However, currently it is Sunday early evening and I am sitting in my prayer room at the parsonage, gazing upon God's beautiful creation. The leaves are quietly dancing praises to the One who created them, shining in their bright orange and red attire they are dressed in.

I have to say, though I know I am in need of this time of restoration and rest, I am also feeling and thinking of how much I will miss you all. What joy it brings me to know when I return, our first Sunday together will be to make a covenantal bond. By the way, if you come to worship at our normal time, the installation at 3pm on the 10th will be a very simple service then we feast!!! What a Holy Day indeed! It will be a service of song, sermon and installation. YAY!!!

As you all know, I have been teaching on this understanding of the process we go through before the promise comes to life. Rev. Michelle Brown taught you before I came about a "liminal space." What better person to give the sermon during the installation! You have been in that space for sometime now. Your time of process is

almost done. Your time of celebration is at hand. Yes, this upcoming year we will be growing into our perfection so that all will be established according to God's will.

You are all so very gifted and I am excited to experience all that God has in store for our amazing church and the surrounding communities. I am so very blessed to walk this journey with you. What a blessing to witness the many parts of the body working together (1 Corinthians 12:1-26) for the mission and purpose Christ has for us. It is going to be an amazing future, all for the Glory of God!!

Now I leave you with one of my favorite prayers written by Rev. Thomas Merton. When life happens and we are not sure what the future holds, this is a beautiful prayer for such a time as that...My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone. Amen.

Whatever you do each day, though the day itself may be a mystery in what it holds, hold fast to the pursuit of seeking God's will and pleasing only our Lord Jesus Christ. In doing so, we will in fact please Him.

In the Love and Light of Jesus, Pastor Julia



Sunday school will be held the 2nd and 4th Sunday each month unless otherwise noted.



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

Coffee With The Pastor

JOIN PASTOR JULIA ON FRIDAYS AT THE T.A.P. CAFE FROM 10-12 FOR COFFEE AND CONVERSATION!

Enjoy open, thoughtful conversation in a welcoming, judgment-free space.

#FCCSC

UPDATE: COFFEE HOURS 10 AM - NOON

Do you have spiritual questions you would like to ask, but are afraid to ask? Or maybe you would like a judgment free safe space with a pastor? Join Pastor Julia for Coffee and Conversation. No topics are off limits! All are invited! All will be respected!



Erin & Tim Galvin, Jr.



Kaylie O'Connor	11/03
Ann Whittaker	11/10
Michele Baden	11/11
Carlos Arevalo	11/12
Kenneth Gregg	11/12
Elsa Pennewell	11/16
Rachel O'Connor	11/22
Nancy Rice	11/27
Michael Malcolm	11/30

INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR CHIME CHOIR!



Chime practice starts Sunday, September 22nd! Practice will start following Sunday Worship Service and Coffee Hour. If you have any questions or are interested in joining the chime choir, you can speak with Kathy Rood or message us on Facebook!



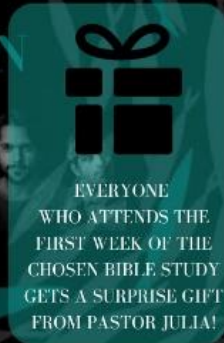
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6:00 P.M. - FELLOWSHIP AND REFRESHMENTS

6:30 P.M. - SEASON 1, EPISODE 1



The CHOSEN



BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday, 6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

The current study is on the TV series The Chosen. We first watch an episode then are led in deeper understanding in the Bible regarding the topic of the episode. Pastor' Popcorn and beverages provided. Feel free to bring a snack to share, but not required. This is a safe and judgment free zone.

JOIN OUR CHOIR!



Who: All are invited to join! Yes, All means All!

What: FCCSC Choir Practice

When: Thursdays from 7:30-8:30

Where: First Congregational Church of St. Clair

Why: Do you enjoy singing? Do you enjoy socializing? Do you enjoy worship music? Do you want to try something new? What is your why?

Choir practice starts Thursday, September 19th!



#FCCSC



Pastor Julia's Installation Service will be held Sunday, November 10, at 3 p.m.

If you haven't already RSVP'd, please do as soon as possible by contacting Wendy at the office or by signing the sheet located on the back table in the sanctuary.



BECOME PART OF OUR
CHURCH
FAMILY

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.





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.Congregation.al.UCC.St.Clair?mibextid=ZbWKwL>



There will be a Congregational Meeting immediately following service to ask for a motion and vote on the 2025 budget on Sunday, December 8th.

SUNDAY MORNING **WORSHIP** SCHEDULE

November 2024

Sunday Steward
Tom Pennewell

Communion
JoAn Kindsvater

Lay Readers
11/3 – Bonnie Landschoot
11/10 – Rose Crowley
11/17 – Jacie Sanders
11/24 – Nancy Rice

Power Point
11/3 – Jody Skonieczny
11/10 – Anthony Currie
11/17 – Pat O'Connor
11/24 – Anthony Currie

Usher Teams
11/3 – Dave Scheel, Nikki Perry
11/10 – Jim Light, Jacie Sanders
11/17 – Pat O'Connor, Don O'Connor
11/24 – Tim Galvin, Karen Galvin

Livestream
11/3 – Kathy Cilluffo
11/10 – Kathy Cilluffo
11/17 – Don Rice
11/24 – Jacie Sanders

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.

We spend the days of November
Knowing winter's cold will come
And we give thanks
For the lives we come from.

Touch the lives of others
Not all but some
And be thankful too
For the caring person you'll become.

PANTRY NEEDS FOR NOVEMBER

Canned goods:
Chicken
Green Beans
Corn
Fruit
Pasta with or without Meat
Peanut Butter
Hearty Soups

PANTRY EXTRAS FOR NOVEMBER

Crackers – oyster crackers for soups,
Saltines and others
Hot Chocolate pouches

THANKSGIVING SIDE DISHES

Cornbread Mix
Canned or Jarred Gravy
Jellied Cranberry
Stuffing Mix
Dessert Mix – Cake, Cookies, etc.

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).



PEACE OF MIND

November and December give families many opportunities to come together. The best gift for families is having our final End of Life documents in place and communicated.

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPORTANCE OF A WILL

A will is a fundamental legal document that dictates how your assets and possessions should be distributed after your passing. It can also appoint guardians for any minor children. Crafting a will is a vital step in end-of-life planning, ensuring that your assets are allocated according to your wishes and not left to the state to decide.

WHAT GOES IN A WILL?

A will typically includes your assets, beneficiaries and an executor who will manage who will manage the estate. It's crucial to regularly update your will to reflect life changes such as marriage, divorce, or the birth of children.

THE ROLE OF THE EXECUTOR

Choosing an executor for your will is a significant decision. This person will ensure that your final wishes are carried out as intended.

ADVANCE DIRECTIVE AND LIVING WILLS

Advance directives and living wills are key in end-of-life planning. They provide instructions about your medical care preferences if you cannot communicate them yourself.

MAKING MEDICAL DECISION IN ADVANCE

An advance directive allows you to outline specific medical treatments you do or do not want and appoint someone to make healthcare decisions on your behalf.

THE LEGAL STANDING OF LIVING WILLS

Living wills, a type of advance directive, are legally binding documents that state your preferences for life-sustaining treatments, such as resuscitation or life support.

THE POWER OF ATTORNEY

A power of attorney is a legal document granting someone authority to make decisions on your behalf, including financial or medical decisions, especially when you cannot do so.

FINANCIAL POWER OF ATTORNEY

A financial power of attorney designates a person to handle your financial affairs, which can be critical in managing your estate and assets effectively.

HEALTH CARE POWER OF ATTORNEY

This type of power of attorney specifically addresses your health care and medical decisions, separate from your financial matters.

THE ROLE OF DNR ORDERS

Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) orders are critical documents in end-of-life care. They state your wish not to receive cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) in the event of cardiac or respiratory arrest.

UNDERSTANDING DNR IMPLICATIONS

Understanding and discussing the implications of a DNR order with your healthcare providers and family is essential.

LIVING TRUSTS FOR ASSET MANAGEMENT

Living trusts are legal arrangements where assets are placed into a trust for your benefit during your lifetime and then transferred to designated beneficiaries at your death.

BENEFITS OF A LIVING TRUST

A living trust can help avoid the probate process, providing a smoother transition of assets to your beneficiaries.

HIPAA RELEASE FORMS

HIPAA release forms allow your personal health information to be shared with designated individuals, ensuring that your loved ones and health care proxy can access the information required to make informed decisions.

PRIVACY AND HEALTH INFORMATION

These forms are crucial in maintaining privacy, while ensuring that your healthcare agents have the necessary information.

ORGAN DONATION DESIGNATION

Organ donor designation is a personal decision that can be made through advance directives or by registering with your local Department of Motor Vehicles. It's a noble decision that can save lives.

THE PROCESS OF ORGAN DONATION

Understanding the process and implications of organ donation is vital for making an informed decision that aligns with your values and wishes.

CONCLUSION

Preparing end-of-life documents is not just about legal formalities. It is about ensuring that your wishes are known and respected. By preparing these documents, you provide clarity and guidance for your loved ones during a difficult time.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

A will is essential for asset distribution and guardianship decisions. Advance directives and living wills specify your medical care preferences. The power of attorney assigns someone to make decisions on your behalf. DNR orders and HIPAA releases are crucial for medical care decisions.

Living trusts manage and distribute assets efficiently.

Organ donor designation is a personal choice with significant impact.

Remember, while this guide provides a comprehensive overview, it's advisable to consult with an estate planning attorney to ensure that your documents are legally sound and reflect your current wishes. Book a free consultation with Vick Law, P.C. today! Our team is ready to guide you through the intricacies of end-of-life planning. Secure your peace of mind and honor your wishes.

From: Vick Law, P.C.
Elder Law – Estate Planning



In Everything Give Thanks
For all that God in mercy sends -
For health and children, home and friends;
For comfort in the time of need,
For every kindly word and deed,
For happy talks and holy thoughts;
For guidance in our daily walk -
In everything give thanks!

For beauty in this world of ours,
For verdant grass and lovely flowers,
For song of birds, for horn of bees,
For the refreshing summer breeze,
For hill and plain, for streams and wood,
For the great ocean's mighty flood -
In everything give thanks!

For the sweet sleep which comes with night,
For the returning morning's light,
For the bright sun that shines on high,
For the stars glittering in the sky -
For these and everything we see,
O Lord our hearts we lift to thee;
In everything give thanks!

– Poet Unknown

An Opened Heart Pantry
Is Hosting
A Free
Thanksgiving Dinner

With: Turkey, Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy,
Green Bean Casserole, Corn, Cranberries, Rolls,
Salad, Desserts, And Drinks(Coffee, Lemonade)

November 28, 2024
2pm-7pm

Dine In 300 Adams St.
Or
Carry-out St. Clair, MI 48079

Call the office for any Questions
(810)969-7899