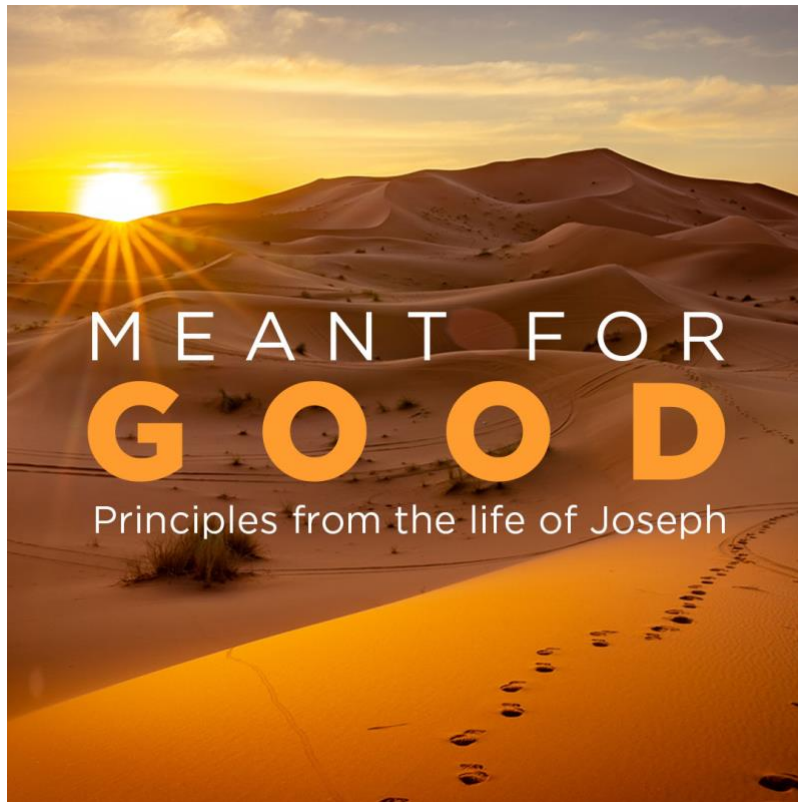


**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF ST. CLAIR**



**“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
firstcongsc@gmail.com**

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD
November 17, 2024
Twenty-Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

† Those who are able, please stand.

CHIMES

There's A Wideness In God's Mercy

WELCOME

Welcome to First Congregational Church of Saint Clair, United Church of Christ, where no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you're welcome and loved here.

GATHERING HYMN

Lord Of Glory

Leaping the mountains, bounding the hills, see how our
God has come to meet us. His voice is lifted; His face is joy.
Now is the season to sing our song on high.

Come, then, O Lord of glory, show us Your face.
Speak, for we know Your words are life.

Leaping the mountains, bounding the hills, see how our
God has come to meet us. His voice is lifted; His face is joy.
Now is the season to sing our song on high.

He pastures His flock among the wildflowers
And leads them to the mountain of His love.

Leaping the mountains, bounding the hills, see how our
God has come to meet us. His voice is lifted; His face is joy.
Now is the season to sing our song on high.

† **CALLING ON GOD**

Jacie Sanders

Leader: Providing God, you journeyed with Joseph and comforted Jacob when their lives were burdened by grief.

People: Grant us faith to believe you will provide a future where we see none, that bitterness may turn to joy and emptiness may bear life. Amen.

† **HYMN**

What A Friend We Have In Jesus

W&R473 All

†OPENING PRAYER

Jacie Sanders

Leader: Timeless One, you create all moments of our lives, giving each its meaning and purpose.

People: Strengthen us to witness continually to the love of Jesus Christ, that we may hold fast in times of trial, even to the end of the ages. Amen.

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION & GRACE

People: Oh Holy One, Holy Immortal One, we know your presence is in this place. We know your presence is in us. Yet we disregard you and we become tempted and challenged in difficult times when others disagree with us. When those who also bear your image, act like they don't, a desire to dismiss them, to rage against them, a desire to not love them rises up in us.

Pastor: Yet, you remain Holy, regardless of our choices. We know if we make a choice to press into your presence in us, we have your Holy Spirit power and love available. Help us to forgive and love for your sake. Your sacrifice Oh Christ Jesus, is what makes any good possible.

People: Thank you for your grace. Thank you for the power of your love and Spirit which renews our Love and Spirit each day. Amen.

FIRST READING

Genesis 45:1-20

Jacie Sanders

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Trust In The Lord

SECOND READING

Genesis 45:21-28

Pastor Julia DiFiore

SERMON

Series: Meant For Our Good-Learning From The Life Of Joseph

Provision & Peace

Pastor Julia DiFiore

†HYMN

More Love To You, O Christ

NCH456 All

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 and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

11/24/24 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS
SUNDAY STEWARD: Tom Pennewell
SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Jacie Sanders
MUSIC: Denise Gregg
USHERS: Karen Galvin, Tim Galvin
READER: Nancy Rice
POWER POINT: Anthony Currie

READER 12/1 – Dave Scheel

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?

There will be a new member's class Sunday, December 1, 2024 at Noon. If you can't attend but are interested please let Pastor Julia know and she will (pastorjuliad@gmail.com) set up a time to chat. Your questions about the United Church of Christ and this church specifically will be answered.

BIBLE STUDY: Wednesdays 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 a deeper understanding in the Bible regarding the topic of the episode. Pastor's Popcorn and beverages provided. Feel free to bring a snack to share but not required. This is a safe and judgment free zone.

CHOIR

Choir practice is on Thursday evenings 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to sing with us.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS AVAILABLE

We have several positions opening up on the Leadership Committee. If you are interested in applying for one of them, please see Jody Skonieczny. If you have questions, please reach out to Pat OConnor or to one of the other Leadership Committee members. It's a wonderful way to become even more involved in the future of our church. The positions that are open are as follows:

Moderator Vice-Moderator
Treasurer Member at Large

The only real requirements are that you be 18 and a member. The position will start in February after the annual meeting, so if you are interested in a position, but are not a member yet, you still have time to become one before February. Please consider!!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

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

MISSIONS

The Giving Tree is up! (In the Lounge) with tags for Christmas for our 5 children, from 4 Adopted Families. Please remember to sign up on the nearby white papers, corresponding to the number(s) of your tags. These gifts (wrapped, no bow please) need to be returned to church by December 11, to the marked shelves in the elevator room. They will be delivered by Karen and Tim Galvin and their delivery team. Many thanks for your loving Christmas spirit! Any questions, please call Cathy Light, 810-329-4875.

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).

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 our Social Media Minister 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](#).

HARBOR IMPACT

Harbor Impact is in need of your empty egg cartons.