

**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
810-329-4142**

**www.firstcongsc.org
firstcongsc@gmail.com**

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

November 24, 2024

Twenty-Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

† Those who are able, please stand.

CHIMES

Soon And Very Soon

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

Nancy Rice

Leader: Know that the Holy One is God.

ALL: We are God's people.

Leader: Worship the Holy One with gladness;

ALL: Come into God's presence with singing.

Leader: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and God's courts with praise.

ALL: Make a joyful noise!

Leader: For God is good; God's steadfast love endures forever, and God's faithfulness to all generations.

ALL: Let us worship with thanks and joy! Let us praise God in song and word and prayer.

†HYMN

Lead On Eternal Sovereign

NCH573 All

†OPENING PRAYER

Nancy Rice

Sovereign One, Holy Immortal One, we long to know you better. Open us to recognize your presence, to receive you fully, and to be ready to follow your lead. Help us to keep you on the throne of our hearts where you desire to be.

All: Amen.

†PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

All Powerful Loving One, too often, we overlook the needs of people around us while we proclaim our devotion to you. We could do so much more to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, to welcome the stranger, and heal the sick. We fail to see how our prison system diminishes the humanity of all of us, how our medical system denies healing to the poor, how poverty leaves children without coats, and how legal obstacles keep strangers at a distance. Open our eyes to see your presence in every person, and to respond to their needs so that we may be rightly called by your name. **All: Amen.**

†ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Though we wander, God searches us out. Speaking through Ezekiel, God said, “As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick gloom.” God reaches out to us, longing to bring us ever closer. Hear this good news: We are forgiven and free. **Amen!**

FIRST READING

Psalm 132:1-12
Nancy Rice

MUSICAL MEDITATION

It Is Well With My Soul
Chime Choir

FCC R.O.C.K. TIME

SECOND READING

John 18:33-37
Pastor Julia DiFiore

SERMON

Kingdom Minded
Pastor Julia DiFiore

†HYMN

Jesus Shall Reign
NCH300 vs 1, 2, 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 and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY; *please place your offering in the box 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

†**HYMN**

Come, O Thankful People, Come
NCH 303 All

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Announcements are in the back of this bulletin.)

†**BENEDICTION** (*open hands*)

Go forth into the world with footsteps of peace.

Be of good courage, holding fast to that which is good.

Render to no one evil for evil. Strengthen the fainthearted.

Support the weak. Help the afflicted.

Show love to everyone. In this, you will be Loving and serving the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; and the blessing of almighty God,

the Creator, the Son, and Holy One,

be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

†**POSTLUDE**

Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing



One License #A720797

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND
PRAYERS...**

Peter Payne and his family, Diane Liebetreu and her family, Carol Carroll, Susan Couch, Bryce C. DeLand, Eric Fandrick, Matthew Pennewell, Emerson Stone, 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: Tom Pennewell

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Jacie Sanders

MUSIC: Denise Gregg

USHERS: Karen Galvin, Tim Galvin

READER: Nancy Rice

POWER POINT: Anthony Currie

COFFEE HOUR: Don & Nancy Rice

12/1/24 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Don O'Connor

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Kathy Cilluffo

MUSIC: Denise Gregg

USHERS: Paul Lydy, Tom Pennewell

READER: Dave Scheel

POWER POINT: Anthony Currie

READER 12/8 – 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?

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.

POINSETTIAS

If anyone would like to make an offering to go towards the Christmas Poinsettias that will be decorating the altar during Advent, there are special Poinsettia envelopes on the table in the back of church. There is a place on the envelope to name the person(s) you are remembering or honoring. If you have any questions, please see Beverly Stewart or call her at 810-300-2664.

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.

OFFICE

Wendy will be out of the office November 27 through December 5.

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UCC OF ST. CLAIR**

Office Hours:
Tuesday – Friday
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Office phone: 810-329-4142

CHURCH STAFF

Julia DiFiore, M. Div.	Pastor
Denise Gregg	Music Director
Wendy Wojtas	Office Adm.
Kristie Lamb	Bookkeeper
Cindy Frey	Custodian

CHURCH LEADERS

Pat O'Connor	Moderator
Jody Skonieczny	Vice Moderator
Don Rice	Treasurer
Penny Malcolm, Jill Scheel	Christian Ed.
Kathy Cilluffo	Missions
Karen Galvin	Care Team
Tim Galvin	Sound Tech.

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