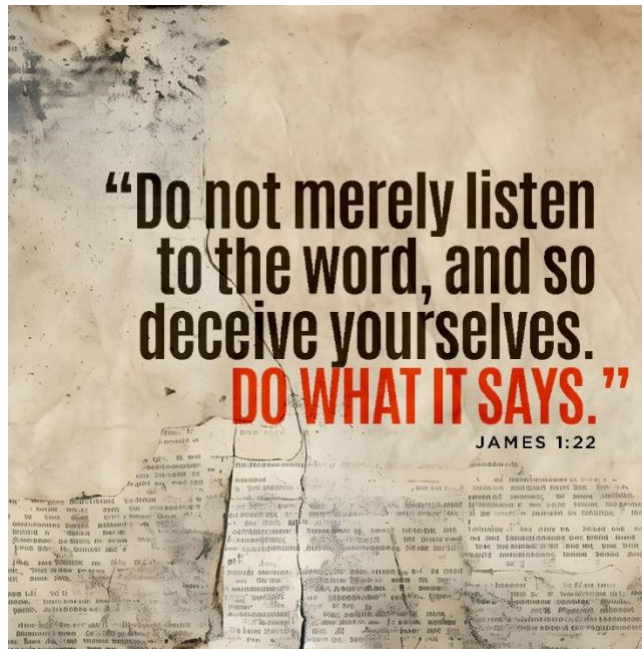


**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
OF ST. CLAIR**



**“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](http://www.firstcongsc.org)  
[firstcongsc@gmail.com](mailto:firstcongsc@gmail.com)**

**WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

January 5, 2025

Second Sunday After Christmas

† Those who are able, please stand.

**CHIMES**

*Awake, Awake And Greet The New Morn*

† **GATHERING HYMN**

*Speak, Lord*

**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.

† **OPENING PRAYER**

Leader: From the very beginning was Your Word,

**People: Which spoke this world into being, Your Word,**

Leader: Which thunders from the skies, Your Word,

**People: Which flows like mountain streams, Your Word,**

Leader: Which whispers in morning breeze, Your Word,

**People: Revealed through kings and prophets, Your Word,**

Leader: Revealed through Angels' praise, Your Word,

**People: Revealed in humble service, Your Word,**

Leader: Revealed through a tiny child, Your Word,

**People: Alive from the beginning of all things, And to eternity. Amen!**

**Hallelujah! Amen!**

† **HYMN**

*The First Noel*

*W&R229 All*

**PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION & ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

**People: All-Knowing God, we often believe our way is the best way. In our arrogance, we ignore your will and your ways. We confess our dependence on knowledge and our independence from you. Hear our hearts cry as humbly we turn to you in the silent words of our hearts...**

Pastor: Holy Gracious One, thank you that you are always gracious, ready to receive us and that your forgiveness never fails. We trust in your grace and commit to live in your grace so that others might know you. Glory be to you O'Lord that together we can proclaim

**ALL: We are forgiven! Amen!**

## **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION:**

Lord, we know that talk is cheap in this culture of constant noise and distraction. Help us to be doers of the word and not just hearers. Help us as we hear your Word today, to be transformed and grow a desire to respond in faith to the things that matter most to you. Please, give us the strength to be faithful even when it is difficult.

**ALL: Amen.**

## **FIRST READING**

James 1:17-20

## **MUSICAL MEDITATION**

*Wise Men, They Came To Look For Wisdom*

## **SECOND READING**

James 1:21-27  
Pastor Julia DiFiore

## **SERMON**

Words Matter: Respond To The Word  
Pastor Julia DiFiore

## **INSTALLATION OF NEW MEMBERS: Karl, Ken, Shayna, Jen**

Pastor Julia: I invite those who wish to affirm their baptism and have decided to make a covenant in unity with this household of faith to come forward. You are no longer strangers, and sojourners, but you are equally citizens with the saints and members of this household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus alone being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in Christ; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Karl, Ken, Jen, Shayna: Do you desire to affirm your baptism into this faith and family of Jesus Christ?

**Candidates: I do, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Do you renounce the power of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?

**Candidates: I do, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

**Candidates: I do, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best as you are able?

**Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Do you promise according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world?

**Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.

Do you believe in God?

**People: I believe in God.**

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**People: I believe in Jesus Christ.**

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

Pastor: By your baptism you were made one with us in the body of Christ, the church. Today we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place. We give thanks for every community of faith that has been your spiritual home, and we celebrate your presence in this household of faith.

Do you promise as best as you are able, to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world?

**Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Now let the members of First Congregational Church of St. Clair, United Church of Christ, express their welcome and affirm their mutual ministry in Christ.

**†Members of FCC: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.**

Pastor: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the First Congregational Church of St. Clair, United Church of Christ, you are now dually installed as members in covenant, and are welcomed into this family of Christian love and faith. Hallelujah!

**People: Hallelujah!**

## COMMUNION

### MUSICAL MEDLEY

*Unto Us A Child Is Born*  
*Haily Mailloux & Denise Gregg*

### †HYMN

*Holy, Holy, Holy*  
*NCH277 vs 1 & 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 and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

#### PRAYER OF BLESSING FOR TITHES & OFFERINGS

*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.*

### †HYMN

*We Three Kings*  
*W&R233 vs 1 & 5*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Announcements are in the back of this bulletin.)

#### †BENEDICTION *(open hands)*

Pastor: With the help of God,

**People: May we go forth into the world in peace and be of good cheer, hold fast to that which is good, render to no person evil for evil. Strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak and help the afflicted. Honor God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

Pastor: I pray that all may be as you have spoken, in the name of our Holy Parent our Creator, The Son our Savior and The Holy Spirit our Sustainer,. Amen.

### †POSTLUDE

*O Morning Star How Clear And Bright*

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

Diane Liebetreu and her family, David McCreary, 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.

**1/5/25 – TODAY’S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

SUNDAY STEWARD: Tim Galvin  
SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Jacie Sanders  
MUSIC: Denise Gregg & Hailey Mailloux  
USHERS: Pat O’Connor, Don O’Connor  
READER: New Member  
POWER POINT: Kathy Cilluffo

**1/12/25 – WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

SUNDAY STEWARD: Tim Galvin  
SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Kathy Cilluffo  
MUSIC: Denise Gregg  
USHERS: Karen Galvin, Tim Galvin  
READER: Bonnie Landschoot  
POWER POINT: Jody Skonieczny

READER 1/19/25 – Jody Skonieczny

**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?**

Please let Pastor Julia know and she will ([pastorjuliad@gmail.com](mailto: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.**

Bible study returns Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, at 6 p.m., in Friendship Hall.

## **CHOIR**

Choir practice will resume Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

## **TAIZ'E**

Taiz'e returns January 25<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m., in the sanctuary.

## **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

There will be a congregational meeting immediately following worship Sunday, February 2, 2025.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

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

## **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.

In JANUARY, wise men  
Followed a star.  
The same path is before us  
Wherever we are.

The starlight of Jesus  
Enlightens our way.  
We hear the hungry  
And want to obey.

JANUARY pantry food requests:

CEREAL

Canned Chicken

Canned Fruit

Instant Mashed Potatoes

PEANUT BUTTER

Hearty Soups/Crackers

Spaghetti/Canned Spaghetti Sauce

Canned Stew, Canned Tuna

Please leave food donations in the elevator room on one of the shelves labeled LITTLE RED FOOD PANTRY.

And please check the expiration date on each food item before leaving it for the pantry.

For questions, please contact 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](mailto: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](#).