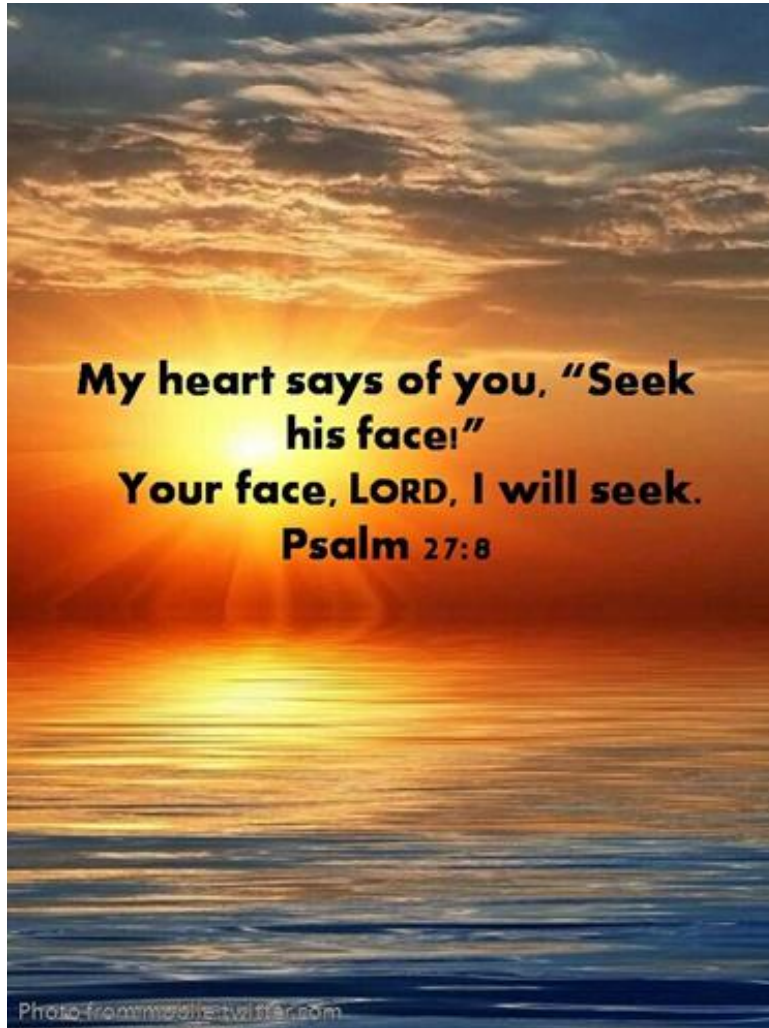


**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF ST. CLAIR**



**“No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you’re
welcome and loved here”**

**300 Adams Street, St. Clair, MI 48079
810-329-4142**

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

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

February 9, 2025

Fifth Sunday After The Epiphany

† Those who are able, please stand.

CHIMES

Lead Me, Guide Me

† **GATHERING HYMN:**

Though The Mountains May Fall

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**

Jacie Sanders

Leader: The Breath of God fills us this day.

People: We breathe in this Breath of Life.

Leader: The Breath of God fills us with life.

People: We gather to seek life anew.

Leader: The Breath of God fills us with love.

People: We gather to be with Love's Presence.

Leader: The Breath of God breathes justice and peace.

People: We breathe as One Body, One Spirit.

† **HYMN**

Seek Ye First
W&R349 vs 1 & 2

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION & ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Leader: You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

People: Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Pause for personal confession of how we have fallen short.

Leader: You have searched us and know us. Your amazing grace is always sufficient for us. When our hearts are open, you transform our darkness to light.

People: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

All: Amen!

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Leader: Eternal God, you are here with us. Calm us now, loving Spirit into a quietness that heals and listens. Open wounded hearts to the balm of your Word. Speak to us in clear tones, wake us up - that as we seek you, we may discover you anew. O Light eternal, illuminate my mind and my soul.

People: Amen.

FIRST READING

Psalm 27:1-8, NKJV

Jacie Sanders

MUSICAL MEDITATION

There's Something About That Name

FCC ROCK

(Young and Young at heart message)

SECOND READING

Matthew 5:1-12, NRSV

Rose Crowley

SERMON:

Rose Crowley

†HYMN

Here, O My Lord I See Thee Face To Face
NCH336 vs 1, 4 & 5

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

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand
NCH472 vs 1 - 3*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Announcements are in the back of this bulletin)

†BENEDICTION

Leader: With the help of God,

**People: May we go forth into the world 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.**

Leader: I pray you may be blessed as you have said, in the name of our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Amen.

†POSTLUDE

Lift Every Voice And Sing



One License #A720797

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...

David McCreary, Carol Carroll, Susan Couch, Bryce C. DeLand, Eric Fandrick, Matthew Pennewell, Ann Whittaker. Also, remember to pray for all who are serving in the military, first responders, medical personnel, and our elected officials.

2/9/25 – TODAY’S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Rose Crowley for Pastor Julia DiFiore

SUNDAY STEWARD: Don O’Connor

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Don Rice

MUSIC: Denise Gregg

USHERS: Randy Kling, Bob Rood

READER: Jacie Sanders

POWER POINT: Nikki Perry

COFFEE HOUR: Kathy and Bob Rood

2/16/25 – WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Don O’Connor

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Kathy Cilluffo

MUSIC: Denise Gregg

USHERS: Pat O’Connor, Don O’Connor

READER: Elsa Pennewell

POWER POINT: Pat O’Connor

COFFEE HOUR: Pat and Don O’Connor

READER 2/23/25 – Barb Fandrick

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(pastorjuliad@gmail.com) and she will set up a time to chat. Your questions about the United Church of Christ and this church specifically will be answered.

BIBLE STUDY:

Bible study Wednesdays, at 6 p.m., in Friendship Hall.

CHOIR

Choir practice Thursdays, at 7:30 p.m.

TAIZ'E

Taiz'e February 22nd, at 6:30 p.m., in the sanctuary.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

MISSIONS

The Mission team is collecting cans of hearty soups leading up to the Super Bowl and we're calling it "Souper Sundays". There will be a spot for cans of hearty soups to be dropped off. Look for the Detroit Lions banner or poster. The dates are January 26th, February 2nd and 9th. The soup will go to our Little Red Food Pantry.

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.

The heart light of FEBRUARY
May take you by surprise.
You could see the pantry
Through someone's hungry eyes.

Hungry people are here.
Sharing food is a start.
Helping others
Warms everyone's heart.

FEBRUARY pantry food requests:

Cereal
Canned Chicken
Canned Pasta
(with or without meat)
Canned Spaghetti Sauce

VALENTINE'S DAY extras:

Holiday Candy
Dessert Mixes
(bars, cake cookies, etc.)

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. 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](#).