

**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 23, 2025

Seventh Sunday After The Epiphany

† Those who are able, please stand.

CHIMES

Where Charity and Love Prevail

†**GATHERING HYMN:**

Though The Mountains May Fall

WELCOME

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

† **OPENING PRAYER**

Barb Fandrick

Leader: Author of Love, help us to open our hearts and minds to your presence in this sacred hour. We love you, and desire to love you more. For you are the Holy One, our God, who loves us recklessly and call us to do the same. We desire to please you Lord, help us to fully be present to you and your transformative love as we worship you this day, here in this sanctuary and those of us watching from home.

ALL: It is true, you are the Holy One, our God, we worship you, we give you thanks and praise. We love you, help us to love you more. Amen.

†**HYMN**

Be Still and Know
WR 450 Verses 1,2,3

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION & ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Pastor: The Lord asks us to turn our hearts toward him, his desire is that we ask for his healing touch on our hearts, so that their wounds don't deter us from loving our enemies. This is a hard request, yet we must still ask...

ALL: Oh Lord Jesus, for your sake we ask for your help. You desire us to go out into the world and love in ways that feel too hard for us. We want to say no, we want to ignore your request and do what we want. In doing so we reject your teaching. Hear us in the silence of our hearts as we offer you the things that hold us back from loving like you...

Pastor: Beloved of God, our Lord Jesus Christ hears your heart, for His sake, we are forgiven!

ALL: Thanks be to Christ, for His Grace and Forgiveness, Amen.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Creator of Love, as we hear your word, imprint it on our hearts. That we may remember it, that we may be transformed by it and may our minds be renewed this day in its hearing. Amen.

FIRST READING Psalm 37:1-11; 39-40 Barb Fandrick

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Sweet Hour Of Prayer – Church Choir

FCC ROCK

(Young and Young at heart message)

SECOND READING Luke 6:27-38 Pastor Julia DiFiore

SERMON:

Reckless Love

Pastor Julia DiFiore

†HYMN

They'll Know We Are Christians
WR 595 Verses 1,3,4

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.

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

*Every Time I Feel the Spirit
AAHH 325 Verses 1,2*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Announcements are in the back of this bulletin)

†BENEDICTION

Pastor: With the help of God may we...

People: 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: May it be as you have spoken, in the name of the Holy Trinity-
Amen.

†POSTLUDE

Make Me A Channel of Your Peace



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.

2/23/25 – WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Don O'Connor

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Don Rice

MUSIC: Denise Gregg

USHERS: Tim Galvin, Karen Galvin

READER: Barb Fandrick

POWER POINT: Anthony Currie

COFFEE HOUR: Don and Nancy Rice

3/3/25 – WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Don Rice

COMMUNION: Kathy Cilluffo

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Jacie Sanders

MUSIC: Denise Gregg

USHERS: Paul Lydy, Tom Pennewell

READER: Nancy Rice

POWER POINT: Kathy Cilluffo

COFFEE HOUR: Don and Nancy Rice

READER 3/10/25 – Jovanna DiFiore

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 lounge. Please enter Adams Street door.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

MISSIONS

For the month of February the Mission Team is collecting blankets, towels, small rugs, pet coats, leads and leashes for SNAP and St. Clair County Animal Control. Items can be placed on the shelf labeled for this in the elevator room.

HEALTH CARE MINISTRIES

The Healthcare Ministry Team will resume blood pressure checks during coffee hour following worship on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month.

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](#).