

**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

March 2, 2025

Transfiguration Sunday

† Those who are able, please stand.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers today are presented by Cathy and Jim Light, in loving memory of their parents, Janet and Boris Paajanen and Vivian and Orlo Light.

CHIMES

We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding

† GATHERING HYMN:

*Open The Eyes of My Heart
by Michael W. Smith*

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

Jovanna DiFiore

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, as we gather for worship we invite you to come down and meet with us. The desires, distractions, thoughts and temptations that plague us are already known to you and we ask you to remove whatever veils your glory from our hearts and minds. May we encounter you this day, our lives lighting up brightly with your love as we are transformed more and more into your likeness of your Son, or Mediator and Advocate, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. *Written by Rev. Andrew VanKirk*

† HYMN

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
NC 1 Verses 1,2,3*

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION & ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Pastor: Let us confess our sins against God and each other.

All: Most merciful Father, who revealed your Son in glory on the mountain and in your own words commanded us to listen to him, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and

action, by what we have done and left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. We ask that for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, that you will have mercy on us and forgive us. Teach us to love your will and walk your path, all for the glory of your Name. Amen.

Adapted from The Book of Common Prayer (1979)

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Give us, O Lord, steadfast hearts, which no unworthy thought can drag downward, unconquered hearts, which no tribulation can wear out, upright hearts, which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside. Bestow upon us also, O Lord our God, understanding to know you, diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you, and faithfulness that may finally embrace you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *Written by St. Thomas Aquinas*

FIRST READING

Exodus 34:29-35

Jovanna DiFiore

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Come, Share The Spirit

SECOND READING

Luke 9:28-36

Pastor Julia DiFiore

SERMON:

The Mountaintop Within
Pastor Julia DiFiore

COMMUNION

†HYMN

Be Thou My Vision
NC 451 Verses 1,2

JOYS, CONCERNS, AND INVITATION TO PRAY

*Upon finishing your prayer request say: **Lord in your mercy.***
*People's response: **Lord hear our prayer.***

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

*Shine, Jesus, Shine
WR 319 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

Every Time I Feel the Spirit



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.

3/2/25 – WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Kathy Cilluffo

COMMUNION: Jovanna DiFiore

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Kathy Cilluffo

MUSIC: Denise Gregg

USHERS: Karl Heilman, Ken Van Nortwick

READER: Jovanna DiFiore

POWER POINT: Michael Bruzdowski

3/9/25 – WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Kathy Cilluffo

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Jacie Sanders

MUSIC: Denise Gregg

USHERS: Pat O'Connor, Don O'Connor

READER: Deana Currie

POWER POINT: Jacie Sanders

COFFEE HOUR: Deana Currie

READER 3/16/25 – 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?

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.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday Service 6:30 p.m., March 5th.

BIBLE STUDY

Bible study Wednesdays, at 6 p.m., in Friendship Hall. No bible study on Ash Wednesday.

CHOIR

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

TAIZ'E

Taiz'e March 29th, 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

We will begin gathering supplies for the BWARM (Blue Water Area Rescue Mission). They are a nonprofit organization that serves as an overnight warming shelter for homeless men in St. Clair County.

They need:

- 3-in-one body wash
- Handwarmers
- Small travel Kleenex
- Knit gloves
- Soft Granola Bars
- Canned Diced tomatoes
- Chicken or beef stock

- Bike locks
- Fitted white twin sheets

We'll start collecting these items beginning on March 1st and through the month. You can leave your donations on the shelves labeled BWARM in the Elevator Room.

Thanks in advance from the Mission Team for your donations!

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.

MARCH is filled with
More than one thing.
The beginning of Lent
And the beginning of spring.

The sky will be blue.
The grass will be green.
And hunger will be
Part of the scene.

MARCH food pantry needs:
CEREAL
Canned Chicken
Tuna
Corn
Fruit
Pasta (with or with out meat)
Potato Pouches
Spaghetti Sauce (only canned, please)

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](#).