

**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**

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WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

March 9, 2025

First Sunday In Lent

† Those who are able, please stand.

CHIMES

Be Still And Know

†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...**ALL: no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you're welcome and loved here.**

† OPENING PRAYER

Deana Currie

God of wilderness and water, your Son was baptized and tempted as we are. Guide us through this season, that we may not avoid struggle, but open ourselves to blessing, through the cleansing depths of repentance and the heaven-rending words of the Spirit. Amen. ~RCL

†HYMN

*At The Cross
WR 258 Verses 1,3*

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION & ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Holy Divine Grace, we are humbly grateful for your Love that is faithful and true. Guide us in this season of lent, to turn our hearts humbly toward your Spirit, that for the sake of Christ we may grow a deeper love for you. Help us to realize the times we have fallen short in that love. Open our eyes, mind and heart to the ways you call us to, and help us be grateful for the grace you continue to shower upon us when we cry out to you. Hear us now Divine Grace, as we confess to you in the silence of our hearts....

God's grace is amazing, Christ's love is amazing, the Holy Spirit that connects us all is amazing, thanks be to our Triune God, that we are forgiven! Amen.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

God of deliverance and freedom, you taught your people, to acknowledge that all things come from your bountiful hand. Deepen our faith so that we may resist temptation and, in the midst of trial, proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, now and forever. Amen. ~RCL

FIRST READING

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Deana Currie

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

FCC ROCK TIME

Young and Young At Heart Message

SECOND READING

Luke 4:1-13

Pastor Julia DiFiore

SERMON:

Spiritual Warfare: Lessons From Jesus
Pastor Julia DiFiore

†HYMN

On Eagle's Wings
WR 438 Verses 1,2,3

JOYS, CONCERNS, AND INVITATION TO PRAY

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

Pastor: Beloved friends, in this season of repentance and healing, we accept God's invitation to be ever-mindful of the needs of others, offering our prayers on behalf of God's community in the church and the world.

Pastor: Fill us with your strength to resist the seductions of our foolish desires and the tempter's vain delights, that we may walk in obedience and righteousness, rejoicing in you with an upright heart. ~RCL

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

*Take Time To Be Holy
WR 483 Verses 1,2,3*

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

I Will Call Upon The Lord



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.

3/9/25 – 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

3/16/25 – WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Kathy Cilluffo

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Jovanna DiFiore

MUSIC: Denise Gregg

USHERS: Deana Currie, Nikki Perry

READER: Dave Scheel

POWER POINT: Kathy Cilluffo

READER 3/23/25 – Nancy Rice

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.

LENT SERVICE

There will be a Lent Service Wednesdays in March, 6:30 p.m., in the sanctuary.

BIBLE STUDY

Bible study Wednesdays, at 6 p.m., in Friendship Hall. No Bible Study during Lent.

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](https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalChurchUCCofStClair) and our Instagram page at [@firstcong.churchofstclair](https://www.instagram.com/firstcong.churchofstclair).