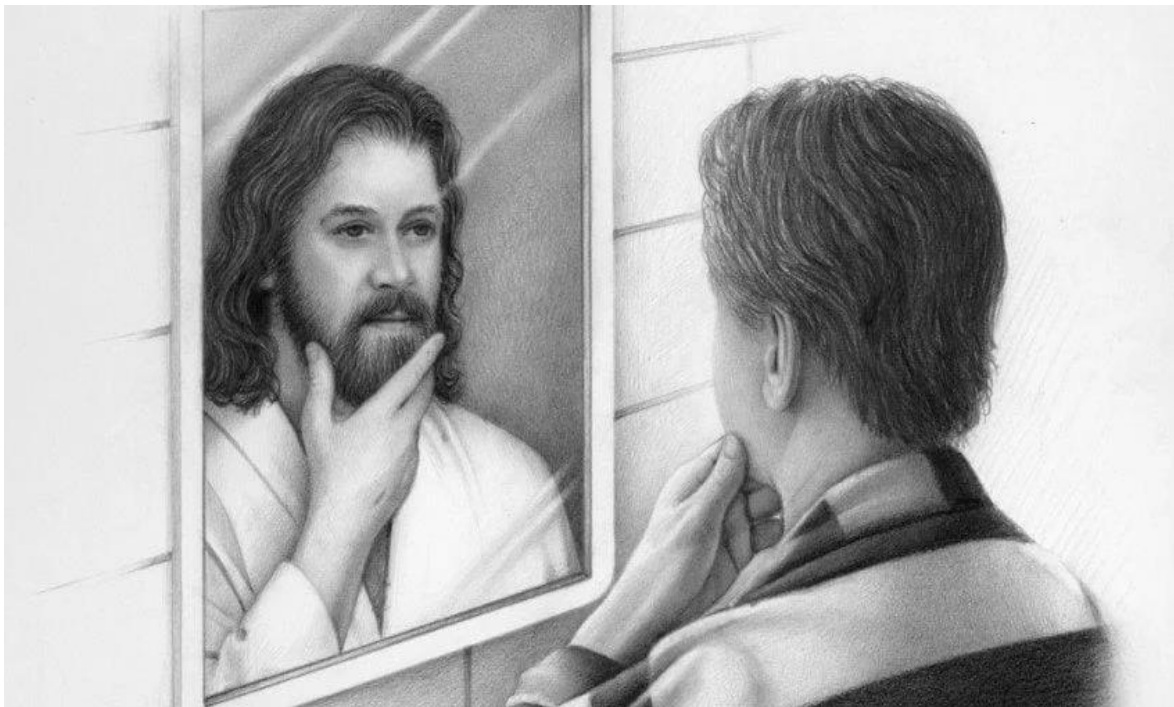


**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF ST. CLAIR**



**“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 16, 2025

Second Sunday In Lent

† Those who are able, please stand.

CHIMES

O Jesus, I Have Promised

† **GATHERING HYMN:**

Open The Eyes Of My Heart

WELCOME

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

† **OPENING PRAYER**

Dave Scheel

Leader: Divine Architect of Love and Redemption, as we enter into this second Sunday of Lent, help us to be reminded that you are our light, our pathway to all of your hope for us. We can forget and easily get distracted by the world around us. But in this hour of worship, here we are, asking you to help us to be open to your presence.

People: May our Worship this day and everyday bring you Glory, Honor and Praise as we press into this season of quieting ourselves to be transformed by the reflection of your reckless love for us. Amen.

† **HYMN**

*Lead Me Guide Me
WR 498 Verses 1,2,3*

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION & ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Pastor: God of wonders, God of all that is seen and unseen, in these days of pausing...

People: We humble ourselves and turn to you, seeking redemption, seeking your heart, we bring ours before you, help us to offer it humbly for your care and transformation. That in the areas we fall short of your Glory, we are washed clean by your Grace. Hear us now Oh Lord, in the silence of our hearts, as we acknowledge the places that we need your healing mercy...

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Leader: Jesus, your word is a light guiding us to know you. Open our minds in all that we hear.

People: Help us to find you as we seek you in your Word this day, and help us to reflect your image brighter than our own. For here we are God, help us to understand what we hear, and respond to it with our lives. Amen.

FIRST READING

Psalm 27

Dave Scheel

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Psalm of Quietude

Choir

SECOND READING

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Pastor Julia DiFiore

SERMON:

Mirror Images

Pastor Julia DiFiore

†HYMN

Fairest Lord Jesus (Beautiful Jesus)

NC 44 Verses 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.

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

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 said, in the name of the Holy Trinity-
Amen.

†**POSTLUDE**

*A Parting Blessing
Choir*



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.

3/16/25 – 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

3/30/25 – WORSHIP ASSISTANTS
SUNDAY STEWARD: Kathy Cilluffo
SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Kathy Cilluffo
MUSIC: Denise Gregg
USHERS: Tim Galvin, Karen Galvin
READER: Nancy Rice
POWER POINT: Pat O'Connor

READER 3/30/25 – Rose Crowley

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](#) and our Instagram page at [@firstcong.churchofst.clair](#).