

**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 30, 2025

Fourth Sunday In Lent

† Those who are able, please stand.

CHIMES

Softly And Tenderly

†**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**

Jovanna DiFiore

Holy Papa, help us to prepare ourselves to receive your perfect parental love. A love that is deeper than the human Dads we know. Your LOVE is deeper than the deepest ocean, farther than east is from west.

Giver of Life, we are here to glorify and receive your presence in this sacred place. For you are our God, you are the Holy One. Amen.

†**HYMN**

My Life Flows On In Endless Song
NC 476 Verses 1,2

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION & ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Pastor: Mother of all Creation, One of perfect parental LOVE, we humbly come before you, acknowledging our struggles to recognize you as our loving parent. Too often, we carry the weight of resentments toward the human ones who have failed to love us as they should. In our pain, we project these broken experiences and unmet expectations onto you, seeing you through the cracks of our wounded hearts.

You call yourself our friend, our sibling, and yet even those who represent you here on earth often fall short, reminding us of the frailty of human love. So much so, Lord, that we lose sight of your perfect, divine love. In a world where people harm one another and the hearts of many grow cold, we sometimes wonder—are you truly here?

People: Help us in our moments of unbelief. Strengthen us as we wrestle with our doubts in your Divine Love. Have mercy on us, O Lord, as we bring to you, in the stillness of our hearts, the burdens of resentment and the wounded places within us that hinder our ability to fully receive and understand your boundless love...

Pastor: Our Holy Triune God is our perfect, Mother, our perfect Father, our perfect Parent. Because God loves us with a deep abiding Love, it is through this Radical Love and Grace that we are forgiven, Amen!

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Leader: Open the eyes of our hearts Lord, that we may hear you in your word and be transformed by it in how we live and love. By your Grace and Power we pray, Amen.

FIRST READING

Psalm 32

Jovanna DiFiore

MUSICAL MEDITATION

God's Eye Is On The Sparrow

SECOND READING

Luke15:1-3, 11-32

Pastor Julia DiFiore

SERMON:

A God Who Sees And Runs

Pastor Julia DiFiore

†HYMN

Change My Heart O God
WR 373

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

*Great Is Your Faithfulness
NC 423 Verses 1,3*

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

†POSTLUDE

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy



One License #A720797

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...

Jackie Keil, Joe Miller, David McCreary, Carol Carroll, Susan Couch, Bryce C. DeLand, Eric Fandruck, Matthew Pennewell, Ann Whittaker.

Also, remember to pray for all who are serving in the military, first responders, medical personnel, and our elected officials.

3/30/25 – WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Kathy Cilluffo

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Kathy Cilluffo

MUSIC: Denise Gregg

USHERS: Dave Scheel, Jacie Sanders

READER: Jovanna DiFiore

POWER POINT: Jody Skonieczny

COFFEE HOUR: Adam & Krysta Rybarczyk

4/6/25 – WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Don O'Connor

COMMUNION: Kathy Cilluffo

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Jacie Sanders

MUSIC: Brian Winters

USHERS: Karl Heilman, Ken Van Nortwick

READER: Kathy Cilluffo

POWER POINT: Pat O'Connor

READER 4/13/25 – Bonnie Landschoot

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 April 26th, 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](#).