

**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.firstconggsc.org](http://www.firstconggsc.org)  
[firstconggsc@gmail.com](mailto:firstconggsc@gmail.com)**

# WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

April 13, 2025

Palm/Passion Sunday

† Those who are able, please stand.

**CHIMES**

*My Song Is Love Unknown*

† **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 WORDS** (Pastor)

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

**People: Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna to the Son of David!**

Pastor: Beloved in Christ, In the five weeks of Lent we have been preparing for this week, the events of our Lord's death and resurrection. The great and wondrous paschal mystery now lies before us as we enter with Christ with palms and hosannas before He confronts the cross. Everything in Lent points to this week. As we commemorate how our Lord entered to the welcome of palms and hosannas, we also remember His death that gives us life and His resurrection through which we dwell with Him for all eternity.

## † **OPENING PRAYER**

Bonnie Landschoot

Leader: Blessed is the ruler who comes in the love of God.

**All: Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!**

**Amid the powers of this world, Christ comes humbly, riding on a donkey. Christ alone is our savior and our sovereign.**

**Christ, we thank you. We honor you. We follow you.**

**God of love and justice, we worship you. Amen!**

**PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION & ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

Pastor: O Lord, with the Palm Sunday crowd, we cry to You this day:  
“Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!”

**People: “Hosanna! Save us, we pray, O Lord!”**

Pastor: Save us,

**People: for we have sinned against You in thought, word and deed.**

Pastor: Save us,

**People: for we have sinned against You by what we have done and  
by what we have left undone.**

Pastor: Save us,

**People: for we have not loved You with our whole heart.**

Pastor: Save us,

**People: for we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**For the sake of Jesus Christ, the Son of David and the Son of God,  
have mercy on us. Forgive, renew and cleanse us; by Your holy  
Spirit, enable us to walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy  
name. Amen.**

Pastor: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of  
Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and bringing  
salvation, humble and mounted on a donkey.

Your King offered His life as an atoning sacrifice to cover the debt of  
your sin. Through faith in Jesus Christ, life and salvation are yours. It is  
in the name of Jesus, the name that is above every name, that your sins  
are forgiven. To Him be the glory!

**People: Amen. Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of  
the Lord!**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Leader: Hosanna in the highest, bless us, change us with the hearing of  
your Word may it be so! Amen!

## **MUSICAL MEDITATION**

*Lift Up Your Heads  
Church Choir*

## **FCC ROCK TIME**

Young And Young At Heart Message

## **SECOND READING**

Luke 19:28-40

Pastor Julia DiFiore

## **SERMON:**

Holy Surprises!  
Pastor Julia DiFiore

## **†HYMN**

*All, Glory, Laud, And Honor*

*NC216 Verses 1,2,3*

## **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**

*Ride On! Ride On In Majesty  
NC215 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 said, in the name of the Holy Trinity-Amen.

## †POSTLUDE

*In The Cross Of Christ I Glory*



One License #A720797

## **PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...**

Jackie Keil, Joe Miller, 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.

### **4/13/25 – WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

SUNDAY STEWARD: Don O'Connor

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Kathy Cilluffo

MUSIC: Denise Gregg

USHERS: Tim Galvin, Karen Galvin

READER: Bonnie Landschoot

POWER POINT: Michael Bruzdowski

### **4/20/25 – WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

SUNDAY STEWARD: Don O'Connor

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Jovanna DiFiore

MUSIC: Denise Gregg

USHERS: Don O'Connor, Pat O'Connor

READER: Jacie Sanders

POWER POINT: Jody Skonieczny

## **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](mailto: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 April, 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. Choir practice resumes April 17.

### **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.

APRIL is awesome!  
The Lenten journey is complete.  
Easter arrives with Fun food to eat.

Everyone should be happy.  
Hearts and souls should be happy, too.  
But hunger help is always needed.  
It can come from me and you.

APRIL food pantry needs:

CEREAL  
Canned Beans  
Canned Corn  
Canned Fruit  
Peanut Butter  
Spaghetti  
Spaghetti Sauce  
Tuna

APRIL pantry "extras" for Easter

Bagged or boxed potatoes  
Bagged or boxed mixes for muffins and rolls  
Bagged or boxed desserts (cake, cookies, cookie bars, etc.)  
Easter basket treats

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](mailto: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](#).