

**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

April 27, 2025

Second Sunday of Easter

† Those who are able, please stand.

CHIMES

Soon And Very Soon

† **GATHERING SONG**

The Same Power

Jeremy Camp

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**

Jody Skonieczny

Leader: Holy resurrected Love, you came back, defeating all darkness. Help us to turn our hearts to you.

People: Come to us Lord, Alleluia

Help us to open ourselves to your resurrection presence and power

People: Open us Lord, Alleluia

We are here, with our wonderings, doubts, questions, as well as our gratitude that you welcome and love us where we are.

People: Help us to Love you more, Alleluia

† **HYMN**

Yours Is The Glory, Resurrected One!

NC253 Verses 1,3

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION - ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Pastor: God of Life, we know and see love exists all around us. Creation is evidence of your Love, yet there are times we doubt your power, we question how a loving God can allow things that don't make sense to us. You don't condemn us for questions, you invite them. But our hearts are often closed to the mystery of you. Forgive our stubborn hearts oh Lord, for it is our hearts that need your mending. Help us in our unbelief oh God.

People: Help us with our unbelief oh God.

Pastor: Thank you Lord for your Grace that showers over our hearts when we stumble on our way to you.

People: Thank you Jesus, for your Grace. Alleluia, Amen.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Leader: Jesus, we thank you for your word for it speaks to us of your heart and ways of life and love. We are here to listen, and we ask for your help to understand. So that what we here, may transform our lives in such a way, people know we are yours. Alleluia, Amen.

People: Alleluia, Amen.

FIRST READING

John 20:19-25
Jody Skonieczny

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Now The Green Blade Riseth

FCC ROCKS

Young and Young At Heart Message

SECOND READING

John 20:26-31
Pastor Julia DiFiore

SERMON

Be Like Thomas

Pastor Julia DiFiore

† HYMN

These Things Did Thomas Count
NC254 Verses 1,4

JOYS, CONCERNS, AND INVITATION TO PRAY

Raise your hand if you would like to share a prayer, speak your prayer clearly into the microphone, and close your prayer with,
“Oh Lord hear my prayer”

Response of the people: 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

*Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!
NC257 Verses 1,4*

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 you be blessed with the resurrection power of Jesus to accomplish what you have said, in the name of the Creator, our Risen Lord Jesus, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

†POSTLUDE

I Will Sing Of My Redeemer



One License #A720797

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...

Donna Hines, 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.

4/27/25 – WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Don O'Connor

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Jacie Sanders

MUSIC: Denise Gregg

USHERS: Dave Scheel, Nikki Perry

READER: Jody Skonieczny

POWER POINT: Michael Bruzdowski

5/4/25 – WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Don O'Connor

COMMUNION: Deanna Currie

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Jovanna DiFiore

MUSIC: Denise Gregg

USHERS: Deanna Currie, Jacie Sanders

READER: Michael Bruzdowski

POWER POINT: Kathy Cilluffo

READER 5/11/25 – Elsa Pennewell

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.

BIBLE STUDY

Join us for a unique Bible study experience with The Chosen! Each week, we'll watch an episode from the series, followed by scripture and group discussion.

This is more than a show, it's a journey of faith, reflection, and community. Whether you're part of our church, another congregation, or just curious, you're welcome here.

Bring your heart, your questions, and your hopes. Let's grow together as we explore the life of Christ in a deeper, more personal way.

6:00- PJ's Popcorn & Fellowship (Feel free to bring a snack to share!)

6:30- Episode Begins

7:30- Bible Study and Discussion

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 St. door.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school will be held the 2nd and 4th Sunday each month unless otherwise noted. May Sunday school dates will be 5/11 & 5/18. Sunday school will conclude for the summer on 5/18.

MISSIONS

The Mission Team is requesting volunteers to staff the Ecumenical Food Pantry Tuesdays and Thursdays in June from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. There is a sign up sheet located on the back table in the sanctuary.

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. 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](#).