

**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
firstconggsc@gmail.com**

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

May 4, 2025

Third Sunday of Easter

† **Those who are able, please stand.**

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers are from Lezlynne Moore in memory of Kristine Moore, mother of Fred S Moore.

CHIMES

Worthy Is The Lamb

† 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

Michael Bruzdowski

Leader: Author of Love, we come here to worship you, to give you thanks and praise. Your Love is always alive in this space. We call upon you to enliven our Love, Your Love in us, for it is by Your Love in us that it may be possible for us to love others and more importantly love you.

People: We here you ask us, "Do You Love Me?" our answer is we want to. Help us Jesus to love you in the way that pleases you. Help us to grow our love LOUDLY that all may see and hear as we worship you this day. Alleluia Amen.

† HYMN

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love
NC498 Verses 1,2,3,4

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION - ASSURANCE OF GRACE

People: Lord, this Love of yours is too difficult at times. We would rather love in easy ways, to nice strangers. We often reject your hearts desire for us. Because we don't want to put the work in that can transform us. Forgive us oh Lord Jesus, for the times we limit

your love inside us and hear us now in our hearts as we confess to you, those moments that you saw us deny your divine love.....

Pastor: Our Redeemer lives, the Author of Divine Love offers us grace when we turn with humble hearts sharing how we fall short. Know this my beloved people, you are forgiven. Alleluia Amen!

People: Alleluia, Amen!

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Leader: Lover of our soul, Your Word is a lamp in our darkness. Your Word is a light when we are unable to see the direction that leads out of darkness. Help us Holy Spirit to Hear and Listen with open hearts and minds that we will desire your transforming Word to be embedded within us and will be seen by others because of who you shape us to become. Alleluia Amen!

FIRST READING

John 21:1-8
Michael Bruzdowski

MUSICAL MEDITATION

At The Name of Jesus

SECOND READING

John 21:9-19
Pastor Julia DiFiore

SERMON

Do You Love Me?

Pastor Julia DiFiore

COMMUNION

† HYMN

More Love To You, O Christ
NC456 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

*Lift High The Cross
NC198 Verses 1,3,5*

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 the heart and mind of Christ Jesus grow within you that you may accomplish what you have proclaimed. I ask this in the name of our Holy God, Jesus and Spirit One! Amen.

†POSTLUDE

Jesus Shall Reign



One License #A720797

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...

Aimee H, Baby Paul, Donna H, Jackie K, Joe M, David M,
Carol C, Susan C, Bryce D, Eric F, Matthew P, Ann W.
Also, remember to pray for all who are serving in the military, first
responders, medical personnel, and our elected officials.

5/4/25 – WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Don O'Connor

COMMUNION: Deana Currie

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Jovanna DiFiore

MUSIC: Denise Gregg

USHERS: Deana Currie, Jacie Sanders

READER: Michael Bruzdowski

POWER POINT: Kathy Cilluffo

5/11/25 – WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Don O'Connor

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Shannon Porter

MUSIC: Denise Gregg

USHERS: Tim Galvin, Karen Galvin

READER: Elsa Pennewell

POWER POINT: Pat O'Connor

COFFEE HOUR: Don & Pat O'Connor

READER 5/18/25 – Dave Scheel

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 will return in October.

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.

Celebrate MAY
In more than one way.
Cinco de Mayo, Moms,
Then Memorial Day.

Celebrate each holiday
With family and food.
When you include the pantry
You lift a mood.

MAY pantry food requests:
Canned Green Beans
Canned Chicken
Canned Pasta
(with or without meat)
Peanut Butter
Spaghetti/Spaghetti Sauce
(canned)

MAY pantry extras:
Mother's Day
Desserts
(cake mix/frosting, cookies, etc.)

Memorial Day Gatherings:
Picnic Food
(chips, condiments, boxed pasta salad)

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).