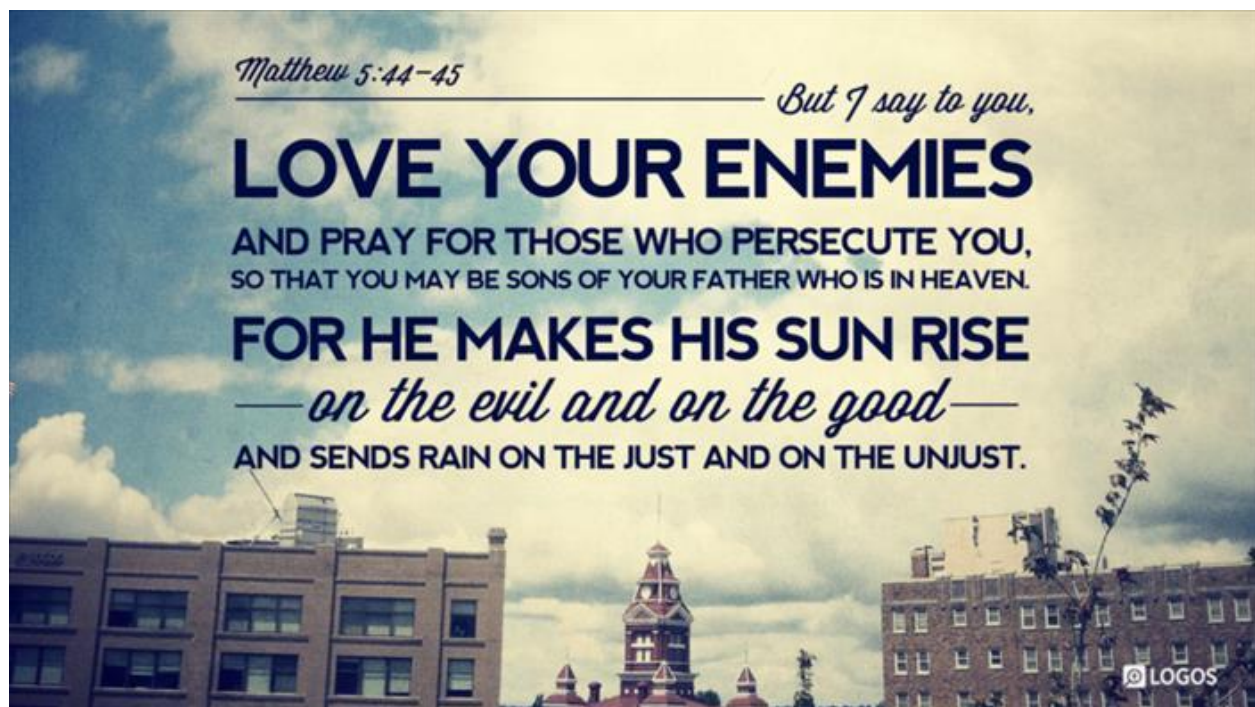


**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
OF ST. CLAIR**



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

# WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

May 11, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

## ALTAR FLOWERS

Happy Mother's Day to all Moms. Flowers donated by the Currie Family in Memory of Donna Jasmin and in Honor of Constance Currie and Roxzie Barber.

## CHIMES

*I Heard My Mother Say*

## † GATHERING SONG

*The Same Power*

*Jeremy Camp*

## WELCOME

Leader: 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

Elsa Pennewell

Leader: Loving God, Creator of the universe, we joyfully gather together in thankfulness and praise on this day. May your presence fill each of our lives in such a way that we reflect that love in our lives.

**People: We hear you sayings "love one another as I have loved you" and our answer is that we are trying. Help us Jesus, to learn to unconditionally love, first you then others. Fill our hearts with your love that all may see and hear that love as we worship you. Alleluia! Amen!**

## † HYMN

*Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us*

*NC252 Verses 1,3*

## PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION - ASSURANCE OF GRACE

**People: Lord, this Love of yours is too difficult at times. We would rather love in easy ways, family and nice strangers. We often reject your heart's desire for us because we don't want to put the work in**

**to transform. Forgive us oh Lord Jesus, for the times we limit your love inside us. Hear us now in our hearts as we confess to you, those times that you saw us deny your divine love....**

Jacilyn: Our Redeemer the author of Divine Love offers grace when we turn with humble hearts sharing how we have fallen short. Know these beloved people, you are forgiven. Alleluia Amen!

**People: Alleluia, Amen!**

### **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Leader: Radiant Father, Loving God, we come before you seeking your wisdom and guidance as we enter into this time of worship. We ask that you teach us your truth. Open our heart to receive your word and guide us by your Spirit. May the results of the word be pleasing to you and may it transform are lives. Amen!

### **FIRST READING**

Hebrews 11:1-12  
Elsa Pennewell

### **MUSICAL MEDITATION**

*A Mother's Love*  
FCC Choir

### **FCC ROCK TIME**

Young And Young At Heart Message - Deana Currie

### **SECOND READING**

Matthew 5:43-47  
Jacilyn Sanders

### **SERMON**

Love Your Enemy

Jacilyn Sanders

### **† HYMN**

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*  
NC472 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

*Great is Your Faithfulness  
NC423 Verses, 1,3*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Announcements are in the back of this bulletin.)

### †BENEDICTION

Leader: 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.**

Leader: May it be as you have said, in the name of the Holy Trinity-Amen.

### †POSTLUDE

*A Parting Blessing*  
Please remain seated

FCC Choir



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.

**5/11/25 – 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

**5/18/25 – WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

SUNDAY STEWARD: Don O'Connor

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Mary Paquette

MUSIC: Denise Gregg

USHERS: Don O'Connor, Pat O'Connor

READER: Dave Scheel

POWER POINT: Kathy Cilluffo

READER 5/25/25 – Nancy Rice

**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.

### **BIBLE STUDY – NO BIBLE STUDY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

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](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](https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalChurchUCCofStClair) and our Instagram page at [@firstcong.churchofstclair](https://www.instagram.com/firstcong.churchofstclair).