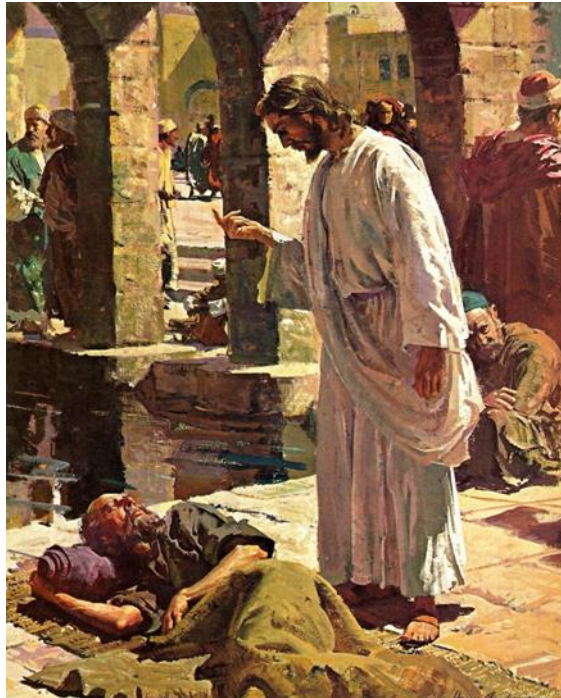


**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF ST. CLAIR**



**“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 25, 2025

Sixth Sunday of Easter

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

CHIMES

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

† **GATHERING SONG**

My Redeemer Lives
Reuben Morgan

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**

Nancy Rice

Leader: In You alone we put our hope, God the Father, Creator and Sustainer,

People: who gives all good things, seen and unseen.

Leader: In You alone we put our hope, God the Son, Savior and Redeemer,

People: who died for our sins and rose again.

Leader: In You alone we put our hope, God the Spirit, Intercessor, and Comforter,

People: who moves us to sing, pray and praise

Leader: In You alone we put our hope.

People: Amen.

† **HYMN**

God Of Grace And God of Glory
NC436 Verses 1,2,4

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION - ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Lord God, you have given yourself fully and completely

To make us your people, a gift of grace to the world

We confess that too often we have kept this grace for ourselves

For the times when we've shied away from the suffering

Which comes when we love others as you have loved us

People: Lord, have mercy

For the times when we've taken your grace for granted
And not allowed your love to overflow to others

People: Christ, have mercy

For the times when we've not trusted
That you really care about us

People: Lord, have mercy

Fill us again with your love, poured out through the Holy Spirit
So that our lives reflect your glory to the world. Amen.

written by Rev. Jacob Traeger

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Leader: Lord it is through your Word that we can even begin to know you. We desire to know you, we desire to please you. Open our hearts and minds to hear your Word and may it be imprinted on our hearts. We ask this through the Grace of your Spirit. Amen.

FIRST READING

Psalm 97
Nancy Rice

MUSICAL MEDITATION

I Want Jesus To Go With Me

SECOND READING

John 5:1-9
Pastor Julia DiFiore

SERMON

“What’s In Your Way?”

Pastor Julia DiFiore

† HYMN

Spirit Of God, Descend Upon My Heart
NC290 Verses 1,4,5

JOYS, CONCERNS, AND INVITATION TO PRAY

Upon completion of speaking your prayer say:

God of Grace hear my prayer

People’s response: God of Wonders, your will be done.

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

*Shine, Jesus, Shine
WR319 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 we all be blessed with the ability to fulfill all that God calls us to in the Name of the Creator, Redeemer and Heavenly Sustainer.

†POSTLUDE

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing



One License #A720797

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...

Aimee H, Baby Paul, 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.

5/25/25 – WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Don O'Connor
SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Kathy Cilluffo
MUSIC: Denise Gregg
USHERS: Karl Heilman and Ken Van Nortwick
READER: Nancy Rice
POWER POINT: Jody Skonieczny
COFFEE HOUR: Don & Nancy Rice

6/1/25 – WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Kathy Cilluffo
COMMUNION: Jovanna DiFiore
SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Jacie Sanders
MUSIC: Denise Gregg
USHERS: Dave Scheel, Deana Currie
READER: Jody Skonieczny
POWER POINT: Michael Bruzdowski

READER 6/8/25 – 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.

BIBLE STUDY – RESUMES WEDNESDAY, MAY 28TH

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.

The Mission Team at First Congregational Church UCC of St. Clair is thrilled to bring back "Deserving Treats For Our Essential Workers"!

Throughout June, July, and August, we'll be delivering special treats and heartfelt thanks to essential workers across St. Clair County.

Want to help spread the love and gratitude? A sign-up sheet is available just off the sanctuary, or feel free to reach out to Pat O'Connor to get involved.

Let's show our appreciation for those who give so much to our community!

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).