

**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”**

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# WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

June 8, 2025

Pentecost Sunday

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

## ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers are in memory of the parents of Debbie Porter on their 76<sup>th</sup> anniversary and in memory of Doug Porter's 77<sup>th</sup> birthday, Debbie's late husband and father of Shannon and Lesley. Also remembering their family dog, McDougal, on his birthday.

## CHIMES

*On Pentecost They Gathered*

## † GATHERING SONG

*Glory To God  
John Foley*

## 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

Bonnie Landschoot

Leader: Spirit of the Living God, fall upon us, for we are open and ready to receive your transforming presence. Blessed are you Jesus, for indwelling within us, making your home in our hearts. Kindle in us, a new flame of desire to worship you in our everyday life.

**People: Yes Spirit, we call on you to stir in us and move in our being that our lives may become worship. Amen.**

## † HYMN

*Spirit, Spirit Of Gentleness  
NC286 Verses 1,3*

## PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION & ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Pastor: Holy Spirit, you are the truest form of God's grace to us. You are the wisdom, power and love of God.

**People: Yet so often we forget you. We don't acknowledge or recognize your presence in us or around us. It is your presence that**

**is the author of all that is good. When we are not being as loving as we could, it is then that we reject your prompting. Forgive us for the times we have fallen short in being open to your moving in us and around us to transform us. Help us to be more attentive to your nudging and to be an expression of your light in the darkness. Amen.**

Pastor: Sisters, Brothers and siblings, Christ promised His Spirit, the Spirit is pure Grace, pure Power, pure Love in its truest form. It is this pureness of God's presence that assures us we are forgiven. Amen.

### **EXPRESSION of PEACE**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with all of you

**People: And also with you**

Pastor: Extend to one another an expression of Christ's peace  
note\* Please be respectful to one another's physical boundaries and ask before Touching or hugging. You may also remain in your pew and hand signal your peace to others to communicate your boundary.

### **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Leader: Holy Spirit and Inspirer of the Word, may we be blessed in the hearing of God's Word with the desire to share what we hear and respond to it with our lives. Amen.

### **FIRST READING**

Psalm 104:24-34  
Bonnie Landschoot

### **MUSICAL MEDITATION**

*Spirit Of God, Descend Upon My Heart*

### **SECOND READING**

Acts 2:1-21  
Pastor Julia DiFiore

### **SERMON**

"Promise Keeper"

Pastor Julia DiFiore

### **INSTALLATION OF NEW MEMBERS**

Alesha F. & Sabrina V.

Pastor: Let us now as a congregation unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.

Do you believe in God?

**People: I believe in God.**

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**People: I believe in Jesus Christ.**

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

Pastor: Now let the members of First Congregational Church of St. Clair, United Church of Christ, express their welcome and affirm their mutual ministry in Christ.

**Members of FCC: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.**

†HYMN

*Sweet, Sweet Spirit  
NC293 Verses 1,2*

## **JOYS, CONCERNS, AND INVITATION TO PRAY**

**Prayer: Holy Spirit our prayer.**

**People: Blessed are you Holy One.**

## **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**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(Announcements are in the back of this bulletin.)

## †**BENEDICTION**

Pastor: With the help of the Holy Spirit 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 One-Amen.

## †**POSTLUDE**

*In The Midst Of New Dimensions*



One License #A720797

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

The Rice family, 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.

## **6/8/25 – WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

**SUNDAY STEWARD:** Don O'Connor

**SOUND AND LIVESTREAM:** Tim Galvin, Jovanna DiFiore

**MUSIC:** Denise Gregg

**USHERS:** Jacie Sanders, Nikki Perry

**READER:** Bonnie Landschoot

**POWER POINT:** Kathy Cilluffo

## **6/15/25 – WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

**SUNDAY STEWARD:** Tim Galvin

**SOUND AND LIVESTREAM:** Tim Galvin, Shannon Porter

**MUSIC:** Denise Gregg

**USHERS:** Tim Galvin, Karen Galvin

**READER:** Kathy Cilluffo

**POWER POINT:** Pat O'Connor

**COFFEE HOUR:** Michael & Sarah Bruzdowski

**READER 6/22/25 – Pat O'Connor**

## **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**

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. Sunday school will resume in the fall.

## **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.

The joy of June  
Is here at last!  
What's real for some  
Is such a contrast.

We celebrate because  
School is out,  
We love our Dads,  
And what summer's about.

Take time to hear  
The silent shout.  
Help feed the hungry.  
Don't leave them out.

JUNE food pantry requests  
Green Beans  
Corn  
Cereal  
Mac & Cheese  
Spaghetti Sauce  
Tuna

JUNE food pantry food extras - Kids are home, so..  
Lunch Foods  
Peanut Butter  
Canned Pasta, etc.

Father's Day  
Cake Mix/Frosting, Cookies, etc.

Memorial Day...Picnic Foods  
Chips



Condiments  
Boxed Pasta Salad, etc.

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).