

**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  
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# WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

August 31, 2025

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

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

**CHIMES**

*Be Thou My Vision*

*Traditional Irish Melody*

† **GATHERING SONG**

*Holy Is The Lord*

*Chris Tomlin*

## 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**

Alesha Fay

Leader: Great are you Lord indeed, for you crafted all things by your mighty hand. Yet you desire to come near to us for you delight in us.

**People: Come O' Holy One, be with us now as we worship you and give you thanks. May our hearts and minds be focused on only you in this time of worship.**

Leader: We magnify you Lord, the living God of all creation. May our worship this hour be a delight to you, and bring you joy. Amen.

† **HYMN**

*I Sing The Mighty Power Of God*

*NC12 Verses 1,2*

## PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION & ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Pastor: Gracious God, we come before you with honest hearts, confessing not only our own sin but the brokenness of this world.

**People: We are a people divided—by race, by nation, by class, by theology. We've failed to welcome the stranger, neglected the outsider, and grown numb to the needs around us.**

**Too often, we treat your blessings as background noise, while our complaints take center stage. You call us to turn back in gratitude, but we retreat instead into old patterns, comfortable ruts, and assumptions that cost us nothing. Jesus, Master—have mercy. Heal what is wounded in us. Forgive what is selfish in us. Fill us with a**

**deep and lasting gratitude for your grace, and set us loose in the world as servants of your reconciling love. *Time of silent reflection.***

Pastor: And now, let us proclaim the good news:

**In Christ, we are forgiven.**

**By grace, we are made whole.**

**Through the Spirit, we are empowered to live as agents of healing and hope. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### **EXPRESSION of PEACE**

Pastor: Let us embrace the forgiveness of Christ, and be expressions of His peace to one another.

### **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Leader: God of love, your word is a wonder, and we desire to follow you in delight. Open our minds and hearts that they may be transformed in this hearing of your word and we may grow in deeper reflection of a love that is everlasting. Amen.

### **FIRST READING**

Psalm 139:1-14a

Alesha Fay

### **MUSICAL MEDITATION**

*My Shepherd Is The Living God*  
*Isaac Watts*

### **SECOND READING**

Colossians 3:18-24

Pastor Julia DiFiore

### **SERMON**

Your Work Matters

Pastor Julia DiFiore

### **† HYMN**

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*  
*NC43 Verses 1,2,3*

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

*Offer your prayers in whatever way makes you comfortable.*

## **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.**

## **†HYMN**

*Christ Is Made The Sure Foundation  
NC 400 Verses 1,2,3*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(Announcements are in the back of this bulletin.)

## **†BENEDICTION**

In the Name of the Holy One our Lord, I bless you that the Holy Spirit inspires you with joy in all you do.

That God, our Holy Parent, creates in you a willingness to offer everything you do for the goodness of His presence.

That Jesus makes his presence known, reminding you that everything you do, is done with Him and through Him that you may discover how deep His Love is for you. Amen.

## **†POSTLUDE**

*God Of Grace And God Of Glory  
Harry Fosdick*



One License #A720797

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

Kyle O, 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.

**8/31/25 – WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

SUNDAY STEWARD: Don O'Connor  
SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Jovanna DiFiore  
MUSIC: Denise Gregg  
USHERS: Jacie Sanders, Nikki Perry  
POWER POINT: Kathy Cilluffo  
READER: Alesha Fay  
COFFEE HOUR: Adam & Krysta Rybarczyk

**9/7/25/25 – WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

SUNDAY STEWARD: Krysta Rybarczyk  
COMMUNION: Penny Malcolm  
SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Shannon Porter  
MUSIC: Denise Gregg  
USHERS: Don & Pat O'Connor  
POWER POINT: Jovanna DiFiore  
READER: Kathy Cilluffo  
COFFEE HOUR: Jovanna DiFiore

READER: 9/7/25 – Michael Bruzdowski

**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**

Just a reminder: Choir begins again Thursday, September 4th from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. All are welcome to come and sing to the glory of God.

## **TAIZ'E**

Taiz'e will return in October.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Sunday School will be held on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sunday of the month. First day of Sunday school will be Sept. 14th.

## **MISSIONS**

A sign-up sheet for the Ecumenical Food Pantry Volunteers for September will be on the card table in the gathering area off 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.

AUGUST is available  
For late summer fun  
With family and friends  
Until school has begun.

Months and seasons change  
And time marches on.  
But hunger stays in many ways.  
It's come; it should be gone.

AUGUST food pantry requests  
Canned Chicken  
CEREAL  
Fruit Cocktail  
Mashed Potato Pouches  
Peanut Butter  
Spaghetti/Spaghetti Sauce

AUGUST pantry extras  
(for back-to-school lunches)  
Cracker packs w/Cheese or Peanut Butter  
Fruit Cups  
Single-serve Chips Cookies  
anything suitable

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).