

**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
firstcongsc@gmail.com**

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

December 28, 2025 – First Sunday After Christmas

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

CHIMES

Gentle Joseph, Joseph Dear

† GATHERING SONG

Joy to the World
NC132 Verses 1,3

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

Jody S.

Leader: Come, and worship the Lord, who fills mouths with laughter and tongues with shouts of joy.

People: The Lord has done great things for us, and so we rejoice.

Leader: May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

People: Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

Leader: Let us worship God, who restores life and heals the broken!

† HYMN

Once In Royal David's City
NC145 Verses 1,2,3

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Give us, O Lord, steadfast hearts, which no unworthy thought can drag downward, unconquered hearts, which no tribulation can wear out, upright hearts, which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside. Bestow upon us also, O Lord our God, understanding to know you, diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you, and faithfulness that may finally embrace you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

~St. Thomas Aquinas

FIRST READING

Psalm 126:1-6

Jody S.

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Let Us Even Now Go To Bethlehem

SECOND READING

1 Samuel 7:5-13

Pastor Julia DiFiore

SERMON

My Ebenezer

Pastor Julia DiFiore

SERMON REFLECTION

*The Wise Men Came From A Country So Far
Church Choir*

**INVITATION TO PRAY FOR JOYS, CONCERNS, &
GRATITUDE FOR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

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

*Go Tell It On The Mountain
NC154 Verses 1,2,3*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Announcements are in the back of this bulletin.)

†BENEDICTION

People: With the help of God we will 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.

Upon these actions, may people know that you belong to Christ Jesus and with the help of the Divine Author of Love may your light shine brightly for all to see. Amen.

†**POSTLUDE**

*Awake, Awake And Greet The New Morn
Church Choir*



One License #A720797

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...

Carol C, Dennis W, Mary P, Shannon P.

Also, remember to pray for all who are serving in the military, first responders, medical personnel, and our elected officials.

12/28/25 – WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Don O.

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Jovanna D.

MUSIC: Denise G.

USHERS: Jacie S. & Deana C.

POWER POINT: Krysta R.

LAY READER: Jody S.

COFFEE HOUR: Krysta R.

1/4/26 – WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Don O.

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Jovanna D.

MUSIC: Denise G.

USHERS: Don & Pat O.

POWER POINT: Michael B.

LAY READER: Jody S.

COFFEE HOUR:

READER: 1/11/26 – Jovanna D.

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.

NEW BIBLE STUDY

SEASON 5 OF THE CHOSEN WILL RESUME ON JANUARY 7, 2026!

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 practice is on Thursdays 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 be held in the sanctuary on the first Saturday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Next Taiz'e is Saturday January 4th at 6:30 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will be held on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sunday of the month. No Sunday School December 28th.

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.

December gives us
A Christmas story
The birth of a baby
With a promise of glory

There is a hunger story
In the here and now
Help is needed
Just ask how

December food pantry requests:

Canned Beef Stew, Chili
Cereal
Canned Fruit
(no applesauce please)
Peanut Butter
Pancake Mix/Pancake Syrup
Canned Pasta
(with or without meat)
Boxed or Pouch Potatoes

Hearty Soups/Crackers

December Food Pantry Extras:

Holiday Meals

Bread, Muffin or Roll Mixes

Dessert Mixes

Candy & Cookies

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 the church office (810) 329-4142.

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 H. 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).

POINSETTIAS

The beautiful poinsettias that decorate the sanctuary
were provided this holiday season by the following:

Deana Currie:

In memory of Ted Corbin
In memory of Donna Jasmin

Beverly Stewart:

In memory of Raymond Boussan

Ken & Denise Gregg

In memory of Norman & Helen Grob

Carol LaVigne

In memory of her parents, Ervin & Ruth and Brother, Allan

Anonymous Donation