

WHO WE ARE

Our Vision

As believers in Jesus Christ, we will be a church of vibrant Christians.

Our Mission

We welcome people to faith in Jesus Christ to: *Discover God*

Equip one another for life

Reach inward/outward to serve

Our Welcome

Because we believe each person is made in God's Image, we welcome all persons into the life and worship of this congregation. Regardless of age, ability, gender identity or sexual orientation, racial or ethnic background – you are welcome here!

CONTACT

Hours: Mon-Thurs, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Phone: (269) 983-5519

Website: www.fccstjoseph.org

Facebook: facebook.com/FCCStJoseph

Email: office@fccstjoseph.org

Address: 2001 Niles Avenue
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085



STAFF

Rev. Jeffrey Hubers, Minister

Brenton Offenback, Music

Carly Hubers, Youth

Jan Trapani, Parish Nurse

Judy Hoffman, Church Office

Nanci Fenrick, Bookkeeper

Jim Dansfield, Maintenance

SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 21

6:00 p.m. - Longest Night

Monday, December 22

9:00 a.m. - Church Council

Tuesday, December 23

Office closing at noon

Wednesday, December 24

5:30 p.m. - Christmas Eve

8:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 25

Office closed—Merry Christmas

Sunday, December 28

10:30 a.m. - Worship

11:30 a.m. - Fellowship

Tuesday, December 30

Office closing at noon

Wednesday, December 31

Office Closed

Thursday, January 1

Happy New Year!

**For full listing, check Events
or Newsletter on website.**

ADVENT

PREPARE for CHRIST

First Congregational Church
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2001 Niles Ave
St Joseph MI 49085

www.fccstjoseph.org

“Wherever you are on the journey of life or faith, you are welcome here”

*Welcome to our Longest Night service of Grief and Remembrance.
On this night where the darkness is at its greatest, we hold out for
the light as we remember loved ones and the pain we may yet bear,
yearning for Christ’s new creation to transform all things into grace.*

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude “Sanctuary” Carrie Newcomer

Welcome

Call to Worship [screen]

Worship Response [screen] “O Lord Hear My Prayer”

Candle Lighting “We Are Not Alone” Eliza Gilkyson
*Following Pastor Jeffrey’s invitation, anyone is invited to come forward, take a
candle and have Pastor Jeffrey light it, to then be placed on the stands.*

Prayer

Parting Song [screen] #428 “When Peace Like a River”

Benediction
You are invited to depart in peace while the music plays.

Postlude

Ushers: Bruce and Kathy Zerler-Anderson

*Thank you for joining us! If you are a guest or visitor and would like to
know more about FCC, please enter your contact info in the fellowship
pads located in the pews and a staff member will reach out!*

To receive text updates via the **Remind app**,
go to <https://www.remind.com/join/fccsti>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanks to Diane Van Deurzen and Lisa Otey for blessing this service with voice and song. To see more of their music, visit <https://dianeandlisa.com>

If anyone needs further resources for grief, please contact Pastor Jeffrey or consider Lory’s Place (<https://lorysplace.org/>). We also host a Grief Ministry the second Saturday of every month at 10 a.m.

If you missed the Children’s Christmas video, watch it [here](#) (digital link).

Christmas Eve Worship will be 5:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Come celebrate!

Thanks to all those who helped purchase gifts for foster children!

Thanks to all who helped deliver flowers to shut-ins and families in need.

Thanks for the donations of winter hats, socks and gloves for the guests of Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen!

The church office will be closed December 24-25, 31 and January 1.

The Brunch Bunch will meet after worship on Sunday, December 28, and eat at Full of Crepe in downtown St Joe. Contact: Cindy (269.208.3212).

Book Club was canceled due to weather. Next meeting will be on January 27 at 9:30 a.m. Contact Faith at fesstiv@comcast.net for more info.

Come lend a hand with Sunday School for elementary students. Contact Carly at carly@fccstjoseph.org for more info or [sign up here](#) (digital link).

Our kids (and their families) would also love to see you helping out in the nursery. You can see the [volunteer options here](#) (digital link).

Want to help usher on a Sunday morning? Please use the Sign Up Genius link to find a date that works for you ([click here](#)).

Can you help serve at Soup Kitchen the third Tuesday of every month? Contact Lori Hellenga (269.921.7919) to volunteer or to learn more!

