



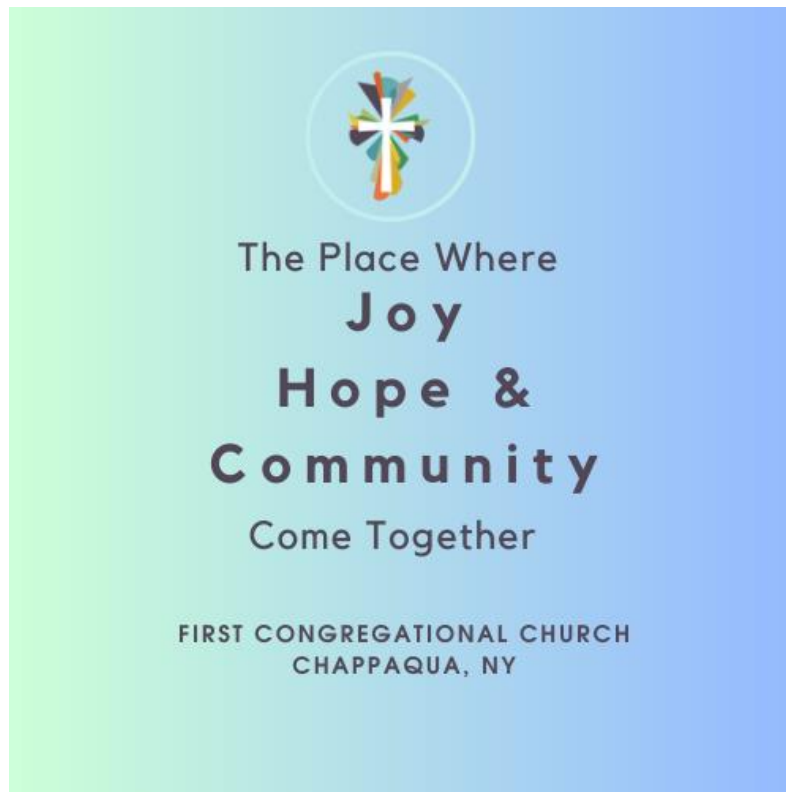
# The First Congregational Church

Chappaqua, New York

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Church

## All Are Welcome



*“The Healings of Jesus: The Place Where Joy, Hope and Community Come Together”*

November 19, 2023 • 10:00 am



## All are Welcome Here!

This is not just a slogan. At FCC, we truly believe that all are welcome. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome to join us here. Whether your faith feels strong or you are in the process of searching and questioning, you are welcome to join us here. If you are otherly-abled, straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, non-binary, transgendered or questioning, you are welcome to join us here. Whether you have been a regular at church or have never been to church, you are welcome to join us either in person or virtually. We openly welcome people of all backgrounds, ages, and perspectives to join us.

We welcome you to journey with us on your faith path and recognize that one person's path will be different than someone else's. As a Christian church, we encourage you to have a relationship with Jesus. You may believe in Jesus as your Savior, your role-model, or the good shepherd guiding you through life. But, whatever your beliefs, we welcome you to join us as we come together virtually and in person to worship together on Sunday mornings. If you are in the Sanctuary with us, we encourage you to fill out the Visitor card and/or Prayer Request card and give it to an Usher as you depart. If you are joining us virtually and have a Prayer Request or would like us to be in touch with you, please feel free to email our Minister, Rev. Martha ([mjacobs@fcc-chappaqua.org](mailto:mjacobs@fcc-chappaqua.org)). If you'd like to be added to our email list to receive our weekly news, *Thursday's Word*, and other news about FCC, please send your email address to [office@fcc-chappaqua.org](mailto:office@fcc-chappaqua.org).

### Yes, we have children in worship with us!

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me." Reflecting that spirit, children are always welcome in worship. We strongly believe their participation in all aspects of worship helps them to develop their faith. Children are invited to participate in communion or to receive a blessing during communion, as their parent desires. We have Sunday School for children and youth (typically September through June), and all children are welcome to attend if their parents so choose.

#### Our Mission Statement

*"With open hands and open hearts, we care for each other and the wider world through prayer, connections and compassion. We are compelled by our faith to follow in the path of Jesus Christ, by both listening to and spreading God's love to all people."*

#### Our Vision Statement

*"In living our faith and guided by the teachings of Jesus Christ, we seek to be known as an open and safe place of peaceful reflection and tolerant dialogue. We also seek to lead our community as a voice of hope to foster individual and social compassion."*

First Congregational Church  
Sunday, November 19, 2023 • 10:00 am

Prelude

*Cantilena*

-RHEINBERGER

Welcome

Centering Music Hymn

*Here I Am, Lord*

-HERE I AM, LORD

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you call-ing in the  
night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will  
hold your peo-ple in my heart. heart.  
heart, in my heart.  
heart, in my heart.

Call to Worship (*responsively*):

One: The heavens are telling of the glory of God and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

**All: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving our souls; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple.**

One: The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing in our hearts; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening our eyes.

**All: Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer. Come let us worship together.**

Hymn No. 276

*We Gather Together*

-KREMSER

We gather together to ask for God's blessing,  
to turn to a wisdom surpassing our own;  
the pow'rs that oppress us now cease to distress us.  
O God, be present with us, and make your will known.

*continued...*

Beside us to guide us, O God, we perceive you  
ordaining, maintaining the power of life.  
Yes, yours be the glory; let all tell the story.  
Our God, be ever with us, in gladness and strife.

May all sing your praises, Redeemer triumphant,  
defend us, befriend us, whatever may be.  
May your congregation escape tribulation.  
Your name be praised forever, O God, make us free!

Unison Invocation and Lord's Prayer (*using debts*):

**Blessed One, we come together on this Consecration Sunday to dedicate our gifts to ensure the continuing work of our Church. Use us, dear God, to do your work in this world. Encourage us to see that we are all ministers called into the Body of Christ, as we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us to pray, saying, *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 and ever. Amen.***

Youth Message

Jonathan Riedel

Invitation to Confession:

One: When we gather together, we do so to strengthen our faith and our community. When we gather together to confess our shortcomings, we do so knowing that God's grace is infinite, and that we need only confess with our hearts and God will forgive. Therefore, let us come with open hearts and minds to confess our sins and to seek forgiveness from the one who loves us more than we can ever comprehend.

Unison Prayer of Confession:

**Lord of blessings, you shower our world and our lives with your presence, with your love and with your guidance. Yet so often we do not see you. Despite what we may know in our hearts, we don't always remember that you fill us with your Spirit. We allow ourselves to be consumed by little annoyances and frustrating situations. Help us to pause and open our eyes to see the bright and beautiful blessings that surround us. Open our hearts to receive those blessings. Open our minds to see how we can be a blessing to those around us. Let the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you. Forgive us, we pray.**

A Moment for Silence and Personal Prayer

Words of Assurance (*responsively*):

One: To all who seek forgiveness through confession of sin and commitment to change,  
God responds with mercy and grace.

**All: We know that despite whatever we may do, God will continue to love us.  
When we come before God truly seeking forgiveness, we know that we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

Passing of Christ's Peace (*responsively*):

One: With gratitude and love, let us now greet each other – either in person or virtually - and pass our tidings of peace. May the peace of Christ be with you!

**All: And also with you!**

Scriptures

*Psalm 19*

The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

Its rising is from the end of the heavens and its circuit to the end of them, and nothing is hid from its heat.

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

But who can detect one's own errors? Clear me from hidden faults.

Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me.

Then I shall be blameless and innocent of great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

*The Gospel of Mark 7:31-37*

Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went by way of Sidon toward the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one, but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

Hymn

***Thy Word***

-THY WORD

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path

Sermon

*"The Healings of Jesus: The Place Where Joy, Hope and Community Come Together"*

Rev. Martha Jacobs

Prayer Over Our Pledges

**O Gracious God, giver of all good gifts, it is by your power that all things are made holy. We give thanks for your marvelous wonders and for your presence with us here. Bless our mutual commitment to build and nurture this faith community. May our gifts be multiplied so that we may bring hope to more and more people as we seek to serve those who are in need. May your face shine upon what we offer here this day and in the days to come. May your Holy Spirit guide us as we seek to fulfill your vision for our Church in the coming years. We pray over these gifts, blessing them in your name. Amen**

Hymn No. 715

***Now Thank We All Our God***

-NUN DANKET

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things has done, in whom the world rejoices,  
who, from our mothers' arms, has blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,  
and keep us full of grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God our Father and our Mother,  
to Christ and to the One who binds us to each other,  
the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore,  
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

Prayers of Our People

The Offering

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem

***Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem***

-MAUNDER

Doxology

***Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow***

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts;  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Unison Prayer of Consecration:

**God of Power and God of Plenty, use these gifts to heal our world, lift the fallen, renew our spirit, and bring us peace. Guide us in our acts of service and accept these offerings with our most humble gratitude. In the matchless name of Jesus we pray. Amen.**

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord;  
we are his new creation by water and the Word;  
from heaven he came and sought us to be his holy bride;  
with his own blood he bought us, and for our life he died.

Though with a scornful wonder the world sees us oppressed,  
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,  
yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up, "How long?"  
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

We now on earth have union with God the Three in One,  
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.

Oh, happy ones, and holy! Lord, give us grace that we  
like them the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

Benediction

Postlude

***Now Thank We All Our God***

-MUELLER

We thank all who have participated in our morning worship service and in the auxiliary functions.

- Thank you to our Host Deacon
- Robin Stout is our Liturgist
- Esther Gates and Sharon Rubens are our Ushers
- Nancy Roche is hosting Sunday Fellowship

Please join us for Sunday Fellowship in Centennial Hall

*The flowers on the altar this morning are given by John F. Smith in loving memory of his mother, Adelaide Rochester Smith and his Grandmother, Metta Miller Elder, who are together again in God's Kingdom and in memory of his beloved golden retriever, Memphis.*

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*First Congregational Church • 210 Orchard Ridge Road, Chappaqua, NY 10514 • (914) 238-4411*  
*office@fcc-chappaqua.org • fcc-chappaqua.org*

FCC offices are open Monday-Friday from 9:00 am-3:30 pm.  
In an emergency, Rev. Martha can be reached at 914-584-5469



# Calendar



## TODAY SUNDAY, November 19

*Consecration Sunday*

**10:00 am Worship** (S/YouTube)

**11:15 am Sunday Fellowship** (CH)

11:00 am-6:00 pm Babe's Delectables (K, MR)

7:30 pm AA (CH)

## Monday, November 20

**9:15 am Play Care**

11:00 am-6:00 pm Babe's Delectables (K, MR)

**7:00 pm Trustees meeting** (Zoom)

## Tuesday, November 21

**9:15 am PC Thanksgiving Celebration** (CH,K)

**9:15 am Play Care**

1:00-9:00 pm Babe's Delectables (K, MR)

**1:00 pm FCC Staff meeting** (L)

7:30 pm AA (CH)

## Wednesday, November 22

**9:15 am Play Care**

7:30 pm Boy Scouts Troop 2 (CH)

## Thursday, November 23

*FCC Office and Play Care Closed*



**2:00-5:00 pm Thanksgiving at FCC** (CH)

7:30 pm AA (CH)

## Friday, November 24

*FCC Office and Play Care Closed*

## Saturday, November 25

**10:00 am-4:00 pm Christmas Trees sale**

7:30 pm Mt. Kisco AA (CH)

## NEXT SUNDAY, November 26

**10:00 am Worship** (S/YouTube)

**11:00 am-4:00 pm Christmas Trees sale**

**11:15 am Sunday Fellowship** (CH)

7:30 pm AA (CH)



## **TREES ARE HERE!!!**

We need help selling them.

Selling trees on weekends is a great family event and an excellent opportunity to meet other families.

Please volunteer!