



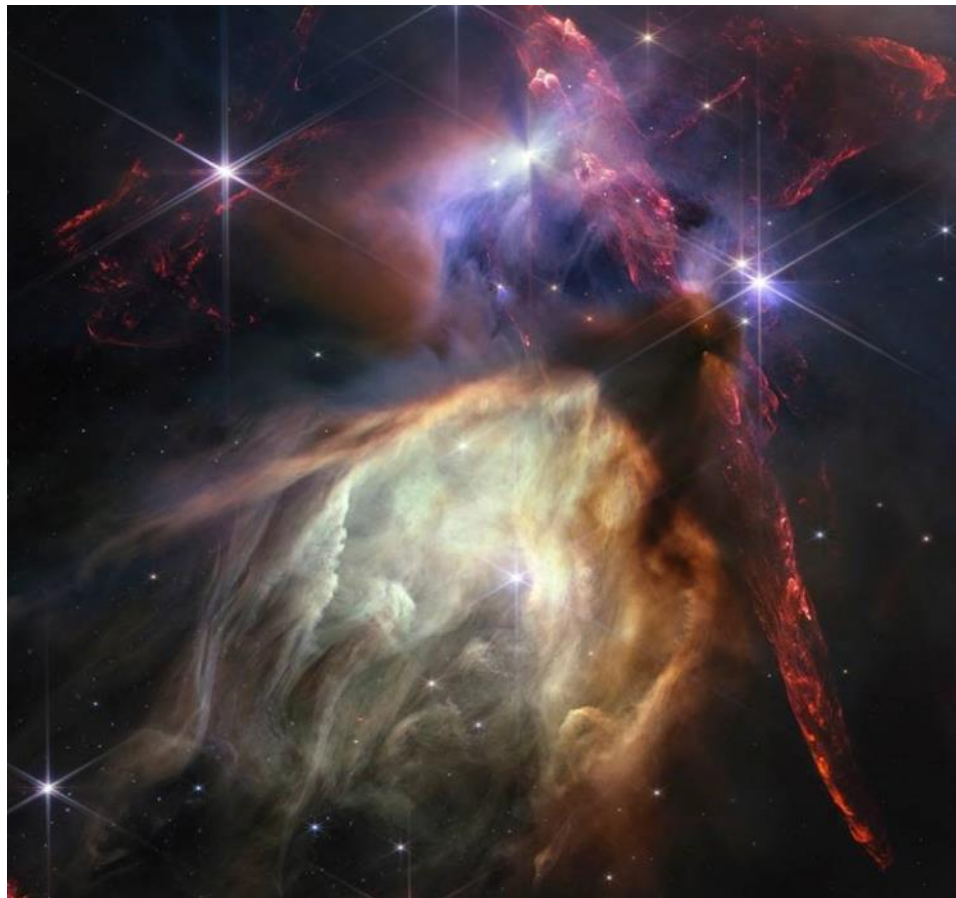
# The First Congregational Church

Chappaqua, New York

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Church

All Are Welcome



*"Can We Continue to be Amazed?"*

January 28, 2024 • 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 ([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."*

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[office@fcc-chappaqua.org](mailto:office@fcc-chappaqua.org) • [fcc-chappaqua.org](http://fcc-chappaqua.org)

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

*First Congregational Church*  
*Sunday January 28, 2024 • 10:00 am*

Prelude

*Adagio in A minor*

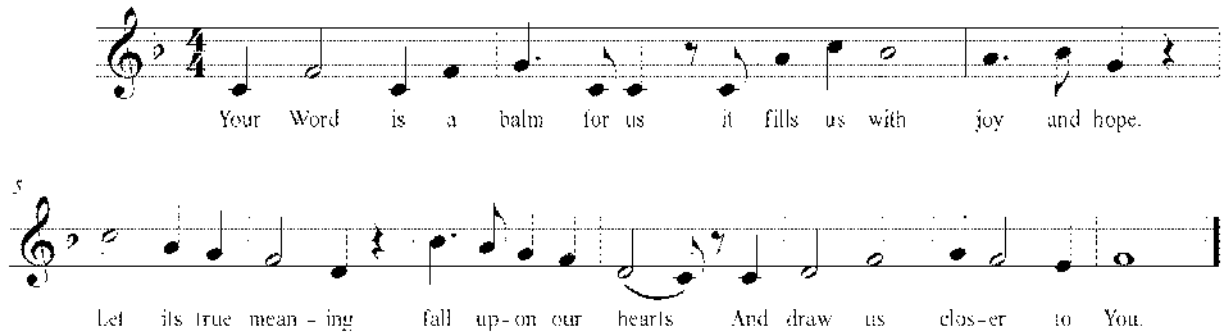
-J.S. BACH

Welcome

Centering Music Hymn

*Your Word Is A Balm for Us*

-Music by KEITH ROBERTLARD  
-Words by REV. DR. MARTHA JACOBS



Call to Worship (*responsively*):

One: Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to God with my whole heart.

**All: Great are God's works, full of honor and majesty; his righteousness endures forever.**

One: Holy and awesome is God's name.

**All: God's praise endures forever. Come let us worship together.**

Hymn No. 56

*For the Beauty of the Earth* (*verses 1, 2 & 5*)

-DIX

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies,  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For thy church that evermore lifteth holy hands above,  
offering up on every shore one pure sacrifice of love,  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

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

**O God empower us. Fill us with a sense of your joy. Focus us upon your love for us, which is above every love we have ever known. God, make your love real for us, here and now. Through Jesus Christ, the one who shows us your infinite love and who 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 for ever 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:

**God, we come before you this morning knowing that we have not done everything that we can to help others. We know that we make mistakes, that we do not always use our best judgment, and that we are sometimes more concerned for ourselves than for others. Help us, dear Jesus, to know that you are present with us, even in those moments when we make mistakes. Forgive us for the things we have done wrong and help us as we try to do better.**

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: Sheltered in God's gracious heart of mercy and love, 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!**

Scripture

*Psalms 111*

Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.

Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds; the LORD is gracious and merciful.

He provides food for those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant.

He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the heritage of the nations.

The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy.

They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever.

*The Gospel of Mark 1: 21-28*

They went to Capernaum; and when the Sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God."

But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him.

They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching--with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him."

At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Hymn

***Thy Word***

-THY WORD

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

Sermon

*"Can We Continue to be Amazed?"*

Rev. Martha

Hymn No. 86

***Great Is Thy Faithfulness***

-FAITHFULNESS

Great is thy faithfulness, O God Creator,  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

*Refrain:* Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and spring-time and harvest,  
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.  
(refrain)

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!  
(refrain)

Prayers of Our People

The Offering

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem

***One Faith, One Hope, One Lord***

-COURTNEY

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 light, we have been lifted up by your presence with us. We re-dedicate ourselves and our gifts for the care of others. May we be beacons of love and justice in our community and our world. May these gifts be multiplied so that we can humbly share the gifts we receive with others, so that they too may feel your love and presence. Amen.**

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art  
thou my best thought by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
thou my redeemer, my love thou hast won,  
thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,  
thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Great God of heaven, my victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever be fall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Benediction

Postlude

***Choral Song***

-WESLEY

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

- Ed McLaren is our Host Deacon
- Mark Barth is our Liturgist
- Esther Gates and Robin Stout are our Ushers
- Sue Hacker is hosting Sunday Fellowship

Please join us for Sunday Fellowship in Centennial Hall

*The flowers on the altar this morning are given by Misako Matsuoka  
in loving memory of Masaaki Matsuoka*



# Calendar



## TODAY SUNDAY, January 28

*ESP Homeless Shelter*

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

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

**11:30 am Outside the Box Taskforce mtg** (MR)

7:30 pm AA (CH)

**8:00 pm ESP Homeless Shelter** (CH,K)

## Thursday, February 1

**9:15 am Play Care**

**9:30 am-12:00 pm Play Care gym class** (CH)

**7:00 pm Choir rehearsal** (CR)

7:30 pm AA (CH)

## Friday, February 2

**9:15 am Play Care**

## Saturday, February 3

7:30 pm Mt. Kisco AA (CH)

## NEXT SUNDAY, February 4

*Luke's Pantry*

**10:00 am First Sunday w/Communion**  
(S/YouTube)

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

**11:30 am Gala Planning mtg** (MR)

1:00-6:00 pm Granda rental (CH)

7:30 pm AA (CH)

## Monday, January 29

**9:15 am Play Care**

## Tuesday, January 30

9:00 am-7:00 pm LaPetite rental (K)

**9:15 am Play Care**

**1:00 pm Staff meeting** (MR)

7:30 pm AA (CH)

## Wednesday, January 31

**9:15 am Play Care**

7:00 pm Boy Scouts Troop 2 (CH/outside)



### **Luke's Pantry**

Please bring non-perishable food donations for the Community Center of Northern Westchester, to be blessed during worship



**BIBLE STORIES  
LIVE!**

## **SAVE THE DATE!**

**Sunday, February 11**

Join us for *Bible Stories Live!*  
and a Valentine's Day themed Cookie walk

