



The First Congregational Church

Chappaqua, New York

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Church

All Are Welcome



“Where the Divine and Human Meet”

March 3, 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). 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.

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 • 210 Orchard Ridge Road, Chappaqua, NY 10514 • (914) 238-4411
office@fcc-chappaqua.org • 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 March 3, 2024 • 10:00 am

Prelude

Largo (BWV 545)

-J.S. BACH

Welcome

Centering Music 199

When Jesus Wept

-WHEN JESUS WEPT

When Jesus wept, the falling tear in mercy flowed beyond all bound;
when Jesus groaned, a trembling fear seized all the guilty world around.

Call to Worship (*responsively*):

One: The skies tell God's glory; the firmament declares God's handiwork.

All: Day to day pours forth speech; night to night declares knowledge.

One: The precepts of the Lord are upright, gladdening the heart. The commandment of the Lord is perfect, giving light to the eyes.

All: May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our heart be desirable to you, Lord, our rock and our redeemer. 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*):

Loving God, we ask that you help us to be open to making the weeks of Lent a time of pilgrimage and a spiritual growth season. We ask for the wisdom to slow our pace. Help us to develop a sense of personal peace. As we worship today, open us to seeking for a deeper understanding about Jesus Christ, the one 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

Children's Anthem

The Lord Is My Shepherd

The Lord is my shepherd; I'll walk with him always.
He leads me by still waters; I'll walk with him always.
Always, always, I'll walk with him always. (2x)

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:

Dear God, help us to overcome the temptations that divert us from paying attention to you. When we are tempted to neglect worship, recall us to a deep enjoyment of your Word. When we are tempted to become self-centered, remind us that it is you who made us and not we ourselves. When we are tempted to value convenience over compassion, restore our capacity to care deeply. Grant us, during this Lenten season, a discipline and direction that will strengthen and guide our spirits.

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: As Lent continues to unfolds, may we come to a deeper understanding of God's amazing grace and forgiveness, and let us know in our hearts 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 (*see back page for further information about this translation*)

Psalms 19

The skies tell God's glory; the firmament declares God's handiwork.

Day to day pours forth speech; night to night declares knowledge.

There is no perceptible speech and no distinguishable words; their voice is not audibly heard.

But their measure goes out across the entire world, and their words to the ends of the earth. In them God set up a tent for the sun— like a bridegroom who leaves his dressing chamber, joyous as a champion running a course.

Its starting point is the edge of the skies, and its rounds take it to the other side.

Nothing is veiled from its heat.

The instruction of the Lord is flawless, restoring the soul.

The testimony of the Lord is trustworthy, giving wisdom to the simple.

continued...

The precepts of the Lord are upright, gladdening the heart.
The commandment of the Lord is perfect, giving light to the eyes.
Reverence for the Lord is pure, established evermore.
The judgments of the Lord are truth, entirely just — more desirable than gold, than much fine gold; and sweeter than honey, than what flows from the honeycomb.
Certainly, whoever worships you is guided by them; observing them brings much return.
But inadvertent errors—can we discern them?
Of such hidden errors, hold me guiltless!
Please, from willful error, shield the one who worships you.
May such errors not dominate me!
Thus I will be blameless and innocent of great transgression.
May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be desirable to you, Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Exodus 20:1-17

God spoke all these words:

I am the Lord, your God, who brought you out from the land of Egypt, from the state of slavery. You shall not have any other gods in place of me. You shall not make yourself a statue or any form of what is in heaven above or on the earth below, nor of what is in the water under the earth. You shall neither bow to them nor worship them, for I am the Lord, your God—a God demanding loyalty: bringing the guilt of ancestors to bear on the second, third, and fourth generations of those who hate me, while renewing loyalty to thousands, to those who love me and hold to my commandments. You shall not take up the name of the Lord your God for no good reason.

Remember the Day of Rest, to dedicate it to God. Six days you shall work and do all your business. The seventh day is a rest for the Lord your God: you shall not do any business—you or your son or your daughter, your male or female servant or your livestock or the temporary residents in your city. Since in six days God fashioned the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and settled back on the seventh day, God blessed the Day of Rest and set it apart.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days will stretch out on the land the Lord your God gives you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not betray your marriage.

You shall not steal.

You shall not give false testimony about your neighbor.

You shall not yearn for your neighbor's house.

You shall not yearn for your neighbor's wife or male or female servant or ox or donkey or anything that is your neighbor's.

Hymn

Thy Word

-THY WORD

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

Homily

“Where the Divine and Human Meet”

Rev. Martha

Prayers of Our People

The Offering

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem

Acclamation

-ROBERT RAY

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 all mercy and abundance, we thank you for these gifts and promise to use them to the best of our abilities as we follow you on this Lenten path. Through the power of your Spirit, may these gifts be used to bring renewal and resurrection to those who need it most. Amen.

Hymn No. 425

Let Us Break Bread Together

-LET US BREAK BREAD

Let us break bread together on our knees

let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain: When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees
let us drink wine together on our knees.

Refrain

Let us praise God together on our knees
let us praise God together on our knees.

Refrain

Holy Communion

Invitation

One: God is with you

All: And also with you!

One: Let us lift up our hearts

All: We give thanks to God who meets us where we are.

Thanksgiving and Praise

Words of Institution

Prayer of the Holy Spirit

continued...

Sharing the Bread and Cup (all bread is gluten free and we serve grape juice)

Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks

God of our Lenten pilgrimage, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Refresh and sustain us as we go forward on our journey with open hearts and hands, ready for what you would have us learn during this Lenten time. We pray for these things in the name of the one whose 40 day journey through the wilderness is an inspiration for our own journey, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Closing Hymn No. 433

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

-DENNIS

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love:
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

When we are called to part, it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.
songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to thee, I will ever give to thee.

Benediction

Postlude

Postlude on 'Lancashire'

-arr. by JASON PAYNE

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

- Chase Tyler is our Host Deacon and Communion Manager
 - Judy Jones is Assisting with Communion
 - Christina Yedowitz-Nessel is our Liturgist
- Jane Smalley and Carl Thorsberg are our Ushers
 - Betsy Jones is hosting Sunday Fellowship

Please join us for Sunday Fellowship in Centennial Hall



Today's loose collection will be added to the Deacons Assistance Fund which assists members, friends or neighbors, who have a current financial problem which might be overcome or diminished by caring financial help.



Calendar



TODAY Sunday, March 3

Third Sunday in Lent

Luke's Pantry

Play Care Book Fair (L)

10:00 am First Sunday w/communion

(S/YouTube)

11:15 am Sunday Fellowship (CH)

11:30 am Outside the Box Task Force mtg (N)

11:30 am Search Committee meeting (MR)

7:30 pm AA (CH)

Monday, March 4

8:30 am-3:00 pm Play Care book fair (L)

9:15 am Play Care

5:30 pm Play Care Board meeting (ME)

Tuesday, March 5

8:30 am-3:00 pm Play Care book fair (L)

9:15 am Play Care

1:00 pm Staff meeting (MR)

7:30 pm AA (CH)

Wednesday, March 6

8:30 am-3:00 pm Play Care book fair (L)

9:15 am Play Care

12:00 pm Lenten Meditation Service

(S/YouTube)

7:00 pm Boy Scouts Troop 2 (CH)

Thursday, March 7

8:30 am-3:00 pm Play Care book fair (L)

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, March 8

8:30 am-3:00 pm Play Care book fair (L)

9:15 am Play Care

Saturday, March 9

Play Care Book Fair (L)

9:00 am-5:00 pm Babe's Delectables (K)

7:30 pm Mt. Kisco AA (CH)

NEXT Sunday, March 10

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Play Care Book Fair (L)

10:00 am Worship (S/YouTube)

11:15 am Sunday Fellowship (CH)

11:30 am Gala planning meeting (MR)

3:00-6:00 pm Bingo and dinner (CH,K)

7:30 pm AA (CH)



 SCHOLASTIC

Play Care's Book Fair
March 4-8

Stop in FCC's Library and shop
to support our preschool



BINGO YOUTH FUNDRAISER
Sunday, March 10, 3:00-6:00 pm in CH
Dinner will be served.

Face painting! Prizes for the winners!

Appetizers and desserts are appreciated

\$2.00/card or 3 for \$5.00

Wine available for a donation.

About Our Bible Readings

This Lent and Easter, we will be using a newer translation of the texts from *Readings from the Roots*. **This translation aims to reflect the readings' original historical contexts and so expresses the theological and social meanings they had for those who originally wrote and read them.** *The goal of Readings from the Roots is to give contemporary readers a more comprehensive grasp of the scriptural sources that comprise the foundation of Christian faith.*

It is believed that this approach reduces the potential, inherent in many existing translations, for imposing on the Hebrew Bible and even the New Testament ideas derived from later Christianity that are, in fact, foreign to those texts. For example, this approach seeks to reduce the potential for anti-Judaism that sometimes has been associated with supersessionist* readings of the Christian message. The goal is to enrich Christianity through its roots in Judaism, without creating false adversarial relationships. **It seeks to accurately align with Christianity's foundations in the life and teachings of Jesus, a Galilean Jew. It also seeks to raise the church's self-awareness in regard to past patterns of anti-Jewish interpretation which has troubled many Christians who seek to not support anti-Jewish interpretations.**

A team of scholars produced these translations and believes that this translation will help **overcome a heritage which they believe has distorted the memory of Jesus' death.** Scripture presents the cross as a beacon that guides people of every culture to see their common humanity.

*Supersessionism holds that the universal Christian Church has replaced ancient Israel as God's true Israel and that Christians (whether Jewish or gentile) have replaced the biological bloodline of ancient Israelites as the people of God.

Join us!



Lenten Meditation Services

Wednesdays
March 6, 13, 20
at 12:00 pm

**All services are
in person
or online**



Palm Sunday
March 24 at 10:00 am

Easter Egg coloring during Sunday Fellowship

Maundy Thursday
March 28 at 7:00 pm
Upper Room Meal, Communion
and Worship Service



Good Friday Meditation Service
March 29 at 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday Services
March 31

8:00 am Early Worship in the Memorial Room
8:30 am Light Breakfast

10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Easter Brunch
Easter Egg Hunt (for ages 1-10) at 11:30 am





Easter Flowers Order Form

Easter flowers always add grace and color to FCC at Easter time. A time to recognize the special people and events that make you smile, warm your heart and make your days a pleasure.

I would like _____ Easter Lily (\$20.00 each)

I would like _____ Azalea (\$35.00 each)

I would like _____ Hydrangea (\$35.00 each)

Name _____

PLEASE PRINT

In Loving Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

In Gratitude of _____

In Celebration of _____

Please make checks payable to *First Congregational Church, "Easter Flowers"* on memo line

To be included in the bulletin, please return this form to the main office no later than Tuesday, March 19.

Please consider delivering a Lily to church members who are not able to join us for worship, as they become an ongoing gift.