



The First Congregational Church

Chappaqua, New York

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Church

All Are Welcome



*Second
Sunday
in
Advent*

Bible Stories Live!

December 8, 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, neuro divergent, 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."

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The FCC offices are Monday-Friday from 9:00 am-3:30 pm
In an emergency, please contact Rev. Martha Jacobs 914-584-5469

First Congregational Church
Sunday, December 8, 2024 • 10:00 am • Second Sunday of Advent

Prelude

Noel X

-DAQUIN

Welcome

Centering Music Hymn No. 119 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verse 1)*

-FRENCH MELODY

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice, rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Call to Worship (*responsively*):

One: Now is the time of watching and waiting.

All: Now is the time of the expectation of new life.

One: The candle of Peace will be lit.

All: Let us worship together in the light of God's grace.

Hymn No. 128

One Candle Is Lit (verse 2)

-CRADLE SONG

Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare
for a gift that compels us with justice to care.

Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease

One candle is lit for the reign of God's peace.

Lighting The Advent Candle – The Candle of Peace
The Cortez-Welch Family - Belia, Percell, Isabelle and Liam

Voice 1: “The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them.”

Voice 2: What does peace look like in the new world?

Everyone: Peace looks like a flowing river where every living thing has what that they need to flourish. Peace looks like a place where those who are weak are not afraid of those who are strong. Peace looks like good conversations around big tables.

Voice 1: Advent is the beginning of this new world, a better world, where we can boldly build a good life together.

Voice 2: May it be so. (*First and second Advent candles are lit*)

Everyone: Amen.

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

God of timeless grace, you seek to fill us with peace, which surpasses all understanding. Make us ready for the message that prepares the way, that with uprightness of heart and peace we may eagerly await the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, 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*

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:

Hear our humble prayer, dear God, as we come today to confess that we have been less than responsive to the needs of others, and maybe even of our own needs. Help us during this Advent time, this time of waiting, to slow down, to pause to listen for your guidance as we try to navigate this world that would prefer we not provide for the needs of all. May we serve you in faith and give voice to your presence among us.

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: God, we thank you for the assurance of your grace and forgiveness, for hearing our prayers and challenging us to accept your gifts of love and acceptance. We are forgiven! Glory 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!

Bible Stories Live!

Hymn No. 167

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

-GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

Refrain

The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! above the earth,
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior's birth.

Refrain

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

Refrain

Prayers of Our People

The Offering

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem

Carol of the Bells

-LEONTOVICH

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.

Hymn No. 165

Once in Royal David's City (verses 1,2 & 4)

-H. Gauntlet

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

Christ came down to earth from heaven, love incarnate for us all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor, the scorned, the lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
for that child who seemed so helpless lives and reigns in heaven above;
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

Benediction

Postlude

Shepherd's Pipe Carol

-WOOD

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

- Chase Tyler is our Host Deacon
 - Mark Barth is our Liturgist
 - Sharon Rubens and Ed McLaren are our Ushers
- Please join us for Sunday Fellowship in Centennial Hall



Annual Ladies ORNAMENT SWAP
at FCC Wednesday, December 11 at 7:00 pm
in the Memorial Room.

Bring a wrapped ornament (\$10 value).
Dinner will be served at 6:00 for those able to come earlier.
Please bring a dessert. RSVP to Jennifer Frawley 914-420-6701
jfrawley@verizon.net



COOKIE WALK - following worship on Sunday, December 15.
The most delicious Fun-draiser of the season. Buy a box and fill it
with a variety of delightful, home-baked Christmas Cookies.
Christmas cookies wanted! Please bring your baked goods to
the church on or before the 15th.

Mitten & Pajama Drive

Helps us benefit the Community Center of Northern Westchester.
Please bring in *new* hats, gloves, scarves, mittens, and/or pajamas.

Adult and Children sizes are needed.

Place them on the GIVING TREE in the mail lobby.

Thank you!



Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

Join us at 5:00 pm for our Christmas Eve service
It is the most joyous time of the year!

Our most cherished service combines the best of both our Christmas Pageant and our Lessons and Carols Service. Our youth and adults will be reading parts of the Christmas Story, we will be singing lots of Christmas Carols, lighting candles and writing prayer cards that will be included in the Prayers of Our People until the start of Lent on February 14th. Come and join us as we celebrate this most wonderful part of our Church year. We look forward to welcoming in the Christ child with voices raised in song and hearts filled with joy.



Order
Your Poinsettias!

We are in the season of giving thanks!

Christmas is the time to recognize the special people and events that make you smile, warm your heart and make your days a pleasure.

Poinsettias always add grace and color to FCC at Christmas time. Then, when shared with church members who are not able to join us for worship, they become an ongoing gift.

I would like _____ Poinsettias.

Graciously Donated by _____

PLEASE PRINT:

In Loving Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

In Gratitude of _____

In Celebration of _____

The cost is \$20.00 per plant. Enclosed is my check for \$_____.

Please make checks payable to **First Congregational Church** with **Poinsettia** in the memo line

To be included in the bulletin, please return this form to the main office no later than Sunday, December 15.

- I will pick up my poinsettia(s) on Tuesday, December 24 after the 5:00 pm service.
- I will take a poinsettia to someone



Calendar



TODAY Sunday, December 8

Second Sunday of Advent
Bible Stories Live!
Advent Workshop

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

11:00 - 4:00 pm **Christmas Tree Sale**

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

11:15 am **Search Committee Meeting** (L)

4:00-9:00 pm **AA Holiday Party** (CH)

Monday, December 9

9:15 am **Play Care**

Tuesday, December 10

9:15 am **Play Care**

12:30 pm **Staff Holiday Lunch** (Office closes at Noon)

7:30 pm **AA** (CH)

Wednesday, December 11

9:15 am **Play Care**

6:00 pm **Ladies Ornament Swap Dinner** (K,MR)

7:00 pm **Ladies Ornament Swap** (K,MR)

7:30 pm **Boy Scouts Troop 2** (CH)

Thursday, December 12

9:15 am **Play Care**

7:15 pm **Choir Rehearsal** (CR)

7:30 pm **AA** (CH)

Friday, December 13

9:15 am **Play Care**

7:30 pm **AA** (CH)

Saturday, December 14

10:00 am-4:00 pm **Christmas Tree Sale**

7:30 pm **Mt. Kisco AA** (MR)

NEXT Sunday, December 15

Third Sunday in Advent

Cookie Walk

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

11:00 am-4:00 pm **Christmas Tree Sale**

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

11:30 am **OTBTF Meeting** (L)

7:30 pm **AA** (CH)

Key: Centennial Hall (CH); Choir Room (CR); Classroom (CL);
Kitchen (K); Library (L); Memorial Room, (MR); Play Care (PC);
Sanctuary (S)