

# The First Congregational Church

Chappaqua, New York

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Church

## All Are Welcome



Watercolor by Cara B. Hochhalter

March 1, 2026 • 10:00 am



## Welcome to FCC — We're So Glad You're Here

“All Are Welcome” isn't just a slogan - it's how we live. Whether you're grounded in faith or full of questions... Young or old, neuro-diverse or otherly-abled... Whatever your race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, political views, marital status, income level, or background - You can belong here. We believe every person is a child of God, and every voice is essential to who we are as a family of faith.

**Maybe you've gone to church your whole life - or maybe this is your very first time in a place like this.** Either way, we're grateful you're here. It takes courage to show up, especially if church has ever felt like a place of hurt, judgment, or confusion. We hope this community feels different. As a congregation of the United Church of Christ, we're rooted in a rich history of Christian faith and justice.

As a church, we seek to follow Jesus and explore what that means in today's changing world. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey—curious, committed, cautious, or questioning—we're grateful you're here to grow with us.

If you're worshipping in person for the first time, we invite you to fill out a **Visitor Card**. Prayer requests can also be written and handed to an usher.

### **Worshipping online? Have a question or want to get more involved?**

Pastor Siobhan would love to hear from you at [pastorsiobhan@fcc-chappaqua.org](mailto:pastorsiobhan@fcc-chappaqua.org). To receive our weekly *Thursday's Word* newsletter, contact [office@fcc-chappaqua.org](mailto:office@fcc-chappaqua.org).

### **And yes, children are joyfully welcome in worship!**

Jesus said, *“Let the little children come to me... for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs”* (Mark 10:14). We believe children aren't just the future of the church—they help reveal the heart of God right now. Their voices, questions, wiggles, giggles—and yes, even cries or joyful shouts—are welcome here. We celebrate the life they bring, even when it doesn't follow the script. Children are invited to receive communion or a blessing and may also join our Sunday School program (September–June), if families choose. *For more information you can reach our Director of Christian Education Jonathan Riedel at [ce@fcc-chappaqua.org](mailto:ce@fcc-chappaqua.org)*

**We hope you feel at home, for truly your presence is a blessing to us.**

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

FCC Office hours are Monday-Friday from 9:00 am-3:30 pm

**If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Rev. Katy Cates at 914-584-7722**

Find us on YouTube: [@fccchappaqua7354](https://www.youtube.com/@fccchappaqua7354) and Facebook: [fcc-chappaqua.org](http://fcc-chappaqua.org)

*First Congregational Church*  
*Sunday, March 1, 2026 • 10:00 am*

Prelude

*Largo (BWV 545)*

-J.S. BACH

Welcome

Centering Music

*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*):

from Christine Walters Paintner in *Water, Wind, Earth, and Fire; The Christian Practice of Praying with the Elements*.

One: Spirit of Living Water, you hold all of creation in your womb and spring us forward on to the earth at birth.

**All: Spirit of Tides, remind us of the rise and fall of your rhythms so that we may discover them deep within our own beings.**

One: Spirit of Greenness, bring vigor to our lives so that we might experience the energy of life's call, moving through us out into the world.

**All: Be with us, O Creator of living water and renew us each day. Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn No. 53

*Morning Has Broken*

Morning has broken like the first morning,  
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,  
like the first dewfall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning  
born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, praise every morning,  
God's re-creation of the new day!

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

**Gracious and Loving God, open our hearts this day to new ways of thinking about you. As we join in worship in this beautiful space or from our homes on Zoom, fill us with your Spirit that is sometimes beyond imagining. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, 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 for ever and ever. Amen.***

Invitation to Confession:

One: Infinite Holiness, you know us. We confess that in our humanness, we have sometimes failed you. We are so often consumed by life's trials and even successes, that we forget about you. Our minds are so focused on the here and now. Forgive our short-sightedness. Forgive our unwillingness to find new ways of relating to you and to others with compassion. Bear with us and in your Spirit, lift us up.

Unison Prayer of Confession:

**All: Forgiving God, you hear us. Open our eyes so that we might live more fully in relationship with you. Guide us towards ways of fulfilling your call for justice and peace, as individuals and as a congregation. Help us to see one another with understanding and forgiveness. For this time in our world when each of us could make a difference, show us how to truly live our lives after the example of Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

Words of Assurance (*responsively*):

One: Friends, hear the good news: God's mercy is wider than our mistakes and deeper than our regrets. In Christ, we are forgiven, set free, and made new.

**All: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

\*Passing of Christ's Peace

One: Celebrating God's amazing grace, let us now share that grace with one another. Please rise in body or in spirit, to pass the peace of Christ with one another—either in person or virtually. May the Peace of Christ be with you!

**All: And also with you!**

Hebrew Scripture: *Psalms 121* (written as a prayer)

I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come? My help comes from you, O God, who made heaven and earth. You will not let our feet to be moved; you who keeps us will not slumber. You who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. You are our keeper; You are the shade at our right hand. The sun shall not strike us by day, nor the moon by night. You will keep us from all evil, you will keep our life. You will keep our going out and our coming in from this time on and forevermore.

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\* Congregation Standing (if you feel comfortable)

Gospel Scripture: *John 3:1-15*

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.”

Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”

Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?”

Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished by what I said to you. ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?”

Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believe in him may have eternal life.”

Sermon

*Born of Water and Spirit*

Rev. Cara Hochhalter

Prayers of the People

Announcements

The Offering

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem

*On The Willows*

-Schwartz

\*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 Dedication:

**All: O God, we give but a portion of what we have received and yet we give from our hearts. We ask that you bless these gifts that they may be used in meaningful ways for the work and ministry of this church. Through your blessing, we give thanks for the ways this church enriches the spiritual life of the congregation and for the extension of your love in the world—through each person here. In our giving this day, we are deeply grateful. Amen.**

***Let Us Break Bread Together***

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 to the Table

Great Thanksgiving

One: God be with you!

**All: And also with you.**

One: As we partake of this bread and cup, we remember Jesus the Christ, who asked us to understand our nature as that of both water and spirit. Let us honor him who blessed us with this wisdom. May we hear him again on this day, as we share in these elements of Communion together.

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

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

Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks together:

**All: Thanks be to you, O Gracious God, for your presence and steadfast Spirit. May the blessings of this table strengthen our faith and unify our hearts. For in this blessing, you inspire us to see your Spirit around us; to see your Grace in the lives of others; and to inspire us to love more fully in this miracle of life. We pray in the name of the Living Christ. Amen.**

\*Closing Hymn No. 433

***Blest Be the Tie That Binds***

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.

Benediction

Rev. Cara Hochhalter

Postlude

***Postlude on "Lancashire"***

-ARR. BY JASON PAYNE



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.



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

- Judy Jones is our Host Deacon
- Chase Tyler is Assisting with Communion
- Christina Yedowitz-Nessel is our Liturgist
- Judy Jones and Robin Stout are our Ushers

**Please join us for coffee/snacks and fellowship in the Centennial Hall following worship.**



## Calendar



### TODAY Sunday, March 1

*Second Sunday in Lent*

**10:00 am Worship with Communion** (CH/YouTube)

**11:15 am Sunday Fellowship**

**11:15-11:45 am Choir Rehearsal** (CR)

7:30 pm AA (CH)

Monday, March 2

**Play Care Book Fair**

**9:15 am Play Care**

Tuesday, March 3

**Play Care Book Fair**

**9:15 am Play Care**

7:30 pm AA (CH)

Wednesday, March 4

**Play Care Book Fair**

**9:15 am Play Care**

7:30 pm Boy Scouts

Thursday, March 5

**Play Care Book Fair**

**9:15 am Play Care**

7:30 pm AA (CH)

Friday, March 6

**Play Care Book Fair**

**9:15 am Play Care**

7:30 pm AA (CH)

Saturday, March 7

**7:00 pm Winter 70's 80's 90's DANCE** (CH)

7:30 pm Mount Kisco AA (MR)

### NEXT Sunday, March 8

*Third Sunday in Lent*

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

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

**11:15-11:45 am Choir Rehearsal** (CR)

7:30 pm AA (CH)

You are invited to FCC's



## Winter Boogie Night

A 70's, 80's and 90's Dance Party

**MUSIC BY DJ URKA VIBES**

FREE ADMISSION | RETRO OUTFITS ENCOURAGED  
FOOD & DRINK AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE



**SATURDAY, MARCH 7**

**7:00-10:00 PM**



• **FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH** •

210 Orchard Ridge Road, Chappaqua

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