

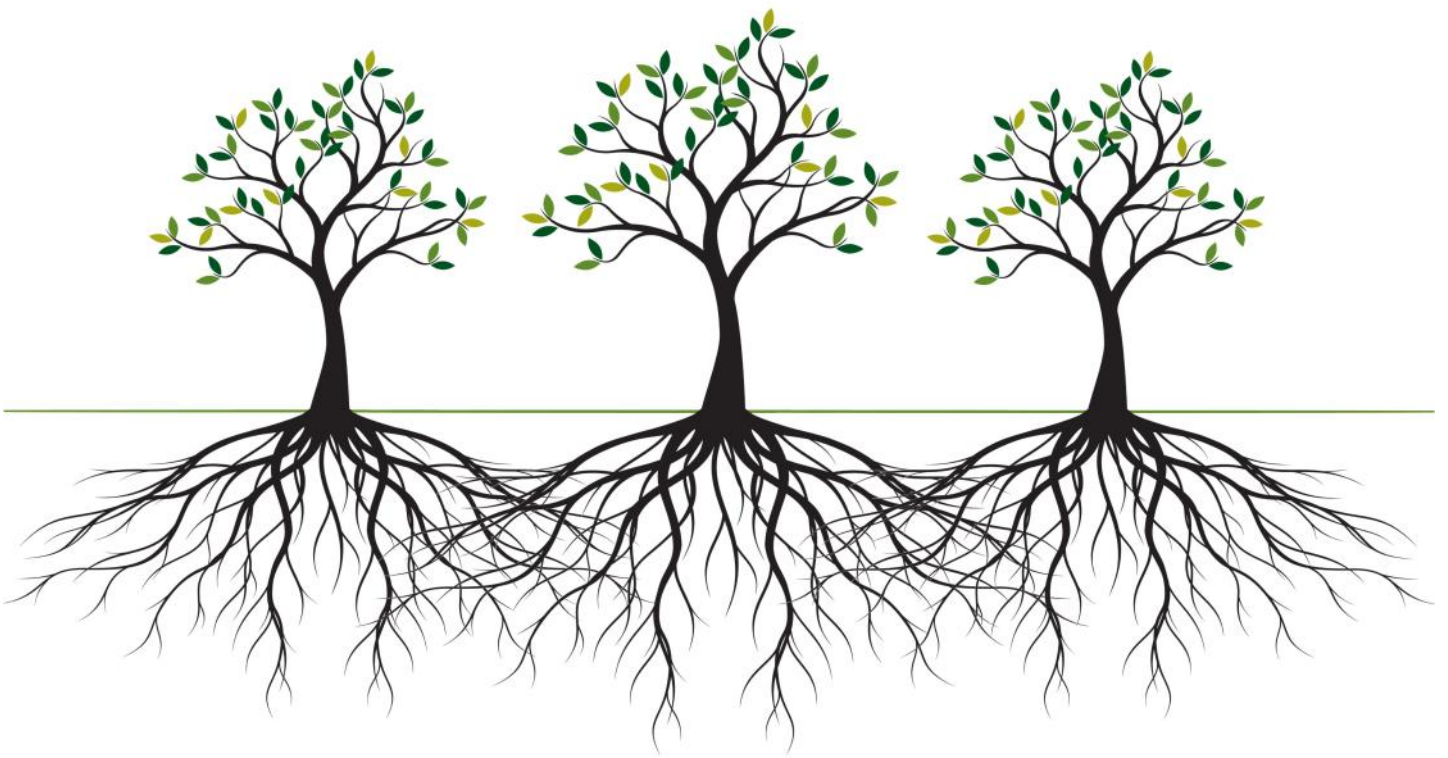
The First Congregational Church

Chappaqua, New York

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Church

All Are Welcome



“A Story About Growth”

Rev. Siobhan Sargent

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 17, 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. To receive our weekly *Thursday's Word* newsletter, contact 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*

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.”

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

If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor Siobhan (917) 892-8521

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

First Congregational Church
Sunday, May 17, 2026 • 10:00 am
Seventh Sunday of Easter

Prelude

Prelude on ‘Softly and Tenderly’

-FORREST

Welcome

Centering Music No. 629

Stand By Me (*verses 1,2 & 3*)

When the storms of life are raging, stand by me;
when the storms of life are raging, stand by me;
when the world is tossing me, like a ship upon the sea,
thou who rulest wind and water, stand by me.

In the midst of tribulation, stand by me;
in the midst of tribulation, stand by me;
when the hosts of hell assail, and my strength begins to fail,
thou who never lost a battle, stand by me.

In the midst of faults and failures, stand by me;
in the midst of faults and failures, stand by me;
when I've done the best I can, and my friends misunderstand,
thou who knowest all about me, stand by me.

Call to Worship (*responsively*):

One: Friends, in this Easter season, we gather to celebrate the ways God stands by us,
proclaiming once again life is stronger than death, love is stronger than fear and hope still
rises among us. Let us rejoice together. Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed!

One: The Psalmist declares: “O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I
sit down and when I rise up. Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it
completely.”

All: We are known by God and held in God’s grace.

One: Like roots beneath the earth, God is at work in ways we cannot always see, drawing us
toward connection and life.

All: None of us grows alone.

One: So come as you are, bringing your whole self before God, our Creator.

All: Let us praise and worship the God of love and life.

* Congregation Standing (if you feel comfortable)

Opening Hymn No. 215 ***Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain***

Come, ye faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness;
God hath brought forth Israel into joy from sadness;
loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke Jacob's sons and daughters,
led them with unmoistened foot through the Red Sea waters.

'Tis the spring of souls today; Christ hath burst his prison,
And from three days' sleep in death as a sun hath risen;
all the winter of our sins, long and bleak, is flying
from his light, to whom we give laud and praise undying.

Now the brightest season dawns with the day of splendor,
now the royal feast of feasts comes its joy to render;
comes to glad Jerusalem, who with true affection
welcomes in unwearied strains Jesus' resurrection.

Youth Message

Jonathan Riedel

Prayer of Invocation:

Pastor Siobhan

God of life, you know us completely and love us fully. In this time of worship, draw us closer to you and closer to one another. Open our hearts to your presence, our minds to your wisdom, and our lives to your love. May all that we do here today help us grow in our faith and come alive to your Spirit. Through Christ, the risen One, we pray. Amen. And now, with confidence as the children of God, let us continue to pray our family prayer...

Lord's Prayer (*using debts*):

All: 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

Invitation to Confession:

One: Friends, one of the great temptations of life is to believe that we are alone, separate from God and from one another. And yet, Jesus reminds us that eternal life is found in relationship: in knowing God and in remembering that we belong. Still, we can easily lose our way and forget our connectedness. Confession is a time to recenter ourselves and open ourselves once again to the ways God's grace meets us where we are and helps guide us toward where we long to be.

Unison Prayer of Confession:

All: God of love and life, we confess that too often we move through this world disconnected, rushing past one another, hiding our struggles, guarding our hearts, or convincing ourselves we have to carry everything alone. We confess the moments when we have withheld compassion, neglected our own spirits, or forgotten the sacred worth of those around us. Forgive us. Root us again in your love. Help us grow in kindness, deepen our care for one another, and remind us that your grace is still at work beneath the surface of our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

A Moment for Silence and Personal Prayer

Words of Assurance (*responsively*):

One: Hear the Good News. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed! Thanks be to God!

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

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!

Scripture: *John 17:1-11*

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

One: The word of God for the people of God

All: Thanks be to God

Sermon

"A Story About Growth"

Rev. Siobhan Sargent

Hymn No. 543

Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain: This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect communion, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight.
Angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love. (Refrain)

Perfect submission, all is at rest. I in my Savior am happy and bless'd,
watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love. (Refrain)

* Congregation Standing (if you feel comfortable)

Prayers of Our People

Announcements

The Offering

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem

Lord, I Lift Your Name on High

THE CHANCEL CHOIR

-RIC FOUNDS

*Festival Doxology

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up-lifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*Unison Prayer of Dedication

God, bless the gifts we offer today, and help us to show up for others the way you show up for us with enduring love and abiding care. Open our eyes to see where you are already at work, and give us the courage to join you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*Closing Hymn No. 2

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (verses 1, 2 & 3)

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive our fear and doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays;
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother, all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Benediction

Postlude

Postlude on 'Hymn To Joy'

-PAYVE

* Congregation Standing (if you feel comfortable)



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

- Judy Jones is our Host Deacon
 - Bill Spade is our Liturgist
- Judy Jones and Chase Tyler are our Ushers
- Sue Hacker is Hosting Sunday Fellowship

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



Calendar



TODAY Sunday, May 17

10:00 am Worship (CH/YouTube)

11:15 am Sunday Fellowship (CH)

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

4:00-6:00 pm Community Dinner

7:30 pm AA (CH)

Monday, May 18

9:15 am Play Care

1:00-2:30 pm Pop Up Food Pantry (L)

4:00-6:15 pm Soccer Shots (lawn)

7:30 pm Trustees Meeting (zoom)

Tuesday, May 19

9:15 am Play Care

7:30 pm AA (CH)

Wednesday, May 20

9:15 am Play Care

9:30 am LPO Kitchen Rental

10:00 am Chapp. Garden Club Mtg. (CH)

7:30 pm Boy Scouts

Thursday, May 21

9:15 am Play Care

5:30-8:30 pm Council & Event Mtg.

at the Swenson's

7:30 pm AA (CH)

Friday, May 22

9:15 am Play Care

7:30 pm AA (CH)

Saturday, May 23

7:30 pm Mt. Kisco AA

NEXT Sunday, May 24

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)

