

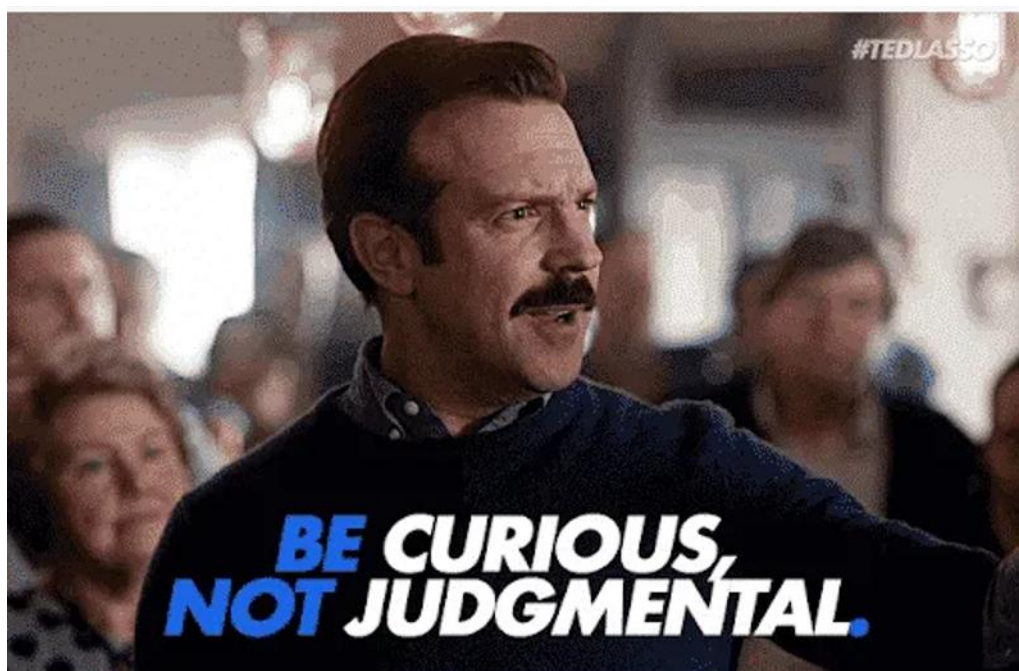
The First Congregational Church

Chappaqua, New York

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Church

All Are Welcome



"ON BEING CURIOUS..."

William R. Spade

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 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.”

First Congregational Church • 210 Orchard Ridge Road, Chappaqua, NY 10514 • (914) 238-4411
office@fcc-chappaqua.org • fcc-chappaqua.org

FCC Summer Office hours are Monday-Thursday from 9:00 am-3:00 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

First Congregational Church
Sunday, August 16, 2026 • 10:00 am
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Glassworks: No. 1, Opening

→PHILLIP GLASS

Welcome

Children's Moment

Opening Invitation: *inspired by John 6:35-37*

Jesus says, I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever trusts in me will never be thirsty... for whoever comes to me I will never turn away.

Centering Music

What A Mighty God We Serve (see back cover)

Call to Worship (*responsively*):

One: God, we gather today eager to live by the promise of Christ's words.

All: We come hungry for life and thirsty for hope, longing to be nourished by what truly satisfies.

One: Fill our hearts with your presence and teach us to trust in you.

All: Meet us with your grace and open us to the abundance of your love.

One: Come, let us seek God's kingdom and offer our thanks and praise to the One who never turns us away.

*Opening Hymn No. 87 ***I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord***

-FILLMORE

Refrain: I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,
I will sing, I will sing; I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.

With my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness, thy faithfulness;
with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations. (*Refrain*)

* Congregation Standing (if you feel comfortable)

Prayer of Invocation:

Loving and Gracious God, we give thanks that you are always near, inviting us into your presence and calling us to become more fully who you created us to be. As we worship today, inspire us with your Spirit and awaken us to the ways you nourish our souls. May our time together deepen our trust in you, strengthen our hope, and remind us that your love is always at work within us and among us. We offer this time, and ourselves, to you with grateful hearts. And as one body in Christ, we continue by praying together 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:

There is something within each of us that longs for fullness, for peace, for a life that truly satisfies. Yet so often we find ourselves chasing what is immediate instead of what is lasting, placing our hope in what cannot finally sustain us. Every Sunday, we remind ourselves that confession is not about shame. It is about telling the truth. It is the courage to admit where we have wandered and to acknowledge, once again, that we need God. The gift of God's grace is that we do not have to pretend to be someone we are not. We are not called to perfection but to honest relationship with the One who never turns us away. Let us come before God with open hearts as we pray together.

Unison Prayer of Confession:

All: Eternal God, out of whose absolute power and infinite intelligence the whole universe has come into being, we humbly confess that we have not loved you with our hearts, souls and minds, and we have not loved our neighbors as Christ loved us. We have all too often lived by our own selfish impulses rather than by the life of sacrificial love as revealed by Christ. We often give in order to receive. We love our friends and hate our enemies. We go the first mile but dare not travel the second. We forgive but dare not forget. And so, as we look within ourselves, we are confronted with the appalling fact that the history of our lives is the history of an eternal revolt against you. O God, have mercy upon us. Forgive us for what we could have been but failed to be. Give us the intelligence to know your will. Give us the courage to do your will. Give us the devotion to love your will. In the name and spirit of Jesus, we pray. Amen. *M.L. King Jr.*

A Moment of Silence and Personal Prayer

Words of Assurance

One: Friends, hear the good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free to begin again.

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!

Scriptures:

I Samuel 16:1-7

The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons. And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare to you.” And he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord's anointed is before him.” But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”

Matthew 7:1-5

Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

One: The word of God for the people of God

All: Thanks be to God

Sermon

“On Being Curious...”

William Spade

Hymn No. 494

They'll Know We Are Christians

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:

Refrain: And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
we will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land: *(Refrain)*

We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
we will work with each other, we will work side by side,
and we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride: *(Refrain)*

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one: *(Refrain)*

Prayers of the People

Announcements

The Offering

Call to Offering

Offertory Solo

Psalm 23

-Paul Creston

*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: Gracious and holy God, you continue to call ordinary people of every generation into the work of your kingdom. Bless these gifts and the ministries they support. May they help us put our faith into action, sharing your love with the world around us, especially with those who need it most. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

*Closing Hymn No. 552

Standing on the Promises

Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
by the living Word of God I shall prevail,
standing on the promises of God.

Refrain: Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior;
standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
list'ning every moment to the Spirit's call,
resting in my Savior as my all in all,
standing on the promises of God. (*Refrain*)

Benediction

Postlude

Interstellar (Main Theme)

-Hans Zimmer

* Congregation Standing (if you feel comfortable)



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

- Bill Spade for preaching today
- Judy Jones is our Host Deacon
- Bill Spade is our Liturgist
- Esther Gates is our Usher

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



Calendar



TODAY Sunday, August 16

10:00 am Worship (CH/YouTube)

11:15 am Sunday Fellowship (CH)

4:00-6:00 pm Community Dinner (CH)

7:30 pm AA (CH)

Monday August 17

7:30-8:30 am Camp Kiwi bus (pkng lot)

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

4:00-5:00 pm Camp Kiwi bus (pkng lot)

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

Tuesday, August 18

7:30-8:30 am Camp Kiwi bus (pkng lot)

4:00-5:00 pm Camp Kiwi bus (pkng lot)

7:30 pm AA (CH)

Wednesday, August 19

7:30-8:30 am Camp Kiwi bus (pkng lot)

4:00-5:00 pm Camp Kiwi bus (pkng lot)

Thursday, August 20

7:30-8:30 am Camp Kiwi bus (pkng lot)

4:00-5:00 pm Camp Kiwi bus (pkng lot)

7:30 pm AA (CH)

Friday, August 21

FCC Offices Closed

7:30-8:30 am Camp Kiwi bus (pkng lot)

4:00-5:00 pm Camp Kiwi bus (pkng lot)

7:30 pm AA (CH)

Saturday, August 22

9:00-12:00 Soccer Shots (lawn)

7:30 pm Mount Kisco AA (MR)

NEXT Sunday, August 23

10:00 am Worship - Jonathan Riedel preaching
(CH/YouTube)

11:15 am Sunday Fellowship (CH)

7:30 pm AA (CH)

3016 What a Mighty God We Serve

What a might - y God we serve.

What a might - y God we serve.

An-gels bow be - fore you, heaven and earth a - dore you.

What a might - y God we serve.

WORDS: Traditional African folk song
 MUSIC: Traditional African folk song; arr. by Jackson Henry

MIGHTY GOD
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