

The First Congregational Church

Chappaqua, New York

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Church

All Are Welcome



“Down the River of Faith”

Jonathan Riedel

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 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 23, 2026 • 10:00 am
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Consolation No. 3

-FRANZ LISZT

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

Day By Day

Day by day, day by day,
O, Dear Lord, three things I pray:
to see thee more clearly,
love thee more dearly,
follow thee more nearly,
day by day.

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. 601

I Am Thine

I am thine, O Lord, I have heard thy voice, and it told thy love to me;
but I long to rise in the arms of faith, and be closer drawn to thee.

Refrain: Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, To the love that sets us free;
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, Even closer unto Thee.

Consecrate me now to thy service, Lord, by the pow'r of grace divine;
let my soul look up with a steadfast hope, and my will be lost in thine. (*Refrain*)

O the pure delight of a single hour that before thy throne I spend,
when I kneel in prayer, and with thee, my God, I commune as friend with friend! (*Refrain*)

There are depths of love that I cannot know, till I cross the narrow sea;
there are heights of joy that I may not reach, till I rest in peace with thee. (*Refrain*)

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: Gracious and Loving God, you created us for abundant life, yet so often we search for fulfillment in places that leave us empty and put our trust in things that cannot sustain us. Forgive us, we pray. Safeguard us from the temptations that draw us away from you, and nourish us once again with your grace. Fortify our faith, so that our lives may always reflect your love and justice in the world. Amen.

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!

* Congregation Standing (if you feel comfortable)

Scripture: *Exodus 1:8-2:10*

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, “Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.” Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, “When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.” But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?” The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.” So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, “Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.”

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, “This must be one of the Hebrews’ children,” she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?” Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Yes.” So the girl went and called the child’s mother. Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.” So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, “because,” she said, “I drew him out of the water.”

One: The word of God for the people of God

All: Thanks be to God

Sermon

Down the River of Faith

Jonathan Riedel

Hymn

O Freedom (see back cover)
(verse 1 & 4)

Prayers of the People

Announcements

The Offering

Call to Offering

Offertory Solo

Alleluia

-W.A. MOZART

*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. 663

Go Down, Moses

When Israel was in Egypt's land, let my people go,
oppressed so hard they could not stand, let my people go.

Refrain: Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land,
tell old Pharaoh: Let my people go.

No more shall they in bondage toil, let my people go,
let them come out with Egypt's spoil, let my people go. [*Refrain*]

Oh, let us all from bondage flee, let my people go,
and let us all in Christ be free, let my people go. [*Refrain*]

Benediction

Postlude

Liebstraume No. 3

-Franz Liszt

* Congregation Standing (if you feel comfortable)



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

- Jonathan Riedel for preaching today
- Robin Stout is our Host Deacon
 - Sue Hacker is our Liturgist
- Kathie & Bill Swenson are our Ushers

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



Calendar



TODAY Sunday, August 23

10:00 am Worship (CH/YouTube)

11:15 am Sunday Fellowship (CH)

7:30 pm AA (CH)

Monday August 24

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

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

Tuesday, August 25

7:30 pm AA (CH)

Wednesday, August 26

Thursday, August 27

7:30 pm AA (CH)

Friday, August 28

FCC Offices Closed

7:30 pm AA (CH)

Saturday, August 29

7:30 pm Mount Kisco AA (MR)

NEXT Sunday, August 30

10:00 am Worship - Pastor Siobhan preaching

(CH/YouTube)

1. O free - dom! O
 2. No more moan - ing, no more
 3. No more weep - ing, no more
 4. There'll be sing - ing, there'll be
 5. There'll be shout - ing, there'll be
 6. There'll be pray - ing, there'll be

free - dom!
 moan - ing,
 weep - ing,
 sing - ing,
 shout - ing,
 pray - ing,

free - dom! O free - dom o - ver me. _____
 moan - ing, no more moan - ing o - ver me. _____
 weep - ing, no more weep - ing o - ver me. _____
 sing - ing, there'll be sing - ing o - ver me. _____
 shout - ing, there'll be shout - ing o - ver me. _____
 pray - ing, there'll be pray - ing o - ver me. _____

free - dom!
 moan - ing,
 weep - ing,
 sing - ing,
 shout - ing,
 pray - ing,

Refrain

And be - fore I'll be a slave, I'd be

bur - ied in my grave, and go home to my

Lord and be free. (O free - dom.) free.