

The First Congregational Church

Chappaqua, New York

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Church

All Are Welcome



“Somewhere in Midian”

Rev. Siobhan Sargent

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 30, 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 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 30, 2026 • 10:00 am
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Prelude

Sonata in C major, K.310

-W.A. Mozart

Welcome

Children's Moment

Opening Invitation: *inspired by Isaiah 43:18-19*

“But now says the Lord...do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”

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, eager to see the new thing you are doing among us.

All: We open our hearts to the path you are preparing.

(*Silence.*)

One: In seasons of uncertainty...

All: We remember that we do not walk alone, for you are our faithful guide.

(*Silence.*)

One: In the wilderness places of our lives...

All: We make space to notice the One who is already at work.

(*Silence.*)

One: When fear threatens to hold us back...

All: We receive this moment as your gift and surrender our future to you.

One: Come, let us worship the God who is our river in every desert.

*Opening Hymn No. 24

The God of Abraham Praise

The God of Abraham praise, all praised be the Name,
who was and is and is to be, is still the same;
the one eternal God, ere all that now appears,
the First, the Last, beyond all thought through timeless years!

God's spirit flowing free, high surging where it will –
in profits word it spoke of old – is speaking still.
Established in God's law, and changeless it shall stand,
deep right upon the human heart, on sea, or land.

God has eternal life implanted in the soul.
God's love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.
Praise to the living God! All praised be the name,
who was and is and is to be, is still the same!

Prayer of Invocation:

Holy and Living God, you are always doing a new thing, making a way where we cannot yet see one, and calling your people into a future shaped by hope. As we gather in this sacred hour, quiet the distractions that compete for our attention and open us to your presence. May our worship today be more than familiar words or well-worn routines. Make it an authentic expression of our love for you and our trust in your promises. We offer this time, and ourselves, to you with grateful hearts. And as one body in Christ, we now continue to pray 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:

Friends, throughout scripture, God is always at work: bringing life where there is danger, calling ordinary people to holy purpose, making a way where none seems possible, and providing daily bread in the wilderness. Yet how often do we miss the new thing God is doing? Confession is not about dwelling on our failures. It is about making space for God's grace to transform our lives. So let us come before God with honest hearts, trusting that God is always ready to lead us into abundant life. Let us pray together.

Unison Prayer of Confession:

All: Gracious and Holy God, too often we allow fear to shape our decisions, and familiar patterns to keep us from the freedom you desire for all of us. Forgive us we pray. Quiet the wilderness within, and create in us hearts that our courageous. Fill us once again with your grace, so that we may become people liberated by your love, hope, justice and peace. 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 3:1-15*

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. Now go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.' " God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

One: The word of God for the people of God

All: Thanks be to God

Sermon

"Somewhere in Midian"

Rev. Siobhan Sargent

Hymn

O Freedom (*see back cover*)

Prayers of the People

Announcements

* Congregation Standing (if you feel comfortable)

The Offering
Call to Offering
Offertory Solo

Et in carnatus est
from Great Mass in C
Jennifer Dapice, Soloist

-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* (verses 1, 3, 5)**

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.

The Lord told Moses what to do, let my people go,
to lead the Hebrew children through, 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

Rondo alla turca

-W.A. Mozart

* Congregation Standing (if you feel comfortable)



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

- Ed McLaren is our Host Deacon
- Barbara Cardone is our Liturgist
- Judy Jones is our Usher

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



Calendar



TODAY Sunday, August 30

10:00 am Worship (CH/YouTube)

11:15 am Sunday Fellowship (CH)

7:30 pm AA (CH)

Monday August 31

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

Tuesday, September 1

7:30 pm AA (CH)

Wednesday, September 2

Thursday, September 3

7:30 pm AA (CH)

Friday, September 4

FCC Offices Closed

7:30 pm AA (CH)

Saturday, September 5

7:30 pm Mount Kisco AA (MR)

NEXT Sunday, September 6

Luke's Pantry

10:00 am Worship w/ Communion

-Pastor Siobhan preaching (CH/YouTube)

11:15 am Sunday Fellowship (CH)

7:30 pm AA (CH)

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.