

The First Congregational Church

Chappaqua, New York

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Church

All Are Welcome



“Sink or Swim”
Rev. Siobhan Sargent

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
August 9, 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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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

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Prelude

Reverie

—CLAUDE DEBUSSY

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. 64 *We Sing Your Mighty Power, O God*

We sing your mighty power, O God, that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies.

We sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
the moon shines full at your command, and all the stars obey.

There's not a plant or flower below but makes your glories known;
and clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from your throne.

While all that borrows life from you is ever in your care,
and everywhere that we can be, you, God, are present there.

* Congregation Standing (if you feel comfortable)

Prayer of Invocation:

Pastor Siobhan

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: *Matthew 14:22-33*

Immediately he made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

One: The word of God for the people of God

All: Thanks be to God

Sermon

"Sink or Swim"

Rev. Siobhan Sargent

Hymn No. 629

When the Storms of Life Are Raging

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.

Prayers of the People

Announcements

* Congregation Standing (if you feel comfortable)

The Offering
Call to Offering
Offertory Solo

Cantique

-Lily Boulanger

*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

Clair de Lune

-Claude Debussy

* 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
- Anna Baumann is our Liturgist
- Carl Thorsberg and Robin Stout are our Ushers

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



Calendar



TODAY Sunday, August 9

10:00 am Worship (CH/YouTube)

11:15 am Sunday Fellowship (CH)

11:15 am Music Committee Meeting (MR)

7:30 pm AA (CH)

Monday August 10

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 11

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 12

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

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

Thursday, August 13

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 14

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 15

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

11:00 am Peter Davidson Memorial Service (S)

7:30 pm Mount Kisco AA (MR)

NEXT Sunday, August 16

10:00 am Worship - Bill Spade preaching

(CH/YouTube)

11:15 am Sunday Fellowship (CH)

4:00-6:00 pm Community Dinner (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.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of five systems of music. Each system has a vocal staff (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment staff (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'What a might - y God we serve.' (first system), 'What a might - y God we serve.' (second system), 'An-gels bow be - fore you, heaven and earth a - dore you.' (third system), and 'What a might - y God we serve.' (fourth system). The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the left hand and a more melodic line in the right hand.

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

MIGHTY GOD
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