

The First Congregational Church

Chappaqua, New York

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Church

All Are Welcome



"Walking on Dry Ground"

Rev. Siobhan Sargent

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 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

First Congregational Church
Sunday, September 6, 2026 • 10:00 am
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Prelude on 'Immortal, Invisible'

-ARR. BY MARILYN HAM

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 No. 590

Kum ba Yah (verses 1 & 3)

Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!

Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!

Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!

O Lord, kum ba yah!

Someone's singing, Lord, kum ba yah!

Someone's singing, Lord, kum ba yah!

Someone's singing, Lord, kum ba yah!

O Lord, kum ba yah!

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.

* Congregation Standing (if you feel comfortable)

*Opening Hymn No. 249

Spirit (verses 1 & 3)

Refrain: Spirit, Spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness,
calling and free, Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep,
and over the eons you called to each thing,
“Awake from your slumber and rise on your wings.” (*Refrain*)

You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
Then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still,
and down in the city you called once again
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind. (*Refrain*)

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.

* Congregation Standing (if you feel comfortable)

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!

Scripture: *Exodus 14:19-29*

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord, in the pillar of fire and cloud, looked down on the Egyptian army and threw the Egyptian army into a panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

One: The word of God for the people of God

All: Thanks be to God

Hymn No. 371

Wade in the Water (verse 1 & 2)

Refrain: Wade in the water, (children,) wade in the water, children,
wade in the water, God's a-going to trouble the water.

See that host all dressed in white, God's a-going to trouble the water;
the leader looks like the Israelite, God's a-going to trouble the water. [*Refrain*]

See that band all dressed in red, God's a-going to trouble the water;
looks like the band that Moses led, God's a-going to trouble the water. [*Refrain*]

Hymn No. 371

Wade in the Water (*Refrain only*)

Wade in the water, (children,) wade in the water, children,
wade in the water, God's a-going to trouble the water.

Morning Prayer

Announcements

The Offering

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem

Freedom is Coming

THE CHANCEL CHOIR

*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.

Hymn

Into My Heart (*see insert*)

Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table

Great Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: Faithful and loving God, in every season of life, in times of joy and in times of trouble, you are with us. As we gather around this table, and partake of this bread and cup, we remember Jesus, he who welcomed the weary, who sat at table with the overlooked, and who made room for all to belong. In these simple gifts, we trust that he meets us still, feeding us, holding us, and renewing us in love. And so, we remember the night he shared a meal with his disciples...

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

Sharing the Bread and Cup (gluten free bread available and we serve grape juice)

Communion Hymn

Come Share The Lord

We gather here in Jesus' name,
his love is burning in our hearts like living flame;
for through the loving Son the Father makes us one:
Come, take the bread, come, drink the wine, come, share the Lord.

He joins us here, he breaks the bread,
the Lord who pours the cup is risen from the dead;
the one we love the most is now our gracious host
Come, take the bread, come, drink the wine, come, share the Lord.

We'll gather soon where angels sing;
we'll see the glory of our Lord and coming King
now we anticipate the feast for which we wait
Come, take the bread, come, drink the wine, come, share the Lord.

Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks together:

All: Gracious God, we give you thanks for this holy meal and for your presence among us. You have fed us with your grace and renewed us for the journey ahead. Grant that we may go out into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to live with hope and to share your love with all we meet; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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*]

Benediction

Postlude

Variations on the Canon by Pachelbel

-George Winston

* Congregation Standing (if you feel comfortable)



Today's loose collection will be added to the Deacons Assistance Fund which assists members, friends or neighbors, who have a current financial problem which might be overcome or diminished by caring financial help.



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

- Judy Jones is our Host Deacon
- Wendy Ku is Assisting with Communion
 - Esther Gates is our Liturgist
- Kim Russell & Jon Russell are our Ushers

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



Calendar



TODAY Sunday, September 6

Luke's Pantry

10:00 am Worship with Communion (S/YouTube)

11:15 am Sunday Fellowship (CH)

7:30 pm AA (CH)

Monday, September 7

Labor Day

FCC Offices Closed

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

Tuesday, September 8

9:15 am Play Care

7:30 pm AA (CH)

Wednesday, September 9

9:15 am Play Care

5:30 pm Mission & Outreach Mtg. (MR)

Thursday, September 10

9:15 am Play Care

7:30 pm AA (CH)

Friday, September 11

9:15 am Play Care

7:30 pm AA (CH)

Saturday, September 12

9:00-12:00 Soccer Shots

4:00 pm John Smith Celebration of Life (S)

7:30 pm Mount Kisco AA (MR)

NEXT Sunday, September 13

Homecoming

10:00 am Worship (S/YouTube)

11:15 am Homecoming Brunch (CH)

11:15 am Choir Rehearsal (CR)

7:30 pm AA (CH)

Into My Heart

2160

1. In - to my heart, in - to my heart, come
 2. Out of my heart, out of my heart, shine

in - to my heart, Lord Je - sus; come in to - day, come
 out of my heart, Lord Je - sus; shine out to - day, shine

in to stay; come in - to my heart, Lord Je - sus.
 out al - way; shine out of my heart, Lord Je - sus.

WORDS: Harry D. Clarke; st. 2 anon.
 MUSIC: Harry D. Clarke

INTO MY HEART
 448.448

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