

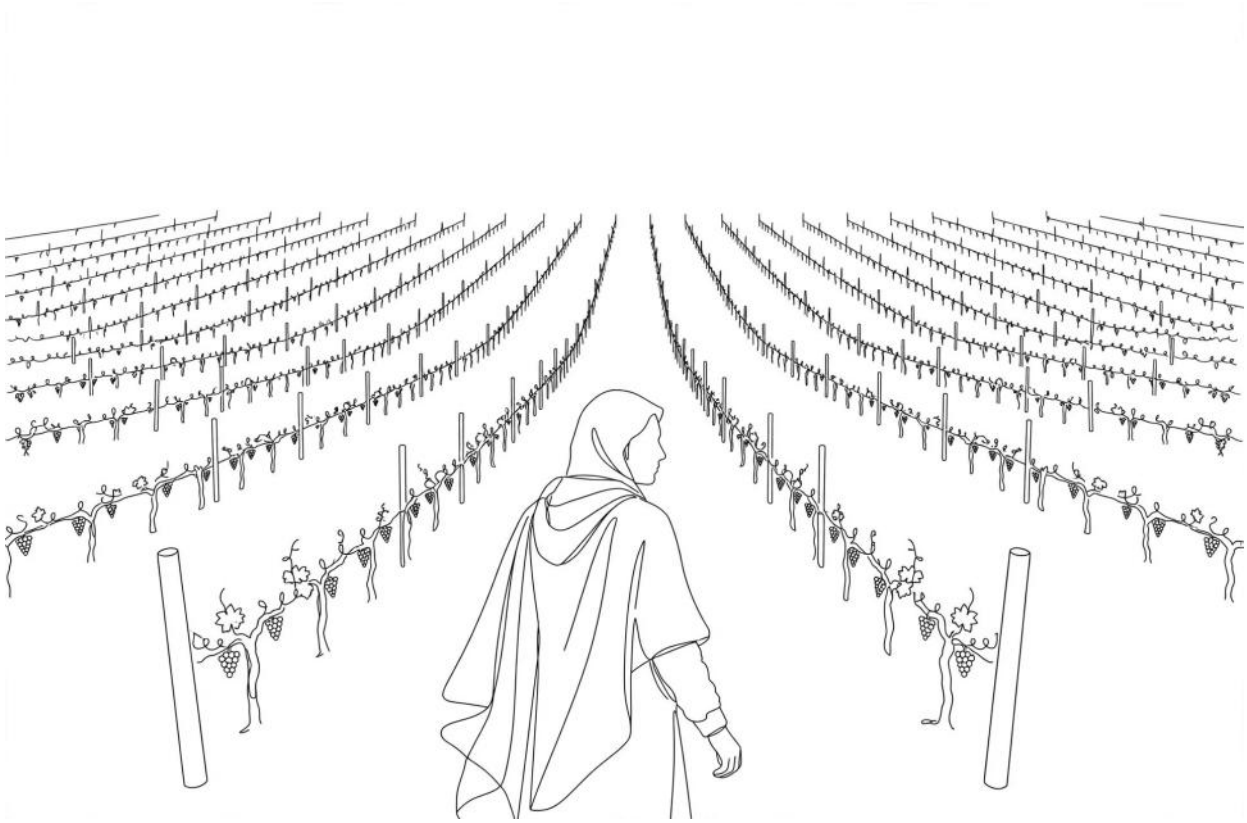
The First Congregational Church

Chappaqua, New York

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Church

All Are Welcome



“Living in the Gap: The Gospel of Regret”

Rev. Siobhan Sargent

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 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 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 27, 2026 • 10:00 am
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Chorale

-Young

Welcome

A Time for the Young at Heart

Opening Invitation: (*inspired by Psalm 105*)

“Give thanks to the Lord and call upon God’s name.
Make God's deeds known to all the people!
Pursue the Lord and God’s strength and seek God’s presence always.”

Centering Music

There’s a Spirit of Love in This Place (*see back cover*)

Call to Worship (*responsively*):

One: There is indeed a spirit of love in this place.

All: A love that is wide and deep enough to hold us all.

One: A love that is generous beyond measure.

All: A love that invites us to become generous too.

One: Here, we are reminded that grace is not something we earn.

All: It is something we receive, something that shapes us, something we share.

One: So come, let us open our hearts to the love of God.

All: And let that love grow in us and through us.

One: Come, Holy Spirit, and fill us with life anew. Come, family of God, let us worship the One who calls us and claims us.

*Opening Hymn No. 284

Gather Us In (*verse 1 & 2*)

Here in this place, the new light is streaming, shadows of doubt are vanished away.
See in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in, our spirits inflame.
Call to us now; and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery; we are the old, who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.

* Congregation Standing (if you feel comfortable)

Prayer of Invocation:

Holy and loving God, in this sacred hour, we take pause to breathe in your Spirit. Still the distractions that compete for our attention and open our hearts and our minds to the ways your presence washes over us and renews us. Bless our worship. Draw us close to you, O God, and closer to one another. May our service today truly reflect your love and grace in the world. We offer this time, and ourselves, to you with grateful hearts. And now, let us 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, there are moments in our lives when grace begins with honesty. When we are willing to look again at something we have said, something we have done, or some assumption we have carried—grace can be admitting that we might choose differently now. Because when we are honest, we come to realize that sometimes there is a gap between who we hope to be and how we have actually lived. Confession gives us a place to name that gap without fear, trusting that God is always inviting us toward another way. So, trusting in a mercy greater than our failures, let us bring before God the places where our words and our lives have not aligned, and let us open ourselves again to the possibility of change.

Unison Prayer of Confession *(Inspired by the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi)*:

All: Gracious God, make us instruments of your peace.

Where we have drawn the circle too small, teach us to make room.

**Where we have compared or measured who is deserving,
turn us again toward your generous love.**

Where there is hatred, let us sow love.

Where there is injury, pardon.

Where there is despair, hope;

where there is sadness, joy.

**O Divine One, grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love.**

**Shape us by your grace, O God, until your love becomes more fully alive in us and
through us. For it is in giving that we receive, in forgiving that we are forgiven,
and in loving that we discover the life to which you are always calling us.**

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.

* Congregation Standing (if you feel comfortable)

*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: *Matthew 21: 23-32*

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. The father^[a] went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.

One: The word of God for the people of God

All: Thanks be to God

Sermon

Living in the Gap: The Gospel of Regret

Rev. Siobhan Sargent

Hymn No. 614

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me (verse 1, 2, 4)

I'm gonna live so, God can use me, anywhere Lord, anytime.(2x)

I'm gonna work so, God can use me, anywhere Lord, anytime.(2x)

I'm gonna sing so, God can use me, anywhere Lord, anytime.(2x)

Affirmation of Covenant

Helene Keo-Marjolin
Stephanie and Angelo Murano

Congregational Welcome: *(in unison)*

We welcome you with joy! Together we will worship, together we will serve, together we will seek God, and together we will grow in love. Thanks be to God!

* Congregation Standing (if you feel comfortable)

Hymn No. 442

We Are Walking

We are walking in the light of God, we are walking in the light of God. (2x)

We are walking, walking, we are walking, walking, we are walking in the light of God. (2x)

We are singing in the light of God, we are singing in the light of God. (2x)

We are singing, singing, we are singing, singing, we are singing in the light of God. (2x)

Announcements

The Offering

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem

I Love to Tell the Story

*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 call ordinary people in every generation into the work of your kingdom. Bless these gifts and the ministries they support. Continue to shape us into generous people, so that we may become faithful instruments of your abundant love in the world, today and every day. Amen.

*Closing Hymn No.

I Danced in the Morning *(see insert)*

Benediction

Postlude

Postlude in Classic Style

-Young

* Congregation Standing (if you feel comfortable)



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

- Christina Yedowitz-Nessel is our Host Deacon
 - Erin Kirby is our Liturgist
- Beth Statman and Esther Gates are our Ushers
 - Betsy Jones is Hosting Sunday Fellowship

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



Calendar



TODAY Sunday, September 27

10:00 am Worship - Rev. Siobhan Sargent
preaching (S/YouTube)
11:15 am Sunday Fellowship (CH)
11:15 am Sermon Talkback (CH)
11:15 am Choir Rehearsal (CR)
7:30 pm AA (CH)

Monday, September 28

9:15 am Play Care
1:00-2:30 pm Pop Up Food Pantry (L)
4:00-6:15 pm Soccer Shots (lawn)

Tuesday, September 29

9:15 am Play Care
9:30 am - 5:00 pm LPO Kitchen Rental
7:30 pm AA (CH)

Wednesday, September 30

9:15 am Play Care
10:00 am Herbal Tea kitchen rental (K)
7:00 pm Boy Scouts Troop 2 (CH)

Thursday, October 1

9:15 am Play Care
7:30 pm AA (CH)

Friday, October 2

9:15 am Play Care
3:00-7:00 pm Babe's Delectables rental (K)
7:30 pm AA Anniversary Night(CH)

Saturday, October 3

9:00-12:00 Soccer Shots
10:00 am - 1:00 pm AA Special Meeting (CH)
7:30 pm Mount Kisco AA (MR)

NEXT Sunday, October 4

10:00 am Worship with Communion (S/YouTube)
11:15 am Sunday Fellowship (CH)
11:15 am Choir Rehearsal (CR)
2:00 pm Pastor Siobhan's Installation (S)
7:30 pm AA (CH)

3148 There's a Spirit of Love in This Place



1. There's a spir - it of love in this place, there's a
 (2. There's the) pres - ence of peace in this room, there's the



spir - it of love in this place. You can't
 pres - ence of peace in this room. In God's



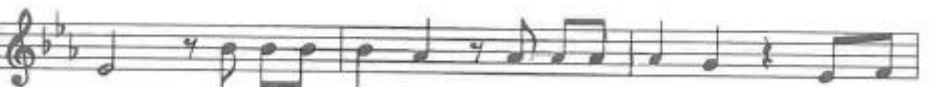
see it, but it's there just as pre-cious as the air. There's a
 ten-der-ness is found peace that pass - es hu-man bounds. There's the



spir - it of love in this place.
 pres - ence of peace in this room. O al - le -



lu - ia, sing al - le - lu - ia! We bless your ho - ly



name. O al - le - lu - ia, sing al - le - lu - ia! There's a



spir - it of love in this place. 2. There's the place.

WORDS: Mark A. Miller
 MUSIC: Mark A. Miller

MEDEMA
 Irr.