

The First Congregational Church

Chappaqua, New York

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Church

All Are Welcome



Rev. Barbara VanOlpen

World Communion Sunday
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 4, 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](https://www.facebook.com/fcc-chappaqua.org)

First Congregational Church
Sunday, October 4, 2026 • 10:00 am World Communion Sunday
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude ***Psalm*** -YOUNG

Welcome

Celebration of Autumn Harvest ***Autumn Carol*** -SCHULTZE
FCC Handbells

Children's Moment

*Call to Worship (responsively):

One: "How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity."

One: What a gift it is to belong to a family of faith that stretches far beyond these walls.

All: Across generations and continents, across languages, cultures, and traditions, we are gathered together in God's love.

One: On this World Communion Sunday, we remember that we are part of a church much wider than our own.

All: Many people, many stories, many ways of worshiping—and one God who gathers us all.

One: At Christ's table, there is room for us, room for our neighbors, and room still for those we have yet to meet. So let us rejoice in the fellowship we share and in the love that binds us together.

All: Let us worship our God with joy and gladness.

*Opening Hymn No. 560 ***Leaning on the Everlasting Arms***

What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain: Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
 leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrimway, leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms. (*Refrain*)

What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms. (*Refrain*)

* Congregation Standing (if you feel comfortable)

Prayer of Invocation:

Gracious God, your love is wondrous and everlasting. Your mercy reaches farther than we can see. Your grace stretches beyond the boundaries we create. Your table is larger than our divisions, and your family is bigger than we can imagine. Gather us this morning into that wideness. Bless our time together, that our worship might be more than familiar words and well-worn routines. May it carry the energy and audacity of your radical and all-encompassing love. And now, as one body in Christ, let us continue to pray 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 are moments when the lives we are living do not quite reflect the lives we hope to live with God and with one another. We become weary. We lose patience. We carry hurts longer than we mean to. And sometimes, we miss opportunities to love well and to love boldly. But thankfully, God does not call us to be perfect. God invites us to keep turning toward love, toward grace, toward the life that is always opening before us. Confession is not about dwelling on our failures. It's about making space for God's grace to meet us, renew us, and transform our lives. So let us come before God with honest hearts, trusting that in grace there is always room to begin again.

Unison Prayer of Confession:

All: Gracious God, make us instruments of your peace. Where we have drawn the circle too small, teach us to make room. 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, shape us by your grace, until your love becomes more fully alive in us. For it is in giving that we receive, 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.

*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 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20*

Then God spoke all these words, “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. “You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above or that is on the earth beneath or that is in the water under the earth.

“You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. “Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work.

“Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

“You shall not murder.

“You shall not commit adultery.

“You shall not steal.

“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, male or female slave, ox, donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid^[a] and trembled and stood at a distance and said to Moses, “You speak to us, and we will listen, but do not let God speak to us, lest we die.” Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid, for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin.”

One: The word of God for the people of God

All: Thanks be to God

Sermon

Rev. Barbara VanOlpen

*Hymn No. 86

Great Is Thy Faithfulness (verse 1 & 3)

Great is thy faithfulness, O God Creator,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; as
thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain: Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see; all
I have needed thy hand hath provided
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings
all mine, with ten thousand beside! (*Refrain*)

Announcements

The Offering

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem

Draw the Circle Wide

-Miller

*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. From generation to generation, across oceans and borders, through countless languages and traditions, you have gathered your people and reminded us that we belong to one another. As we gather around this table and partake of this bread and cup, we remember once again the wideness of your love in Jesus Christ. 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 today, with your people throughout the world, we remember the meal Jesus shared with his friends...

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

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

Communion Hymn No. 393

One Bread, One Body

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.

We Are Called (*see back page*)

*Benediction

Postlude

Pageant

-YOUNG

* Congregation Standing (if you feel comfortable)

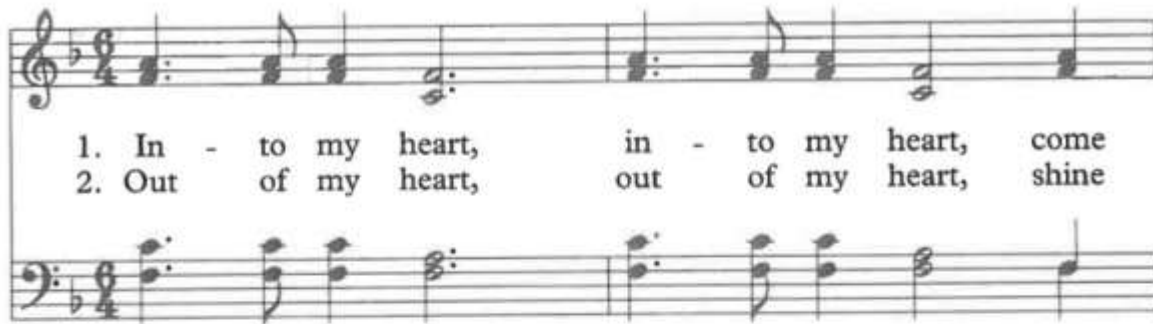
Thank you

- Christina Yedowitz-Nessel is our Host Deacon
- Wendy Ku is Assisting with Communion
 - Urka Swinney is our Liturgist
- Beth Statman and Bill Swenson are our Ushers
- Hospitality is Hosting Sunday Fellowship

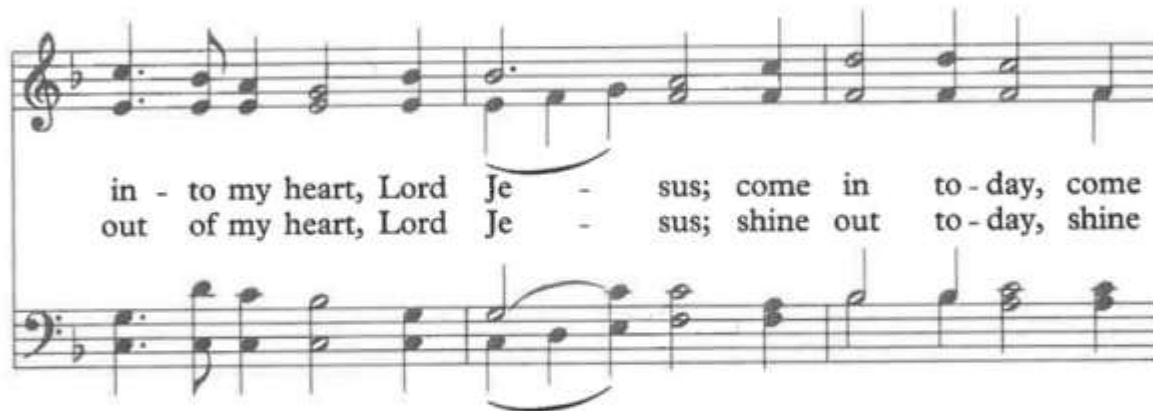
Please join us at 2:00 pm today for Pastor Siobhan's Installation Service. Please wear **red** and childcare will be provided. A reception in Centennial Hall will follow the service.

Into My Heart

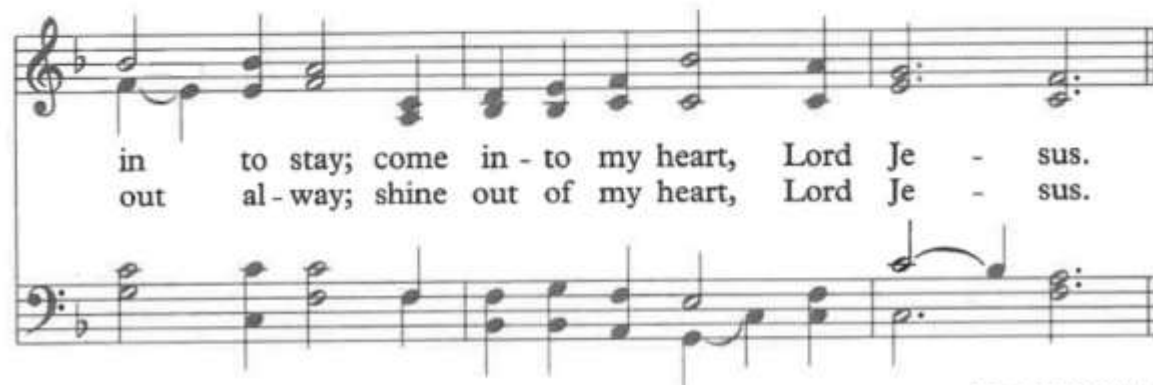
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1. In - to my heart, in - to my heart, come
2. Out of my heart, out of my heart, shine



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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We Are Called

2172



1. Come! Live in the light! _____ Shine with the
 2. Come! O - pen your heart! _____ Show your
 3. Sing! Sing a new song! _____ Sing of that



joy and the love of the Lord! We are called _____ to be
 mer - cy to all those in fear! We are called _____ to be
 great day when all will be one! God will reign, _____ and we'll



light for the king-dom, to live in the free - dom of the
 hope for the hope-less so all ha - tred and blind-ness will
 walk with each oth - er as sis - ters and broth-ers u -



Refrain
 cit-y of God! _____
 be no more! _____ We are called to act with
 nit-ed in love! _____



jus-tice, _____ we are called to love ten-der - ly, _____



— we are called to serve one an - oth-er, _____ to



walk hum-bly with God! _____

WORDS: David Haas (Mic. 6:8)
 MUSIC: David Haas

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WE ARE CALLED
 Irregular with Refrain