



Welcome to Congers UMC. We are happy to have you with us. Join us for a time of food and fellowship after worship service in the fellowship hall.

This is the [3rd Sunday of Advent](#), a season of spiritual preparation and anticipation leading up to **Christmas**. It begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and lasts for four Sundays, symbolizing the anticipation of Christ's birth and the second coming of Christ. During Advent, believers focus on themes of [Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love](#), preparing for the celebration of Jesus' birth and the hope of his return. Today's theme is [Joy](#).

In December we will also recognize **Hannukah (December 18) and Kwanza (December 26)** as well as, *HIV/AIDS, International Day of Disabilities and Universal Human Rights Awareness Month*

If this is your first or second time with us, please fill in your name, email address, and/or cell number in the **“Welcome Visitor’s Form”** in the back of the pew in front of you. Kindly place it in the offering plates or give it to any member. You may also access this form digitally with our “Connect” QR code. We hope to see you again.



Congers UMC is open for in-person worship service, as well as, on Facebook Live* www.facebook.com/CongersUMC. *Please be aware that we use Facebook Live for our worship services. If you are uncomfortable being screened or having pictures taken of yourself or family members, please let our Communications Team (Cheery Villaseñor or Bishop J know).



Faith. Family. Fellowship. Music.
Congers United Methodist Church

86 Congers Road, Congers, NY 10920
(845) 268-2186 * www.congersumc.org
[Bishop Alfred Johnson, Pastor](#)

Bold print: read in unison
*Stand in body or spirit

ORDER OF WORSHIP

UMH (United Methodist Hymnal)
TFWS (The Faith We Sing)

ENTRANCE

PRELUDE

Jim West

GREETINGS AND WELCOME

Frances Reid

·This is the day that the Lord has made, we can rejoice and be glad in it!

·Welcome to Congers UMC to all present with us today and on Facebook. Congers UMC is open for in-person worship service, as well as, on Facebook Live*

·This is the 3rd Sunday of Advent, a season of spiritual preparation and anticipation leading up to Christmas. Advent lasts four Sundays before Christmas and anticipates Christ's birth and the second coming of Christ. During Advent, believers focus on themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Today's theme is Peace.

In December we will also recognize Hannukah (December 18) and Kwanza (December 26-) as well as, HIV/AIDS, International Day of Disabilities and Universal Human Rights Awareness Month

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Finally, We are happy to have you Join us for a time of food and fellowship after worship service in the fellowship hall.

**·Now to make sure we are all on board to worship, everyone needs
a Program bulletin (hold up to be seen)
othe United Methodist Hymnal (hold up to be seen)**

-If you don't have one of these, please raise your hand one will be delivered to you or you may share with someone near

-Bathrooms are through the door to my right and your left

-If you would like water, raise your hand and a bottle will be delivered to you

-In the program as you read it, If you see an asterisk*it is a sign for you to stand, in body and/or spirit

**-Also in the program, there will be places where we, the congregation, will read together in unison.
It will appear in Bold print**

·-If then all hearts and minds are now ready for worship, please stand in body or spirit and join me in the Call to Worship found in your bulletin on the back of the 1st page.

(PAUSE, read the audience, give folk a little time to find their place in the bulletin, especially visitors.)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Beloved, we gather to rejoice in God who does wondrous things, who promises that someday all manner of things shall be well.

We rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

We worship with joy now, confident that God will not stop until all creation is at peace.

We rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

We lift up our voices in song and story, in prayer and praise, as we remember and rejoice in all that God has done and will do among us.

We rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits. Come! Let us worship God with joy as we work with God toward the day when all of creation lives in everlasting joy.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, May 2025.adp-aj

Please remain standing to sing our opening hymn, "Come we that love the Lord," found on page 733 of your Hymnal, we will sung verses 1,2 4

OPENING HYMN

"Come We That Love the Lord"

UHM #733

You may be seated as I offer the opening prayer, you can join in on the AMEN.

OPENING PRAYER

Holy God of Joy, We rejoice in the reality of who you are. We live within the joy of your love for us. Our contentment comes and goes. Our happiness ebbs and flows. Our feelings depend upon our circumstances, our physical health, our brain chemistry. But our joy is deeply rooted in our identity as your beloved children. And we give you thanks. Amen.

Written by Joanna Harader and posted on Spacious Faith, <http://spaciousfaith.com/>. Reposted on the re:Worship blog at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2015/12/call-to-worship-prayer-for-advent.html>.

Kindly join me in the prayer of confession written in your bulletin

PRAYER OF CONFESSION(unison)

We gather together in this season of Advent
anticipating hope, praying for peace, attempting to cultivate joy and share love
amidst commotion, grief, despair and uncertainty.

Moment of silence

God, we confess that we have often placed our hope in people and things that can't fulfill our every need. We have searched for peace in shallow places. We have mistaken joy for temporal pleasure and artificial exhilaration. We have put limits on the ways we love, excluding those who need our loving kindness the most. God, when we have lost our way, show us yours. Guide us to the hope in you that will renew our strength. Lead us to your peace that transcends all understanding. Fill us with a joy we can only experience in your presence. Remind us that you have always loved us with an everlasting love, so that we may share that love with others. Amen.

SILENT MEDITATION

THE LORD's PRAYER

In response to our prayers, We are pleased to welcome Jayon Anthony to sing "O Holy Night"

PRAYER RESPONSE

"O Holy Night"

Jayon Anthony

Bishop J: WORDS OF ASSURANCE, GRACE AND FORGIVENESS

***Offer each other the gift of forgiveness: "In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven."**

WELCOME AND RECOGNITION OF FIRST OR SECOND TIME WORSHIPPERS

Cheery will lead us in the Hanging of the greens and the decoration of our Christmas Tree.

HANGING OF THE GREENS/ DECORATING OUR CHRISTMAS TREE

PROCLAMATION

This is the 3rd Sunday of Advent, Jackie DeSouza and Voncile Oliver will come to lead us in our Advent meditation on the theme of "Joy". Note there is a congregational Response. Following the meditation, we will sing the 1st and last verses of Joy to the World, page 246 in your hymnals.

LIGHTING OF THE 3rd ADVENT CANDLE OF "Joy"

Reader: In the midst of our waiting and longing for God to make the world right again, we cling to the truth that God has saved, God is saving, and God will save. So today, we join our voices with the prophet Isaiah, who calls us to live in the joy of the truth of God's salvation.

Congregation: We choose to believe that the day is coming when "the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away" (Isaiah 35:10).

Reader: We light this candle of joy as a sign of the Truth that sets us free to live in joy as we wait and work for the day when all creation will flourish together. **AMEN**

Please stand now to sing the 1st/last verse of "Joy to the world" on p. 246, in your hymnal,

***Response:**

"Joy to the World"

UMH #246, 1st & last verse

MESSAGE

Rev. Dr. Stacey May

RESPONSE

BJ INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

BJPRAYERS OF COMPASSION/ PASTORAL PRAYER

You are invited to lift names for prayers of celebration or concern; respond with “Thanks be to God/ Lord, in your mercy hear our prayers”

BJ PRESENTATION OF TITHES, GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

“People to People” Emergency Food Service

BJPRAYER OF CONSECRATION

For your giving convenience, Congers UMC now has online giving with Givelify: go to <https://www.givelify.com> designate Congers UMC. Or, Use our QR code by pointing the camera on your cell phone to this image:



***RESPONSE**

“My Tribute”

UMH #99

SENDING

Opportunities for Prayer, Fellowship, and Service

We thank our Worship Team Leaders:

Music: Jim West

O Holy Night, Jayon Anthony

Lighting the 3rd Advent Candle of Joy: Jackie DeSouza and Voncile Oliver

Communications/Sunday School: Cheery Villaseñor

Facebook Coordinator: Roberto Villaseñor

Hospitality: Cheery Villaseñor, Pat Williams, Laurie Team

Compassion Prayers

- Please keep in heart and prayer church members, families, and friends who stand in the need of prayer. You can find the complete list on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. (If there are additions, removals, or amendments to this list, please let Pat Williams know.)

We pray for God’s Peace and Justice throughout our country and throughout this world; such as the ongoing wars between Israel and Palestine, Ukraine and Russia, Israel and Iran, The Congo, Somalia and other parts of Africa, and other parts of our world. Global issues, such as, immigration, atomic energy, women and children abuse, active shootings, climate change, attacks on democracy, disarmament, food insecurity, the unsheltered, etc.

Service

If you didn’t bring your non-perishable food item to be donated to PEOPLE TO PEOPLE, this Sunday, and you would like to donate, bring it next week or see Francs Reid, coordinator, for more information.

Future Opportunities

Tuesdays : December 16, 23, 7pm, Advent Bible Study by Zoom, Congers and Pearl River UMC. Pastor Gabrielle and Bishop J will lead these studies: This week scripture Matthew 11:2-11, Bishop J, leading, Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88183495978?pwd=xEEIF4PizC3VbcY8bFrE7JqdxIfRux.1>

Sunday, December 21, 10am “Christmas Sunday” Lighting of the 4th Advent Candle

Jazzy Christmas Sunday, with Joe Ham and Hamitup Productions (see last page)

Sunday December 21 -3pm

Rockland County United Methodist Churches Christmas Concert, at Pearl River UMC, 130 Franklin Avenue, Pearl River, NY. -Our CongersUMC Music Team will sing!

-Combined Choir rehearses 2:30pm- music:

“Give Me An Old Time Christmas, by Mary McDonald”

please obtain the music and practice in advance

Wednesday, December 24, 5pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

CongersUMC at New City UMC, 76 Congers Road, New City, NY.

Donate a *Poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one to decorate the worship space.

See next page to order by December 15.

Saturday, June 13, 2026, Joshua: “Sight and Sound Production, Lancaster County, PA. with Spring Valley UMC, \$300, payable in stages beginning October 19. Info: please contact Shantelle Williams Johnson (to date: 3 CongersUMC members attending, join us!)

December Birthdays

**Dorothy Miller 12/5, Evelyn Jaeger 12/6, Amor Oliva 12/13, Cheery Villasenor 12/14,
Carol Oliver 12/19 Lorenzo Tacadena 12/30, Khayrie Bullock Hayes and Jaeden Rollins, 12/25,
Ellen Strauss Reed and Shui Kurian 12/31**

Are there any other announcements? Bishop J?

If there are no other announcements, please stand for our sending hymn, Go Tell it on the Mountain, found on page 251 in your Hymnals.

***SENDING SONG**

“Go Tell it on the Mountain”

UMH # 251

***DISMISSAL WITH TABLE BLESSINGS**

POSTLUDE (Please be seated)

Jim West

Acolytes carry the Light into the world!

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***Poinsettias 2025**

For those attending the 5pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
with CongersUMC at the UMC of New City.

Help fill the worship space and your home (or the home of a loved one)
with beauty this Christmas!

\$12 each. Can be purchased "in memory of," "in honor of," or "to the glory of God."

Poinsettias will be available for pick-up following the 5:00pm Christmas Eve worship service. (Please
do not order if you will not be attendance.)

Acknowledgment:

(check one) ____ in memory of ____ in honor of ____ to the Glory of God

If "in memory" or "in honor," loved one's name:

Your name (who the plant is from):

\$ Amount enclosed: _____

Place this completed form in the offering plate during offering, along with your payment (checks can
be made out to New City UMC: Note: Candlelight Service.

Alternatively, you may mail this form with a check to The UMC of New City,
76 Congers Rd, New City, NY 10956 or email/text your order info to
Pastor Amanda at umcofnewcity@gmail.com / 973-978-5162.

Orders with payment due no later than Mon, Dec 15.



Sunday December 21, 10am

A JAZZY

CHRISTMAS SERVICE

with Joe Ham and

Hamitup Productions, Inc.

Invite Your family and Friends.

All are invited!

