



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

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

## Sunday Worship

February 22, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

First Sunday in Lent

A Celebrative moment of our 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

A Celebration of Black History Month

**Bold print:** read in unison

\*Stand in body or spirit



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

### PRELUDE

### ENTRANCE

Jim West

### GREETINGS AND WELCOME

Laurie Tacadena

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Today, we follow Jesus into a wilderness full of isolation, fatigue, hunger, thirst, and temptation.

**We follow, trusting in God's mercy.**

We witness Jesus resist the siren calls of sensationalism, notoriety, and misuse of power for selfish gain.

**We recognize God's mercy at work in the face of temptation.**

We notice the angels who tend Jesus, messengers of care in a harsh and lonely place.

**We pay attention to God's merciful presence that did not abandon Jesus and does not abandon us now.**

We come to the wilderness together, clinging to the truth that we are not alone—God is with us.

**We gather to worship God, whose unfailing mercy journeys with us into the wildernesses of our lives.**

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2025.

### \*OPENING HYMN

*"Guide My Feet"*

TFWS #2208

### OPENING PRAYER

Holy God, by the grace of Jesus Christ, you know the tests and trials we face.

Journey with us through this wilderness.

Come to us with ministers of healing and visit us with messengers of hope, so that we may return to you in faith, believing the good news of the gospel; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Adapted from the Presbyterian Church USA website, <https://pcusa.org/>.  
Re-posted on the re:Worship blog at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/02/prayer-for-lent-1-b.html>.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and merciful God, we confess to you our reluctance to enter the wilderness places where we are confronted with our true selves.

The places where we are tempted to put worldly values before our desire for you, and when our hunger for power and wealth is greater than our hunger for seeking and doing your will:

Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.

When we are tempted to use the gifts you give us to benefit ourselves at the expense of serving others:

Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.

When we are tempted to use sensational means to increase people's faith, rather than being guided by the humility of Christ:

Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.

When we are tempted to use bribery to influence and control people:

Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.

When we are tempted to manipulate you, O God, to satisfy our own needs:

Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.

A time of silence for personal confession.

Merciful God, save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

Forgive us our sins and fill us with the joy and peace of your salvation.

So strengthen us with your Spirit during this Lenten season

that we put our whole trust in you as confidently as Jesus did.

This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

(continued on next page)

**SILENT MEDITATION**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

*"Just a Closer Walk With Thee"*

TFWS #2158

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

As the apostle Paul wrote:

"...if you confess with your lips that Jesus Christ is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:9)

These words contain the good news that in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

*Written by Moira Laidlaw and posted on Liturgies Online, <http://www.liturgiesonline.com.au/>.  
Re-posted on the re:Worship blog at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/02/confession-wilderness-places.htm>*

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

**WELCOME FIRST OR SECOND TIME WORSHIPPERS AND SPECIAL GUESTS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF CHURCH AND COMMUNITY**

**PROCLAMATION**

**140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Moment**

Evelyn Jaeger, Jayon Anthony, Cheery Villasenor

**SONG OF PREPARATION**

*"No Ways Tired"*

Jackie DeSouza

**\*SCRIPTURE LESSONS**

First Testament

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Laurie Tacadena and Arielle Rogers

Second Testament

Luke 4:1-13

Bishop J

**MESSAGE**

*"Attack on Identity"*

*Bishop J*

**RESPONSE**

**INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**

**PRAYERS 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"

**PRESENTATION OF TITHES, GIFTS AND OFFERINGS**

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:



**\*SENDING SONG**

*"Sent Out in Jesus Name"*

TFWS #2184

**\*DISMISSAL WITH TABLE BLESSINGS**

**POSTLUDE** (*Please be seated*)

*Acolytes carry the Light into the world!*

**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.

If this is your first or second time with us, please fill in your name, email address, and/or cell number in the **“CongersUMC Connect Card”** 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.



\*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).

### Today

We celebrate the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent. Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which began on Ash Wednesday, February 18, and ends on Holy Saturday, April. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry. Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection.



We continue to celebrate Black History Month. The theme in 2026 “A Century of Black History,” commemorate 100 years since the establishment of Negro History Week in 1926 by historian Dr. Carter G Woodson and the Association for the Study of African American Life and History which later evolved into Black History Month. This Centennial encourages a century of highlighting the impact of these observances on culture, identity, and the recognition of black contributions to society.



Les St. Louis (2/6)  
Bishop Alfred Johnson (2/11)  
Shakia Bullock (2/16)  
Reno Laluna (2/19)  
Dr. Stacey May (2/20)

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP, AND SERVICE

### 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 Francis Reid, coordinator, for more information.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Wednesday, February 25, Immigration Task Force of the UMC Council of Bishops and March on Washington Day** “Faithful Resistance: A Public Witness for Immigrant Justice. Plans are being considered to have a bus from Rockland County. [www.faithfulresistance.org](http://www.faithfulresistance.org). Contact Linda Cantillano or Bishop J.
- **Sunday March 22, 2026, 10am, Celebration of CongersUMC 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**, Rev. Dr. Robert Duncan, Jr, Preaching. Dr. Duncan is currently president of Northwind Theological Consortia, and previously lived in the CongersUMC parsonage while his father pastored 1954–1960. Anniversary Committee: Evelyn Jaeger, Jayon Anthony, Cheery Villaseñor



### **Journey with us this Lent:**

#### **Lenten Bible Study**

Wednesdays at 7pm (via Zoom). Lead by: Rev. Woo Lim Kwak, Rev. Lark McCalman, Bishop Alfred Johnson & Rev. Gabrielle Corbett - "I Love to Tell the Story" A Pilgrimage Towards Racial Justice in The United Methodist Church by Rev. Bonnie J. McCubbin. Contact the office to sign up for daily devotionals and/or the zoom link. You may also sign up using the links sent via e-mail this week.

#### **Lenten Services at 7pm**

**All Rockland County UMCs gathering:** Spring Valley, Thiells–Garnerville, Suffern, Congers, Pearl River, & New City

- **Maundy Thursday April 2**, at Congers, Pastor Woo Lim, Thiells–Garnerville, preaching
- **Good Friday, April 3**, at Pearl River, Bishop J, preaching