



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

86 Congers Road, Congers, NY 10920

(845) 268-2186 * www.congersumc.org

Bishop Alfred Johnson, Pastor

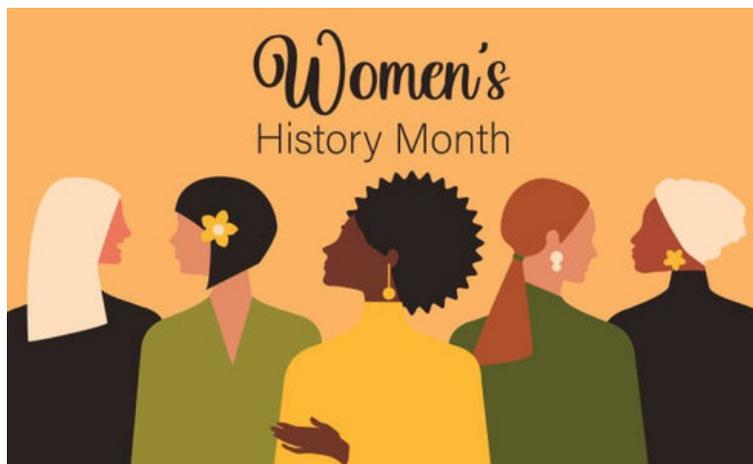
Sunday Worship

March 1, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday in Lent

Women's History Month

Celebration of Holy Communion



ENTRANCE

PRELUDE

Jim West

GREETINGS AND WELCOME

Linda Cantallino

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Children of God, in Lent we remember that our salvation is an unearned gift, that new life is a matter of faith, not of works.

We gather to lay down the burden of trying to earn our salvation.

Like Nicodemus, who met Jesus in the dark of night, we struggle to accept that new life is not just possible but given as a free gift of grace.

We gather to bring our struggles into the light and embrace God's grace with open arms.

Like Paul writing to the Romans, we remember God's promise of new life has always rested on grace.

We gather to receive the promise of salvation by grace through faith.

Like the many who have followed, questioned, and grown in the faith, we submit ourselves to be formed by grace as we work out our salvation day by day.

We gather as people guided by the promise of new life, a promise fulfilled by Christ, whose path we follow.

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

*OPENING HYMN

"Just a Closer Walk With Thee"

TFWS #2158

OPENING PRAYER

Infinite Love, heart of all life,
you loved this word into being
with such love

as to birth yourself among us,

Love begotten as the Beloved.

Your presence does not separate but unites;

love does not push away, but embraces;

you do not condemn, but save.

Trusting this, we know

we are loved, never rejected.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Adapted from Steve Garnaas-Holmes and posted on Unfolding Light, <https://www.unfoldinglight.net/>.
Re-posted on the re:Worship blog at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2018/05/john-316-prayer-paraphrase.html>.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We live fractured lives, and God seeks not to punish us for those faults and fault lines, but to reconcile and restore us. Trusting in God's grace and mercy, let us then make our confession together, first in silent prayer.

Loving God, help us.

When we have run away, when we have turned our backs on love, when we have sought immediate satisfaction and not long-term healing, help us.

Merciful God, forgive us.

When we have been selfish, when we have been mean, when we have neglected the cries of others, forgive us.

Powerful God, heal us.

When we are so broken we cannot move, when we don't know how to stem the bleeding of our wounds, when we are too ashamed to seek community, heal us.

Give us the courage, the strength, and the hope to accept your grace and embrace your call in Christ. Amen.

Adapted from Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, "Hold Fast to What Is Good," <https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/>. Used with permission.

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SILENT MEDITATION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

"Taste and See," by James Moore

Congers Music Team

ASSURANCE OF GRACE, FORGIVENESS AND HEALING

*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 *(see page 4)*

PROCLAMATION

140TH ANNIVERSARY MOMENT

***SONG OF PREPARATION**

"Fill My Cup (2X)"

UMH #641

***SCRIPTURE LESSONS**

1st Testament

Isaiah 58:1-4, 6-9

Shakia Bullock and Khariye Hayes Bullock

2nd Testament

Luke 4:1-4

MESSAGE

**Attack on Identity Lenten Series:
"Stones in the Wilderness"
Matthew 4:1-4**

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

Special Compassion Offering

"People to People" Food Offering

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:



CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Word and Table III

UMH #15

***SENDING SONG**

"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

TFWS #2153

BENEDICTION

Go now in the mercy of God, whose promises never fail, to live as people who have generously received
and thus generously share God's gracious gift of new life with all we encounter. Amen.

Bishop J

***DISMISSAL WITH TABLE BLESSINGS**

POSTLUDE *(Please be seated)*

Acolytes carry the Light into the world!

Thank you

We thank our Worship Team Leaders:

Worship Leader: Linda Cantallino

Scripture Readers:

Shakia Bullock and Khariye Hayes Bullock

Music: Jim West & Congers Music Team

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 2nd 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.

March is Women’s History Month. The theme for 2026 theme is **“Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future,”**

emphasizes the significant contributions of women in various fields, particularly in creating sustainable solutions to pressing global issues such as climate change, economic inequality, and social justice. It recognizes that women, especially from marginalized communities, are often at the forefront of these efforts, leading initiatives that promote environmental, economic, and social sustainability.

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

- **Sunday March 22, 2026, 10am, Celebration of CongersUMC 140th 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
- **Sunday March 29, 2026, 10am Celebration of Women’s History Month**



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. Available on Amazon, Kindle version suggested. Register at:

<https://pearlriverunitedmethodistchurch.breezechms.com/form/84db2c29>.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89648269924?pwd=3dtGvOjLs13avqn0mPHIGtCYHnUnbm.1>

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



- Linda Cantallano (3/22)
- Michael Miller (03/10)
- Voncile Oliver (3/27)
- Chad Salvant (3/7)

