



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

March 15, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Women's History Month



### ENTRANCE

#### PRELUDE

Judy Gorman

#### WELCOME

Carole Anderson, Worship Leader

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather to honor the wisdom, strength, and courage of women past and present, celebrating their gifts and calling forth their voices in worship. Who are born of wise women, we celebrate your wisdom.

**Who are born of strong women, we celebrate your strength.**

Who are born of courageous women, we celebrate your courage.

**Who are born of faithful women, we celebrate your faith.**

We speak your names, remembering the prayers, the guidance, and the love that have shaped our lives.

**ALL: We go forth, moving boldly in the Spirit, empowered by the legacy of women who have gone before us, and called to serve in God's name. Thanks be to God!**

(Inspired by Pearl Cleage)

#### \*OPENING HYMN

*"Sweet, Sweet Spirit"*

UMH #334

#### OPENING PRAYER

Loving Shepherd, God our Mother and our Father, you know our names; you care for us.

When we face darkness and death, journey alongside us.

When we hunger for your love, fill us with your presence.

When we are fearful, feed us at your table. May we dwell in the house of goodness and mercy all the days of our lives. Amen.

Written by Mary Petrina Boyd and posted on Ministry Matters. <http://www.ministrymatters.com/>.  
Re-posted on the re:Worship blog at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2015/04/opening-prayer-psalm-23.html>.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and Holy Creator, As we celebrate the strength, resilience, and contributions of women this month, we come before you with heavy hearts to confess our shortcomings.

- **We confess** that we have often ignored the voices of women, turning a blind eye to the injustices they face in our homes, workplaces, and communities.
- **We confess** that we have been silent spectators while our sisters, mothers, and daughters faced violence, abuse, and discrimination.
- **We confess** to allowing prejudices and stereotypes to dictate how we treat one another, failing to see the image of God in every woman.
- **We confess** to holding on to fear rather than embracing the courageous, prophetic leadership that women offer.

Forgive us, Lord, for the times we have hindered rather than helped. Heal the wounds caused by our inaction and injustice.

**Empower us to move beyond words into action, that we may truly build a world where all persons are valued, supported, and free. We ask this in the name of the One who brings justice and reconciliation, Amen.**

#### SILENT MEDITATION

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

#### PRAYER RESPONSE

*"I Need Thee Every Hour"*

UMH#397

#### 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

(continued on next page)

## PROCLAMATION

**MOMENT OF CELEBRATION**

Jayon Anthony

**\*SONG OF PREPARATION**

*“His Eye is on The Sparrow”*

Jackie DeSouza

**\*SCRIPTURE LESSONS**

Matthew 4:1-2, 8-11

Lisa Dawn Anderson

**MESSAGE**

*Lenten Series: Attack on Identity  
“In The Reflection of Worship”*

## 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:



**\*SENDING SONG**

*“ Blessed Assurance ” UMH #369*

**BENEDICTION**

Beloved, may the blessing of God’s mercy go before you, behind you, and all around you as we journey in  
grace, reflecting the Light of new life wherever we go. Amen.

**\*DISMISSAL WITH TABLE BLESSINGS**

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

*Acolytes carry the Light into the world!*

# Thank you Today's Worship Team:

Worship Leader: Carole Anderson

Scripture Reader: Lisa Dawn Anderson

Music: Judy Gorman

Moment of Celebration: Jayon Anthony

Song of Preparation: Jackie DeSouza

**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 4<sup>th</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.

**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 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. 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

Franchelle Stewart Baker (3/6)

Linda Cantillano (3/22)

Michael Miller (03/10)

Voncile Oliver (3/27)

Chad Salvant (3/7)

