



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

July 5, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Celebration of Holy Communion

Celebration of the 250th Anniversary of America



Bold responses read in unison

*Stand in body or spirit

ENTRANCE

PRELUDE

Jim West

WELCOME

Evelyn Jaeger, Worship Leader

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: On this 250th anniversary of our nation, we gather in gratitude for God's faithfulness across generations.

People: We give thanks for the beauty, diversity, and promise of this land.

Leader: We remember those who worked, struggled, and hoped so freedom and justice might grow.

All: Holy Spirit, guide us to be builders of peace, seekers of justice, and bearers of hope.

God of every nation, bless our gathering and strengthen our commitment to an America where all can flourish. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

"Battle Hymn of the Republic"

UMH #717, vs. 1,4&5

OPENING PRAYER

Creator and God of all nations, we thank you for our country on the 250th anniversary of its founding. We thank you for its astounding natural beauty and its bountiful resources. We thank you for the freedoms and rights enshrined in our laws and for uniting diverse peoples from across the world into one nation. We thank you for our common history and life, acknowledging the sins committed by and among us, but also celebrating the blessings we have from your hand. We pray that you would lead us to be ever more a people of justice and peace. We pray that your church would live out its mission in our communities, being transformative salt and light that turns hearts toward you. Bless this country, gracious Father, with freedom, peace, prosperity, and justice in the years to come, in the name of your Son and our only king, Jesus Christ.

Created for the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, The Pastor's Workshop

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, you rule all the peoples of the earth. Inspire the minds of all women and men to whom you have committed the responsibility of government and leadership in the nations of the world.

Give to them the vision s of truth and justice, that by their counsel all nations and peoples may work together. Give to the people of our country zeal for justice and strength of forbearance, so we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will.

Forgive our shortcomings as a nation; purify our hearts to see and love the truth. We pray all these things through Jesus Christ. Amen."

From The United Methodist Book of Worship, a Prayer by Andy Langford, 20th Century:

SILENT MEDITATION

PRAYER RESPONSE

"America"

UMH #697, vs. 1&3

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GRACE, FORGIVENESS AND HEALING

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

WELCOMING FIRST OR SECOND TIME WORSHIPPERS AND SPECIAL GUESTS

Children may be dismissed for Children's Sunday School

"Jesus Loves Me" UMH #191

(continued on the next page)

PROCLAMATION

***SONG OF PREPARATION**

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

Nick Orange

***SCRIPTURE LESSONS**

Isaiah 55:1-9 Shakia Bullock and Khariye Hayes Bullock
Romans 7:14-25a;8:1;Ephesians 2:8-9

MESSAGE

“Twisted...But Grace”

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

Prayer of Consecration

Special Compassion Offering

People to People Offering

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:



***OFFERATORY:**

“All Things Come of Thee”

UMH #588

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION (see back pages)

SENDING

***SENDING HYMN**

“Bind Us Together”

TFWS# 2226

***SENDING, DISMISSAL WITH TABLE BLESSINGS**

Our calling as God’s people
is the same call we have as a nation:
we are not to live as partisans,
but as disciples of God’s grace;
we are called to not win arguments,
but to share the justice of Jesus;
we are not to be bearers of fear,
but to carry Spirit’s peace and hope
into a world desperate for these gifts.

**We will welcome the outsider,
we will hear forgotten voices,
we will respect the vulnerable,
we will practice humility,
we will speak truth to power,
we will seek justice with grace,
we will live as citizens
of God’s Beloved Community. AMEN**

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POSTLUDE

Jim West

Acolytes carry the Light into the world!

HOLY COMMUNION
The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

May the God of freedom be with you.

And also with you.

Children of God, lift your hearts.

**We lift them to the One who sets us free
for lives of service and hope.**

God's children: let us give thanks to the Lord our God We will sing our songs of freedom to the One who calls us to new life. Before there were borders or flags, before declarations or constitutions you spoke your Word into chaos, Creator of every person, every nation. Starry nights stretched across the sky, waves of every grain shimmered in the sun. Mountains towered above plains overflowing with abundant fruit, lands stretched from sea to sea where we could live with you. We were shaped in your loving image— not to be strangers or enemies, but neighbors and family. Every time we built walls of fear, you sent prophets of justice, every place power crushed the vulnerable, you raised voices crying out for freedom.

When we forgot that liberty belongs to all your children, you called us back to righteousness. And when we wandered from your dream of unity, you sent your own Child, not to wield power but to wash feet. not to destroy the enemy but to love them, not to create an empire but reveal your Beloved Community.

Therefore, with saints and citizens, with dreamers of freedom and those still longing for justice, we sing our thanksgiving to you.

Holy, holy, holy are you, God of all nations.

All creation rejoices in your freedom.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One whose truth sets us free.

Hosanna in the highest!

You are holy and just, God of life, and blessed is your Child, Jesus. As others built fences, he opened doors to all, when crowds sought revenge he offered grace to all, where fear would divide neighbors, he made room for all. Loving your mercy for us more than his own life, he willingly chose to go to the cross, that we might receive your gracious gift of life forever with you.

As we remember the freedom he offered to all, as we celebrate the gift of life which comes to us here at this Table of love, we speak of that mystery called faith:

In freedom, Christ came to live among us.

In freedom, Christ chose to die for others.

In freedom, Christ will return.

At this Table of grace and love, pour out your Spirit upon these gifts of the bread of life and cup of grace and on all who gather in this moment. As the bread which is broken can make us whole, may divided people become one, may broken neighborhoods become communities of healing, may freedom walk hand in hand with justice, and liberty, responsibility, and compassion become our faithful guides in our time. As the cup fills us with grace, remind us that before any nation, we are first citizens of your Beloved Community, that in this land which is still a work in progress, we may speak truth and not angry words, we may seek justice with hope, we may share freedom with all, and love neighbors without exception. And when all time has ended, all borders crumbled and nations dissolved, we will gather with our siblings from every time and place, forever singing your praises,

God in Community, Holy in One. **Amen.**

Thank you Today's Worship Team:

Worship Leader: Evelyn Jaeger

Scripture Readers:

Shakia Bullock and Khariye Hayes Bullock

Song of Preparation: Nick Orange

Music: Jim West



Henry Samuel (7/3)

Jennifer Julmis (7/4)

Sonya Burnham (7/15)

Camille Cascia (7/30)

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 **6th Sunday after Pentecost**, when the Holy Spirit came with sound and tongues of fire to empower the disciples and the church to continue the work of Jesus to unfold and evolve God's Kingdom.

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

SPECIAL FUTURE PROJECTS:

- **Saturday, July 25, All Church Retreat**
- **Saturday, August 22, 2026, 11am – 4pm, East Harlem, NY, Dr. Stacy May's Ymannas Helping Hands 5th Annual Health and Wellness** ministry for the Unsheltered. Volunteers and donations will be welcomed.
- ***Sunday September 13, 2026, 4pm: Shantelle Williams Johnson and Friends in Concert: Special Fundraiser for CongersUMC Accessibility projects.**
- ***Saturday October 10, 2026, 4pm, John Anthony Celebration Committee is proud to announce the kickoff concert for The John and Naomi Anthony Music Foundation.** This foundation is dedicated to providing and assisting young musicians as they seek musical instruction at the many prestigious music schools in Rockland County and New York City. The concert will feature talent from the Metropolitan area many of whom worked with and loved John and Naomi Anthony.



*Flyers of these events are available in the sanctuary.



5th Anniversary Celebration
Saturday August 22, 2026,
@9AM TO 5PM!
3rd Ave between 127th &
128th Streets, Harlem, NY
More info: Contact
Dr. Stacey May