Welcome to the Church-in-the-Gardens...
Whoever you are, wherever you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.
*We invite you to place your name and contact information on a Visitor Card in the pew rack. Please place it in the offering plate or give it to a greeter.
*Please be sure to get a parking pass from a greeter if you have parked a car that does not already have a decal or parking pass displayed.
*Please silence your cell phone

God bless you as together we experience God’s life-giving word.

Rev. Fred will be on vacation Monday August 14 thru Tuesday August 22, returning on Wed August 23. Rev. Dr. Ruth Shaffer will be our guest minister on August 20 and Dr. Sunny Knable, our Music Director, will be back on that Sunday. Rev. Fred has arranged for emergency pastoral care coverage as needed--please contact the church with any pastoral concerns during Rev. Fred’s time away.

Announcements
• The Bible Study Series, What the Bible Does and Doesn’t Say about Open and Affirming, which took place on June 3, 10 & 17, facilitated by Rev. Fred, has finished. Recordings of the three sessions are available. Please contact Rev. Fred or the church office for the links to the recordings.
• Gifts of food are urgently needed for MONKWORX, our Ridgewood neighbor. Families are hungry, and food stamps, now called “SNAP,” have just been cut. Bring canned goods and non-perishable donations every Sunday to the basket at the sanctuary entrance Thank you.
• Mark you calendars:
  Saturday September 9 (10 am - 4 pm, three locations; sign-up for a two hour shift) — Food Drive
  Sunday September 10 — First Sunday of the New Program Year, Sunday School Begins
  Sunday September 17, 1:30-3:30 p.m. in the Community House — Serving the Least Among Us: Responding to Food Insecurity in Queens
  Sunday September 24, following worship — What the Bible Does and Doesn’t Say about Open & Affirming – Summary & Discussion AND Next Steps in the Process of Becoming Open and Affirming

Please Pray:
For healing: Phylia Banks; Christopher Craig; Karin Del Greco; Noriko Iwamoto; Patrick Lazar; Jeanne Martin; Constance Radut; Anne Sandager; Dora Shia
For all who are grieving or suffering loss of any kind.
Prayers for those in residential care: Hanna Bassous, Millicent Fairhurst

Millicent Fairhurst’s new contact info:
305 West End Assisted Living, Apt #412, New York, NY, 10023
646-692-1057
Millicent would love visitors, cards, and phone calls.
Prelude

Opening Prayer

*Call to Worship
One: We gather to rejoice in our relationship with God our Creator.
All: Revive us, O God, make us alive in You!
One: We gather as people called to community by and with our Redeemer.
All: Restore us, O God, make us alive in Christ!
One: We gather, open to new possibilities for a new day.
All: Revive us, O God, make us alive in the Spirit!

* Opening Hymn  Come and Let Us Worship God (Green 6)

*Prayer of Confession

*Sung Response: SING! 49 Create in me a Clean Heart
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, O Lord,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of your salvation,
and renew a right spirit within me.

*Assurance of Pardon

*Passing of the Peace of Christ
The Peace of Christ be with you!
And also with you!

First Lesson  Isaiah 56:1, 6-8; pg. 687, red bible, pg. 839, black bible
Psalm 67 pg. 529, red bible, pg. 650, black bible

Gospel Lesson  Matthew 15:21-28 pg.16, red bible, pg.20, black bible

Sermon

*Hymn  Spirit Song (Green 212)

*Pastoral Prayer

Lord’s Prayer
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Sung Response: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Amen. (2x)

Offering

Offertory  I Offer My Life

*Doxology

Prayer and Dedication  Cindy Herendeen

*Closing Hymn  Go to the World! (Green 294)

*Benediction

Postlude

*All who are able, please rise

Children and Parents – please know that there is no Sunday School program today. There is a Cradle Room available downstairs for parents and children, and coloring books and activities available at the back of the church.

There is a Cradle Room available downstairs for parents and infants/toddlers.

Please join us for a time of Coffee and Fellowship following the service, at the CITG Sanctuary Steps (weather permitting) or Lounge.

There are 4 ways you can make a contribution to The Church-in-the-Gardens:
1. Send a check to the church (50 Ascan Avenue Forest Hills, NY 11375)
2. Set up a “bill payment” through your bank to have checks mailed to the church.
3. Through Zelle. Our name is listed as Church in the Gardens, Forest Hills, NY; use email treasurer@thecitg.org
4. Collection plate
Our guest minister today is Reverend Dr. Ruth Shaffer. Dr. Rev. Ruth Shaffer is a graduate of the Derner Institute of Adelphi University and Union Theological Seminary. A licensed Psychologist, she maintains a part time private practice, serving primarily people living with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. She currently serves on the Metropolitan Association of New York Conference of the United Church of Christ’s Committee on Ministry and on New York Conference’s Commission on Ministry. She is Metropolitan Association’s former Treasurer and Board Member.

Ruth is from Selinsgrove, a small town in Pennsylvania. She worked for many years with returning combat veterans, first for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in their outreach center in Jamaica, Queens, then as the CEO of New Era Veterans, a not-for-profit housing provider for formerly houseless veterans. “Doc” or “Rev” is the proud mother of Jonathan Seif, Senior Strategic Account Executive at SigFig and founder of The Profolio Group, an investment firm. Her boss is Hennie, a calico cat who does not remember that she was born in a bucket in the shed behind the veterans’ residence.

**The Church-in-the-Gardens**

*A Congregational Church of the United Church of Christ*

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admin@thecitg.org

Guest Minister: Reverend Dr. Ruth Shaffer
Music Director: Sunny Knable
Liturgist: Cindy Herendeen