

**The Church-in-the-Gardens
Forest Hills, New York**

An Open & Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Our Church Covenant

We covenant and agree with each other to unite as a Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, for Christian fellowship, for public worship and for the advancement of God's kingdom in the world. We agree to maintain the institutions of the gospel, to promote the peace and prosperity of the Church, to walk together in brotherly love. (Adopted 1913)

Our Open & Affirming Covenant Statement

We affirm the worth and dignity of each individual. We welcome everyone into the full life and ministry of the church including persons of all sexual orientations, gender identity and expression, mental and physical ability, marital status, family structure, age, race, ethnicity, nationality, and any other way that people self-identify. As our clear expression of Christian love, we are open and affirming of all people. (Adopted 2024)

**Order of Worship – 10 A.M.
September 29, 2024 - “Courage for Community” Sunday**

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.

Prelude

Announcements

***BIBLE STUDY- Exploring our Faith: Introduction to the New Testament, Part One: The Gospels—Our next and final Saturday morning session is October 5 at 9:30 a.m.**

***CHILDREN'S FAIR Today from 2-5 p.m. in the Community House**

For more information, see the Fliers at the back of the church.

***BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS Saturday Oct. 5, 11 a.m. Rain or Shine.**

For more information, see the Weekly Word and the Fliers at the back of the church.

***UPCOMING BIBLE STUDY Series—Exploring our Faith: Introduction to The New Testament, Part II—Acts and Letters Begins soon.** For information, see the Weekly Word and the Fliers at the back of the church.

***Sunday School Volunteers Needed!** Teachers and Angels needed to help with our Sunday School program this fall! Contact Cindy Herendeen at 917-403-2113 or at SundaySchool@TheCITG.org if you're interested or have questions. For more information, see the Weekly Word.

***GIFTS OF FOOD** are urgently needed for distribution through our central Queens partners. Please bring canned goods and non-perishable donations every Sunday to the basket at the sanctuary entrance. Thank you.

Please pray for: Marcelina Astonitas (mother of Carlos Pesantes); Phylia Banks; Dawn Burrowes; Patricia Faas; Karin Del Greco; Jessica Faas; Millicent Fairhurst; Cynthia Faria; Noriko Iwamoto; Karen Lanegran (mother of Katie); Allen Maurer; Cheryl Mowatt (mother of Andrew); Constance Radut; Sharon Roth; Nancy Russo; Anne Sandager; Dora Shia; Jackie Stuart

For all who are grieving or suffering loss of any kind: the Falotico family, on the passing of Richard's wife, Catherine Falotico.

Prayers for those in residential care: Hanna Bassous; Nafees Watkins

Opening Prayer

*Call to Worship (adapted from the Prayer of St. Francis)

One: Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

All: Where there is hatred, let us sow love;

One: Where there is injury, healing;

All: Where there is despair, hope;

One: Where there is darkness, light. Let there be light!

All: And let it begin with us! Amen.

* Opening Hymn NCH 28 For the Beauty of the Earth

*Prayer of Confession and Renewal

One: Jesus Christ, you commanded:

All: "Love one another, as I have loved you."

One: Where we have not loved you with all our whole heart...

All: Lord, have mercy.

One: Where we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves....

All: Christ, have mercy.

One: Where we are indifferent to the cries of the world...

All: Lord, have mercy

One: Forgive us, renew us, and heal us;

Be with us in this brief time of silent reflection....

*Sung Response SING! 58 Children from Your Vast Creation

Children from your vast creation, gather here for guidance, Lord;

We of every tongue and nation yearn to see your earth restored.

You have shown that your intention wills a world kept free from strife.

Open us to love's dimension, filled with true abundant life.

*Assurance of Pardon

*Passing of the peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

First Reading James 5:13-16 black bible, pg. 280

Gospel Reading Mark 9:38-50 black bible, pg. 54

Sermon "Only through Prayer" OR "What Were You Arguing About on the Way?"

Reverend Frederick Weidmann

Hymn SING 264 When a Prophet Sings of Justice vv. 1, 4

*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 ?

***Doxology** "with Alleluias"

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God the source of all our gifts,

Praise Jesus Christ whose pow'r uplifts,

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit, Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer of Dedication Novi Suhero

***Closing Hymn** SING! 282 Canto de Esperanza / Song of Hope

*Benediction

Postlude

**All who are able, please rise*

Children (and parents) are welcome to go downstairs to **Sunday School** for fun, learning, and activities—we leave worship following the Scripture readings and before the sermon.

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 in the 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



We are happy to announce that our annual Forest Hills Interfaith Food Drive held on Saturday, September 14th was a big success thanks to the many members of our congregation who helped to man the tables at the church, The Natural and Vitelio's. Several longtime volunteers worked alongside first-timers. Special thanks go out to all our teen volunteers!

Stacey's Food Pantry came and picked up 22 boxes of donations and we delivered 17 boxes to Fenix Fridge. In addition, the donation containers collected \$648.58 from the community.

The Church-in-the-Gardens
A Congregational Church of the United Church of Christ
50 Ascan Avenue, Forest Hills, NY 11375
(718) 268-6704 www.thecitg.org

Minister: Reverend Dr. Frederick Weidmann
Music Director: Dr. Sunny Knable
Liturgist: Novi Suhero

World Service Committee