Welcome to First Congregational Church



***A Mansion at Prairie Avenue,* 1955**

Irene Clark (1927-1984)

ANNOUCEMENTS

[Please send any announcements for the bulletin or weekly Enews to the Secretary (secretary@concordsfirstchurch.org) by 9am Thursday morning. Please include the exact wording of how you would like the announcement to appear. Any information received after 9am will be included in the following week's bulletin and Enews. Thank you!]

Upcoming Shows in the Clinton Street Concert Series (Sponsored by FCC and WUMC). All shows are 6:00-7:15 PM
August 19 - The Scott Spradling Band

Java & Jazz at William & Sons Coffee Company Saturday August 29th.



Start your Saturday morning with smooth bossa novas, fresh brews, and a whole lot of soul! From 9:00–11:00 AM, members of the Jazz Sanctuary House Band will be serving up live jazz to pair perfectly with William & Sons' Brazilian-inspired coffee, decadent pastries, and breakfast sandwiches.

Every tip dropped in the jar goes straight to Family Promise of Greater Concord, supporting young families facing homelessness. (Tips optional, good vibes guaranteed!)

Don't miss this chance to sip, snack, and swing along — you might even catch a crowd favorite, "What a Wonderful World."

Outreach: Save the Date: October 10th – Crop Walk
We received a thank you from CWS for our support of the kits program. The note is posted on the bulletin board outside the chapel.
Please continue to support this effort. We have two more completed kid kits to make a grand total of 34. We still need to take advantage of the back to school sales. Please do so by buying:
Glue sticks
24 count crayons
12 count crayons
12 count colored pencils
blunt, rounded tip scissors
12"/30 cm rulers
unsharpened pencils
Please also buy items needed for the Clean up Bucket.

Jazz Sanctuary
August 16th, 2026 in Havenwood Auditorium at 3pm
"The Jazz of Sacred Space"

Welcome and Introduction of the Theme

Jazz Set
Mercy, Mercy, Mercy (Used with Permission)
I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel to Be Free (Used with Permission)
Bridge over Troubled Waters (Used with Permission)

Introduction of Musicians and Jazz Sanctuary Team

Coming Into the Invisible Embrace of Beauty (by John O'Donohue)
Leader: In a great religious tradition, the house of God is a special place.
People: **The church, the temple, the mosque is where a community gathers to hear God. Cumulatively, over years the interior becomes threaded with the desires, longings, and intimacies of a community.**

Sharing our Offerings of Beauty

Song Glory, Glory Hallelujah (African American Spiritual)

Glory, Glory, Hallelujah! Since I laid my burdens down.
Glory, glory, Hallelujah! Since I laid my burdens down!

I feel better, so much better Since I laid my burdens down.
I feel better, so much better Since I laid my burdens down!

Feel like shouting "Hallelujah!" since I laid my burdens down.
Feel like shouting "Hallelujah!" since I laid my burdens down.

I am dancing Miriam's dance now, since I laid my burdens down.
I am dancing Miriam's dance now, since I laid my burdens down.

I am climbing Jacob's ladder, since I laid my burdens down.
I am climbing Jacob's ladder, since I laid my burdens down.

Every round goes higher and higher, since I laid my burdens down.
Every round goes higher and higher, since I laid my burdens down.

Scripture in Many Voices: Psalm 122 (The Voice Translation)
Leader: I was so happy when my fellow pilgrims said, "Let's go to the house of the Eternal."

Women: We have made the journey, and now we are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

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All: **Jerusalem! What a magnificent city! Buildings so close together, so compact.**

Band: God's people belong here. Every tribe of the Eternal makes its way to Jerusalem - Just as God decreed for Israel to come together and give thanks for the Eternal.

Men: In Jerusalem, justice is the order of the day because there sit the judges and kings, the descendants of David.

People on the Right: Ask heaven to grant peace to Jerusalem: "May those who love you prosper.

People on the Left: O Jerusalem, may God's peace fill this entire city! May this citadel be quiet and at ease!"

All: **It's because of people - my family, friends, and acquaintances - that I say, "May peace permeate you." And because the house of the Eternal One, our God, is here, know this: I will always seek your good!**

Song Georgia on My Mind (Used with Permission)

Reading: "To the House of Beauty to Bless Your Journey" by John O'Donohue

Song Every Time I Feel the Spirit (African American Spiritual)

Refrain: Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.

1. Upon the mountain when my God spoke,
out of His mouth came fire and smoke.
Looked all around me looks so fine,
I asked my Lord if all was mine. **(Refrain)**

2. Oh, Jordan river, chilly and cold,
it chills the body, not the soul.
There's only one train on this track;
it runs to heaven, then right back. **(Refrain)**

Reading "Sacred Spaces" by Tim Wildman

Reflective Silence
We'll take a few moments of silence to reflect on the sacred spaces you've loved throughout your life.

Song Hush, Hush (African American Spiritual)

1 Hush, Hush, somebody's calling my name (x3)
O my Lord, O my Lord, what shall I do? What shall I do?

2 Sounds just like Jesus, somebody's calling my name (x3)
O my Lord, O my Lord, what shall I do? What shall I do?

3 I'm so glad, trouble won't last always (x3)
O my Lord, O my Lord, what shall I do? What shall I do?

Pastoral Prayer (Created by Emilia Halstead using ChatGPT)

Lord's Prayer (translated from the Aramaic by Neil Douglas-Klotz)
O Birther! Father-Mother of the Cosmos, focus your light within us - make it useful. Create your reign of unity now-through our fiery hearts and willing hands. Help us love beyond our ideals and sprout acts of compassion for all creatures. Animate the earth within us: we then feel the Wisdom underneath supporting all. Untangle the knots within so that we can mend our hearts' simple ties to each other. Don't let surface things delude us, but free us from what holds us back from our true purpose. Out of you, the astonishing fire, returning light and sound to the cosmos. Amen.

Time of Gratitude & Passing the Peace
Invitation to Generosity (Created by Emilia Halstead using ChatGPT)

Gratitude Music What a Wonderful World (Used with Permission)

Prayer of Thanksgiving (Created by Emilia Halstead using ChatGPT)
Holy One, receive these gifts and weave them into the life of your wider community. May they create welcome for the stranger, comfort for the weary, and justice for those pushed aside. Bless all of our sacred places, that they may remain thresholds of grace, dwelling places for peace, and houses of beauty for all who enter them. Amen.

Benediction (Created by Emilia Halstead using ChatGPT)

Sending Music Down by the Riverside (African American Spiritual)

1 I'm gonna lay down my sword and shield,
down by the riverside, (x3)
gonna lay down my sword and shield,
down by the riverside,
I ain't gonna study war no more.

(Refrain) I ain't gonna study war no more, (x6)

2 I'm gonna try on my long, white robe (Refrain)
3 I'm gonna put on my starry crown (Refrain)