



SEASON OF EPIPHANY

**FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE**

Congregational 1633-1636
United Church of Christ
Garden and Mason Streets
Cambridge, Massachusetts

FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE
CONGREGATIONAL
384 YEARS
ON THE WAY
1 6 3 6 – 2 0 2 0

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE...

Grounded in God • Growing in Community • Acting in Love

These past months have brought home to all of us the vital importance of working together to slow and limit the spread of Coronavirus. We know we are called to be a community of faith, not fear. We also know we are called to care for the most vulnerable in our midst, to be good stewards of our staff and resources, and to be good citizens of the wider community.

Under normal circumstances, people of faith would care for each other by drawing close together. It's what we do. It's who we are. In times of loss or threat, we respond by coming together to pray and to sing, to hug and hold each other tight.

Pandemics are different. During an outbreak such as the one we are facing now, we are called to care for each other by moving farther apart, creating a holy buffer of social distance. We do this not only for our own safety and the safety of the people around us, but in loving stewardship to our wider world.

Even when apart, we are not alone. God is with us, in every heartbeat, every breath: strengthening, comforting, and upholding us. Christ is with us, walking beside us, sharing our trials, speaking peace to our fears. The Spirit is with us, uniting us one to another across the barrier of physical distance.

These are temporary measures only. They won't last forever. We will rejoice and celebrate all the more when we are able to come back together, to share stories of what it was like, to laugh, to cry, and to share hugs and handshakes again. Until then, day by day, let's hold one another in prayer.

WORSHIP LEADERS

January 31, 2021

Preaching Today

Dan Smith, Senior Minister

Leading Worship

Lexi Boudreaux, Pastoral Associate

Jaz Buchanan, Pastoral Associate

Kate Layzer, Minister of Street Outreach

Sarah Higginbotham, Director of Creative Worship & Arts

Peter Sykes, Music Director

Kris McQuage-Loukas and Kevin Newell, tech support

The photograph on the bulletin cover is by Gaylen Morgan.

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

L: Friends, hear this good news: God's love lights our way to a new dawn, and God's mercy is working in our hearts even now.
The light of Christ and the peace of God be with you always.

C: And also with you!

L: Let us share this good news and greet one another now with a sign of Christ's peace.

*GREETING OF PEACE

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Sarah Higginbotham

JOINING OF NEW MEMBERS IN COVENANT

INVITATION

Dan Smith

ADDRESS

PROMISES

Leader: Do you profess Jesus Christ as the center of your faith?

Candidates: I do.

Leader: Do you promise to follow Christ's path, offering compassion and working for justice?

Candidates: I do.

Leader: Do you promise to grow with this congregation in faith, and further with us Jesus' mission in the world?

Candidates: I do.

ADDRESS TO NEW MEMBERS

*COVENANT OF FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

**All: We who are now brought together
and united into one Church
under the Lord Jesus Christ, our Head,
in such sort as becometh
all those whom he hath redeemed
and sanctified to himself,
do solemnly and religiously,
as in his most holy presence,
promise and bind ourselves to walk in all our ways**

according to the rule of the Gospel,
and in all sincere conformity to his holy ordinances,
and in mutual love and respect each to other,
so near as God shall give us grace.

***WELCOME**

CONCLUDING PRAYER

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING

Mark 1: 21-28

SERMON

Dan Smith

***HYMN 358** When Jesus Came Preaching the Way of our God (verses 1 and 2, *see pages 6-7*)

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD

L: God be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray....(*silence, intercessions and the Lord's Prayer*)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(*Please pray this prayer and address God in words most meaningful to your heart.*)

All: Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**To God, all glorious heavenly Light,
to Christ revealed in earthly night,
to God the Spirit now we raise
our joyful songs of thankful praise. Amen.**

GOING FORTH

***HYMN 242**

God of Life (verses 1 and 2)

(see page 8)

***BENEDICTION**

VOLUNTARY

Toccata

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck

OPENING HYMN

We who are now brought together

Mary Luti

Peter Sykes

We who are now brought to - geth - er, e - ven we,
We who are now brought to - geth - er, Spi - rit - led,
We who are now joined to - geth - er in God's sight
We who are now joined to - geth - er in all ways

drawn by the love of our Sa - vior, ev - en he,
called and made ho - ly by Je - sus, hum - ble Head,
so near as grace may be giv - en day and night,
of - fer to you, O Cre - a - tor, praise on praise

pro - mise to walk on his path - way, faith - ful, free.
pro - mise to live by the gos - pel, as he said.
pro - mise to love one an - oth - er, God's de - light.
grate - ful - ly: one con - gre - ga - tion, all our days.

SERMON HYMN

When Jesus Came Preaching the Way of Our God

verses 1 and 2

→ 1. When Je - sus came preach - ing the way of our God, with the
→ 2. Since Je - sus came preach - ing the way of our God, what a
3. Still Je - sus comes preach - ing the way of our God, in a

love that has power to per - suade, the sick were made whole, both in
change in our lives he has made! How man - y have shared in the
world that is sick and a - fraid; the gos - pel is spread like the

bod - y and soul, and e - ven the de - mons o - beyed.
joy of their Lord, in self - giv - ing have loved and o - beyed!
leav - en in bread by the love that has power to per - suade.

But he need - ed a few he could trust to be true, to
But let none of us doubt what re - li - gion's a - bout, or by
So let none of us swerve from our mis - sion to serve that has

WORDS: Fred Pratt Green, 1969
MUSIC: Walker's *Southern Harmony*, 1835; harm. FCC, 1997

SAMANTHRA
Irr.

SERMON HYMN

share in the work from the start: when Je - sus came preach-ing the
what it is shamed and be-trayed: do just - ly, love mer - cy, walk
made us his church from the start; may Je - sus, the light of the

way of our God, the glad gift to the hum - ble of heart.
hum - bly with God, is the rule Je - sus free - ly o - beyed.
world, send us out in the strength of the hum - ble of heart.

The musical score is written in a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a common time signature. It consists of two systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The lyrics are placed between the two staves of each system. The first system contains the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system contains the last three lines. The music features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests and ties. The bass line provides a steady accompaniment with chords and single notes.

CLOSING HYMN

God of Life

verses 1 and 2

→ 1. God of life, in Christ you lead us, guid - ing us a -
→ 2. God of words and Word In - car-nate, words that chal - lenge
3. God of mus - ic, psalms and an-thems, help us sing your
4. God of days and years and e - ons, still you call as

long the way. In our past, through joys and sor - rows,
and em - brace, grant us bold - ness in our speak - ing,
faith a - new: mel - o - dies ex - pand - ing wor - ship,
in the past. Work un - done de - mands our la - bor;

you have been our strength and stay. Keep us faith - ful,
while we know your lov - ing grace. Give us words both
har - mo - nies en - rich - ing, too. May our lives be
jus - tice years for peace at last. Yours the vi - sion

true dis - ci - ples, in our learn - ing and our praise,
clear and win - some, lov - ing hearts and list'n - ing ears,
hymns in ac - tion, tuned to Christ in note and rhyme,
and the chal - lenge; ours the mis - sion and the praise.

cel - e - brat - ing past and pres - ent, con - se - crat - ing fu - ture days.
cel - e - brat - ing past and pres - ent, con - se - crat - ing fu - ture years.
cel - e - brat - ing past and pres - ent, con - se - crat - ing fu - ture time.
Cel - e - brat - ing past and pres - ent, con - se - crat - ing fu - ture days.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Kirsten Manville and her family as they mourn the loss of Kirsten’s aunt Sue Butler, who died last Saturday.
- We offer prayers of celebration for Lexi Boudreaux, who completed her ordination interviews and joyfully awaits the scheduling of her Ecclesiastical Council.
- We pray for the 5 staff and 11 guests of the First Church Shelter who tested positive recently for COVID-19. After more than 10 months of Covid-free operations, the shelter closed briefly last week as guests were relocated to a state-run Covid hotel. This past Monday, the Shelter re-opened and welcomed back its first recovered guest, and since then more guests have returned. We pray for the recovery and safe return of additional guests and staff soon.
- We pray for both Nathan and Peter Wilson-Braun, who have separately tested positive for COVID-19: Nathan, after his time working in the First Church Shelter and Peter, who has been living in Maine offering homecare services. We pray for the health and safety of the entire Wilson-Braun family, who are also grieving the loss of their family dog Baxter, who died last week.
- We pray for Jim Cairns’s mother Betsy, who was discharged from the hospital this week following a successful surgery to remove a malignant tumor.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Sarah Robinson, daughter of Mary Robinson and Mary Martha Thiel; Ron Paquette, Caroline Newton’s father; Penny Kilburn, Nancy Kilburn’s mother; Katie, Moana Bentin’s sister; Amy Golodet, Jonathan New’s sister-in-law; Karen Anne Zee’s daughter Becky Collet, and for her sons-in-law, Denis Collet and Stewart Bailey; and Beth and Polly, Ann McCann’s sisters.
- We continue to pray for all who are grieving the loss of loved ones to COVID-19. We pray for the “long-haulers”—those who continue to live with symptoms from the disease. We continue to lift up health care professionals and essential workers, that they may feel supported and cared for.
- We pray for Native communities who are grieving the loss of tribal elders and family members. The COVID-19 virus has killed American Indians at especially high rates, robbing tribes of precious bonds and repositories of language and tradition.
- We pray for our sharply divided nation in the midst of this historic time of unrest and for all in positions of leadership.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for all who are caregivers—caring for elderly parents, for those with dementia, for young children, for older children, for those struggling with addiction, depression, anxiety—and for all those they care for.
- We pray for all who continue to to name, confront, and work toward the eradication of white supremacy and white privilege.
- We pray for those who seek sanctuary in houses of worship around the country, including our partner University Lutheran Church in Harvard Square. We pray for solace and security for immigrants and all those who live in fear and anxiety over their status in this country. We also pray for all who work for a just and compassionate future for immigrants and asylum seekers.
- We pray that God may grant us the strength to confront and combat the many realities of the climate crisis, and that we and our leaders may be empowered to take bold steps to care for God’s creation. We pray especially for the poor, who are disproportionately affected by our inaction.

NEW MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES

AUSTIN ALLAN AND DIANE DENNISON both grew up in South Africa, spent several years in the UK, and then moved to the US in 2004, settling in Old Lyme, CT. In 2019 they moved to Cambridge. Their daughter Bridget was the first member of their family to join First Church, being confirmed in 2020. Diane is interested in meaning making. Austin works in the pharmaceutical industry. In their spare time they both enjoy exploring cultures through food.

HANNA BLISKA is a recent college graduate from Lyme, New Hampshire. She found First Church online when searching for a welcoming church community before moving to Cambridge in September to start her first job in the environmental field. Hanna enjoys cooking, reading, and playing music, and is happy to become a member of First Church.

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

MULTIGENERATIONAL FORMATION: GODLY PLAY FOR ALL AGES Today, 9:30 a.m., via Zoom Children up to 4th grade and all adults are invited to hear the story of “The Good Shepherd” Come wonder about this iconic image of Jesus with people of all ages. You can find the [Zoom invitation](#) on our website calendar.

MIDDLE SCHOOL FORMATION: BIBLE 101 AND FAITH & SOCIAL JUSTICE CLASSES Today, 9:30 a.m., via Zoom Our 5/6th and 7/8th grade classes will meet separately from Godly Play to continue with their curricula. You can find the [Zoom invitation](#) on our website calendar. [LINK]

ANNUAL MEETING Today, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom Each year on the final Sunday of January, we gather as a church community for our Annual Meeting. The meeting consists of the standard components of any corporation, like approving [the annual reports](#) of officers, committee chairs, and staff, as well as [minutes of previous congregational meetings](#) over the past year. But First Church’s Annual Meeting is much more than mundane business! We celebrate our leaders moving on from their terms of service, and we welcome new folks onto committees and into positions of leadership throughout our community. We discuss important ideas and initiatives bubbling up from within First Church, often in response to where God is calling us now. This year, we will take up consideration of a [Vision for Being an Anti-Racist Church](#). For many years and especially over the past year, members and friends of First Church have been meeting, praying, listening, and speaking together about our journey toward embodying the Beloved Community, and we are at a point at which a Vision has taken form. Please join us to learn more and offer your feedback, questions, support, and/or endorsement of the Vision. You can find the [Zoom invitation](#) on our website calendar.

NEW TO FIRST CHURCH? Have you just begun joining us for online worship? Consider filling out this [“virtual visitor card”](#) so that we might reach out and connect with you about our community.

PLEASE BE CAREFUL OF EMAIL SCAMS We are observing an uptick in phishing scams impersonating church staff via email. If you receive an email claiming to be from Dan Smith (or another staff) that asks for an email reply because he is in a meeting, please double-check the sending address. Please note that if the sender is using an email address other than an @firstchurchcambridge.org address, it is most likely a scam. Please do not respond. Church staff would never ask for any kind of donations to be sent directly to them (or directly to others). The scammers have been able to pull enough information from church websites to make the email sound legitimate. Scams have become more and more sophisticated! If you are still wondering, please be sure to speak directly with Dan or to the staff person involved before responding.

FIRST CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS

ECCLESIASTICAL COUNCIL FOR KARLENE GRIFFITHS-SEKOU Tuesday, February 2, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom First Church member in discernment Karlene Griffiths-Sekou invites us all to her Ecclesiastical Council. This marks the final step in her preparation for ordination in the United Church of Christ. To attend, [please register here](#) to receive the Zoom invitation.

MEN'S BREAKFAST Saturday, February 6, 8:00 a.m., via Zoom For all who identify as men, please join us for our monthly first Saturday gathering on February 6. This is a time for soulful connection, prayerful support, and topical conversation led each month by a different member of the group. We usually share a hearty breakfast at church but during Covid, please bring your coffee and morning meal to our Zoom meeting. You can find the [Zoom information](#) for this event on our website calendar. [Learn more](#) about this and other small group opportunities.

GUEST PREACHER PAUSA THOMPSON Next Sunday, February 7 We are thrilled to welcome back Rev. Pausa Kaio Thompson and members of our Samoan to help lead our service next week. Rev. Pausa Kaio Thompson is the Lead Pastor of the UCC Dominguez Samoan Congregational Christian Church in Compton, California. He is a Samoan American clergy, activist, and theologian. He is an alumnus of the Kanana Fou Theological Seminary in American Samoa, Union Theological Seminary in the city of New York, Boston University School of Theology, and is currently completing his doctorate degree at Claremont School of Theology in Claremont, CA. His scholarly work accentuates the theological discourse, indigenous culture and wisdom, and social justice issues of Samoa and Samoans in diaspora. His ministry encourages people to be change agents in the world by invoking a more socially conscious ethic of Christian practice. Sadly, we can't have Samoan hot chocolate or banana su'fai after church this year there but there will be much alofas (love) shared online!

ADULT FORMATION: RACE AND CLASSICAL MUSIC WITH PETER SYKES Sundays, February 7 and 14, 9:30 a.m., via Zoom Discussions of racism in classical music have become as timely and important as they are in any other field. Music Director Peter Sykes will share the work he has done in his classes at the Juilliard School, examining colonialist history and ways of moving forward with diversity both of and in classical music in order to create a truly inclusive art.

PRAYING THE PSALMS GROUP Tuesday mornings, 7:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m., via Zoom Our Praying the Psalms group has resumed weekly meetings via Zoom. The group is set up to accompany individual reading of one Psalm per day, starting with Psalm 1 on January 1. Each Tuesday at 7:45 a.m., we gather online for a time of soulful check-in and shared reflection about the Psalms of the week. Feel free to drop in virtually when you can, or plan to make it a regular part of your week. See the calendar on our website for the Zoom information.

FIRST CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS

YOUNG ADULTS' WINTER GATHERINGS First Church 20- and 30-somethings are invited to gather via Zoom for a series of “Gentle Blasphemy” get-togethers at 7:00 p.m. on the following dates: Sunday, February 7; Monday, February 15; and Thursday, February 25. To join the Young Adults' email list, send a message to: youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org

WEEKLY FCC PROFESSIONAL CAREGIVERS' CALL First and Third Tuesdays, 4:00 p.m., via Zoom Hospital workers, homecare workers, therapists, chaplains, doctors, nurses, caregivers and essential workers of all kinds — would it help to talk and share your experience with others at First Church? If you've been flat out and barely able to come up for air, please drop-in when you can for a time to listen, share, pray, and process. Our next session held via Zoom is **this Tuesday, February 2**. You can find the Zoom information for this event on our website calendar.

BOSTON UNIVERSITY GRANT EXTENDS TIME WITH CARLYLE STEWART, COMMUNITY MINISTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE Good news, church! Thanks to renewed funding from our BU School of Theology Creative Callings Project grant, Carlyle Stewart, our Community Minister for Racial Justice, will continue to be with us through most 2021. Carlyle will be preaching on February 21 and helping lead an FCC leadership retreat soon after. In addition, he will be continuing to lead weekly theological reflection sessions on biblical and spiritual themes related to our work of becoming an anti-racist church.

PRAYER SHAWLS FOR OUR NEW CONFERENCE Do you like to knit, crochet, or sew? Rev. Darrell Goodwin, the new General Minister of [SNEUCC](#) (the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ—that's us) is asking for prayer shawls for conference staff, ministers, and partners—tangible signs that we are wrapping them in prayer. Watch Rev. Goodwin's recent [video](#) to learn more, and follow him on social media [@RevDGoodwin](#) to keep up with what's happening in the life of our conference!

BIPOC SPACE, TIME, AND COMMUNITY If you are a Black, Indigenous or Person of Color (BIPOC) member of First Church, please consider joining our periodic Zoom meetings designed as active listening sessions to reflect, heal, support one another, and build community. Please contact Moana Bentin (moana.bentin@gmail.com) with questions or to receive a Zoom invitation to participate. This group is by BIPOC for BIPOC.

ONLINE WORSHIP LITURGISTS Assist in worship, either in-person or via video. [Sign up here](#), and you will receive an email with instructions on how to contribute! Questions? Contact Lexi Boudreaux: lexi@firstchurchcambridge.org

FIRST CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS PAGE ON OUR WEBSITE Our newly refreshed website now has a page where you can find all the resources and documents you need as an active participant in the life, work, and ministries of the church. You can easily find the [Members and Friends](#) page on our website by hovering over “About Us” and clicking on “Members and Friends.” There you will find:

- quick links for **Sunday worship** to our livestream, YouTube channel, and online bulletin
- a link to our online password-protected **Church Directory** (email Director of Operations Kirsten Manville to gain access)
- links to sign up for all our **e-communications**
- a repository of documents pertaining to the **governance and leadership** of the congregation, including policies and procedures, annual reports, church finances, personnel forms, and more

WINTER/LENT FAITH AND LIFE GROUPS

Sign-ups for Faith and Life Groups begin this week for the Winter/Lenten season!

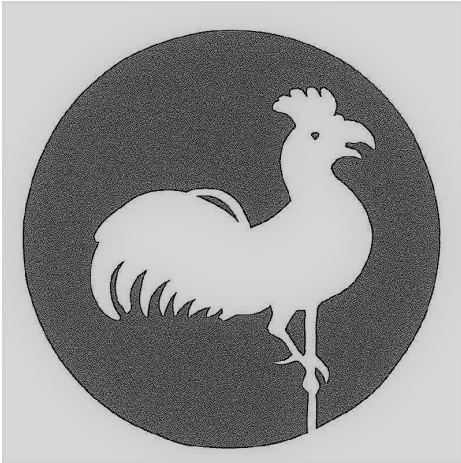
Faith & Life Groups involve making a short-term commitment (a single session to several weeks, depending on the group). If you are looking for a great way to dip your toes into the life of our church and stay connected outside of Sunday Worship this is for you!



- **Genealogy: Finding our Family Histories** with *Karen McArthur*
- **Science Fiction and Faith** with *Taj Smith*
- **Racial Justice and Healing: A Caucus for White Men** with *Dan Smith*
- **“Seeing White” Podcast Discussion Group** with *Kerri Ratcliffe*
- **How to Raise an Anti-Racist Child** with *Peggy Stevens*
- **Supporting Our Lenten Changes** with *Hilary Hopkins*
- **Contemplative Practices Group** with *Duncan Hollomon*
- **Back to Basics Bible Study: Gospel of Luke and Acts** with *Lexi Boudreaux*
- **Intro to Feminist Readings of the Bible** with *Alex Steinert-Evoy and Lexi Boudreaux*

*Read descriptions of each group [here](#).
[Use this form](#) to register or indicate interest.*

CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING



Notice is hereby given that
[the Annual Meeting](#)
of First Church in Cambridge,
Congregational, United Church of Christ,
will be held in its 385th year
at 12:30 p.m.,
Sunday the 31st of January, 2021,
by Zoom conference:

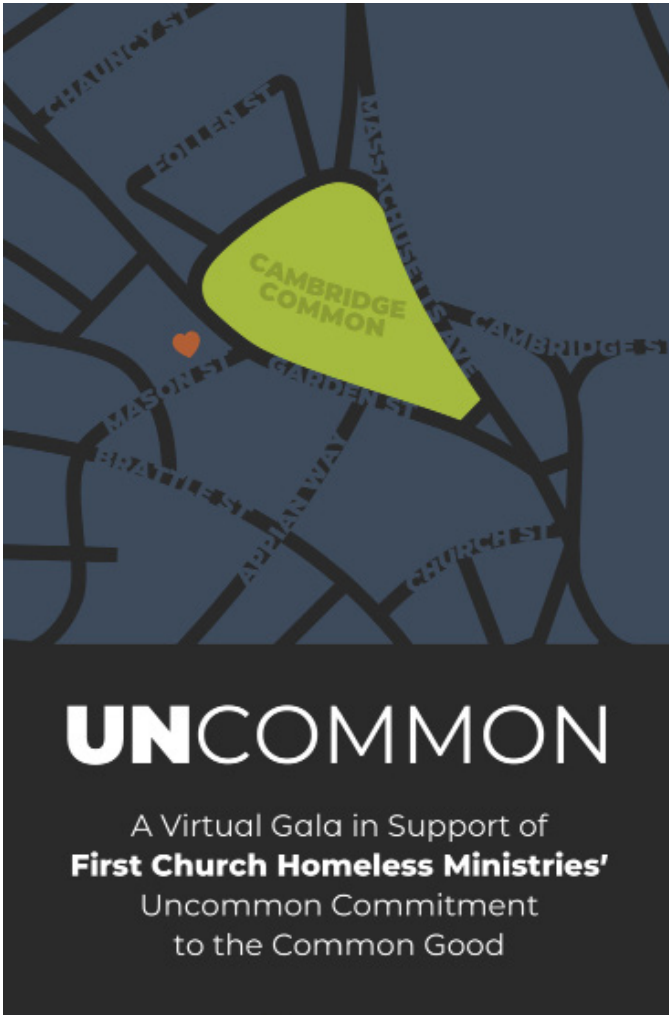
1. to approve the [minutes of the January 26, 2020, Annual Meeting](#) and the [minutes of the November 22, 2020, Special Meeting*](#),
2. to receive and act upon the [2020 reports](#) of the Staff, Officers, Executive Council, Boards, Committees, Teams, and Groups of the Church,
3. to consider a [Vision for Being an Anti-Racist Church](#), and
4. to consider any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

*In addition, the congregation will be asked to approve the [minutes of the April 26, 2020 Special Meeting](#).

By direction of the Executive Council,

David Kidder, Clerk *pro tempore*
Cambridge, Massachusetts
January 7, 2021

HOMELESS MINISTRIES GALA



FIRST CHURCH HOMELESS MINISTRIES UNCOMMON VIRTUAL GALA

Saturday, February 20, 7:00 pm

Please join Homeless Ministries at our virtual gala, as we celebrate the Cambridge community's uncommon commitment to the common good, even in the midst of pandemic.

Our guest speaker will be acclaimed philosopher Michael Sandel, author of *The Tyranny of Merit: What's Become of the Common Good?*

Tickets are \$20 each, and include a Zoom book group session as well as a cooking demonstration by celebrity chef Tony Maws.

Visit the [gala website](#) for tickets and info about how to purchase the book.

Do you know people who share your concern about homelessness, or who might be interested in what Michael Sandel has to say? Please help us spread the word by sending them this link, or by sharing our [Facebook event](#) with your followers!

LOOKING AHEAD TO LENT

ASHES TO ASHES: REFLECTIONS ON RETURNING

*Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return!*

Genesis 3: 19

Each year at Ash Wednesday, we begin our Lenten observance with these words and with a liturgy that invites us to reflect on ashes in four ways:

- Ashes as a sign of **creation**.
- Ashes as a sign of **mortality**.
- Ashes as a sign of **repentance**.
- Ashes as a sign of **the Cross**.

There's far more than a day's worth of reflection there, especially in this season where we are daily reminded of the mounting toll of Covid, of ongoing racial inequality and terror, and of ongoing degradation of our planet.

We invite you to join us through the 40 days of Lent, as we share and reflect on the rich symbolism of ashes and explore themes of spiritual return and returning.

For some, it may be an invitation to return to the very ground of our being, to the natural world, and to God—to reconnect with the lasting beauty, hope and healing therein. For others, it may be a journey to return to and remember our own mortality, or to acknowledge and repent of our sins and brokenness, all the while knowing we are held in God's eternal love and grace. Ashes in the sign of the cross may prompt others to reflect on, revisit, and embody the ways and patterns of Jesus' life, suffering and death into new life. In this season of so much grief and gratitude, loss and love, we hope you will all find ways of sharing the Lenten journey with us, whether in learning sessions, small groups, or spiritual practices both contemplative and creative.

Lent 2021

Ashes to Ashes: Reflections on Returning

Save the Dates:

**Sunday, February 14,
between 1:30 & 3:00 p.m.**

Pick up your Lenten Church at Home Kit outside the church.

**Ash Wednesday
February 17**

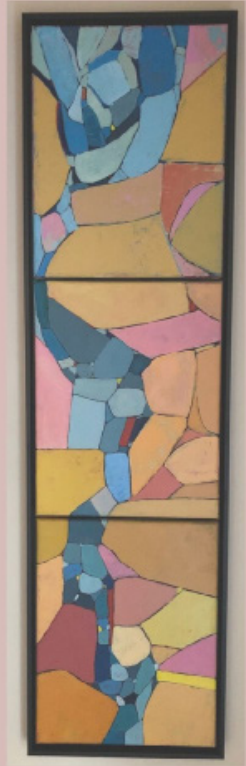
Watch our "unboxing" video to explore your Lenten box.

Watch a pre-recorded "ashes to go" video.

Join our Ash Wednesday Worship via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

**Sundays, February 21, 28
and March 7, 14 & 21,
9:30 a.m.**

"Ashes to Ashes" Lenten Study
A prayerful time of learning, conversation, and spiritual practice.



Finding My Way
Sonja Kenny



WIDER COMMUNITY ACTIONS AND EVENTS

FOR THOSE FEELING ISOLATED
Tuesday, January 26 at 7pm
Thursday, January 28 at 11am

FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS WITH CHILDREN BEING SCHOOLED REMOTELY
Tuesday, February 2 at 7pm
Thursday, February 4 at 11am

FOR COVID-19 SURVIVORS
Tuesday, February 9 at 7pm
Thursday, February 11 at 11am

FOR HEALTHCARE AND MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS
Tuesday, February 16 at 7pm
Thursday, February 18 at 11am

Free & Confidential
Facilitated by Trained Counselors/Clinicians

REGISTER FOR A FREE, CONFIDENTIAL COPING GROUP [MassSupport Network](#), which provides free community outreach and support services across the state in response to the unprecedented public health crisis of COVID-19, is offering a series of free and confidential virtual coping groups for people who:

- are feeling isolated ([January 26](#) & [January 28](#))
- have children who are remote-schooling ([February 2](#) & [February 4](#))
- have survived COVID-19 or are fighting it ([February 9](#) & [February 11](#))
- are a health or mental health worker providing services during the pandemic ([February 16](#) & [February 18](#))

With so many feeling isolated and/or stressed, connecting with others who share similar experiences can be invaluable. Sharing and reflecting in a supportive space with others who understand can enhance coping skills and strategies, reduce anxiety and stress, create a sense of connection and community, help us to process, learn about our strengths, and gain new ideas. Resources are also provided. [MassSupport](#) is a Crisis Counseling Program (CCP), funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and managed in partnership between the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health and Riverside Trauma Center, a program of Riverside Community Care.

A CALL FROM ECO-AMERICA / BLESSED TOMORROW The United Church of Christ (our denomination) is a partner in [blessedtommorrow.org](#), a coalition of diverse religious partners working to advance climate solutions in faithful service to God. First Church's Earth Stewardship Group invites you to sign on to MomentUs, a statement seeking ambitious climate policies from local, regional and national policymakers that eliminate carbon pollution, restore thriving natural systems, and prioritize justice and equity to protect and support all Americans. These solutions must halve carbon emissions each decade going forward, begin removing existing carbon pollution and correct racial, cultural, and economically based inequities and injustices. Learn more and sign at bit.ly/3aNq65m. Questions? Contact Jim Brown: jobrown773@gmail.com

WIDER COMMUNITY ACTIONS AND EVENTS

FREE COVID TESTING NOW AVAILABLE FOR ALL WHO LIVE, WORK, AND PRAY IN CAMBRIDGE

The City of Cambridge and Cambridge Public Health Department (CPHD) are offering [free COVID-19 testing](#) for Cambridge residents and, we are told, for all who work and pray in Cambridge. The PCR tests are anterior nasal swab tests and not the nasopharyngeal swab test that go all the way back in the nasal passages. No identification or Social Security number is required. All sites are wheelchair accessible. Available testing appointments can book up quickly, but please keep checking back as new appointments will be added when they become available. When you sign up for an appointment, you will be asked for your address and to “Select all that apply: *I am a Cambridge resident *I am an employee in Cambridge *I am a City of Cambridge employee *None of the above.” If you don’t live or work in Cambridge, be sure to select *None of the Above and then list in the address line that follows: “Member of First Church in Cambridge, 11 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA.” To schedule an appointment, [sign up online](#) or call 617-349-9788.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS WELCOME Patrons need cereal, canned veggies and fruit, proteins (canned chicken & peanut butter especially); feminine products and diapers very welcome. Please do not donate fresh food or anything already opened. Deliver to Hilary’s front porch, 30 Winslow St., Cambridge, ¾ mile up Garden St. from FCC, first street on right after Garden and Sherman diverge. There is a wreath on the front door and a storage box on the porch: pull up its lid, close firmly, ring bell for #30 on silver mailbox. Thank you!

FINANCIAL DONATIONS TO PROVIDE FOOD SECURITY The following organizations welcome financial donations. They work providing food to people who are living with food insecurity. [Food For Free](#) supports low-income Cambridge residents. It offers fresh produce as well as other kinds of food. In some cases it will also deliver food to people who are unable to come to their food pantry. [Greater Boston Food Bank](#) provides food to over 500 partner agencies in Eastern Massachusetts. It will also help people locate and apply for other food resources.

Have an announcement for the bulletin?

Please send information about church or wider community events to Sarah Higginbotham (shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org) by 10:00 a.m. on Tuesdays to be considered for the following Sunday’s bulletin.

**LINKS TO CHANT WORKS
PROVIDED BY NIGHT SONG**

Looking for meditative chant music during
your time at home?

Night Song Director Daryl Bichel offers
the following suggestions:



**St. Mark's Cathedral in Seattle
Compline Podcast, 24 January 2021**

<https://complinepodcast.org/?p=1910>

This archival liturgy was recorded on 21 January 2018. There are two hymns, a psalm set by director Jason Alexander, a contemporary setting of the Nunc dimittis, and a motet by Francisco Guerrero. Once again, the hymn singing is exemplary, with the text of each verse reflected beautifully.

**First Church in Cambridge
Night Song**

<http://nightsong.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/NightSong20180311-Phrygian.mp3>

This is one of my favorite archival Night Song liturgies, sung several years ago by Beneficia Lucis, the schola of men directed by James Busby. The singing at the very beginning and the end is soft because the chant was performed from the chapel. Also, there are several relatively long periods of silence, so don't be led to think it's over. Much of the music, except for the Gregorian chant, the motets and the hymn is the setting in the Phrygian mode I composed for the group.

**Ensemble Organum
Chant, *Oliva fructifera***

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-LI_4h26N0E

This is a link to a short but very beautiful chant that mentions the olive tree, one of the plants cited most frequently in the Bible. This track is from the album *Voices from Ancient Abbeys: Plainchant & Polyphony*. It's a Cistercian Chant Responsory of Matins for the Feast of St. Bernard.

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, January 31

- 9:30 a.m. Multigenerational Formation: Multigenerational Godly Play, via Zoom
- 9:30 a.m. Bible 101 and Faith & Social Justice classes, via Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. Live-stream Worship with New Members Joining
Dan Smith, preaching
- 12:15 p.m. Annual Meeting, via Zoom

Monday, February 1

- 7:00 p.m. Cambridge Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition (CISC) Monthly Meeting, via Zoom
(all current CISC volunteers are welcome; zoom invitation is in your email)

Tuesday, February 2

- 7:45 a.m. Praying the Psalms Group, via Zoom
- 4:00 p.m. Professional Caregivers Call, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Ecclesiastical Council for Karlene Griffiths-Sekou, via Zoom

Wednesday, February 3

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, via Zoom

Thursday, February 4

- 6:00 p.m. Weekly Bible Study, via Zoom
- 7:45 p.m. First Church Choir Call, via Zoom

Friday, February 5

- 1:00 p.m. Friday Café lunch bag pickup, Tower Room

Saturday, February 6

- 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast, via Zoom

Sunday, February 7

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: Race and Classical Music with Peter Sykes, via Zoom
- 9:30 a.m. Multigenerational Formation: Creative Arts Workshop, via Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. Live-stream Worship, guest preacher Pausa Kaio Thompson
- 12:15 p.m. Zoom Coffee Hour
- 2:00 p.m. Youth Group, meet at church playground (weather permitting)

Zoom invitations to our week's programs can be found on each event listed in [the calendar on our website](#).

They may also be found in the all-church email that was sent this morning. To join our all-church email list, please [sign up here](#).

THE STAFF AT FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

Senior Minister

Rev. Dan Smith
617-547-2724 ext.23
dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org

Minister of Stewardship & Finance

Rev. Karen McArthur
karenmc@firstchurchcambridge.org

Minister of Street Outreach

Rev. Kate Layzer
617-851-5074
kate@thefriday.cafe

Pastoral Associate

Lexi Boudreaux
lexi@firstchurchcambridge.org

Pastoral Associate

Jaz Buchanan
jaz@firstchurchcambridge.org

Director of Music

Peter Sykes
617-645-0833
psykes@aol.com

Director, Creative Worship & Arts

Sarah Higginbotham
617-547-2724, ext. 42
shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org

Staff Composer

Patricia Van Ness
www.patriciavanness.com

Poet-in-Residence

Jean Dany Joachim
jeandany@gmail.com

Shelter Director

Jim Stewart
617-661-1873
jstewart@firstchurchcambridge.org

Director of Operations

Kirsten Manville
617-547-2724, ext. 21
parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org

Facilities Manager

Kris McQuage-Loukas
617-547-2724, ext. 44
facilities@firstchurchcambridge.org

Office Assistant

Bruce Dillenbeck
617-547-2724
bruce@firstchurchcambridge.org

Sextons

Douglas Casey, Rebecca LaFrance,
George Williams, Kimel Williams
617-642-3980

Would you like to give to
First Church in Cambridge?
Here are easy ways to do it:



Text \$ __ to 1-844-996-0982



FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE
CONGREGATIONAL, 1633-1636
United Church of Christ
11 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138
www.firstchurchcambridge.org