



LENT

**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

Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, we are thankful that you are with us today, and we hope that you will stay for a bit after worship for refreshments and conversation. First Church is an Open and Affirming, Just Peace congregation of the United Church of Christ. If you'd like to know more about us, please introduce yourself to one of the ministers after church and explore our website at:
www.firstchurchcambridge.org.

Children of all ages are welcome in our worship. Picture books, children's Bibles, and activity packets can be found in the Children's Book Corner located by the door to the parish building (to the right of the chancel). Children may visit the Book Corner at any point during worship. Nursery care for infants and toddlers is located through that door, up the ramp, and through the fire door. Fussy babies and their caregivers are invited to use Hastings Common, through the same door.

Large-print bulletins and assistive listening devices are available.

WORSHIP LEADERS

March 8, 2020

Preaching Today

Dan Smith, Senior Minister

Leading Worship

Lexi Boudreaux, Pastoral Associate
Kate Layzer, Minister of Street Outreach

Liturgist

Hannah Erickson

Ministry Moment

Phil Jones and Alice Kidder

Playing the Organ and Directing the Choir

Peter Sykes, Director of Music

The photograph on the bulletin cover is by Gaylen Morgan.

MAKING A WAY FOR GOD'S WELCOME

VOLUNTARY

Intermezzo

Carson Cooman

*HYMN 88

My Shepherd, You Supply My Need

*GREETING

Hannah Erickson

L: Friends, grace and peace to you, and welcome!
(Silence)

L: In every sound and silence,

C: in every heart and hurt,

L: in quiet kindness, in bold witness,

C: in word and song and breath,

L: God's presence meets us here.

C: We open our hearts to listen for it now.

(Silence)

L: Come and worship! For God's love surrounds and enfolds us here.
 God is making a way towards us in the midst of it all.

WORDS OF WELCOME

MAKING A WAY FOR GOD'S MERCY

ANTHEM

Kyrie

Ondrej Hornik

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

CONFESSION HYMN

Lead Me, Lord

(see page 4)

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

Please greet each other with a sign of Christ's peace. We encourage you to offer a handshake, a hug, or hands brought together at your heart to indicate your preferred way of sharing the peace.

**You are invited to stand. Hymns preceded by a "C" are found in the beginning section of the hymnal. This section contains hymns written and composed by current and past members of First Church in Cambridge.*

***HYMN 340**

Peace Before Us

The Church School (preschool - 7th grade) is now invited to leave for church school classes. Teachers will meet their students at the side door or in the Narthex to accompany them to their classrooms. Parents can meet their children in Lindsay Chapel (through Margaret Jewett Hall and to the left) after worship.

MAKING A WAY FOR GOD'S WORD

SILENCE

READING

John 3:1-17

SERMON

Dan Smith

SILENCE

***HYMN 188**

Before the Cross of Jesus

MAKING A WAY FOR GOD IN COMMUNITY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lexi Boudreaux

MINISTRY MOMENT

Clergy & Laity for Affordable Housing

PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD

Kate Layzer

L: God be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: In the silence, O God,

C: hear our prayer.... *(silence, intercessions, and the Lord's Prayer)*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Please pray this prayer in words most meaningful to your heart.)

All: Our Creator, 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 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

OFFERTORY

Wondrous Love

Traditional, arr. P. Sykes

***DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine
Demands my soul, my life, my all! Amen.

MAKING A WAY IN GOD'S WORLD

***HYMN C-25**

Let There Be Life in This House

***LEAVETAKING BLESSING FOR WENDY VANDER HART**

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

O Spirit of the Living God

Constance Pyle

VOLUNTARY

Vater unser im Himmelreich

Georg Böhm

CONFESSION HYMN

Lead Me, Lord

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy right-cous-ness, make thy way plain be - fore my face. For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord, on - ly, that mak - est me dwell in safe - ty.'

WORDS: Psalms 5:8, 4:8
MUSIC: Samuel S. Wesley, 1861

LEAD ME, LORD
378.548

This music is from a Samuel S. Wesley anthem of the same name.
Samuel Wesley was the grandson of Charles Wesley.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

- For the 14 men who are finding care and residence in our First Church Shelter and for the guests of the Friday Cafe. Through the winter season, may they know warmth, compassion, and companionship.
- For all those affected by the devastating tornadoes that touched down in Nashville on Tuesday. We pray especially for those dealing with insurmountable loss.
- For all those affected by the coronavirus, especially for medical staff and those living in isolation, and for an increasingly wary world.
- 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 tranquility for immigrants who live in constant fear and anxiety. We pray for all those affected by the recent change in the public charge rule as it pertains to immigration status. And we pray for all who are working for a just and compassionate future for immigrants and asylum seekers.
- We offer up our fears and grief, and we pray for God's strength as we combat the realities of the climate crisis. May God empower us and our leaders to take bold steps, personally and politically, to care for God's creation and for the poor around the world who are most affected by our inaction.

Portions of the YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED section of the bulletin are omitted in the online version to protect the privacy of those mentioned. To find out who we are praying for this week, contact the church offices at parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org or by calling 617-547-2724.

If you would like us to include a prayer request in the bulletin, please contact Dan Smith by Tuesday morning, or fill out a prayer request card found in your pew.

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS AT FIRST CHURCH

EXPLORING THE CROSS AND THE LYNCHING TREE — A LENTEN STUDY Sundays in Lent, 10:00 a.m., Harter Room

The cross and the lynching tree are separated by nearly 2,000 years. One is the universal symbol of Christian faith; the other is the quintessential symbol of black oppression in America. Though both are symbols of death, one represents a message of hope and salvation, while the other signifies the negation of that message by white supremacy.

James Cone, a founder and leader of black liberation theology, introduces *The Cross and the Lynching Tree* with these provocative words. Join Lexi Boudreaux, Dan Smith and Carlyle Stewart for a 5-part series this Lent as we explore and respond to Cone's work and wonder together about what the meaning of the cross is for us. How does injustice in the world influence how we understand Jesus' death on the cross? Where do we find hope, and how is God calling us to make a way out of no way? Read the book if you have time, but come join the conversation regardless. You might also enjoy Dr. Cone discussing the book in an interview with Bill Moyers that can be found here: <https://billmoyers.com/content/james-cone-on-the-cross-and-the-lynching-tree/>

LEAVETAKING BLESSING AND RECEPTION FOR REV. WENDY VANDER HART After 33 years of ministry in the Metropolitan Boston Association of the Massachusetts Conference, UCC, with the last twelve as our Associate Conference Minister, First Church member Rev. Wendy Vander Hart has accepted a call to be the Interim Senior Minister at First United Church of Christ in Northfield, MN. Wendy has overseen many ordinations of First Church members and has shepherded us through several pastoral transitions. Today we celebrate her ministry with us with gratitude and send her forth for this next chapter with our love. Join us in worship for a leavetaking blessing and after church in Margaret Jewett Hall for a cake reception.

LENTEN ART PROJECT Sundays in Lent All are encouraged to participate in a multigenerational art project throughout the season of Lent. In Margaret Jewett Hall, you will find a large piece of cloth with the outline of a road. Near the cloth will be a selection of fabric, scissors, thread, and needles. As we explore our Lenten theme of "Making a Way Out of No Way," you are invited to sew a bit of fabric to the road. Over the five Lenten Sundays in March, we will co-create our "way," incorporating the fabric pieces designed, placed, and sewn by members of our community. When you've added your pieces, you are welcome to take an actual stone from the bowl nearby, to keep as a tactile symbol of your participation in the project. The fabric art piece is designed to become a runner for our Communion table in the Sanctuary. We will "install" it on Palm Sunday, as we turn the corner into Holy Week, following Jesus' way into Jerusalem. We hope your experience of Lent will be enriched by this creative collaboration. Questions? Contact Lexi Boudreaux or Sarah Higginbotham.

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS AT FIRST CHURCH

YOUTH GROUP Today, 1:00 p.m., meet in Hastings Common The Youth Group meets today for an outing to “escape the room.” Next Sunday at 2:00 p.m., they will join the Confirmation Class in delivering sandwiches to folks on the street with the Outdoor Church.

NIGHT SONG Today, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary Cap your Sunday and start your week with this beautiful, contemplative, candle-lit musical service that includes choral music, ancient and contemporary chant, and instrumental music.

PLEASE PRACTICE GOOD HYGIENE! As we see in the news, there have been new coronavirus cases detected in the United States over the past week. It is also still cold and flu season. Because of this, we ask you to please practice good hygiene, both while here at church and out in the wider community. Good hygiene helps prevent the spread not only of coronavirus but also of colds and flu!

- Wash your hands frequently – with soap and water and for at least 20 seconds.
- Sneeze or cough into the crook of your elbow or a tissue, not your hand. Wash immediately after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose.
- Avoid touching your face, especially your mouth, nose and eyes, with unwashed hands.
- Regularly disinfect surfaces frequently touched including keyboards, desktops, elevator buttons and door knobs.
- Use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid close contact with someone who is sick.
- Stay home if you are sick.

By following these practices, we can all work together to minimize the chance of spreading germs. Thank you.

FUTURE HAPPENINGS AT FIRST CHURCH

Please refer to the “Making a Way Out of No Way - Spiritual Practices for Lent” insert for information on our Lenten programming.

SPECIAL MUSICAL GUESTS ISSA BIBBINS AND NOLA HOOD IN WORSHIP Next Sunday, **March 15, 11:00 a.m.** Next Sunday, our Morning Worship will feature a return of Roxbury Presbyterian Church Music Director, Issa Bibbins and Nola Hood, a soloist and member at Mount Calvary Baptist Church. Join us for a morning of stirring music and testimony as we welcome back our friends Issa and Nola!

INSTALLATION OF REV. REEBEE GIRASH AT PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IN LEXINGTON, Sunday, March 29, 2:00 p.m., 55 Coolidge Ave., Lexington Reebec Girash, who served First Church as an Interim Minister several years ago, warmly invites First Church members and friends to her installation service at Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC, in Lexington, where she has been called as Pastor. Clergy, Seminarians, and Members in Discernment are invited to robe and process, gathering at 1:30 p.m. RSVP to Rebee at: pastor@pilgrimcongregational.org.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP SUGGESTION BOX The Environmental Stewardship group has placed a suggestion box (complete with paper and pens) in Hastings Common. The group invites everyone to participate by offering written suggestions such as prayers, poems, thoughts, ideas, or reflections, expressing their views and feelings about nature and the climate. Share your thoughts, celebrating or questioning. We'd like to hear from you! Contributions may be either signed or anonymous. They may play a role in the church's Earth Day services in April.

THURSDAYS AT FIRST CHURCH

PRAYING THE PSALMS: DAILY PRACTICE & WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY **Thursday mornings, ongoing, 7:15 - 8:45 a.m., Library** We invite you to read, pray, and reflect on one Psalm each day (we began with Psalm 1 on Dec. 1, and are reading Psalms 99 through 105 this week). For the weekly Bible study, we gather for coffee or tea at 7:15 a.m. most Thursdays, beginning with a time of soulful check-in promptly at 7:30. We then dive into some reflection about the Psalms of the week, sharing what we are learning about maintaining a daily spiritual practice, alone and together. Feel free to drop in when you can, or plan to make it a regular part of your week. Our weekly study will continue this week on **Thursday, March 12**, in the Library. Questions? E-mail Dan or Brent (brentbcoffin@gmail.com).

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY Thursday evenings, 6:00 p.m., Harter Room Weekly Bible study sessions every Thursday continue as we make our way through the Gospel of John. What is the significance of Jesus' humanity and divinity in his earthly ministry? We study not merely as an academic discipline, but with the desire to know God more intimately. Questions? Contact Carlyle Stewart.

OUR HOMELESS MINISTRIES

*Drawn by our vision of a world where all people are valued,
have shelter and nourishment, are treated with dignity,
and are supported in their quest for self-determination...*

The mission of First Church Homeless Ministries is to offer a respectful welcome to persons experiencing homelessness and hunger; to address universal human needs and to provide safe shelter, sustenance, and community; and to raise our collective voices through advocacy about the devastating impact of homelessness, addiction, and persistent poverty

WE WELCOME PARTICIPATION IN OUR HOMELESS PROGRAMS If you would like to support neighbors going through hard times by contributing a homemade meal or volunteering your time, contact Rev. Kate Layzer, Minister of Street Outreach, or Jim Stewart, Shelter Director.

EARTH STEWARDSHIP FORUMS

The Earth Stewardship Group is excited to offer a three-part program in preparation for Earth Week, April 19 - 26.

The series will feature two speakers and a film exploring the climate crisis and its relevance for Christians and people of faith.

Each event will take place at 12:30 p.m. in Margaret Jewett Hall.
A light lunch and childcare will be provided.



A DOCUMENTARY SCREENING: *FROM PARIS TO PITTSBURGH* **Sunday, March 22**

Join us for a screening of this 2018 film, referencing the Paris Climate Agreement, that describes some of the human and scientific issues, as well as the political and economic realities, that help define climate change and shape a call to action. From the film's website: "From coastal cities to America's heartland, *From Paris to Pittsburgh* celebrates how Americans are demanding and developing real solutions in the face of climate change. And as the weather grows more deadly and destructive, they aren't waiting on Washington to act."

A CONVERSATION WITH LAURIE BURT

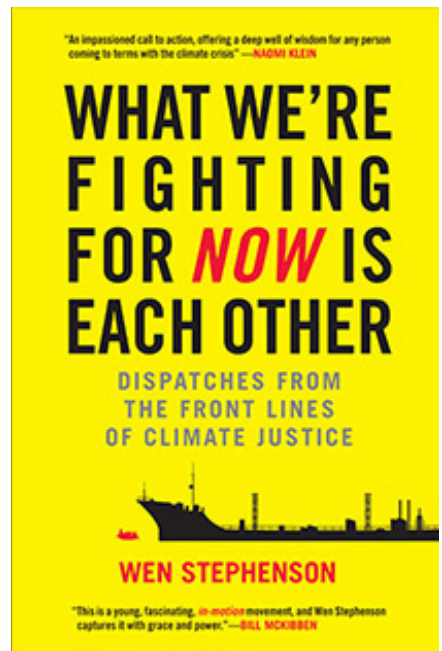
Sunday, March 29

First Church member Laurie Burt, an environmental lawyer and former Commissioner of Environmental Affairs for the Commonwealth under Governor Deval Patrick, will speak and answer questions on her observations, action, and faith.

A CONVERSATION WITH WEN STEPHENSON

Sunday, April 19

Wen Stephenson, contributor to *The Nation* and a former editor at *The Boston Globe* and *The Atlantic*, will share his experience as a climate activist and his understandings from a faith perspective.



WIDER COMMUNITY EVENTS

MALE SURVIVORS UNITED You are invited to join together with an anonymous community of like-minded adult men affected by unwanted or abusive sexual experiences. Leave isolation behind and join our monthly phone calls for free peer support, by male survivors for male survivors. Our group is nonprofessional. We are peers, not therapists. Together we help each other reclaim our voices and our lives. The calls are at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on the second Sunday of each month. ***This month's call is this afternoon.*** For more information see malesurvivorsunited.org or contact First Church Deacon Bruce Hoppe confidentially at bruce@malesurvivorsunited.org

SEEKING BEDROOM RENTAL IN HARVARD SQUARE A married couple connected to First Church is seeking to rent a bedroom with bathroom access Mondays-Fridays in the Harvard Square area, beginning March 23. If interested, please call 617-999-0308.

LICENSES FOR ALL - MAKE A CALL The Work and Family Mobility Act (H.3012) was voted favorably out of the state Joint Committee on Transportation on February 6. This bill would enable all qualified state residents to apply for a standard Massachusetts driver's license, regardless of immigration status. Jobs With Justice is asking people to take action and call Speaker DeLeo's office (617-722-2500). Ask the Speaker to bring this bill to the floor! Massachusetts should be the next state to allow driver's licenses for all, joining 15 other states that have passed similar legislation. Our immigrant neighbors need the freedom of mobility to work, to take care of their families, and to live their lives.

WILLIAM BELDEN NOBLE LECTURES Tuesday & Wednesday, March 10 & 11, 7:00 p.m., The Memorial Church of Harvard University The second and third lectures in the William Belden Noble lecture series will be given by Rev. Dr. Raphael G. Warnock on the topics of "Voter Suppression: An Assault on the Soul of our Democracy," and "Poverty: An Affront to our Covenant with One Another." The lectures are free and open to the public; doors open at 6:00 p.m.

FUNDRAISER FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING Saturday, March 21, 7:00 p.m., Hibernian Hall, Watertown Dance all night to provide affordable housing! Clergy and Laity for Affordable Housing (CLAH) invites you to their spring dance, with the Magic of Motown performing. All proceeds will fund CLAH's work, as they create new housing units and rebuild neighborhoods. Please see Alice Kidder for tickets, or email Phil Jones: p.robbennolt.jones@gmail.com.

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, March 8 - Second Sunday in Lent - Daylight Savings Time begins.

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Community Gathering Time, Hastings Common
- 10:00 a.m. Adult Formation: Lenten Study, Harter Room
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Dan Smith, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Classes (preK-7th grade)
- 12:15 p.m. Fellowship & Refreshments, cake reception for Wendy Vander Hart,
Lenten Art Project, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 12:30 p.m. Church School Teacher Meeting, Harter Room
- 1:00 p.m. Youth Group, Hastings Common
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

Monday, March 9

- 2:30 p.m. Beloved Community, Harter Room

Wednesday, March 11

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room
- 3:00 p.m. Homeless Ministries, Harter Room

Thursday, March 12

- 7:30 a.m. Praying the Psalms, Library
- 6:00 p.m. Bible Study, Harter Room
- 7:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Harter Room

Friday, March 13

- 1:00 p.m. Friday Café, Margaret Jewett Hall

Sunday, March 15 - Third Sunday in Lent

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Community Gathering Time, Hastings Common
- 10:00 a.m. Adult Formation: Lenten Study, Harter Room
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Issa Bibbins and Nola Hood, leading
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Classes (preK - 7th grade)
- 12:15 p.m. Soup & Bread Lenten Lunch, MJH
- 12:30 p.m. Newcomers Gathering, Library
- 2:00 p.m. Confirmation Class & Youth Group, Outdoor Church Sandwich Delivery
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

THE STAFF AT FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

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George Williams, Kimel Williams
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