



FEEDING SUNDAY

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 weeks 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

May 3, 2020

Preaching Today

Kate Layzer, Minister of Street Outreach

Leading Worship

Sarah Higginbotham, Director of Creative Worship & Arts

Lexi Boudreaux, Pastoral Associate

Carlyle Stewart, Pastoral Associate

Peter Sykes, Music Director

The photograph on the bulletin cover is by Gaylen Morgan.

GATHERING

If you wish, please bring a piece of bread and some juice or wine to your home altar, so that you can participate in Communion.

VOLUNTARY

Allein Gott in die Höh sei Ehr'

J. S. Bach

*HYMN 57

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

(see page 4)

*GREETING

Sarah Higginbotham

L: Sisters, brothers, siblings in the Spirit, grace and peace to you from God!

C: From God the Giver and Sustainer of life, peace to you!

L: Welcome! Be at home in the presence of Love,

C: Love divine, stronger than death!

L: Welcome! Be at home in the companionship of Jesus our brother:

C: The Risen Christ who meets us on the way and feeds our hungry hearts.

L: Be at home in God and in this time of worship. And lift up your hearts in praise!

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANTHEM

Celtic Rune

Peter Sykes, April 2020

Sarah Higginbotham, soprano

I saw a stranger yestreen (yesterday):

I put food in the eating place,

Drink in the drinking place,

Music in the listening place:

And in the sacred name of the Triune

He blessed myself and my house,

My cattle and my dear ones.

And the lark said in her song

Often, often, often

Goes the Christ in the stranger's guise,

Often, often, often

Goes the Christ in the stranger's guise.

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Kate Layzer

SILENCE

SUNG PRAYER

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.
(Sing through twice.)

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE AND SHARED CHECK-IN

OPENING THE WORD

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Carlyle Stewart

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 147:1–11

- L: Praise God!
How good it is to sing praises to you, O God;
for you are gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.
- C: You build up Jerusalem;
you gather the outcasts of Israel.
You heal the broken-hearted,
and bind up their wounds.**
- L: You determine the number of the stars;
you give to all of them their names.
- C: Great are you, O God, and abundant in power;
your understanding is beyond measure.**
- L: You lift up the downtrodden;
you cast the wicked to the ground.
- C: We lift our songs to you with thanksgiving;
we raise melodies to you on the lyre.**
- L: You cover the heavens with clouds,
prepare rain for the earth,
make grass grow on the hills.

- C: You give to the animals their food,
and to the young ravens when they cry.**
- L: Your delight is not in the strength of the horse,
nor your pleasure in the speed of a runner;
- C: but you take pleasure in those who revere you,
in those who hope in your steadfast love.**

READING

John 21:1-17

MEDITATION

Kate Layzer

***HYMN 370**

The Church Is Like a Table (verses 1, 3 & 4)

(see page 5)

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lexi Boudreaux

INVITATION TO OFFERING

*You may give online from your bank account at www.firstchurchcambridge.org
(click on the word "Give" at the top of the landing page)
or by text from your debit/credit card by texting the amount to 844-996-0982.*

***DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**O Jesus, risen now to bless,
do thou thyself our hearts possess;
that we may give thee all our days
the willing tribute of our praise! Amen.**

SHARING THE FEAST

***INVITATION**

- L: Dear friends, come now to this joyful feast!
- C: Come from the east and the west,**
- L: come from the north and the south,
- C: and let the children come, too.**
- L: Eat together the Bread of Life,
- C: and taste and see that God is good!**
- L: Drink together the Cup of Joy,
- C: filled to the brim with hope!**

*PREFACE

REMEMBERING JESUS

L: Friends, now we remember Jesus and his generosity to us.
(silence)

L: We remember how he fed the five thousand people with only a loaf of bread and a few fish.

C: We remember how he never left anyone hungry.

L: We remember how Jesus welcomed the children.

C: We remember how he didn't turn them or anyone away.

L: We remember that the women came, early in the morning, on the third day.

C: They did not find him among the dead.

L: We remember that disciples met him on the road.

C: They knew him when he broke the bread.

L: He gave thanks, and shared it with them— his body, surrendered for all.

**C: He gave thanks, and passed a cup to them— his life blood poured out for all.
Do this, he said, and remember me.**

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

L: Come Holy Spirit. By this bread connect us more closely with you and with our neighbors near and far.

C: Bless this bread, we pray.

L: May this fruit of the vine remind us of the interconnectedness of people around the world.

C: Bless this cup, we pray.

L: May this simple meal enlighten the eyes of our hearts and bring us into union with you, your people and your world united in the Body of Christ as one.

We do this in the name of Jesus, our friend and companion, who taught us to pray:

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.

SHARING BREAD AND CUP

*THANKSGIVING

L: Let us give thanks!

C: Thank you, God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus –
for gladness in this bread and cup,
for love that cannot die,
for peace the world cannot give,
for joy in the company of friends,
for the splendors of creation,
and for the mission of justice you have made our own.
Give us the gifts of this holy communion –
oneness of heart, love for neighbors,
forgiveness of enemies,
the will to serve you every day,
and risen life that never ends.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

GOING FORTH

***HYMN 354** Lord, We Would Be Instruments of Loving Service (verses 1 & 3) *(see page 6)*

*BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

Allein Gott in die Höh sei Ehr'

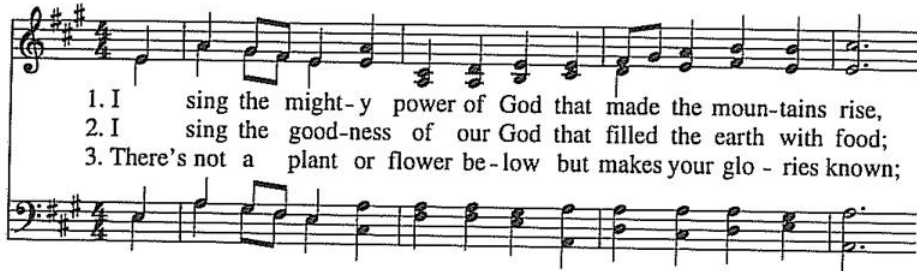
J. S. Bach

VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR

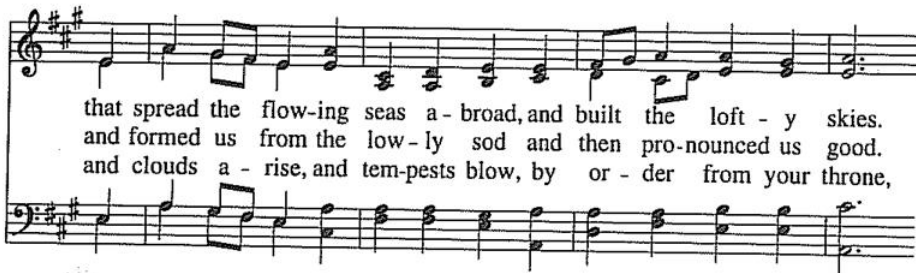
Join us after worship for a time of fellowship. We'll spend some time in breakout rooms to allow for conversation and catching up. We'll try mixing up the breakout rooms partway through to allow for more connections. To join the Zoom meeting, copy and paste the following link into your browser: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82285521296>
Meeting ID: 822 8552 1296

OPENING HYMN

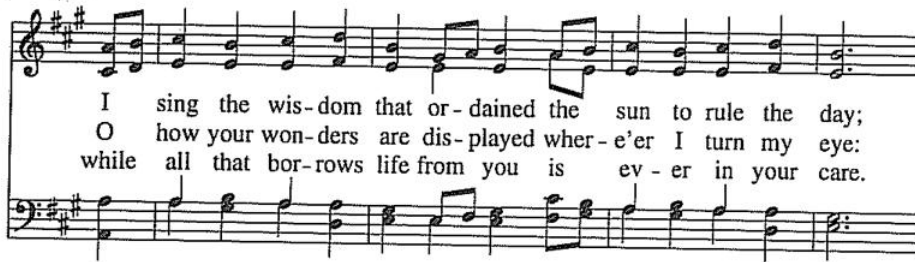
I Sing the Mighty Power of God



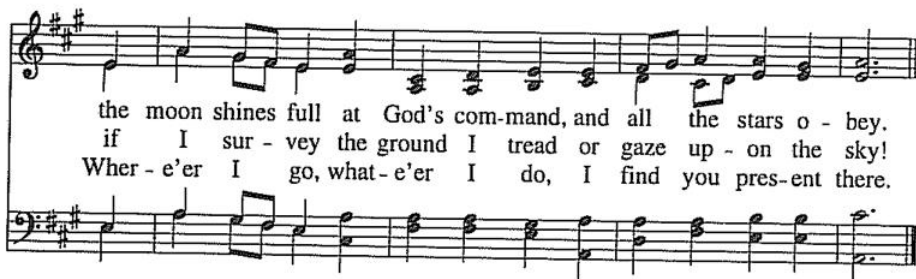
1. I sing the might-y power of God that made the moun-tains rise,
2. I sing the good-ness of our God that filled the earth with food;
3. There's not a plant or flower be-low but makes your glo - ries known;



that spread the flow-ing seas a - broad, and built the loft - y skies.
and formed us from the low - ly sod and then pro-nounced us good.
and clouds a - rise, and tem-pests blow, by or - der from your throne,



I sing the wis-dom that or-dained the sun to rule the day;
O how your won-ders are dis-played wher - e'er I turn my eye:
while all that bor-rows life from you is ev - er in your care.



the moon shines full at God's com-mand, and all the stars o - bey.
if I sur - vey the ground I tread or gaze up - on the sky!
Wher - e'er I go, what - e'er I do, I find you pres-ent there.

WORDS: Issac Watts, 1715, alt.

MUSIC: *Gesangbuch der Herzoglichen Wirtembergischen Katholischen Hofkapelle*, 1784

ELLACOMBE
CMD

This text is taken from Congregationalist Watts' *Divine Songs attempted in Easy Language for the use of Children*, 1715—the first hymnal written exclusively for children.

SERMON HYMN

The Church Is Like a Table

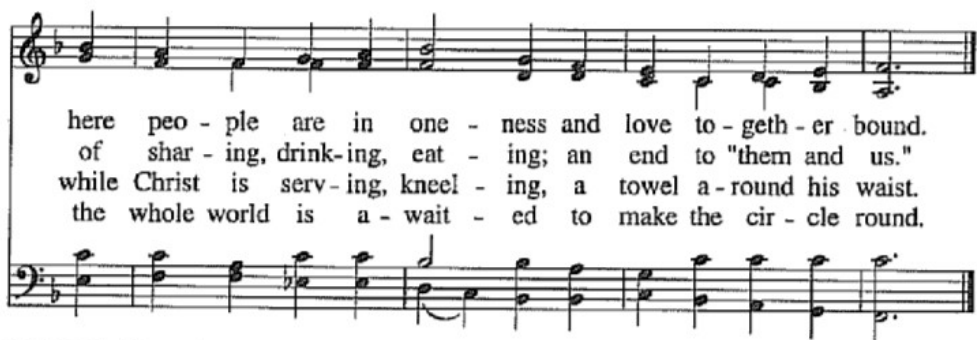
verses 1, 3, and 4



1. The church is like a ta - ble, a ta - ble that is round.
2. The church is like a ta - ble set in an o - pen house;
3. The church is like a ta - ble, a ta - ble for a feast
4. The church is like a ta - ble, where ev - 'ry head is crowned.



It has no sides or cor - ners, no first or last, no ho - nors;
no pro - to - col for seat - ing, a sym - bol of in - vit - ing,
to cel - e - brate the heal - ing of all ex - clud - ed - feel - ing,
As guests of God cre - a - ted, all are to each re - lat - ed;

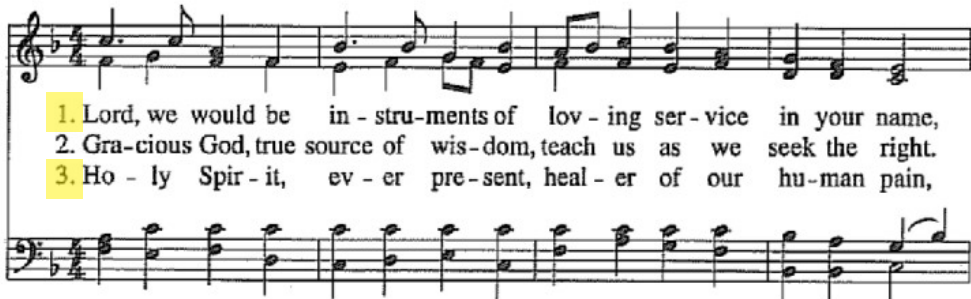


here peo - ple are in one - ness and love to - geth - er bound.
of shar - ing, drink - ing, eat - ing; an end to "them and us."
while Christ is serv - ing, kneel - ing, a towel a - round his waist.
the whole world is a - wait - ed to make the cir - cle round.

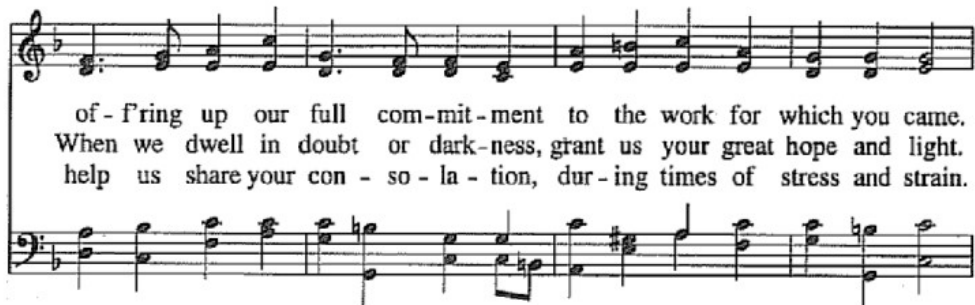
CLOSING HYMN

Lord, We Would Be Instruments of Loving Service

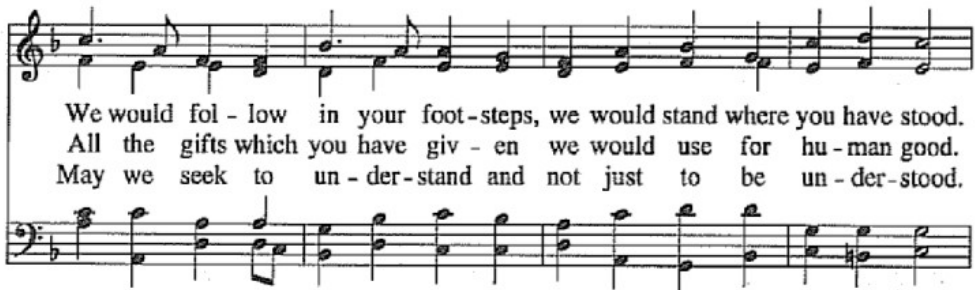
verses 1 and 3



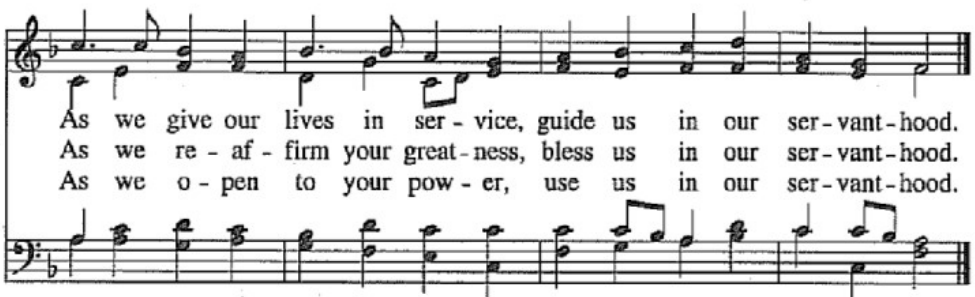
1. Lord, we would be in - stru - ments of lov - ing ser - vice in your name,
2. Gra - cious God, true source of wis - dom, teach us as we seek the right.
3. Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er pre - sent, heal - er of our hu - man pain,



of - fring up our full com - mit - ment to the work for which you came.
When we dwell in doubt or dark - ness, grant us your great hope and light.
help us share your con - so - la - tion, dur - ing times of stress and strain.



We would fol - low in your foot - steps, we would stand where you have stood.
All the gifts which you have giv - en we would use for hu - man good.
May we seek to un - der - stand and not just to be un - der - stood.



As we give our lives in ser - vice, guide us in our ser - vant - hood.
As we re - af - firm your great - ness, bless us in our ser - vant - hood.
As we o - pen to your pow - er, use us in our ser - vant - hood.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

- For Cynthia Shoemaker, who has been diagnosed with Covid-19, but has, thus far, been relatively symptom-free. We pray for her health and that of the staff and other residents at Courtyard Nursing Care Center in Medford.
- For Dorian Hardwich as she grieves the loss of her mother, Anna Mae, who 99 on April 19 and died on April 30 of a heart attack. She was an active member of the Middlebury CT Congregational Church for decades, serving in many capacities.
- For Hilary Hopkins and her family as they grieve the death of Hilary's nephew Jeff.
- For Gail Buschmann and her family as they grieve the loss of Gail's mother, Ruth Buschmann, who died last Saturday at the age of 96.
- For Carlyle Stewart and his family as they grieve the loss of Carlyle's grandmother Jean Marlene Stewart, who died on April 3 of complications related to COVID-19.
- For all those who are ill with COVID-19, and their families; and for all of us who are learning to navigate this strange new world, that we may receive God's comfort, strength, and peace.
- For all essential workers, who continue to put themselves at risk to care for the sick and most vulnerable, maintain our food supply, deliver supplies, keep our public services running, and lead us through this crisis.
- For African Americans and communities of color around the country that are facing disproportionately high rates of coronavirus death and infection, revealing entrenched inequalities in resources and access to healthcare.
- For all who are experiencing unemployment or underemployment during this crisis, including undocumented workers who cannot find a safety net in our government's response.
- For all who are in treatment for cancer: Penny Kilburn, Nancy Kilburn's mother; Mark Deck, Sarah Fujiwara's brother-in-law; Amy Golodet, Jonathan New's sister-in-law; Becky Collet, Karen Anne Zee's daughter; Stewart Bailey, Karen Anne Zee's son-in-law; and Beth and Polly, Ann McCann's sisters.
- For the 14 men who are finding care and residence in our First Church Shelter and for the guests of the Friday Cafe. In this time of disruption, may they know warmth, compassion, and companionship.
- 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. 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.

If you would like us to include a prayer request in the bulletin, please contact Dan Smith or Sarah Higginbotham by Tuesday morning,

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

(ALMOST) EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE CHURCH YEAR Today and every Sunday through May 17, 10:00 a.m., via Zoom What is All Saints Day about anyway? Why don't we sing Christmas carols during the first few Sundays of Advent? Where did Maundy Thursday get its name? Beginning Sunday, April 19, and running through Sunday, May 17, Beth Spaulding, Deacon and liturgical year enthusiast, will lead a journey through the church year. We'll meet via Zoom from 10:00 a.m. to 10:50 a.m., giving us time for a stretch break before worship. ***The Zoom Meeting ID and Password may be found in the all-church email sent on Monday, April 13, entitled "First Church Zoom Links and Passwords."***

FEEDING SUNDAY Today, 11:00 a.m., via live-stream Every year on the first Sunday of May, First Church celebrates our relationship with the feeding ministries of the Friday Café, the Outdoor Church, and the Food Pantry at Rindge Towers. One way we usually we do that is to bring the children's practice of sandwich-making into the Sanctuary for our Communion worship. Since we can't do that right now, we encourage you instead to make a special effort to pick up one or two items for our monthly Food Pantry collection and drop them off on Hilary Hopkins's porch at 30 Winslow St. Needed are cereal, canned fruit and veggies, proteins, pasta and sauce, feminine products, and sweet treats. Please bring a piece of bread and some juice or wine to your home altar when you live-stream the worship service, so that you can participate in Communion.

VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR Today, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom Join us after worship for a time of fellowship. We'll spend some time in breakout rooms to allow for conversation and catching up. We'll try mixing up the breakout rooms partway through to allow for more connections. To join the Zoom meeting, copy and paste the following link into your browser:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82285521296>
Meeting ID: 822 8552 1296

YOUTH GROUP Today, 2:00 p.m., via Zoom First Church high schoolers are invited to join Dan and Becky for another youth group Zoom call! After a time of checking in and sharing the highs and lows of our weeks, we'll shift into some online fun and games!

CONFIRMATION CLASS Today, 4:00 p.m., via Zoom First Church's 8th and 9th grade Confirmands will gather for a class on the sacraments.

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

NIGHT SONG AND OTHER COMPLINE RECORDINGS You are invited to enjoy this Night Song recording, as sung by Beneficia lucis, the ensemble of men:

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

N.B. As the singing begins outside the sanctuary, the sound at first is very soft. During the liturgy, three periods of silence are observed. Night Song Director Daryl Bichel suggests these other compline liturgies for your listening pleasure:

Live Streamed Compline from St. Mark's Cathedral in Seattle on the Third Sunday of Easter:

<https://saintmarks.org/worship/live-stream/>

Live Streamed Compline from St. John Cantius Parish in Chicago:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JFGqy1fKBPQ>

SEARCHING FOR SERMONS AND BULLETINS If you are using this stay-at-home time to organize your papers, you may come across materials of interest to the First Church Archives. Among the items we are looking for are copies of Rev. Mary Luti's sermons (2000-2008) and church bulletins from the year 1979. Questions? Please contact Archives co-chairs Lindsay Miller (lindsaymiller984@gmail.com) or Kate Judd (juddkate@aol.com) Thank you!

PLEASE BE CAREFUL OF EMAIL SCAMS Please note that once again someone has set up several Gmail address that appear to be Dan Smith soliciting help. Sadly, this is happening to various clergy across the country. This is a scam. Please do not respond. Dan or other First Church staff would never ask for any kind of donations to be sent directly to him (or directly to others). Any such donations would be channeled through First Church. Please also note that if the sender is using an email address other than an @firstchurchcambridge.org address, it is most likely a scam. 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.

STAYING CONNECTED TO FIRST CHURCH

BUILDING CLOSURE AND CHURCH ACTIVITY UPDATE As we begin to consider First Church's re-opening and our re-entry, we continue to follow the guidance of the City of Cambridge. The City continues to postpone, cancel, or shift to online formats all city-sponsored meetings through at least May 31. Therefore, First Church's building will remain closed (with the exception of worship leaders, First Church Shelter staff and guests, and Friday Cafe staff and volunteers) during this time period, as well. All church-sponsored and wider community events hosted in our building will continue to be postponed, cancelled, or shifted to online formats through the month of May. We will be revisiting this plan regularly and revising as needed. As we live into this time of social distancing for yet more weeks to come, we'll be revising some of our current online programming and also be offering new opportunities for connection and formation. Please stay tuned for an updated listing of weekly offerings that will begin (or continue) during the week of May 11.

FCC CONNECTION & PRAYER CALLS Every weekday, First Church Staff offer a noontime Zoom call for connection and prayer. Join these thirty-minute (or so) virtual meet-ups to share a brief check-in, make prayer requests, and pray together:

- **Mondays** at noon with **Dan Smith**
- **Tuesdays** at noon with **Carlyle Stewart**
- **Wednesdays** at noon with **Dan Smith**
- **Thursdays** at noon with **Sarah Higginbotham**
(This is an all-ages call; children are especially invited to zoom in!)
- **Fridays** at noon with **Lexi Boudreaux**

PROGRAM OFFERINGS In addition to our daily Connection & Prayer Calls, we are offering the following programs and conversations via Zoom:

- **Tuesdays**
Street Outreach Check-in with Kate Layzer, 4:00 p.m.
- **Thursdays**
Praying the Psalms with Dan Smith & Brent Coffin, 7:15 a.m.
Weekly Bible Study with Carlyle Stewart, 6:00 p.m.
First Church Choir Call with Peter Sykes, 7:45 p.m.
- **Fridays**
Spiritual Practices with Lexi Boudreaux, 8:00 a.m.

***To find the Zoom links and passwords,
please refer to the all-church email sent on Monday, April 13,
entitled "First Church Zoom Links and Passwords."***

STAYING CONNECTED TO FIRST CHURCH

FIRST CHURCH COVID-19 and FAITH BLOG: WATER IN THE WILDERNESS Our new blog, waterinthewilderness.org, is a source of connection during this time. There you will find reflections, prayers, spiritual and practical resources, plus an online form to talk with one another! Sign up to receive email notifications for new posts and create a login to comment on posts and to use the forum. We welcome submissions for the blog. Contact Lexi Boudreaux for any questions.

FIRST CHURCH YOUTUBE CHANNEL Our First Church in Cambridge YouTube channel offers pre-recorded reflections and devotions, led by Pastoral Associate Carlyle Stewart, that began on Easter Monday. We are adding more content as time goes on, and we look forward to live-streaming on our Youtube channel in the upcoming weeks. The recorded uploads consist of scripture lessons, devotions, and reflections that explore how our faith tradition can inform us about current events and strengthen us throughout this challenging time. The link to the channel is: <https://tinyurl.com/ryac3av>

NEW PRAYER MINISTRY First Church is starting a new weekly virtual prayer ministry! In these times, we all have so many prayers on our hearts, whether they be for family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, or the world at large. As a congregation, while we can't physically be together, we can still hold one another's concerns in prayer collectively. If you are interested in receiving a weekly email with prayer requests from our church community to pray for throughout the week, please complete this google form: <https://forms.gle/UiTdaDMyWLZkH8nP8>

Please send prayer requests to Pastoral Associate Lexi Boudreaux (lexi@firstchurchcambridge.org) so that this group can hold the concern in their prayers.

SLOW FLOW RESTORATIVE YOGA AND MEDITATION Saturday, May 9, 5:00 p.m., via Zoom
After a good and restorative session on April 25, Gandhi is back sharing his Yoga practice with members and friends of First Church from the safety of our homes. This one-hour online session will help us relax and go deep within our minds, providing a balance of flowing movement and breath awareness with a slow and steady pace. It is open to all age groups, and you can do it from the comfort of your couch or yoga mat. It is intended to induce deep relaxation, and it is a perfect way to unwind in a welcoming and peaceful environment of your own home. To register, please copy and paste the following link into your browser: <https://forms.gle/gEAUGw1TNeVXLNkx6> All the registrants will receive a Zoom link. For more information contact Gandhi at (617) 230-4069 or ras6729@g.harvard.edu

STAYING CONNECTED TO FIRST CHURCH

THE WAYS OF GOD: A SPECIAL SERVICE OF POETRY AND MUSIC, Sunday, May 17, 11:00 a.m., via live-stream Join Jean Dany Joachim, our Poet in Residence; musician Bertrand Laurence; and invited guests Fred Brown, Alan Smith, Toni Bee, and Fred Edson Lafortune for a special live-streamed morning service with words, hymns and music. Jean Dany has offered to join First Church staff in the sanctuary while others guests will be joining online.

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY WRITING GROUP Sunday, May 17, 4:00 p.m., via Zoom Are you interested in exploring your relationship to writing as a spiritual practice? Are you looking to connect to a group of women to support you in maintaining a writing practice? Would you like to explore devotional writing as a part of your prayer life? Join us monthly via Zoom for accountability, feedback, and fellowship. Our May meeting will be in two weeks. Email Lexi Boudreaux if you would like to be in touch before then to start your writing practice.

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 2nd Sunday of each month. For more information see malesurvivorsunited.org or contact First Church Deacon Bruce Hoppe confidentially at bruce@malesurvivorsunited.org

WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

THE FIRST CHURCH DEACONS' FUND is one of the many ways in which our community cares for one another. Church members in need of financial assistance for a one time or short-term emergency may make a confidential request to one of the deacons or clergy. In these times of unexpected financial hardship and job loss, we hope people will take advantage of this aid. This fund belongs to us and relies on our contributions. You are also invited to make a gift (beyond your pledge) to the Deacons' Fund, if able. You may contribute online to the Deacons' Fund, or text "\$xxx Deacons" to 844-996-0982. If you like to mail a check, please email Karen McArthur.

ASSIST IN DISTRIBUTING PRE-PACKAGED MEALS TO HUNGRY CAMBRIDGE RESIDENTS The City Council and Assistant City Manager for Human Service Programs are asking for First Church's assistance to distribute free evening meals on four days of the week that no food is currently available to the city's poor and homeless. The City of Cambridge is contracting with local restaurants to provide the meals; First Church will distribute the meals. If you are interested in helping with meal distribution, please contact Kate Layzer (kate@thefriday.cafe).

FOOD PANTRY CLIENTS NEED YOU "Oh!" said the manager at the food pantry, when we arrived last week with 25 big bags. "I didn't think we would see you today - wonderful!" Leave your donations in the box on Hilary's front porch at 30 Winslow St., Cambridge, any time between now and May 8. Hilary is .75 mile from First Church, just off Sherman St. where it diverges from Garden St. She will see that your donations are delivered when the pantry is open. NEEDED: cereal, especially; canned fruit and veggies; proteins; pasta and sauce; also feminine products; and, maybe, even, some cookies. Thank you for your generous donations!

THANK YOU FROM THE SHELTER Thanks so very much to the several people who have recently donated to support the shelter. These gifts are key in helping to meet the needs of our guests during this unprecedented time. Recent unexpected costs have included replacing the failing dishwasher, arranging laundry service for the guests, and supplementing donated meals with fruits and vegetables. If you haven't had a chance to donate, please consider a gift today! Give on line at www.firstchurchcambridge.org/give, or text "\$_____Homeless" to 844-9960982.

OUR NEIGHBOR CITY OF CHELSEA is in high need of funding for food programs and support for the city in this time of Pandemic. The National Guard is distributing food, but the wait lines are longer, and many cannot get out to wait. Teams are delivering food to doors, but they need help. Chelsea's largely immigrant population is out of work and sustaining high transmission rates of the virus due to close living quarters and lack of quarantine due to being essential workers in food or other work. **The One Chelsea Fund** set up by the United Way is probably the best way to give. It is money to be distributed by the Chelsea Collaborative and other

WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

organizations that have been tirelessly sewing face masks and delivering food. If you have funds to spare, please give as you are able! Cut and paste this link into your browser:

<https://unitedwaymassbay.org/covid-19/the-one-chelsea-fund/>

The First Congregational Church and Pastor Ellen Rohan Ball have also been active as they are able. Please contact Ellen Rohan Ball erohanball@aol.com for any questions. Thanks so much for your consideration!

RIP MEDICAL DEBT DONATIONS The Metropolitan Boston Association is welcoming donations to the UCC Medical Debt Relief Program. Every \$100 in donations brings about forgiveness of \$10,000 in medical debt for people facing insolvency or whose medical debt is 5% or more of their annual income. They must also live in this region. We have given as a congregation, but individuals can also give. You can learn more and find the link to donate by going to: <https://www.sneucc.org/RIP-medical-debt> You can also give by check to the Southern New England Conference - UCC, (Notation: RIP Campaign), 1 Badger Road, Framingham, MA 01702. The deadline for contributions to this fund is May 18. If you have questions, please call Sally O'Brien, Chair of Missions & Social Justice, at 617-538-2183.

SUGGESTED WAYS TO DONATE FROM THE MISSIONS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Looking for ways to support our community during this unprecedented time of need? The Missions and Social Justice Committee has compiled and vetted a short list of organizations looking for assistance to aid in their work in the COVID-19 response - locally, regionally, and internationally. Please go to: <https://www.firstchurchcambridge.org/news/ways-to-help>

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, May 3

- 10:00 a.m. Adult Formation: The Liturgical Year with Beth Spaulding, via Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, via live-stream
- 12:15 p.m. Virtual Coffee Hour, via Zoom
- 2:00 p.m. Youth Group, via Zoom
- 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class, via Zoom

Monday, May 4

- 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, via Zoom
- 12:00 p.m. FCC Connection & Prayer Call with Dan Smith

Tuesday, May 5

- 12:00 p.m. FCC Connection & Prayer Call with Carlyle Stewart
- 4:00 p.m. Street Outreach Call with Kate Layzer

Wednesday, May 6

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, via Zoom
- 12:00 p.m. FCC Connection & Prayer Call with Dan Smith

Thursday, May 7

- 7:30 a.m. Praying the Psalms, via Zoom
- 12:00 p.m. FCC Connection & Prayer Call for All Ages with Sarah Higginbotham
- 6:00 p.m. Bible Study, via Zoom
- 7:45 p.m. Choir Call, via Zoom

Friday, May 8

- 8:00 a.m. Spiritual Practices with Lexi Boudreaux, via Zoom
- 12:00 p.m. FCC Connection & Prayer Call with Lexi Boudreaux
- 1:00 p.m. Friday Café lunch bag pickup, Front Lawn
- 3:00 p.m. Buildings & Grounds Committee, via Zoom

Sunday, May 10

- 10:00 a.m. Adult Formation: The Liturgical Year with Beth Spaulding, via Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, via live-stream

***Stay tuned for a revised schedule of online programs
beginning Monday, May 11.***

THE STAFF AT FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

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Minister of Street Outreach

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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



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