



PENTECOST

**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 31, 2020

Leading Worship

Dan Smith, Senior Minister
Sarah Higginbotham, Director of Creative Worship & Arts
Lexi Boudreaux, Pastoral Associate
Carlyle Stewart, Pastoral Associate
Beth Spaulding, Deacon
Peter Sykes, Music Director

The photograph on the bulletin cover is by Gaylen Morgan.

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

Come, Holy Spirit

Franz Tunder

*HYMN 217

Wind Who Makes All Winds That Blow (verses 1 & 2)

(see page 6)

*GREETING

Dan Smith

- L: Beloved, let us center ourselves in God,
for the Spirit is coming to us all,
- C: to give us gifts for sharing,**
- L: to change our hearts for loving,
- C: to fill our lives with connection,**
- L: to wake up the world for living,
- C: to tell God's name for praising!**
- L: The Spirit is coming to us all—
- C: the gift of Christ, poured out today!**
- L: Now lift your hearts in worship and praise!

WORDS OF WELCOME

Sarah Higginbotham

ANTHEM

Pentecost (1996)
First Church Choir, 2018

Patricia Van Ness

At the time of your leaving, I wept.
And, flowing on the wind, wild and compassionate,
your spirit came and breathed words to me of urgent tenderness.
How bittersweet this is, where exquisite joy is mixed with pain,
and such beauty and sorrow mingle.
May your gift, the breath of God,
drift with mystery through the air
and bring to glowing life the ashes of my grieving heart.

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

who is leading this section?

SILENCE

SUNG PRAYER OF CONFESSION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

*SHARED CHECK-IN

Spirit of the Living God

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me; Spir - it of the

liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me,

use me. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

WORDS and MUSIC: Daniel Iverson, 1926

Daniel Iverson was a North Carolina Presbyterian minister who was moved to create this response while attending a revival service.

IVERSON
75.75.875

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Christian Music Publishing

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM AND RITE OF CONFIRMATION

INTRODUCTION

Lexi Boudreaux and Sarah Higginbotham

INVITATION

CONGREGATIONAL PROMISES

Beth Spaulding

- L: Jesus Christ welcomes everyone who desires new life into the faith and family of Christ.
Do you who witness this sacrament promise Bridget your love, support and care?
- C: We do!**
- L: Will you help her to grow in faith and witness with her to the love and mercy of Christ?
- C: We will, with the help of God!**
- D: Do you renew your own promises to live in the freedom of Christ, and resist the power of evil?
- C: We do, with the help of God!**

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

BAPTISMAL PROMISES

POURING AND BLESSING OF THE WATER

THE BAPTISM

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

L: Beloved in Christ, let us give thanks!

All: We thank you, God, for this precious life entrusted to our care, and for the waters of baptism that mark us as your people. Thank you for the gifts your Spirit gives us in this sacrament, and for life in the church where we help each other grow. Give to Bridget strength for life's journey, courage in the time of trial, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the comfort of everlasting life. These things we ask, in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRESENTATION

THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

L: Bridget, James, Allison, Christina, and Jake are asking to be confirmed in the faith and family of Jesus Christ. In a moment, you will hear the promises they are making. But to make it official when they do, we need your words of affirmation and confirmation. What is your will?

ALL: By God's grace, they are worthy. Let them be confirmed!

PROMISES

PRAYER FOR THE CANDIDATES

LAYING ON OF HANDS

JOINING OF NEW MEMBERS IN COVENANT

Carlyle Stewart

***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 his ways according to the rule of the Gospel, and in all sincere conformity to his holy ordinances,

(cont'd. on next page)

and in mutual love and respect each to other,
so near as God shall give us grace.

***WELCOME**

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Carlyle Stewart

READING

Acts 2:1-18

REFLECTION

Lexi Boudreaux

***HYMN C-29**

Perfect Yet Unfinished (verses 1 & 4)

(see page 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 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

You may give online from your bank account [at our website](#) or by text from your debit/credit card by texting the amount to 844-996-0982.

OPENING HYMN

Wind Who Makes All Winds That Blow

verses 1 and 2

1. Wind who makes all winds that blow— gusts that bend the sap- lings low,
2. Fire who fuels all fires that burn— suns a- round which plan- ets turn,
3. Ho - ly Spir - it, Wind and Flame, move with- in our mor - tal frame.

gales that heave the sea in waves, stir-rings in the mind's deep caves—
bea - cons mark- ing reefs and shoals, shin- ing truth to guide our souls—
Make our hearts an al - tar pyre, kin- dle them with your own fire.

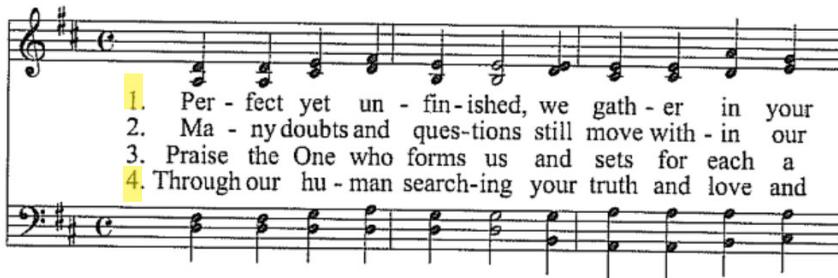
aim your breath with stead- y power on your church this day, this hour.
come to us as once you came: burst in tongues of sa - cred flame!
Breathe and blow up - on that blaze till our lives, our deeds and ways,

Raise, re - new the life we've lost, Spir - it God of Pen - te - cost.
Light and Pow - er, Might and Strength, fill your church, its breadth and length.
speak that tongue which ev - ery land by your grace shall un - der - stand.

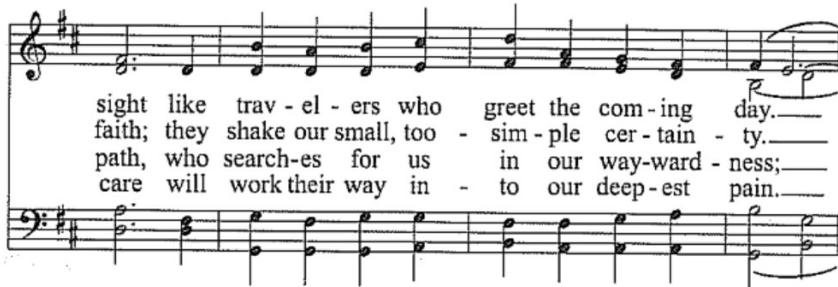
SERMON HYMN

Perfect Yet Unfinished

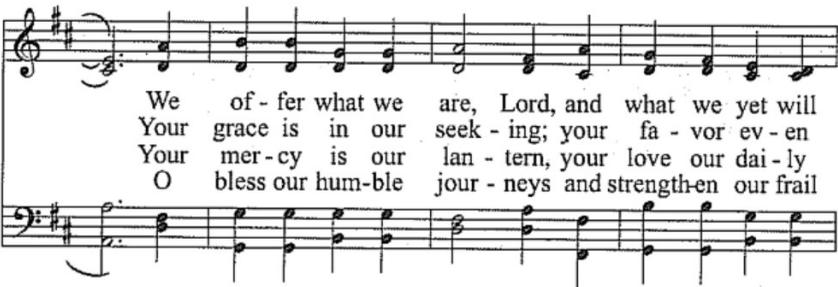
verses 1 and 4



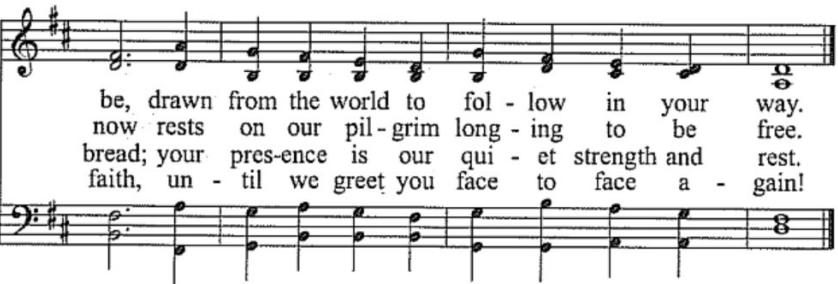
1. Per - fect yet un - fin - ished, we gath - er in your
2. Ma - ny doubts and ques - tions still move with - in our
3. Praise the One who forms us and sets for each a
4. Through our hu - man search - ing your truth and love and



sight like trav - el - ers who greet the com - ing day. —
faith; they shake our small, too - sim - ple cer - tain - ty. —
path, who search - es for us in our way - ward - ness; —
care will work their way in - to our deep - est pain. —



We of - fer what we are, Lord, and what we yet will
Your grace is in our seek - ing; your fa - vor ev - en
Your mer - cy is our lan - tern, your love our dai - ly
O bless our hum - ble jour - neys and strength - en our frail



be, drawn from the world to fol - low in your way.
now rests on our pil - grim long - ing to be free.
bread; your pres - ence is our qui - et strength and rest.
faith, un - til we greet you face to face a - gain!

WORDS: Kate Layzer

MUSIC: Peter Sykes

For the Confirmation Class of 1997

CLOSING HYMN

We Will Build Your Church, O Christ

verses 1 and 4

1. We will build your church, O Christ, with met - tie, mor - tar, flesh and
2. We will build your church, O Christ, with hope and heal - ing, faith and
3. We would be your church, O Christ. Break forth your heal - ing, pour forth
4. We would be your church, O Christ, O lead us through the trials of

stone to bring you praise and give that praise a home. And
trust that care and in - sight nour - ish things un - seen. And
life, and bring to un - ion those once set a - part. And
life and call us, claim us, that your realm may thrive. And

when we find our cher-ished tem-ple walls us from a world in need,
if the knowl-edge that we nur-ture lim-its vi-sions of your peace,
when we stif-fen to your knead-ing, when our sor-row bends our knees,
when we love our church life such that we for-get it first serves thee,

lift us through the gift of gos-pel, dy-ing, ris-ing, borne by thee.

WORDS: Gail S. Ransom, 1984, alt.
MUSIC: Gail S. Ransom, 1984; harm. FCC, 1997

NEEDVILLE
78 10.9787

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

- In celebration with our Confirmands as they mark the end of their Confirmation program and embark on the next steps in their spiritual journeys.
- For Ken Ziebell, who suffered a stroke on Tuesday evening and is recovering in the hospital.
- In celebration with Jim Rissling and his partner Biss, who became fathers this week following the birth of Aadya Rissling Teelucksingh to a surrogate mother in North Carolina on Thursday, May 21.
- In celebration with our Community Minister in Latin America Rev. Monica Maher on the occasion of her installation as the pastor of the United Church of Ecuador, a progressive, recently-formed church that uses its online worship service to connect Christians in more than 10 primarily Spanish-speaking countries every Sunday.
- In celebration with all recent graduates, including our Pastoral Associates Lexi Boudreaux and Carlyle Stewart, who received their Masters of Divinity degrees from Harvard Divinity School this past Thursday.
- For Karen Anne Zee and her step-father Calvin as they grieve the loss of Karen Anne's mother, Anne, who died in Florida on May 25th at the age of 95.
- For family and friends of Charlie Cross, a beloved member of the Friday Café community, who died in his home earlier this month of still-unknown causes.
- For Kate Judd's 4-year-old nephew Brogan, who is recovering in the hospital in Pennsylvania after falling from a second floor window.
- For George Williams who is grieving the recent losses of his grandmother Mattie Bell Williams and his aunt Clara Jean Williams, who both died of COVID-19.
- For Moana Bentin's sister Katie, who completed chemotherapy in early April and is now undergoing radiation treatments in India, which is still on lockdown.
- For Jenn Marshall, her partner Claire, and daughter Simone as they grieve the loss of Jenn's mother, Sharon Marshall, who died recently from complications following a stroke at the age of 76.
- 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 the families of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor, whose recent killings show the appalling effects of racial prejudice and hatred that continue to exist in this country. We mourn these killings and others like them, and our prayers are with all communities that have been targeted.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

- For all who are grieving the loss of loved ones due to Covid-19, especially as the US surpasses 100,000 deaths from the virus; for all those who are ill with COVID-19 and their families; and for all of us who are navigating 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 Asian Americans as they face unwarranted discrimination and hostility during this Covid-19 pandemic and for those who have already become the victim of hate crimes, including assaults and beatings.
- 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 Café, who are experiencing worsening deprivation and hardship in this time of disruption; that 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

SPECIAL PENTECOST FORMATION HOUR Today, May 31, 9:45 a.m., via Zoom We will each be making “Tongues of Fire” at this Zoom workshop and will share them virtually! Look around your house to see what materials you might use. [Red, orange, and yellow construction paper or sticky notes? Pipe cleaners? Tissue or wrapping paper? Legos? Building blocks? The sky’s (and your home-based collection of things) the limit!] Plan how you will make your Tongues of Fire. Maybe you could practice a bit before Pentecost, so that it will only take you about half an hour to make your Tongues of Fire when we gather in our workshop. Then collect everything you will need for the workshop on Sunday morning, May 31, so you will be ready to get right to work. The Pentecost story (Acts 2:1-21) also tells us how the Apostles spoke in many languages. Do you know a language other than English? Practice a greeting in another language to share, and we will all hear each other together! Note: Adults and kids alike are warmly invited to join us and to wear **RED** for the occasion! [Click here](#) for the direct Zoom link or use the following:
Meeting ID: 898 8924 7331
Password: PENT531

PENTECOST SUNDAY and CONFIRMATION SUNDAY and JOINING SUNDAY, Today, via livestream worship Pentecost will be a special celebration with the Rite of Confirmation, as well as the joining of new members. Tune in to honor the spiritual journeys of our seven Confirmands and to welcome many of them into membership by covenant. We will also welcome several adults who have discerned that First Church has become their spiritual home. Be prepared for the Holy Spirit to descend upon us as we worship together, even from our separate locations. And don’t forget to Zoom in to an interactive 10 O’Clock Hour with Christian Formation Committee members Hilary Hopkins and Ariel Ackermann, where you can hear the Pentecost story and participate in a craft workshop to make your own “tongues of fire!”

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR Today, 12:10 p.m., via Zoom Join us to congratulate our Confirmands and new members, choose the breakout room for discussing FCC’s plan for phased re-opening, or just jump on to say ‘hi!’

“HOW TO MAKE A BETTER FUTURE: PERSPECTIVES AMIDST A PANDEMIC Today, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom Join us for the second session of our three-part series. Today, we will hear from Laurie Burt on the topic of climate change. See more information on page 14. [Click here](#) for the direct Zoom link or use the following:
Meeting ID: 848 3167 9881
Password: FUTURE1

FIRST CHURCH NEWS

PLANS FOR A PHASED RE-OPENING Last week, Governor Baker announced the loosening of restrictions for houses of worship in the state of Massachusetts. The opportunity to re-open is good news; however, the continuing threat of COVID-19 obliges us to re-open thoughtfully and carefully.

As a community of faith that seeks to protect the health and safety of each and every member of the body of Christ, we have decided to delay any changes to our current model of live-streamed worship until at least July. In July and August, we will experiment with inviting a small number of members to attend worship in-person to participate as lay leaders in the online worship for the wider community. This will allow us to begin to get comfortable with our health and safety protocols, so that we can carefully prepare for the time when more and more of us will be able to gather. It will also provide the opportunity for you to see more people leading our worship.

Any changes we make to our current practices are dependent on public health data and COVID-19 case counts in Massachusetts. Our plans might need change to assure the safety of all. We hope that this summer will bring new ways of being together as a church and provide a time of exploration and inspiration in this season of uncertainty. It may be a while before we can all see each other again on Sunday mornings, but that remains our goal. With God's help, we'll get there when the time is right.

You are invited to bring questions or comments to a breakout room in today's Zoom Coffee Hour.

STAFFING UPDATE First Church, rejoice! Pastoral Associate Lexi Boudreau will be with us, not only through the summer as planned, but through the coming program year as well! Given Covid-19-related circumstances, she will not be doing full-time chaplaincy at MGH next year. This unexpected shift has given Lexi and us an exciting opportunity to continue our work and ministry together. Her primary areas of focus will be: 1) expanding our online ministry and worship offerings, 2) adult spiritual formation, 3) pastoral care and 4) occasional preaching and worship leadership. In August, we will also welcome new Pastoral Associate Jaz Buchanan, a third-year Harvard Divinity School student. In addition, Sarah Higginbotham and Kate Layzer will be working increased hours in the coming year—all of this while staying within, and even under, our budget. God is good!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STAYING CONNECTED

HISTORY IS NOW: A REQUEST FROM THE ARCHIVES GROUP We invite you to share your experiences and ideas about the pandemic and the role First Church has had in your lives during this period. You may do this through words, images, or whatever format makes sense to you (maybe a video or audio recording). Submit your reflections to the First Church blog on the forum at www.waterinthewilderness.org/forum. On this site you will find guided questions to use, if you need them, to get started. Some entries will be selected to become part of First Church's permanent Archives collection. History is now.

DAILY MEDITATIONS FROM RICHARD ROHR Thursday, June 4, 4:30 p.m., via Zoom Several of us at First Church have been following the writings of the Franciscan priest Richard Rohr. His teachings are as accessible as they are profound. If you would like to receive a daily reading to help you learn about and ground yourself more deeply in Christian tradition, especially through these trying times, you can sign up here: <https://cac.org/category/daily-meditations>. Dan Smith and Alex Steinert-Evoy will lead this series of weekly drop-in calls in which we can share brief reflections on the daily devotions for a given week. Please email Dan or Alex (alex@steinert-evoy.org) if you'd like to join.

NEW 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](#). Please send prayer requests to Pastoral Associate Lexi Boudreaux (lexi@firstchurchcambridge.org).

ONGOING PROGRAM OFFERINGS

- **Mondays** FCC Kids' Prayer & Connection Call with Sarah Higginbotham, 12:00 p.m.
- **Tuesdays** Street Outreach Call with Kate Layzer, 4:00 p.m.;
FCC Professional Caregivers Call, 4:00 p.m.
- **Thursdays** Praying the Psalms with Dan Smith & Brent Coffin, 7:15 a.m.;
FCC Kids' Prayer & Connection Call with Sarah Higginbotham, 12:00 p.m.;
Shared Reflections on Richard Rohr Daily Devotionals, 5:00 p.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.

FIRST CHURCH YOUTUBE CHANNEL Continue to tune into our First Church YouTube channel as we offer pre-recorded reflections and devotions, led by Pastoral Associate Carlyle Stewart. The link to the channel is: <https://tinyurl.com/ryac3av>

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

HOW TO MAKE A BETTER FUTURE: PERSPECTIVES AMIDST A PANDEMIC

Sundays, May 17, May 31, and June 14, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom

Join us for a series of hour-long Zoom sessions led by First Church members Ed Baker, Laurie Burt and Bill Hsiao. They will share stories and reflections about finding hope amidst the Covid-19 crisis and about how we can work together towards building a better society. Following a short presentation each week, there will be a brief follow-up conversation amongst Ed, Laurie and Bill, as well as a time for questions from participants on the call.



Sunday, May 17: On Public Health and Leadership

Ed Baker, former Assistant Surgeon General in the US Public Health Service and former Director of CDC's Public Health Practice Program Office, currently serves as Adjunct Professor in Health Policy and Management at UNC and Adjunct Professor of Environmental Health at Harvard Chan School. Ed is a board-certified physician and was trained in epidemiology in the CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) and at Harvard School of Public Health.

The first session was recorded and is available on our blog: waterinthewilderness.org.



Sunday, May 31: On Climate Change - TODAY

Laurie Burt, former commissioner of the MA Department of Environmental Protection and vice chair of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), currently offers independent strategic advice on clean energy, climate and environmental policies to foundations, non-profits, businesses and government throughout the country. Laurie has practiced environmental law for over 30 years and serves on many boards including the Union for Concerned Scientists, CERES, and the American Repertory Theater.



Sunday, June 14: On Fixing Health Care

Bill Hsiao is an economist who teaches at Harvard School of Public Health and has studied health care systems for more than forty years. Besides the State of Vermont, he designed reforms of national health care systems for nine countries. Presently he serves on the Governor's Commission on Healthy Californians for All at the invitation of California Governor Gavin Newsom. He wrote an article in the January/February 2020 Foreign Affairs called *How to Fix American Health Care: What Other Countries Can—and Can't—Teach the United States*.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID FOR COVID-19 TRAINING DISCUSSION Monday, June 1, 4:00 p.m., via Zoom If you were able to engage in the free, hour-long online Mental Health First Aid training from the American Red Cross (<https://tinyurl.com/ya3xvnxt>) and wish to discuss, please join us via Zoom tomorrow afternoon. To join the Zoom Meeting, please click here: <https://tinyurl.com/yapgkugb>. Meeting ID: 834 5752 2959. Password: 895825

MEN'S BREAKFAST Saturday, June 6, 8:00 a.m., via Zoom The Men's Breakfast is regularly held the first Saturday of the month from September through June. We welcome all those who identify as men, both present and past members of First Church. Please join us June 6. It'll be b.y.o.b.! Please bring your own breakfast to the call. To join the Zoom Meeting, [please click here](#). Meeting ID: 962 3211 1622 Password: 431137 Dial in +1 929 205 6099

FAREWELL SUNDAY FOR CARLYLE STEWART Sunday, June 7, via livestream worship with reception to follow via Zoom Over the past two years, Carlyle's deep spirit, inspired preaching, faithful teaching, and welcoming ministry have moved us all and transformed our community. Amidst the grief of goodbye, there is much to celebrate. We will send him off with our blessings, confident in whatever God may have in store for him and us next! There will be a Zoom coffee after the service where we will celebrate Carlyle's gifts (and share some with him, too)!

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY June 14, via livestream worship First Church will celebrate the end of the church school program year in a virtual way on Children's Sunday, June 14. The 6th and 7th graders of our Bible 101 class will pre-record their "Gospel Play," and members of the 5th grade Middler class will contribute as virtual liturgists. We will recognize our 4th grade "graduates" of Godly Play with the presentation of Bibles, honor our church school teachers for their gifts of time and talent throughout the year, and celebrate the many graduates in the congregation who have completed academic programs from high school through graduate school. There is so much to be grateful for!

BLESSING OF ALL GRADUATES OF THE CLASS OF 2020 Sunday, June 14, via livestream worship A blessing of our graduates will take place during morning worship. ***Please send photos of yourself or your graduate*** to Administrative Assistant Bruce Dillenbeck at: bdillenbeck@firstchurchcambridge.org. We will share them in a slideshow with the congregation!

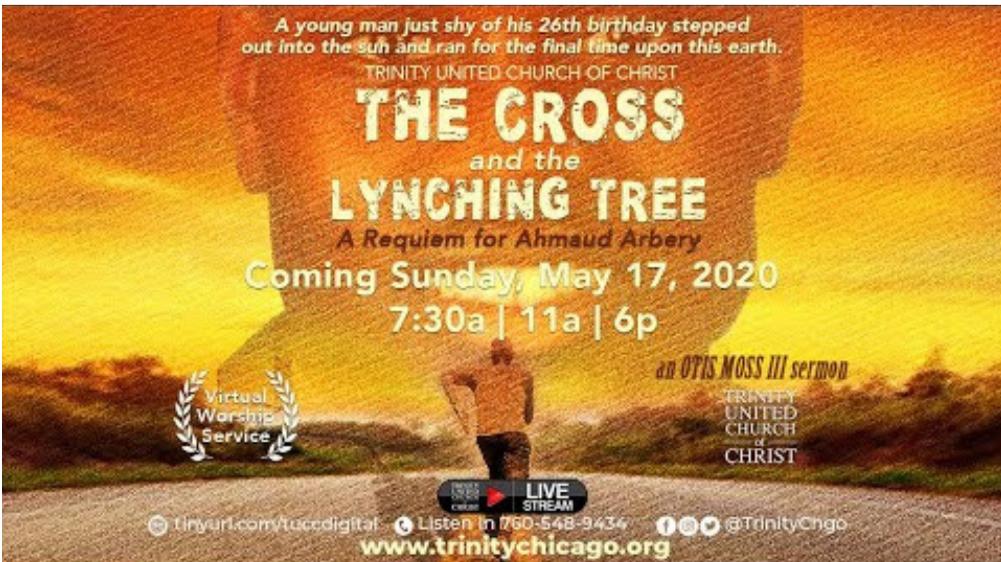
SPRING/SUMMER FAITH & LIFE GROUPS We are almost (but not quite) ready to announce a new Spring/Summer line-up of Faith & Life groups. Led by First Church members, Faith & Life Groups are designed to encourage meaningful connections through shared interests, whether exploring a spiritual practice, opening our eyes to the beauty around us, delving into a

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

challenging social issue, or attending to significant life stages (parenting, ageing, job transitions, etc.) Faith & Life Groups involve making a short-term commitment (a single session to several weeks, depending on the group) to something that might be delightful, deep, or even transformational. At the same time, you can get to know First Church friends who share your interest. Information about topics, leaders, scheduling and sign-ups will be available soon! Questions? Looking to lead a group? Please contact Lexi Boudreaux, Pastoral Associate. Stay tuned!

“A REQUIEM FOR AHMAUD ARBERY” Sunday, June 21, 11:00 a.m., via live-stream worship

On May 17, Rev. Otis Moss III, of the 8,500-member Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, offered a powerful 25-minute multimedia sermon about the recent death of Ahmaud Arbery and about our nation’s appalling history of violence against black and brown bodies. It is a profound lamentation and testimony that speaks the truth in love to the entrenched power of white supremacy. Ahmuad Arbery. Breonna Taylor. George Floyd. These names and lives join so many others who have died in acts of racial terror on lynching trees, on streets, in parks. In lieu of a traditional sermon on June 21, we will share a recording of Rev. Moss’s reflections, bearing witness together to the daily reality of violence and terror against people of color in America. A Zoom discussion will be held after the service.



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS: CALL FOR PHOTOS, Sunday, June 28, 11:00 a.m., via live-stream worship We are planning a celebration and thanksgiving for all God's creatures great and small, especially our animal companions. Our animal friends have offered special solace to many during this time of social distancing and isolation. We also know that pet adoptions are soaring, so some may have new furry friends at home. This year we will feature photos of our pets and other animals in our online service. Please send us a photo of your pet or a favorite animal from around the world to include in a slide show. Photos should be emailed to Administrative Assistant Bruce Dillenbeck (bruce@firstchurchcambridge.org) by Monday June, 22.

WHAT DOES FIRST CHURCH MEAN TO YOU? Sunday, June 28, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom For many of us, this is a strange time full of uncertainty and, for some, feelings of loss and lack of connection. But this time may also encourage deeper reflection about what you want First Church to be for you and what you might want to offer First Church as we move into a new way of being community. Your Gifts Discernment Committee would like to invite you to an on-line conversation about these issues. We're eager to hear from you if you are a relatively new member. We also want to share the perspectives of more long-time members. Stay tuned for details, including the Zoom invitation. Questions? Please contact Dave Kidder (David.e.kidder@gmail.com, 617-276-6282). We look forward to talking with you.

Poor People's Campaign

A NATIONAL CALL for MORAL REVIVAL

**MASS POOR PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY
& MORAL MARCH ON WASHINGTON
IS GOING DIGITAL**

On June 20th, we will hold the largest digital and social media gathering of poor and low wealth people, moral and religious leaders, advocates, and people of conscience in this nation's history. A global pandemic is exposing even more the already existing crisis of systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, the war economy and militarism, and the distorted moral narrative of religious nationalism. On June 20, the 140 million poor and low-wealth people across this nation will be heard!

REPAIRERS
OF THE BREACH

KAIROS
MORAL REFORM
MOVEMENT

**IN THE MIDST OF CHANGING TIMES,
OUR MOVEMENT CONTINUES...**

... because we won't be silent anymore.

... because everybody has a right to live.

... because poor and low wealth people will suffer most in this crisis.

*... because our demands must remain front
and center in this critical election year.*



Twitter: @UniteThePoor | Facebook: @anewppc | Website: poorpeoplescampaign.org



[REGISTER](#)

[FOR THE](#)

[JUNE 20](#)

[DIGITAL MOBILIZATION](#)

[HERE.](#)

WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

COOPERATIVE METROPOLITAN MINISTRIES ANNUAL FUNDRAISER Thursday, June 4, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m., via Zoom First Church has long supported the work of CMM, the Boston area's oldest interfaith social justice network. CMM has a mission of mobilizing congregations and communities across economic, religious, racial and ethnic lines to build partnerships that work for a just society. On Thursday, June 4, CMM will host its annual fundraiser live on Zoom from 4:30 to 5:30 pm with an extended half hour of chat groups chaired by CMM Board Members. Dr. Gary Dorrien, the Reinhold Niebuhr Professor of Social Ethics at Union Theological Seminary and Professor of Religion at Columbia University, will give a keynote speech on "The Social Gospel in Black and White: Then and Now." [RSVP here for the event.](#)

TELL MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATORS TO SUPPORT IMMIGRANT FAMILIES In this time of COVID-19, it's clear that a public health response to a pandemic must include everyone. Swift movement on Safe Communities is needed this legislative session, so that immigrants know they can safely access help, treatment, and protection without fear of deportation. Click here to contact your legislators and members of the Public Safety Committee by tomorrow, June 1: <https://p2a.co/8m19ABv>

SUPPORT AN ACT REGARDING DECARCERATION AND COVID-19 The state legislature is considering a bill to address the dangerous overcrowding in prisons. [H.4652](#), was filed by Rep. Mike Connolly and Rep. Sabadosa and 27 others. [Please write or call your state representative to express support for this urgent humanitarian response.](#) According to Greater Boston Legal Services, COVID-19 has created a dire situation for the thousands of people who are currently incarcerated in Massachusetts, including detained immigrants. Jails and prisons are like cruise ships or nursing homes, where COVID-19 spreads rapidly. Over 600 incarcerated people and staff from Massachusetts jails and prisons have already tested positive for the new coronavirus. The SJC has used its power to let out a very small number of people held pre-trial, but 95% of incarcerated people are still incarcerated and at risk. H. 4652 starts addressing this problem by releasing people who are particularly susceptible to the virus, who are nearing the end of their sentence, and who are incarcerated for minor violations. The bill also ensures that all incarcerated people have access to cleaning supplies and ways to stay in contact with their families.

FOOD INSECURITY IS RISING Leave your food pantry donations in the box on Hilary's front porch at 30 Winslow St., Cambridge, any time between now and June 12. 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 on the second Saturday of the month, which is when the pantry is open. NEEDED: cereal, canned fruit and veggies, proteins, pasta and sauce; also feminine products (pads, tampons). No fresh food. Please be sure your contributions are unopened, unexpired, and not in glass containers. Thank you for your generous donations!

WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

VOLUNTEER TO BAKE SOME GOODIES FOR OUR EVENING MEAL PROGRAM First Church is now serving 500 meals a week to help feed hungry neighbors! If you would like to make a few dozen sweet treats to hand out at one of our evening meals on Monday, Wednesday, Saturday, or Sunday, please visit <https://signup.com/go/DCsUUei> to sign up. Treats can be dropped off at the Tower Room door at 4:30 on any of those nights. Thank you!

OUR NEIGHBOR CITY OF CHELSEA is in high need of funding for food programs and support for the city in this time of pandemic. Cambridge Mutual Aid Network is now collecting food for hard-hit Chelsea. Go here for info about what items are especially needed, and where you can go to drop off: bit.ly/2VDQCGp You can also volunteer to drive to Chelsea, help assemble food packages, or contribute online skills. Or consider making a donation to The One Chelsea Fund set up by the United Way. This fund is distributed by the Chelsea Collaborative and other organizations that have been tirelessly sewing face masks and delivering food. If you have funds to spare, please give as you are able: <https://unitedwaymassbay.org/covid-19/the-one-chelsea-fund/>

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT TO ASSIST BIJAN The Boston Immigration Justice Accompaniment Network (BIJAN) supports people in and coming out of immigration detention in Massachusetts by working to find legal support, bond funds and post detention support. Currently, BIJAN is keeping in touch with local families who have reached out for support as they face challenges of unemployment, bills that are difficult to pay and questions about healthcare. BIJAN is looking for more people to act as support to help connect folks to mutual aid resources given that many immigrant families in our community do not have access to recovery funds from the government. Spanish language skills are ideal but not required. If you would like to be a part of this effort, please contact Rachie Lewis (rachielew@gmail.com). Rachie is a member of Cambridge Minyan, one of the founding member congregations of the Cambridge Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition (CISC).

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>.

MEDITATIVE MUSIC FOR YOUR WEEK

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:



Music for Pentecost, Canticum vespertinum from Night Song

Five Night Song singers each recorded their piece at home and submitted an audio file to improvisatory pianist Ben Schwendener to create a Night Song recording especially for you. The theme is Pentecost.

<https://soundcloud.com/benschwen/nightsong-for-may-31-2020>

May 26, 2020: High Mass, Solemnity of the Ascension, St. John Cantius, Chicago

Although this parish is still not yet open to the public for services, the choir has returned. In this live recording you'll hear Gregorian chant propers sung alternately by men and women, as well as polyphony and the organ. There is one hymn at the close.

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=y1ELIFa5w_4

May 26, 2020: Compline for the Seventh Sunday of Easter, St. Mark's Cathedral, Seattle

While the cathedral is still closed, compline is held every Sunday and live-streamed, as well as broadcast by a Seattle radio station. The choral forces have been reduced to four men. You will hear hymns, the compline liturgy with its lessons and prayers, and a motet.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SRQEXYHA78Q>

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, May 31 - Pentecost

- 9:45 a.m. Pentecost Craft Workshop, via Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. Live-Streamed Morning Worship, Confirmation & Joining Sunday
- 12:10 p.m. Zoom Coffee Hour
- 12:30 p.m. "How to Make a Better Future," session 2, via Zoom
- 2:00 p.m. Youth Group, via Zoom
- 5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

Monday, June 1

- 12:00 p.m. FCC Kids' Prayer & Connection Call with Sarah Higginbotham
- 5:00 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 7:00 p.m. Cambridge Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition (CISC) monthly meeting, via Zoom (all current CISC volunteers are welcome to join; invitation is sent via email)

Tuesday, June 2

- 4:00 p.m. Street Outreach Call with Kate Layzer, via Zoom
- 4:00 p.m. FCC Professional Caregivers Call, via Zoom
- 5:00 p.m. Bible 101 Church School Class, via Zoom

Wednesday, June 3

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, via Zoom
- 5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

Thursday, June 4

- 7:30 a.m. Praying the Psalms, via Zoom
- 12:00 p.m. FCC Kids' Prayer & Connection Call with Sarah Higginbotham
- 4:30 p.m. Shared Reflections on Richard Rohr Daily Devotionals, via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Bible Study, via Zoom
- 7:45 p.m. Choir Call, via Zoom

Friday, June 5

- 8:00 a.m. Spiritual Practices with Lexi Boudreaux, via Zoom
- 1:00 p.m. Friday Café lunch bag pickup, Tower Room

Saturday, June 6

- 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast, via Zoom
- 5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

Sunday, June 7

- 11:00 a.m. Live Streamed Morning Worship, Holy Communion, Carlyle Stewart preaching
- 12:30 p.m. Zoom Coffee Hour - A Farewell to Carlyle Stewart
- 5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

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Here are easy ways to do it:



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



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