



SEASON OF 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

June 21, 2020

Leading Worship

Dan Smith, Senior Minister
Kate Layzer, Minister of Street Outreach
Peter Sykes, Music Director
Issa Bibbins and Nola Hood, song leaders
Joe Welker, technology support

The photograph on the bulletin cover is by Gaylen Morgan.

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

*HYMN

Woke Up this Morning
*(from a 2019 recording of congregational singing
 led by Issa Bibbins & Nola Hood)*

**Woke up this morning with my mind
 (and it was) stayed on Jesus.
 Woke up this morning with my mind
 (and it was) stayed on Jesus.
 Woke up this morning with my mind
 (and it was) stayed on Jesus.
 Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah!**

Singing and praying with my mind....

Living and loving with my mind....

*GREETING

Kate Layzer

- L: Beloved of God, the Spirit is with us even now, gathering us in:
 you who are broken-hearted, you who are bold,
 you who rage, and you who weep.
- C: Our nation is an uproar. Our kingdoms totter before our eyes.
 Yet God's love is stronger! God's mercy and truth endures forever!**
- L: Gather, then, and let yourself be held
 in the presence of God's courage, strength and love.
 The Spirit meets us wherever we are!
- C: Her love is poured out in abundance—
 where tears and hope are mingled together,
 where anger cries out for justice and peace.**
- L: Receive her power, wisdom, and healing in the work of liberation;
 receive her strength in stories of justice.
- C: Come, let us worship God.**

WORDS OF WELCOME

Dan Smith

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Let us ask for healing, pardon and peace:

**C: Holy One, in the light of your risen glory
we see the harm we have done, the suffering we have caused,
the good we have refused, and the truth we have denied.
Heal us, we pray.
Wash us in your mercy, and feed us with your grace,
so that we may follow in your way and tell the good news of the gospel.
Amen.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE AND SHARED CHECK-IN

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 13

L: How long, O God? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?

**C: How long must I bear pain in my soul,
and have sorrow in my heart all day long?
How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?**

L: Consider and answer me, O God my savior!
Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,
and my enemy will say, 'I have prevailed';
my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.

**C: But I trusted in your steadfast love;
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to you, O God,
because you have dealt bountifully with me.**

SERMON

The Cross and the Lynching Tree:
A Requiem for Ahmaud Arbery
by the Rev. Otis Moss III,
Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago
from May 17, 2020

SILENCE AND CLOSING PRAYER

RESPONSE OF FAITH: LITANY OF RECKONING AND COMMITMENT

L: God of justice and mercy, this week we recall the emancipation of enslaved people on Juneteenth. With our nation, we also reckon with the living legacy of slavery and the ongoing sins of racism and white supremacy so profoundly and painfully embedded in our lives and stories.

C: Loving God, we need you. We need the power of your Spirit, the grace of your understanding, the depth of your love, and the strength of your courage. We need you, God, to help us change our ways.

L: Today, we remember and honor enslaved persons and their descendents. We remember your children who were for generations held captive by our First Church forebears. As a gathered community of Christians, over the centuries, we have been actors in the sin of slavery and silent during the abolitionist movement.

We have looked the other way during decades of Jim Crow violence and segregation, and we have been blind to the violence that continues in the forms of mass incarceration, deadly police brutality and others acts of racist violence, and vast economic inequality.

C: Forgive us, God, that it has taken this church so long to remember, to see, to listen, to learn, and to act. Forgive us for all the times we have been silent in the face of injustice and inhumanity. Forgive us for not finding the courage to speak and act in the name of Love.

L: Our hearts are heavy, O God; weighed down with grief and mourning over our collective history of trauma and pain that continues to repeat itself. Help us to lay down any burdens that are not ours to carry and to pick up the work of justice, repentance, and repair that are needed in our generation now. Transform our anger into passion, our fear into love, our shame and guilt into humility and courage in the shared responsibility for change.

C: God, help us to seize this moment of national reckoning and to recommit ourselves to a vision of being and becoming the Beloved Community—a realm of justice, mercy, and freedom for all your children.

(cont'd. on next page)

**Guide our next steps of humbly listening and boldly acting for justice in love.
Walk with us as we live into becoming an anti-racist church.
Help us bring good news to the oppressed; comfort those who mourn;
build up the ancient ruins, and repair the devastations of many generations,
until all your children are free at last.
We pray all this in the strong name of Jesus. Amen.**

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS FOR THE 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.

***DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God, the source of life and birth,
Praise God, the Word who came to earth,
Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame,
All glory, honor to God's name! Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

GOING FORTH

*HYMN

Amazing Grace
*(from a 2019 recording of congregational singing
led by Issa Bibbins & Nola Hood)*

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

My God has promised good to me,
whose Word my hope secures;
God will my shield and portion be,
as long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

*BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

REMEMBERING

From 1638-1830, more than one hundred persons of color are recorded in the records of First Church in Cambridge. They were baptized, married, and buried here; some joined as full or partial members. Thirty-nine persons of color baptized before slavery was ruled unconstitutional in Massachusetts (1783) were enslaved by members of First Church. We name the painful history of this congregation, deeply entwined with the practices of enslavement. We remember, we mourn, we repent, and we look to God for forgiveness, grace and hope.

In 1698, in the second meeting house, William Brattle, fifth minister, and the elders of First Church presided when Phillip, an African man enslaved in service to Mr. Danforth, was the first enslaved person who “owned the covenant and was baptized.” This was a restricted category of membership that First Church discarded after slavery in Massachusetts was ruled unconstitutional in 1783. In subsequent years, ending in the year 1776, First Church baptized 36 enslaved persons (33 persons of African descent and three Indigenous persons).

While at First Church, enslaved persons enjoyed none of the privileges of full membership (held by those who joined “in full communion.”) They could not participate in church governance. During worship, they were confined to a segregated gallery known as the “Negro pew.” These women and men are members of the communion of First Church saints. Regardless of whether or not they were coerced into this ritual by their owners or entered upon it willingly with joy, they are our siblings in Christ. We remember and honor them today.

- 1698 Phillip, African man enslaved in service to Mr. Danforth
- 1705 Mingo and Charles, African men enslaved in service to Mr. Town
- 1705 Jeffery, an African man enslaved in service to Mr. Goff
- 1705 Scipio, an African man enslaved in service to William Brattle, fifth minister of First Church
- 1727 Joseph English, an Indigenous man enslaved in service to William Russell
- 1728 Pompey, an African man enslaved in service to Nathaniel Appleton, sixth minister of First Church
- 1729 Rose, an African woman enslaved in service to A. Bordman
- 1729 Titus, an Indigenous man enslaved in service to Benjamin Wadsworth, President of Harvard College
- 1735 Margaret, an African woman enslaved in service to the widow Oliver
- 1739 Zillah, an African woman enslaved in service to Major Brattle
- 1740 Lucy, an Indigenous woman enslaved in service to Mr. Bordman
- 1740 Venus, an African woman enslaved in service to Madam Wadsworth
- 1740 Cuffy, an African man enslaved in service to Lieutenant Governor Phipps

REMEMBERING

- 1740 Toby, an African man enslaved in service to Samuel Whitemore
- 1741 Jack, an African man enslaved in service to the widow Tufts
- 1741 Cuffy, an African man enslaved in service to Mr. Judah Monis
- 1741 Flora, an African woman enslaved in service to Mr. Foxcroft
- 1741 York, an African man enslaved in service to Mr. Trowbridge
- 1741 Hannibal, an African man enslaved in service to Dr. Wigglesworth
- 1741 Roger, an African man enslaved in service to Henry Prentice
- 1741 Rose, an African woman enslaved in service to Mr. Bordman
- 1744 Harry, an African man enslaved in service to Mr. Brandon
- 1745 Rose, an African woman enslaved in service to Lieutenant Governor Phipps
- 1745 Cato, an African man enslaved in service to Madam Brown
- 1749 Leos, an African man enslaved in service to Mr. Foxcroft
- 1753 Jane, an African woman enslaved in service to Mr. Kent
- 1755 James, an African man enslaved in service to Lieutenant Governor Phipps
- 1760 Peter, an African man enslaved in service to Moses Bordman's widow
- 1761 Cato, an African man enslaved in service to Jonathan Hastings
- 1768 Jane, an African woman enslaved in service to Elizabeth Nutting
- 1768 Violet, an African woman enslaved in service to Mr. Faneuil
- 1769 Philip, an African man enslaved in service to Mr. Abraham Watson
- 1771 Jerusha, an African woman enslaved in service to Lieutenant John Dickson
- 1771 Anne, an African woman enslaved in service to Jonathan Hastings, Esq.
- 1776 Dilla, an African woman enslaved in service to Samuel White of Watertown.

After slavery ended in Massachusetts, First Church baptized infants, conducted, marriages, and recorded deaths of persons of color in Cambridge. But for over more than 200 years, from 1638 to the split between First Church and First Parish Church in 1829, the only person of color admitted to full membership in First Church was Dianah Steed, in 1822.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

- In gratitude for fathers and father figures on this Fathers' Day.
- For Colin McCarty, who suffered a seizure last weekend and is undergoing tests.
- For Jessalyn Jarest's father Jake Jarest, Pèpère to Nathan and Hazel James, who has been hospitalized recently. While his medical diagnosis is unclear, it seems that he is nearing the end of his life.
- For Rich Goode's mother, Donna Goode, who is receiving palliative care due to her declining health.
- For former long-time First Church member Nancy Sanders, who was hospitalized this week and hopes to return home soon.
- For all those mourning the loss of Aubri Ester, who died at the age of 35 last week. Aubri was an advocate for harm reduction and safe drug use, and she was a co-founder, along with Shelter Director Jim Stewart, of SIFMA NOW!, an organization working toward safe injection facilities in Massachusetts.
- For Ken Ziebell, who suffered a stroke on May 26, was hospitalized and is now recovering at home.
- For Kate Judd's 4-year-old nephew Brogan, who is celebrating a swift recovery after being hospitalized for a fall from a second floor window.
- In celebration for the Supreme Court's recent decision upholding laws against discrimination of LGBTQ persons in the workplace.
- For our nation in the throes of unrest following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, and especially for communities directly affected by turmoil and violence, that there may be a new birth of justice and healing throughout our land.
- For the families of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Rayshard Brooks, and others 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.
- 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.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

- 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; Beth and Polly, Ann McCann's sisters; and Katie, Moana Bentin's sister.
- 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,*

BECOMING AN ANTI-RACIST CHURCH

Prayer, Reflection, and Action

Summer 2020



The following statement expresses First Church's intentions and commitments for the summer of 2020. We join with a global outcry against recent and past events of violence against black and brown persons. This statement builds on several years of concerted efforts to raise our self-awareness, build relationships, and act towards racial justice and healing. We approach this work with hearts open to listening, learning, and change.

First Church affirms that Black Lives Matter and Indigenous Lives Matter. We celebrate the gifts, presence, and leadership of persons of color within First Church and beyond. We recognize that the problem of racism is a white person's problem and that this is white people's work. Becoming an anti-racist church means that we are determined not merely to raise our consciousness of racism, but to actively call out and intentionally work for change. We do this work because we know our individual and collective spiritual health, transformation, and liberation depend on it. We do this work relying on God's help and knowing that we cannot do it alone.

In the coming weeks and months, the Staff, Executive Council, and Deacons of First Church invite you to join us in taking on a spiritual practice aimed at disrupting our complicity with white supremacy, ending our silence about police brutality and racial inequality, and acting toward real change. We invite you to commit serious energy and sacrificial love to at least two of the following levels of work:

SOUL LEVEL

Here are several ideas to deepen our self-awareness, learning and healing:

- ☯ Join summer online Faith & Life groups or book groups related to racial justice, or lead your own. Ideas in the works:
 - Reading, Listening, or Watching Groups - Gather friends for a close read of Robin D'Angelo's *White Fragility* or Ibram X. Kendi's *How To Be An Anti-Racist*.
 - Commit to listening to or reading at least one black or indigenous voice each day. [Here](#) are some ideas. Check our website throughout the summer for updates.
 - Join a "Me and White Supremacy" Group. Follow [Layla Saad's 28-day workbook](#) with daily exercises and reflections for becoming an anti-racist.
 - Individual Reparations Accountability Group – Support for those participating in a range of local and individual [reparations pledges](#) and efforts.
- ☯ Develop a practice of saying and praying their names, George Floyd. Breonna Taylor. Ahmaud Arbery. The list goes on, and on. And on. Learn the stories of their lives, not just their deaths. Say their names.

CONGREGATIONAL LEVEL

Participate in making First Church an inclusive, anti-racist congregation:

- 🌀 Familiarize yourself with lessons learned by other churches, as described in the book *Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism* by Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin. Register to attend an upcoming Zoom discussion of chapter 3 on Wednesday, July 15, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Email Peggy Stevens (peggy@kids4peace.org) to receive the Zoom invitation.
- 🌀 Join a monthly after-church Zoom coffee hour check-in to share progress with your commitments and ideas for our shared work.

COMMUNITY LEVEL

Watch the church bulletin and Facebook page for more details on these and future options.

- 🌀 Join a First Church group to support police reform efforts and accountability in the town or city where you live.
- 🌀 Support, invest in, and follow the lead of Black, Indigenous, and Person of Color-led [businesses](#), [organizations](#), or [protests](#), as you are able.
- 🌀 Participate in the [Greater Boston Interfaith Organization](#) actions addressing systemic racism, both city and statewide.

NATIONAL LEVEL

- 🌀 Join the Poor People's Campaign, starting with a National Call for Moral Revival on June 20, 2020. Register at <https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/june2020/>. Continue in these efforts and pressing for the campaign's demands throughout the summer and beyond.

As Rev Dr. Otis Moss III of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago has said, our country is facing not one, but two pandemics: Covid-19 and "confederate Covid 1619," referring to the toxic strain of racist and white supremacist ideology that has been coursing through our church, city and nation's history since its founding on stolen land. First Church tested positive for the latter in the 1630's when our forebears held captive enslaved persons of African and Indigenous descent. We have yet to develop a vaccine, and its effects are still evident to this day. We are all carriers, whether we know it or not. We all need constant vigilance, lest we share it unwittingly. We are all in need of healing. The collective treatment includes a daily regimen of prayer, action and reflection. The Spirit is upon us now, calling us each to respond.

Please check our website and click on the yellow banner link for updates and additions to these ideas and offerings.

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

“A REQUIEM FOR AHMAUD ARBERY” Today, 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 today, 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 Coffee Hour discussion will be held after the service. [Click here to immediately join the Coffee Hour](#) or use the following information: Meeting ID: 876 6474 8993 Password: coffee

CALL FOR IMAGES OF CREATION FOR NEXT SUNDAY’S WORSHIP How would you illustrate “God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light”? Let’s illustrate the glorious story of Creation, as told in Genesis 1:1-31 and 2:1-4a. In order to be sure we illustrate the whole story, check in with Hilary Hopkins (hopkinsjh@verizon.net) for your “assignment,” depending upon your name. Use whatever medium you like. Make your illustration a work of heart, not necessarily a work of art! When you have finished, label your work with the words it shows. ***Take a picture of your work and email it to Sarah Higginbotham by Wednesday, June 24.*** Sarah will make a slide show for us all to share.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS: CALL FOR PHOTOS FOR NEXT SUNDAY’S 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 tomorrow, June 22.***

ONLINE WORSHIP AND COMMUNITY SURVEY FOR FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE We have been live-streaming worship for more than 12 weeks during this time of global pandemic, and we want to hear from you! We would love to know more about who is joining us for worship and how our programming is meeting your needs. Please fill out this survey if you have been to worship online or have participated in online formation activities:
<https://forms.gle/vyjifGit5S15cmbH>

FIRST CHURCH NEWS

ECCLESIASTICAL COUNCIL FOR KATIE OMBERG Tuesday, June 23, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom First Church member and former ministerial intern Katie Omberg will be “examined for her fitness to be ordained to the Christian Ministry,” a final step on her journey before seeking a call to parish ministry in the United Church of Christ. Join with members of other UCC churches in the Metropolitan Boston Association to hear her speak and to prayerfully discern the way forward. If you’d like to attend and support Katie please register here to receive the Zoom invitation: <https://sneucc-reg.brtapp.com/KOmbergEC2020>

CHECK OUT THIS MONTH’S UCC MENTAL HEALTH NETWORK BLOG BY REV. JENNY STUART

As many of you know, Rev. Jenny Stuart is a Community Minister at First Church, a clinical social worker specializing in psychological trauma, and a psychotherapist at the Danielsen Institute at Boston University. Jenny recently contributed to the UCC Mental Health Network Blog. Don’t miss her piece about complex trauma and our needs for rest and restoration as we stand “on the brink of summer.”

<https://www.mhn-ucc.org/2020/06/15/on-the-brink-of-summer-by-jennifer-stuart/>

SUMMER SCHEDULE Sunday Morning Worship will begin at 10:00 a.m. starting on July 5. During the months of July and August, there will be a mix a livestream and pre-recorded worship. We are excited to continue experimenting with the possibilities surrounding virtual services, and we hope you will continue to worship with us online until we can all be together again in the sanctuary. The church building continues to be locked but is staffed by sextons during limited hours Monday - Friday. We may expand these hours as the summer progresses, but for now, sextons are working from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. If you need to access the building, please contact Director of Operations Kirsten Manville and give prior notice of the day and time you would like to enter. This is both for contact tracing purposes and also to let the sextons know to expect you. Office Assistant Bruce Dillenbeck will be in either the church office or finance office for a few hours every Tuesday and Friday afternoon throughout the summer. When in the church office, he will answer the phone, sort the mail, and do other tasks that cannot be done from home. If you need access to the office, please contact Kirsten and she can help set up a time for you to come to the building. As Massachusetts and Cambridge continue to update their reopening plans, we will continue to closely monitor their guidelines and recommendations. Any change to the above information will be communicated in a timely manner, both here in the bulletin and via the First Glance E-newsletter. Please email Kirsten if you have any questions: parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STAYING CONNECTED

ONGOING PROGRAM OFFERINGS Zoom invitations to all our week's programs are in the all-church email that was sent this morning. If you are not receiving our e-newsletter, please sign up by clicking on the E-Newsletter icon at the bottom of our homepage to receive future correspondence. Email Dan Smith (dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org) this morning to have today's email forwarded to you.

- **Tuesdays** Street Outreach Call with Kate Layzer, 4:00 p.m.;
FCC Professional Caregivers' Call, 4:00 p.m.
- **Thursdays** 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, 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.

WEEKLY FCC PROFESSIONAL CAREGIVERS' CALL Tuesdays, 4:00 p.m., via Zoom Hospital workers, homecare workers, therapists, chaplains, doctors, nurses, caregivers and essential workers of all kinds — would it help to talk and share your experience with others at First Church? If you've been flat out and barely able to come up for air, please drop-in when you can for a time to listen, share, pray, and process. The Zoom invitation is in the all-church email that was sent this morning. If you are not receiving our e-newsletter, please sign up by clicking on the E-Newsletter icon at the bottom of our homepage to receive future correspondence. Email Dan Smith (dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org) this morning to have today's email forwarded to you.

YOUNG ADULTS ZOOM GATHERING The Young Adults of First Church (mostly 20- and 30-some-things) gather regularly on Zoom for a casual catch up and discussion of faith journeys, with questioning encouraged! Our Gentle Blasphemy group meets casually, as able, usually on Wednesdays. Get more info from Phil Jones: p.robbennolt.jones@gmail.com

FIRST CHURCH YOUTUBE CHANNEL Continue to tune into our First Church YouTube channel as we offer pre-recorded reflections and devotions. Subscribe to make sure you don't miss new videos! 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, June 14, and June 28 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.



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*.

*The first two sessions were recorded
and are available on our blog: waterinthewilderness.org.*



Sunday, June 28: On Climate Change (Postponed from May 31)

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.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

SUMMER FAITH & LIFE GROUPS Register now for a Summer Faith & Life Group! Descriptions are below. [Click here to complete the registration form.](#) Please register ASAP so facilitators can plan accordingly. Questions? Contact Pastoral Associate Lexi Boudreaux: lexi@firstchurchcambridge.org.

HOW TO BE AN ANTI-RACIST READING GROUP

We will explore Dr. Ibrim X. Kendi's analysis of how racism affects all of us, white and black, and how we can change the narrative of race in the United States. (Note: Dr. Kendi will be joining the faculty at Boston University next month to launch a new Center for Antiracist Research). *How to Be an Anti-Racist* is at once a perceptive analysis of systemic racism in the US and a riveting story of Kendi's life and growing awareness of his own racism and of the structures that perpetuate white supremacy in our society. We'll discuss our reactions to Dr. Kendi's take on anti-racism and talk about what lessons his story may offer us as individuals and as members of First Church. Registrants will receive an outline of the three sessions and questions for discussion. *How to Be an Anti-Racist* is available from Amazon (hard cover: \$16.26; Kindle: \$14.99).

Facilitators: Beth Loomis and Dave Kidder

Meetings: Wednesdays, July 15, 22, and 29
7:00 - 8:00 p.m., via Zoom

EXPLORING A PRACTICE OF REPARATIONS

We will explore motivations for giving reparations, recount current and future plans for individual giving, foster accountability, promote interracial relationship-building as a precursor for reparations, and discuss the Biblical and theological bases for reparations. We will share articles about reparations and also discuss the Fellowship of Reconciliation's "Truth and Reparations" pledge form. All are welcome, whether you are just starting to wonder about reparations or are already involved in an individual or collective practice.

Facilitators: Dan Smith and Alice Kidder

Meetings: Mondays, June 29, July 27, August 31, September 28
5:00 - 6:00 p.m., via Zoom

ME AND WHITE SUPREMACY REFLECTION GROUP

We will embark on a 6-week journey to examine our own privilege, unpack our biases, reduce the number of times we unconsciously inflict damage on people of color, and take action to help other white people do better, too. Each week, we'll undertake individual reflections found in Layla Saad's bestselling book, *Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor*. In weekly Zoom

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

meetings, we'll work with a partner and also in small groups to share our struggles and our learning. Peggy Stevens and Dan Smith shared this material as prayer partners during Lent of 2019 and both found the 28 daily reflections to be profoundly challenging, provocative and enriching despite their own work on these issues in recent years. People at all levels of experience and background with the topic are invited to participate.

Facilitators: Peggy Stevens and other Road To Freedom participants

Meetings: Thursdays, 8:30-9:30 a.m.
July 23 & 30, August 6, 13, 20, 27, via Zoom

DIVERSIFYING YOUR BOOKSHELF: *THE BLUEST EYE* BOOK GROUP

Women are invited to gather to discuss *The Bluest Eye*, the first novel written by Toni Morrison and the winner of the 1993 Nobel Prize in Literature. Over three sessions, we will discuss themes such as racial identity, concepts of beauty, and how race, gender, and economic status determine power. Time will be granted to connect these themes with our lives and our society today.

Facilitators: Alex Steinert-Evoy and Susan Reynolds

Meetings: Tuesdays, July 28, August 4 and 11
5:00 - 6:15 p.m., via Zoom

BIBLE STUDY: THE BOOK OF EXODUS

Exodus chronicles how Israel was forged out of slavery, and thus forms part of the charter for the liberation of oppressed peoples everywhere. The drama of Israel's escape from Egypt, supported by an amazing series of divine interventions, makes Exodus one of the Bible's most riveting stories. Themes that will arise include: encountering God, the trials of leadership, divine signs and wonders and mighty acts, covenant and the Ten Commandments, national identity, and the courage of faith. We will read the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV, our pew bibles) and draw upon the guidance of Walter Wink's "Transforming Bible Study."

Facilitator: Rev. Carter West

Meetings: TBD

AN INTRODUCTION TO PAUL TILlich'S THEOLOGY

Join with others to discuss Paul Tillich's sermon "You are Accepted" in a two-session introduction to Paul Tillich's theology.

Facilitator: Adam Weiss

Meetings: TBD

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

WHAT DOES FIRST CHURCH MEAN TO YOU? Sunday, July 12, 11:30 a.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.

MISTAKES AND MIRACLES CONVERSATION July 15, 7:00 p.m. What would it be like for First Church to be radically inclusive and anti-racist? To be a community where a senior-level minister of color could grow and thrive? These are visions we have set for ourselves. The Beloved Community group invites everyone to join us in the journey towards making these visions the reality of our church. We invite you to read Chapter 3 of the book, *Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism* by Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin. Let's find out about some of the predictable challenges other churches have faced on the journey and learn how to avoid them. The first of two opportunities to discuss the chapter happened last week, and the second opportunity will happen on Wednesday, July 15. Please let Peggy Stevens know if you'd like to join us for one of these discussions so she can send you the link: peggy@kids4peaceboston.org

Mistakes and Miracles is available as an E-book on line for \$9.99 from Amazon:

https://www.amazon.com/s?k=mistakes+and+miracles&i=stripbooks&ref=nb_sb_noss_2

or as a Paperback for \$22.00 from Amazon or Unitarian Universalist bookstore:

https://www.uuabookstore.org/Mistakes-and-Miracles-P18521.aspx?utm_medium=uua.org&utm_source=body&utm_campaign=uuaorgads&utm_content=/products/mistakes-and-miracles

If you'd like to read the chapter without buying the book, please contact Peggy Stevens and we'll find a way to send you the chapter or loan you a copy of the book: peggy@kids4peaceboston.org.

WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

FOOD INSECURITY IS RISING Leave your food pantry donations in the box on Hilary's front porch at 30 Winslow St., Cambridge. 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!

NEEDED: NEW OR GENTLY USED T-SHIRTS FOR FRIDAY CAFÉ GUESTS Now that summer is really here, the Friday Café has been receiving many requests for t-shirts! If you have extras taking up space in your drawer, consider dropping them off at church on a Friday between 12:00 and 3:00. You will find our crew at the door to the Tower Room, next to the church parking area on Mason St. Shirts should be washed, individually bagged, and labeled by size. Men's sizes are especially needed. Thank you for donating!

THE FRIDAY CAFÉ BAGGED LUNCH SIGNUP HAS OPENINGS! As the Café extends into July and August for the first time ever, our weekly bagged lunch signup finally has some gaps! If you have been trying to get into the schedule, now is your chance. Sign up to prepare 10 bagged lunches for hungry neighbors some upcoming Friday by visiting: www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d45aaa628ab9-friday to claim your spot. Many thanks!

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!

VIRTUAL TOWN HALL ON SAFE COMMUNITIES ACT Tuesday, June 23, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m., via Zoom and Facebook Live Stand with immigrant leaders eaders from grassroots and faith communities calling for the protection of immigrant rights and health. Learn more and register here: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_X7yybhHpQgiURzUpi8ZATw

MEDITATIVE MUSIC FOR YOUR WEEK



FIRST CHURCH VIRTUAL CHOIR EXPERIMENT As we continue to live through a time when we can't physically sing together, a few First Church staff members experimented with assembling a virtual choir. Given the success of our experiment, we are planning for an opportunity for more of us to participate in a virtual choir project soon. Details will be forthcoming from Music Director Peter Sykes and Pastoral Associate Lexi Boudreaux. We are so looking forward to finding new ways to make a "joyful noise unto God" together in the midst of this pandemic. Sending the First Church in Cambridge community some extra encouragement and support through this time apart with a song we all know so well:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t-ST9Fny9tk>

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, June 21

- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, "Requiem for Ahmaud Arbery," via live-stream
- 12:15 p.m. Zoom Coffee Hour, check-in followed by discussion of Rev. Moss's sermon
- 6:00 p.m. Poor People's Campaign: Moral March on Washington, Virtual Mobilization replay

Monday, June 22

- 5:00 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

Tuesday, June 23

- 4:00 p.m. Street Outreach Call with Kate Layzer, via Zoom
- 4:00 p.m. FCC Professional Caregivers Call, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Ecclesiastical Council for Katie Omberg, via Zoom

Wednesday, June 24

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, via Zoom
- 5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 8:00 p.m. Finance Team, via Zoom

Thursday, June 25

- 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 26

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

Saturday, June 27

- 5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

Sunday, June 28

- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Blessing of the Animals, via live-stream
- 12:30 p.m. "How to Make a Better Future" session with Laurie Burt, via Zoom

***Zoom invitations to all our week's programs
are in the all-church email that was sent this morning.***

If you are not receiving our e-newsletter, please sign up by clicking on the E-Newsletter icon at the bottom of our homepage to receive future correspondence. Email Dan Smith (dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org) this morning to have today's email forwarded to you.

THE STAFF AT FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

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



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