



SUMMER WORSHIP

**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

July 12, 2020

Karen McArthur, Minister of Stewardship & Finance
Kate Layzer, Minister of Street Outreach
Peter Sykes, Music Director
Joe Welker, technology support

The photograph on the bulletin cover is by Gaylen Morgan..

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

Under the Green Linden Tree

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck

It happened today. The flag of the confederacy unfurled itself from the throat of Mississippi, and finally the weight of sanctioned oppression eased a bit for us to breathe a little more. The stench of white supremacy slightly subsided. It outlived my children's great grandparents but their efforts are not in vain. For the seeds we planted in Mississippi will grow without the shadow of the rebel flag above the places where they will vote, schools where they will learn and stations sworn to protect them. These unholy idols are falling one by one. Let their ashes be fertile soil for a more perfect union.

—Talamioka Brice
June 28, 2020

*HYMN 61

When Long Before Time (verses 1-3 and 6)

(see page 4)

*GREETING

Kate Layzer

L: In the name of God: the Singer, the Song, and the Spirit,

C: Amen!

L: Wherever your journey has taken you this week,
know that you are welcome here and now. Come if you are weary,

C: for God knows this is difficult.

L: Come if you are hungry for connection,

C: for we trust that God will meet us in the space between us.

L: Come if you are looking for transformation,

C: for there is yet more love, truth, and justice to be revealed.

All: We celebrate God's presence among us, in this sacred time and space.

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANTHEM

O How Amiable

Ralph Vaughan Williams

First Church Choir, September 2019

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

**All: Before you, O God, and before one another,
we confess the harm we have brought on the lives of others,
on our own lives, and on the life of the world.
Forgive us, we pray, for what we have done
and what we have left undone, and for what we have left unlearned.
Lead us toward wholeness, teaching us, renewing us,
and enabling us to grow in love and in faith.
In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING Genesis 25:19-34

READING Matthew 13:1-9

SERMON Seeds of Change Karen McArthur

*HYMN 261 The Sun Is on the Sea and Shore *(see page 5)*

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 AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

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.

GOING FORTH

***HYMN 515**

This is My Song (verses 1 and 2)

(see page 6)

***BENEDICTION**

VOLUNTARY

Toccata

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck

OPENING HYMN

When Long Before Time

1. When long be - fore time and the worlds were be - gun,
2. The si - lence was bro - ken when God sang the Song,
3. The sounds of the crea - tures were one with their Lord's,
4. Though down through the a - ges the Song dis - ap - peared,
5. The Light has re - turned as it came once be - fore,
6. To you, God the Sing - er, our voic - es we raise,

when there was no earth and no sky and no sun,
2. and light pierced the dark - ness and rhy - thm be - gan,
their har - mo - nies sweet and be - fit - ting the Word;
4. its har - mo - nies bro - ken and al - most un - heard,
the Song of the Lord is our own song once more,
6. to you, Song In - car - nate, we give all our praise,

and all was deep si - lence and night reigned su - preme,
2. and with its first birth - cries cre - a - tion was born,
the Sing - er was pleased as the earth sang the Song,
4. the Sing - er comes to us to sing it a - gain,
so let us all sing with one heart and one voice
6. to you, Ho - ly Spir - it, our life and our breath,

WORDS: Peter Davison, 1980
MUSIC: Peter Davison, 1980; arr. George Black, 1980
The allegory of the 'song of creation'
is set to a popular folk-style tune.

THE SINGER AND THE SONG
11 11.11 11

Words, music © 1981 Peter Davison
Arr. © 1981 George Black

and e - ven our Mak - er had on - ly a dream -
2. and crea - ture - ly voic - es sang praise to the morn.
the choir of the crea - tures re - ech - oed it long.
4. our God is with us in the world now as then.
the Song of the Sing - er in whom we re - joice.
6. be glo - ry for - ev - er, through life and through death.

SERMON HYMN

The Sun Is on the Sea and Shore

1. The sun is on the sea and shore, a new day has be - gun;
 2. Your love is ev - er in our view, like shin - ing stars by night;
 3. We do not know what grief and care each com - ing day may bring;

with morn - ing hymns we will a - dore the bless - ed Three - in - One;
 your gifts are ev - ery morn - ing new, O God of love and light;
 the heart shall find some glad - ness there, trust you in ev - 'ry - thing;

and we shall praise you ev - er more un - til the day is done.
 your mer - cy, like the heav - en's blue, fills all our daz - zled sight.
 the life that serves you ev - 'ry - where will nev - er cease to sing.

WORDS: Louis F. Benson, 1897; adapt. Austin C. Lovelace, 1991, alt.
 MUSIC: J. L. Macbeth Bain, 1915; arr. Gordon Jacob, 1934, adapt.

BROTHER JAMES' AIR
 86.86.86

James Leith MacBeth Bain, called 'Brother James' by his friends, was a Scottish poet who found, lost and regained faith in God's love. He spent his last years caring for others in the slums of Liverpool.

Word adapts. © 1991 Austin Lovelace
 Harn. © 1934 Oxford University Press

CLOSING HYMN

This Is My Song verses 1 and 2

1. This is my song, O God of all the na - tions,
2. My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,
3. This is my prayer, O Rul - er of all na - tions:

a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.
and sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine;
let your reign come; on earth your will be done.

This is my home, the coun - try where my heart is;
but oth - er lands have sun - light too, and clo - ver,
In peace may all earth's peo - ple draw to - geth - er,

here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;
and skies are ev - ery - where as blue as mine.
and hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one.

but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing
O hear my song, O God of all the na - tions,
O hear my prayer, O God of all the na - tions;

with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
a song of peace for their land and for mine.
my - self I give you; let your will be done.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

- For Gail Breeze and her family as they grieve the unexpected loss of Dudne Breeze last Sunday night.
- With great joy for Director of Operations Kirsten Manville and Tim Foley, who were married on June 27.
- In celebration with Ariel and Domenik Ackermann as they welcome their son Sylvester Salem Ackermann, born Tuesday, June 30.
- For Abby Shuman, whose only sibling and best friend Andrew died in 1988 at age 18 and would have been 50 years old on July 16.
- For Rich Goode's mother Donna Goode, who is receiving palliative care due to her declining health.
- For Andrea Fiorillo and her family, who are mourning the loss of Andrea's father, Dante Fiorillo.
- For our cities and our nation during this time of reckoning with historic and ongoing violence against Black and Indigenous persons and persons of color. We pray for all protesting and for a new birth of justice and healing throughout our land. We pray also for all who are continuing to grieve the recent killings of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Rayshard Brooks, and so many others.
- For all who are grieving the loss of loved ones due to Covid-19; 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; 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; Katie, Moana Bentin's sister; and former First Church member Nancy Sanders.
- 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.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

- 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

WHAT DOES FIRST CHURCH MEAN TO YOU? 11:00 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. [Click here to join](#) or use the following information:

Meeting ID: 876 6474 8993

Password: coffee

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

SUMMER SCHEDULE Sunday Morning Worship begins at 10:00 a.m. in July and August. During the summer months, there will be a mix of 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. We are offering building access from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m., Monday - Friday. If you need access to the building, please email 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 also be in the church office for a few hours every Tuesday and Friday afternoon throughout the summer, answering the phone, sorting the mail, and doing other tasks that cannot be done from home. 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

NEW TUESDAY EVENING ZOOM COMPLINE PRAYER SERVICE Tuesdays, 8:30 - 8:45 p.m., via Zoom Are you feeling the need to switch up the way you connect with worship this summer? Are you craving some time before bed to center yourself in sacred stillness and the comfort of community? We are offering a new participatory evening prayer service this summer. Join us on Zoom for a short evening prayer service on Tuesdays at 8:30 p.m.

[Click here to join](#) or use the following information:

Meeting ID: 890 9172 4810

Password: summer

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 Lexi Boudreaux (lexi@firstchurchcambridge.org) this morning to have today's email forwarded to you.

- **Tuesdays** 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.

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, including our July 5 worship service, which premiered on our channel last Sunday. The link to the channel is: <https://tinyurl.com/ryac3av>

Have an announcement for the bulletin?

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

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

MISTAKES AND MIRACLES CONVERSATION This Wednesday, 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 Zoom invitation to this conversation was sent in this morning's all-church email. Please contact Peggy Stevens for the link if you don't have it: peggy@kids4peaceboston.org

Mistakes and Miracles is available online 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

NEWCOMERS' COFFEE Sunday, July 19, 9:15 a.m., via Zoom Have you been joining us for online worship and want to learn more about First Church? Pour a cup of your favorite coffee, tea, or cocoa, and join Sarah Higginbotham and a few FCC leaders for a pre-worship Zoom meeting next Sunday. Get to know a bit more about our church community and how you might connect more deeply with our ministries. The Zoom invitation will be published in Friday's "First Glance," as well as in next Sunday morning's all-church email. Questions? Contact Sarah Higginbotham (shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org).

SUMMER PASTORAL CARE CARD-WRITING Following our tradition of writing pastoral care cards on the lawn during summer coffee hours, we will begin hosting a breakout room for people interested in writing pastoral care cards together during our weekly Zoom coffee hours. You are invited to write a card to someone listed in the prayer section of the bulletin; addresses will be provided in the breakout room. Gather up some blank cards and stamps, and join us in this ministry of pastoral care beginning next Sunday, July 19.

SUMMER FAITH & LIFE GROUPS



SUMMER FAITH & LIFE GROUPS

Register now for a Summer Faith & Life Group!

[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 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 22, and 29
7:00 - 8:30 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, July 27, August 31, September 14 and 28
5:00 - 6:00 p.m., via Zoom

SUMMER FAITH & LIFE GROUPS

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 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: Carter West

Meetings: Tuesdays, July 28, August 4, 11, 18, and 25
7:30 - 8:45 p.m., via Zoom

SUMMER FAITH & LIFE GROUPS

AN INTRODUCTION TO PAUL TILLICH'S THEOLOGY

Paul Tillich (1886-1965) was a German Protestant theologian whose work lived on the boundary of theology and philosophy and religion and culture. Tillich's writings reflected his belief that the task of theology was to answer questions raised by modern culture. This group will meet twice to discuss Tillich's seminal sermon "You Are Accepted," in which he presents the concept of "sin as separation" of people from each other, from our own selves, and from God, the ground of our being. He mirrors this with a description of how grace allows us to overcome these separations. In this time where social distancing and racial injustice reveal many levels of our separation, we will read and discuss this sermon to explore the separations we experience and the hope that grace can allow us to find reunion. The dates and times of the two meetings will be decided based upon the availability of the participants.

Facilitator: Adam Weiss

Meetings: TBD

GENEALOGY: FINDING OUR FAMILY HISTORIES

Interested in genealogy? Just starting on your family tree? Or have you been working on it for years? We can gain an understanding of our history through the lens of our own families. We'll look at immigration, migration, race, religion and economics, and anything else that people are interested in exploring. The group will start out by gathering bi-weekly three times this summer, and then decide from there how and when people would like to connect as we explore our family stories.

Facilitator: Karen McArthur

Meetings: TBD

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 a summer online Faith & Life groups related to racial justice (see page 11 to register):
 - Read Ibram X. Kendi's *How To Be An Anti-Racist* or Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*
 - Join a "Me and White Supremacy" Group. Follow [Layla Saad's 28-day workbook](#) with daily exercises and reflections for becoming 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.
 - 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 a Zoom discussion of chapter 3 this Wednesday, July 15, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Check today's all-church email for 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 by visiting: <https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/june2020/>. Continue the work by 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.

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!

THANK YOU FROM THE SHELTER The Shelter guests, Jim Stewart and his staff, and Shelter Oversight Committee members want to extend their heartfelt gratitude to all who have made money donations and dropped off meals, masks, and other supplies. The guests feel well-cared for and are grateful that you are thinking of them.

FIRST CHURCH SHELTER LUNCH HELP Would you be able to make lunch for the guests living in the First Church Shelter? For the last several months, many generous members of our church and wider community have provided meals for the daytime shelter hours. Since the First Church Shelter will continue a 24/7 operation through the summer, now is the time to expand the circle of helpers! Sandwiches or simple entrees would be very appreciated. [Sign up here](#) to save your date.

NEEDED: NEW OR GENTLY USED SHORTS, SKIRTS, AND TEES FOR FRIDAY CAFÉ GUESTS If you have extra summer items 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 gender and size. 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!

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, July 12

- 10:00 a.m. Live-Streamed Morning Worship, Karen McArthur, preaching
- 11:15 a.m. Zoom Coffee Hour with “What Does First Church Mean to You?” Conversation
- 5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

Monday, July 13

- 5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 7:00 p.m. Executive Council, via Zoom

Tuesday, July 14

- 4:00 p.m. FCC Professional Caregivers Call, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Deacons’ Meeting, via Zoom
- 8:30 p.m. Compline Prayer Service, via Zoom

Wednesday, July 15

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, via Zoom
- 4:00 p.m. COVID-19 Testing, Mason Street side of the building
- 5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 6:00 p.m. Investment Committee, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. *Mistakes and Miracles* Conversation, via Zoom

Thursday, July 16

- 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, July 17

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

Saturday, July 18

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

Sunday, July 19

- 9:15 a.m. Newcomers’ Coffee, via Zoom
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship via YouTube premiere, Lexi Boudreaux, preaching
- 11:00 a.m. Zoom Coffee Hour
- 5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

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 Lexi Boudreaux (lexi@firstchurchcambridge.org) this morning to have today’s email forwarded to you.

THE STAFF AT FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

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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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