



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 months 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

September 20, 2020

Dan Smith, Senior Minister
Jaz Buchanan, Pastoral Associate
Sarah Higginbotham, Director of Creative Worship & Arts
Karen McArthur, Minister of Stewardship & Finance
Peter Sykes, Director of Music
Beth Spaulding, Co-Chair of Deacons
Joe Welker, Technical Support

The photograph on the bulletin cover is by Gaylen Morgan.

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

Hallowed Be Thy Name...
from "Salem Sonata," 2003

Dan Locklair

*HYMN 25

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above (verses 1 and 3)

(see page 4)

*GREETING

Beth Spaulding

L: Siblings in the Spirit, wherever you are,
 hear God's call to come in and come back!

C: Come into the warmth of this community of healing and justice.

L: Come into this shared space of solace and hope!

**C: Come in and be in the presence of God,
 who loves you, no matter what.**

L: Return to the gifts of wisdom and Sabbath rest.

**C: Return to awareness of your God-given beauty
 and the beauty of all creation.**

L: Return to this table set by God,
 where there is room and hope and life for us all!

C: Friends, gather and regather in this place of grounding, growing and acting!

All: And let there be life in this house!

WORDS OF WELCOME

CANDLELIGHTING

ANTHEM

Divine Love
from "Small Bird" by Elizabeth Cunningham
Beth Spaulding, soprano

Peter Sykes

Dear one, dreadful one,
 Maybe this emptiness is only
 the hugeness of your love.

In my plunging terror,
 I am too small to touch it.
 Beloved, please gather it up
 in a hazelnut,
 so I can hold it tightly
 in my hand.

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Dan Smith

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

**All: Loving God, forgive us when we lose our way,
and lead us back to yours.**

**Lead us from separation to connection, from guilt to responsibility,
from judgement to wonder, from anger to compassion,
from sorrow to joy, from fear to love,
from the unreal to the real, from death to new life! Amen.**

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

GREETING OF PEACE

A TIME WITH CHILDREN

Sarah Higginbotham

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 105:1-7

L: Alleluia! Give thanks to the Lord, and call on God's Name;
proclaim God's deeds among the peoples!

**C: Sing to God; sing praise, and tell of all God's marvels!
Glory in God's holy name; let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice!**

L: Turn to the Lord—to God's strength—
and seek God's presence constantly.

**C: Remember the marvels God has done—
the wonders performed and the judgments pronounced—
you descendants of Sarah and Abraham, God's faithful ones,**

L: you offspring of Leah, Rachel, and Jacob, who are God's chosen.
The Lord is our God, whose authority covers all the earth.

READING

Matthew 20:1-16

SERMON

Jaz Buchanan

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINISTRY MOMENT FOR DEACONS' WALKS

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH & 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**

Karen McArthur

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 72**

There's A Wideness In God's Mercy

(see page 6)

***BENEDICTION**

VOLUNTARY

Andante from Sonata in A Major, Op. 120

Franz Schubert

OPENING HYMN

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

verses 1 and 3

→ 1. Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all cre - a - tion,
 2. What God's al - might - y power hath made, in gra - cious love God keep - eth;
 → 3. Our God is nev - er far a - way, but through all grief dis - tress - ing,
 4. Then all my glad - some way a - long, I sing a - loud thy prais - es,

the God of power, the God of love, the God of our sal - va - tion.
 by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade God's watch - ful eye ne'er sleep - eth.
 an ev - er pre - sent help and stay, our peace and joy and bless - ing.
 that all may hear the grate - ful song my voice un - wea - ried rais - es.

With heal - ing balm my soul is filled and ev - ery faith - less
 With - in the wis - dom of God's might, lo! all is just and
 As with a moth - er's ten - der hand, God gent - ly leads the
 Be joy - ful in the Lord, my heart, both soul and bod - y

mur - mur stilled: to God all praise and glo - ry.
 all is right: to God all praise and glo - ry.
 pil - grim band: to God all praise and glo - ry.
 bear your part: to God all praise and glo - ry.

WORDS: Johann J. Schütz, 1675; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1864, alt.
 MUSIC: Bohemian Brethren's *Kirchengesänge*, 1566

MIT FREUDEN ZART
87.87.887

SERMON HYMN

Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service

verses 1 and 4

→ 1. Lord, whose love through hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
 2. Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;
 3. As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, till your love's re-veal-ing light
 → 4. Called by wor-ship to your ser-vice, forth in your dear name we go

who up-on the cross, for-sak-en, of-fered mer-cy's per-fect deed,
 still the cap-tives long for free-dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
 in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up-on our quick-ened sight,
 to the child, the youth, the a-ged, love in liv-ing deeds to show;

we, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a-lone, but heart,
 As, O Lord, your deep com-pas-sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
 mak-ing known the needs and bur-dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,
 hope and health, good will and com-fort, coun-sel, aid, and peace we give,

con-se-crat-ing to your pur-pose ev-ery gift that you im-part.
 use the love your Spir-it kin-dles still to save and make us whole.
 stir-ring us to tire-less striv-ing, your a-bun-dant life to share.
 that your ser-vants, Lord, in free-dom may your mer-cy know, and live.

WORDS: Albert F. Bayly, 1961, alt.
 MUSIC: *The Sacred Horn*. 1844: harm. FCC, 1997

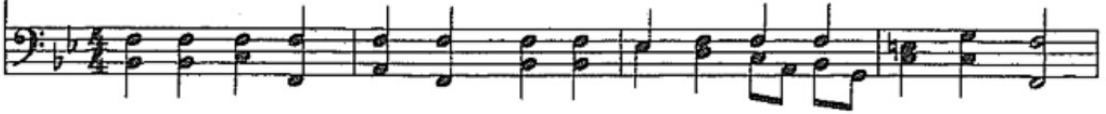
BEACH SPRING
 87.87D

CLOSING HYMN

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy



1. There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
2. There is no place where earth's sor-rows are more felt than up in heaven;
3. For the love of God is broad-er than the meas-ure of our mind;
4. If our love were but more faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's word;



there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.
there is no place where earth's fail-ings have such kind - ly judg-ment given.
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.
and our lives would be il - lu - mined by the pres-ence of our Lord.



WORDS: Frederick W. Faber, 1854, alt.
MUSIC: Lizzie S. Tourjée, 1877

WELLESLEY
87.87

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

- For Andrea Seek and her girlfriend Theresa, who are recovering after a serious bicycle accident last weekend.
- For Barb Hume's brother Bill Hume, who is in intensive care for multiple medical concerns.
- For Margaret Gooch, with blessings for safe travels and a smooth transition to her new Hattiesburg, MS, home, where she expects to keep virtually connected to First Church.
- For the Korn family as they grieve the loss of Karen's 22-year-old nephew Benjamin Hunter Placella, a beloved cousin to Giselle, Allison, and Christina.
- For Lexi Boudreaux and Karlene Griffiths, who both successfully completed the first of three interviews on their way towards ordination with the Metropolitan Boston Association UCC Committee on Ministry
- In celebration with John Schultz, who recently moved into a new apartment in Somerville following several months of Covid-related housing insecurity.
- For Maggie Lowe, who recently received board certification to be a Buddhist Chaplain. We celebrate this milestone on her spiritual journey, which included many years of regular participation at First Church, and are eager to continue a relationship with her.
- For Mary Martha Thiel, who is recovering from knee replacement surgery.
- For Susie Neubauer, who is being treated for severe and, at times, immobilizing knee pain.
- For all students, parents, teachers, administrators, and support staff trying to navigate the seemingly impossible terrain of school re-opening decisions and plans.
- For all those on the West Coast who have been displaced by the recent wildfires, and for the safety and health of farmworkers working amid the triple threat of heat, wildfire smoke, and COVID-19.
- For all those grieving the loss of family or friends to police violence, including the family of Daniel Prude. We pray for those rallying for reform and for a new birth of racial justice and healing across our land.
- For all impacted by recent hurricanes and all those in Southern and Gulf Coast communities living through what is expected to be a particularly unrelenting storm season.
- 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 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 in our First Church Shelter and for the guests of the Friday Café, who are experiencing deprivation and hardship in this time of disruption.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

- 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.
- 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

ADULT FORMATION: PLYMOUTH'S PILGRIMS Today and October 4, 11 & 18, 9:30 a.m., via Zoom History has much to teach in every generation, and stories of our past are relevant today. Join hosts Dave Dyer and Hilary Hopkins for a four-part series to discuss, question, and wonder. Visit www.congregationallibrary.org/PlymouthsPilgrims to read brief material beforehand. [Click here to join directly](#), or use the following information:
Meeting ID 869 6902 6288 Password 372484 Call-in Number +1 929 205 6099

CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES BEGIN TODAY 9:30, via Zoom and YouTube All children from pre-school to 8th grade are invited to join our Church School Zoom at 9:30 this morning. From there, teachers will greet you in your class breakout room and invite you to watch the YouTube premiere of your class's story or lesson together. Then, each class will return to their Zoom breakout room for response time and shared activities. Questions or tech issues? Email or text Sarah Higginbotham: shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org or 617-633-3187.

[Click here to join the Church School Zoom directly](#), or use the following information:
Meeting ID 897 8647 6898 Call-in Number +1 929 205 6099

YouTube Premiere info: [Click here for Godly Play Alpha](#) (presch - 1st grade)
[Click here for Godly Play Omega](#) (2nd - 4th grade)
[Click here for Bible 101](#) (5th/6th grade)

Haven't registered for Remote Church School yet?
[Click here to complete a simple google form.](#)

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

A BETTER FUTURE: PERSPECTIVES DURING A PANDEMIC Climate Change, Covid, and Racial Equity with Laurie Burt, Today, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom Join us after worship for the third in our “A Better Future” series led by First Church members who are sharing stories and reflections about finding hope amidst the Covid pandemic and how we can build a better future together. In May, Ed Baker, former Assistant Surgeon General for the US and CDC executive, shared profound and timely insights about the pandemic and public health leadership. In June, Harvard Professor of Public Health Bill Hsiao shared stories from his expertise in guiding US and world leaders about how to create affordable and accessible healthcare for all. Recordings of both sessions are available on our YouTube page. Today, Laurie Burt, former commissioner of the MA Department of Environmental Protection and environmental attorney, will share perspectives on the threats and opportunities of Climate Change, and how the current dual crises of Covid and racial reckoning are reshaping Climate Change actions. Laurie currently provides strategic advice on climate, clean energy, and environmental policies to nonprofit, public and private organizations throughout the country.

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

Meeting ID 870 8280 8388 Password AfterCh Call-in Number +1 929 205 6099

MISSED OUR ALL-CHURCH ORIENTATION LAST SUNDAY? Church staff offered a welcome and orientation to our fall programming and our new Sunday schedule. [Click here to watch the 35-minute presentation](#) on our YouTube channel. If you’re a visual person who likes charts and grids, [click here to see our Sunday Schedule in grid format.](#)

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. Questions? Contact Sarah Higginbotham.

FALL AT FIRST CHURCH

STROLLING FOR SOLACE WITH THE DEACONS Saturday, September 26, 10:00 a.m., multiple locations You are invited to join First Church Deacons on a walk outdoors! There will be three walks available, with at least two deacons present to lead each one. These will be easy walks (think strolls), either while chatting or in silence, depending on the will of the group. Children are welcome, but please leave your furry friends at home in case of allergies or other distractions (like squirrels!). We will have a rain date of October 3, and Deacons have provided cell phone numbers, in case people want to check about the weather or get confirmation on where to park. No need to sign up; just pick the walk that is of interest to you, mask up, and come by! With two Deacons at each walk, we can divide into two groups, if necessary to maintain proper social distancing. All information on parking and routes and Deacons' contact info can be found below. This is a trial run, and we hope to do this again once or twice before it gets too cold. We look forward to seeing you in person! Any questions? Contact Beth Spaulding (bspaulding@gmail.com) or Moana Bentin (moana.bentin@gmail.com).

Arlington Reservoir Walk

Leaders: Joanne Paul (781-640-3530) and Dave Dyer

Info: <https://arlingtonreservoir.org/resources/>

Cambridge Common Walk

Leaders: Dean Eaton (617-999-0022) and Nora Wilcutts

Info: Meet at the front of Church. It is the park across from 11 Garden St, Cambridge

Mount Auburn Cemetery Walk

Leaders: Beth Spaulding (781-724-7549) and Amy Matias

Info: Parking is through the main gate at 580 Mount Auburn St, Cambridge. Meeting spot for the walk is the Story Chapel Visitor Center, the brown stone building close to the entry gates.

THE CALL TO RETURN: SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS ON RACIAL JUSTICE with Carlyle Stewart

Town Hall meetings beginning next Sunday, September 27 and weekly small group sessions on Wednesdays, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m., via Zoom At First Church, we have spent a lot of time talking about remembrance, repentance, and reparations, and about how all of these are a part of our work of Racial Justice. As we seek to sustain and grow this work, we need an ever-deeper reliance on God and on the hoped-filled resources of faith tradition. Community Minister for Racial Justice Carlyle Stewart will host a series of town hall meetings starting next Sunday. We are holding weekly sessions on Wednesdays from 5:30–7:00 p.m., in which participants will be invited to discuss assigned texts and engage in deeper reflection. If you are interested in participating in the regular reflection sessions, please email Carlyle at cfstewartiv94@gmail.com or carlyle@firstchurchcambridge.org.

FALL AT FIRST CHURCH

CALL FOR PICTURE BOOK READERS Do you enjoy reading picture books aloud? Sarah Higginbotham is looking for volunteers to video-record themselves reading aloud a book from our Children’s Book Corner. On each second Sunday of the month, several “read-aloud” videos will premiere on our YouTube channel for our children to watch during the 9:30 Formation Hour. Sarah will deliver books to your door and talk you through the recording and uploading process. Please contact Sarah to offer your reading gifts to our Church School.

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP The First Church Young Adults Group is a casual gathering space for 20- and 30-somethings to catch up on church life and explore faith questions across experiences. We periodically get together for zoom chats and outdoor walks. Our next outdoor stroll takes us to **Spy Pond in Arlington on Saturday, October 3, at 3:00 p.m.** Plan to gather at outside Alewife Station (which has lots of parking). We’ll then walk up the Alewife Linear Park to Spy Pond, about a two hour round trip. Questions? Email Phil Jones: p.robbennolt.jones@gmail.com or text: 585-610-7919

BIPOC SPACE, TIME, AND COMMUNITY If you are a Black, Indigenous or Person of Color (BI-POC) member of First Church, please consider joining an upcoming Zoom meeting designed as an active listening session to reflect, heal, support one another, and build community. Please contact Moana Bentin (moana.bentin@gmail.com) with questions or to receive a Zoom invitation to participate. This group is by BIPOC for BIPOC.

NEW COMMUNICATIONS INITIATIVE We are forming a new team of First Church folks to think about how we are doing virtual ministry and to help with creating content for these platforms. Do you love Twitter or Instagram? Have you always wanted to start a podcast? Or perhaps you don’t know what your specific interest is yet, but all of this sounds really new and interesting to you? Please contact Pastoral Associate Lexi Boudreaux if you’d like to join this team.

ONLINE WORSHIP LITURGISTS All are welcome to participate as leaders in worship via video; [click here to access the signup sheet](#). Put your name and contact information next to the piece of the service you want to lead, and you will receive an email with instructions on how to contribute! Thank you for making online church feel like church! Questions? Contact Lexi Boudreaux: lexi@firstchurchcambridge.org

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.

FALL FAITH & LIFE GROUPS

FALL 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 challenging social issue, or attending to significant life stages.

Faith & Life Groups involve making a short-term commitment 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 interests.



[Please sign up to participate in a faith and life group here.](#)

Questions? Please contact Lexi Boudreaux or the leader of the group.

Deadline to register: Sunday, October 4

BRAIDING SWEETGRASS BOOK GROUP *Braiding Sweetgrass* is a moving work that weaves together ecology and indigenous knowledge to provide a model of what it might look like to live in this balance, an ecological balance that has been disrupted by colonization of the land. As a First Church group we will consider the imperative to restore right relationship with the earth and how this relationship is dependent on living out right relationships among humans.

Facilitators: Ariel Ackermann and Jim Brown

Meetings: Tuesdays, October 27 and November 10,
5:00 - 6:00 p.m., via Zoom

FIRST CHURCH WOMEN'S READING GROUP Please join our FCC Women's Reading Group as we discuss books grounded in faith and spiritual growth. Books of various genres (fiction, informational, poetry, etc.) will be selected, and we plan to meet every 4-6 weeks. The first two book discussions will be led by Alex Steinert-Evoy and Susan Reynolds; thereafter, participants will be invited to recommend books and moderate meetings. We will share titles of books as they are selected. Sign up to be part of our group, whether you plan to read all or only some of the books selected!

Facilitators: Susan Reynolds and Alex Steinert-Evoy

FALL FAITH & LIFE GROUPS

First Selection: *The Book of Longings: A Novel* by Sue Monk Kidd
Meeting: Tuesday, October 13, 6:00 - 7:15 p.m., via Zoom

Second Selection: *All About Love* by bell hooks
Meeting: Tuesday, November 10, 6:00 - 7:15 p.m., via Zoom

FEELING NEWER TO CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RACE? In the first two sessions, we will discuss some short chapters from the book *So You Want to Talk About Race?* by Ijeoma Oluo. In the third session, we will relate these questions to the racial justice work at First Church. Some of the questions we will explore include: Is it really about race (or is it also about class, ethnicity, or being an immigrant?) What if I talk about race wrong? What are micro-aggressions and how do I avoid them? Why has racial justice and anti-racism become a major focus at First Church? What are the church's plans going forward? How can I learn more?

Facilitators: Peggy Stevens and Dave McCann
Meetings: Thursdays, October 29, and November 12 & 19,
5:15 - 6:15 p.m., via Zoom

REPARATIONS ACCOUNTABILITY GROUP Join as we continue to explore a practice of reparations for our individual and communal lives. We'll share experiences with reparations with to date motivations, promote interracial relationship-building as a precursor for reparations, foster accountability, and discuss the Biblical and theological bases for reparations. All are welcome to this drop-in, whether you are just starting to wonder about reparations or are already involved in an individual or collective practice. New members welcome!

Facilitators: Alice Kidder and Dan Smith
Meetings: Mondays, September 14 & 28, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m., via Zoom
The group will continue on most fourth Mondays of the month.

RELATIONAL GOD: PROCESS/RELATIONAL THEOLOGY & ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR TODAY
The ancient Hebrews of Genesis and Exodus understood God as relational. Jesus was all about relationships. But some types of Christian theology moved away from a relational view and toward God as non-temporal (eternal), unchanging (immutable), and unaffected by the world (impassible). Process/Relational Theology (PRT), with origins in the early 20th century, attempts to bring us back to a more relational and dynamic understanding of God. In these sessions, we will start with the basics of PRT, drawing on prominent 20th century theologians, then explore the implications of this theology for how we relate to God and all of creation. What does prayer look like from a PRT viewpoint? How does PRT suggest we approach the climate crisis? What does PRT say about racial justice? What can we say about miracles? Prepare to have your mind expanded as we put theology to work in this troubled modern world!

FALL FAITH & LIFE GROUPS

Facilitators: Paul Sawyer

Meetings: Tuesdays, October 6, 13 & 20, 7:30 p.m., via Zoom

STAMPED: THE REMIX—INTERGENERATIONAL FORMATION ON RACE We will read and discuss this book, which authors Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi call a “remix” of Kendi’s original book, *Stamped From the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*. This “remix” is for youth readers, but there is a lot in here to discuss and reflect upon for persons of any age! Jaz Buchanan and the 7th & 8th graders at FCC will be reading this book as well, as part of their Faith & Social Justice class, and the culmination of our gathering will be to meet together, youth and adults, to discuss the final section, an opportunity for true multi-generational study!

Facilitator: Beth Spaulding

Meetings: Wednesdays, October 21 & 28 and November 4 & 11, 8:30 a.m., via Zoom; final meeting with FCC youth on Sunday, November 15, 9:30 a.m., via Zoom

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 fall, and then decide from there how and when people would like to connect as we explore our family stories.

Facilitator: Karen McArthur

Meetings: Tuesdays, September 29, October 27, and November 17, 7:30 p.m., via Zoom

DANCING WITH GOD IN BODY AND SPIRIT Before I found a home in Christianity, dance had always been my connection to all that is divine. Together we will explore how we can use movement and dance to rejuvenate our bodies, our souls and reground ourselves in the presence of God. If you like moving and grooving, off beat and/or on beat, swaying, reaching into the sky, this faith and life group is for you.

Facilitator: Jaz Buchanan

Meetings: Fridays, October 9, 16, 23, 12:00 p.m., via Zoom

HOMELESS MINISTRIES

FIRST CHURCH SHELTER WELCOMES COFFEE DONATIONS Coffee, anyone? Remember what Clark Gable said: “I never laugh until I’ve had my coffee!” You know how comforting, invigorating, and, yes, maybe even essential your morning cup of coffee is! At home or on your commute, your daily cup(s) is a comforting presence throughout the day. This is also true for the guests at our First Church Shelter. Coffee (and sugar) are staple items that do not come on the free food trucks, so it must be bought. Would you like to pitch in and buy a few rounds for the guys? [Click here to donate](#) \$5, \$10 or \$20 today to the First Church Shelter. If you would rather drop coffee at the church, please email Jim Stewart at the Shelter to arrange contactless drop-off: jstewart@firstchurchcambridge.org. Let’s share some laughs! Thank you for your ongoing support of the Shelter guests.

MAKE ROOM FOR NEW BOOKS! With so much to read and learn about, bookshelf space can be a challenge. Why not donate a few old titles to the Friday Café? With libraries closed, many guests are reading-deprived right now. You can help by dropping books off on a Friday between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.; or reach out to Kate Layzer to arrange a pickup.

SIGN UP TO MAKE BAG LUNCHES FOR THE FRIDAY CAFÉ! Each week, we hand out 100+ bag lunches to neighbors in need. Each contains a sandwich, a piece of fruit, a snack, and something to drink. This is an especially fun activity to do with kids: collecting the ingredients, decorating the bags, making sandwiches, and assembling the lunches. Visit <https://signup.com/go/rfHdKHr> to claim your spot in the schedule. Thanks!

VOLUNTEER TO BAKE SOME GOODIES FOR OUR EVENING MEAL PROGRAM 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!

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:

St. Mark’s Cathedral in Seattle, Compline

Men’s Compline Choir, 06 and 13 September 2020

<https://complinedpodcast.org>

Libre Vermell: Advocatam innocemus

sung by Choeur de Chambre de Namur

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GbiZulU70J0T>

Cistercian Chant: Testamentum Eternum

Ensemble Organum; Marcel Peres, Director

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74d3gWJOV-4>

WIDER COMMUNITY ACTIONS AND EVENTS

TAKE TWO MINUTES TO ACT FOR FAMILIES No-Cost Calls legislation would allow families across the Commonwealth to stay in touch with their loved ones in prison and jail. Families are not a valid source of income for prisons and jails! Call your State Senator to support Bill S.2846, granting no-cost phone calls to incarcerated people in Massachusetts prisons. The State House phone to connect with your State Senator is (617) 722-2000.

GETTING PREPARED: NONVIOLENT ACTION PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE Today and Sundays, September 27 and October 4 & 11, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., via Zoom You are invited to participate in a **four-part interfaith training in nonviolent action** to prepare to respond to what is ahead of us this fall and beyond. The training is geared toward faith communities, but open to others committed to social justice. You are strongly

encouraged to participate in all four sessions, but talks will be taped, in case you must miss one.

September 20: Introduction to the Theory and Practice of Nonviolent Action

September 27: Reaching Across the Divide: How We Relate to Those in Opposition

October 4: The Power of Nonviolent Action: Lessons from Historical and Global Cases

October 11: How We Win

[Click here to register.](#) A registration donation of \$25 is suggested.

GREATER BOSTON INTERFAITH ORGANIZATION (GBIO) FALL CAMPAIGN UPDATE Thursday, September 24, 6:00 p.m., via Zoom Congratulations to the 2,000+ leaders in GBIO member institutions and beyond who “put feet to your faith.” You acted in this critical moment to push forward a holistic racial justice agenda, and our collective work has helped move key legislation into joint conference committees, where final bills are being negotiated between the House and Senate. Please see [THIS LINK](#) for a full report and summary of the GBIO’s 2020 Racial Justice Campaign. Please [RSVP HERE](#) for our **rescheduled virtual meeting at 6:00 p.m. this Thursday** to celebrate, reflect, and look forward.

Get in touch with First Church’s GBIO core team:

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SAFE COMMUNITIES ACT (SCA) COALITION PHONEBANKING EVENTS The SCA Coalition is gearing up for their fall campaign, and they need our help to get the bill to a floor vote this session. The best way to do that is to secure commitments for a “yes” vote from a majority of state legislators. To succeed, the coalition needs help generating calls from constituents—especially outside Greater Boston! They will provide a short training; you’ll just need a computer and a phone. Zoom information on how to join will be sent when you RSVP:

Monday, September 21, 5:00-8:00 p.m. - Register here: bit.ly/SafeCommunities_921

Thursday, September 24, 5:00-8:00 p.m. - Register here: bit.ly/SafeCommunities_924

Tuesday, September 29, 5:00-8:00 p.m. - Register here: http://bit.ly/SafeCommunities_929

Thursday, October 1, 5:00-8:00 p.m. - Register here: http://bit.ly/SafeCommunities_101

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, September 20

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: Plymouth's Pilgrims Part I, via Zoom
- 9:30 a.m. Church School Classes (preK-8th grade), via YouTube & Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. Live-stream Morning Worship
Jaz Buchanan, preaching
- 12:30 p.m. "A Better Future: Perspectives Amidst a Pandemic" with Laurie Burt, via Zoom
- 2:00 p.m. Youth Group (9th-12th grade), church playground (weather permitting)

Monday, September 21

- 2:30 p.m. Beloved Community, via Zoom
- 5:00 p.m. Reparations Faith & Life Group, via Zoom
- 5:00 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 7:00 p.m. Deacons' Meeting, via Zoom (6:30 check-in)

Tuesday, September 22

- 4:00 p.m. FCC Caregiver Call, via Zoom

Wednesday, September 23

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, via Zoom
- 5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 5:30 p.m. "A Call to Return" with Carlyle Stewart, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Christian Formation Committee, via Zoom

Thursday, September 24

- 4:30 p.m. Richard Rohr Devotional Reflection Group, via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Bible Study, via Zoom
- 7:45 p.m. Choir Call, via Zoom

Friday, September 25

- 1:00 p.m. Friday Café lunch bag pickup, Tower Room

Saturday, September 26

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

Sunday, September 27

- 9:30 a.m. Multigenerational Godly Play, via YouTube & Zoom
- 9:30 a.m. Bible 101 (5th/6th grade) and Faith & Social Justice (7th/8th grade),
via YouTube & Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. Live-stream Morning Worship
Dan Smith, preaching; Issa Bibbins, guest musicians
- 12:30 p.m. First Church Racial Justice Town Hall with Carlyle Stewart, via Zoom

FIRST CHURCH YOUTUBE CHANNEL Continue to tune into our First Church YouTube channel!

Subscribe to make sure you don't miss new videos, including our pre-recorded services.

The link to the channel is: <https://tinyurl.com/ryac3av>

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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