



REGATHERING SUNDAY

FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE

Congregational 1633-1636
United Church of Christ
Garden and Mason Streets
Cambridge, Massachusetts

FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE
CONGREGATIONAL
384 YEARS
ON THE WAY
1 6 3 6 – 2 0 2 0

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE...

Grounded in God • Growing in Community • Acting in Love

These past 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 13, 2020

Dan Smith, Senior Minister
Lexi Boudreaux, Pastoral Associate
Jaz Buchanan, Pastoral Associate
Sarah Higginbotham, Director of Creative Worship & Arts
Peter Sykes, Director of Music
Moana Bentin, Deacon, liturgist
The Board of Deacons
Carlyle Stewart, Community Minister for Racial Justice
Joe Welker, Technical Support

The photograph on the bulletin cover is by Gaylen Morgan.

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

Prelude in C Major

J. S. Bach

*GREETING

Moana Bentin

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!

*HYMN C-25

Let There Be Life in This House

(see page 4)

WORDS OF WELCOME

Jaz Buchanan, Sarah Higginbotham, and Dan Smith

GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD OF DEACONS

CANDLELIGHTING

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

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,**

(cont'd. on next page)

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

*HYMN I've Got Peace Like a River *(see page 5)*

A TIME WITH CHILDREN

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING Psalm 61: 1-4 Lexi Boudreaux

READING Mark 4: 31-38

SERMON Dan Smith

ANTHEM How Can I Keep From Singing?
First Church Virtual Choir Project, 2020 Robert Lowry

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINISTRY MOMENT Carlyle Stewart

BLESSING FOR OUR LIFE TOGETHER

When invited, please respond with the following:

All: Keep us grounded, growing, and acting in your love!

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH & WORLD

L: Let us continue together in prayer, as we lift up prayers of celebration and concern for our community, neighborhood, and the world.

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 80

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

(see page 7)

*BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

Fugue in C Major

J. S. Bach

OPENING HYMN

Let There Be Life in This House

1. Let there be life in this house,
2. Let there be life in this house,
3. Let there be life in this house,
4. Let there be life in this house,

poured from the riches of God; treasure in so many
tender and truthful and real; life of belonging, res-
life of the Spirit and fire; sisters and brothers new-
life of the Body divine, kindly and passionate,

ves-sels of clay, given for sharing, not hiding a way:
pect-ed and free, hon-ored for all God declares us to be:
born from above, dar-ing to love because we have been loved:
ear-thy and odd, we are the Church, be-lov-ed of God:

Let there be life in this house!
Let there be life in this house!
Let there be life in this house!
Let there be life in this house!

WORDS: Kate Layzer
MUSIC: Peter Sykes

For First Church in Cambridge on the tenth anniversary
of its declaring itself an Open and Affirming Church

PEACE HYMN

I've Got Peace Like a River

1. I've got peace like a riv - er, I've got peace like a
 2. I've got joy like a foun-tain, I've got joy like a
 3. I've got love like an o - cean, I've got love like an
 4. I've got faith like an an - chor, I've got faith like an

1.
 riv - er, I've got peace like a riv - er, in - a my
 foun-tain, I've got joy like a foun-tain, in - a my
 o - cean, I've got love like an o - cean, in - a my
 an - chor, I've got faith like an an - chor, in - a my

2.
 soul. I've got riv - er in - a my soul.
 soul. I've got foun-tain in - a my soul.
 soul. I've got o - cean in - a my soul.
 soul. I've got an - chor in - a my soul.

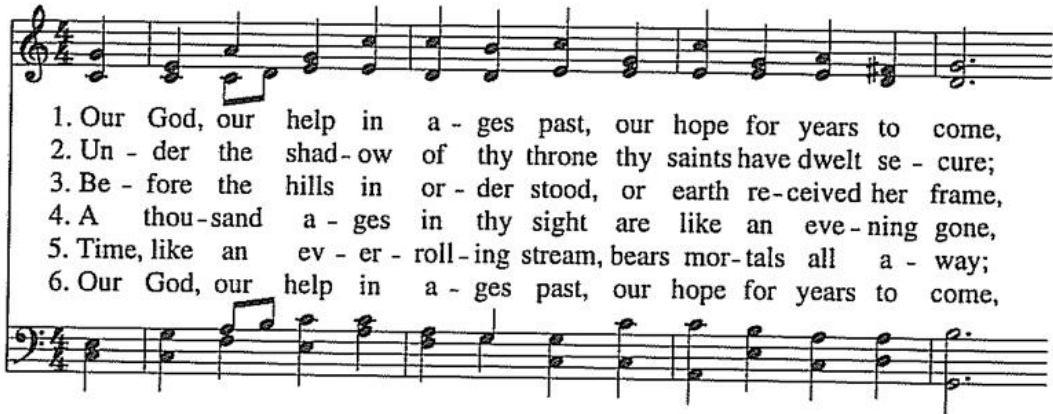
WORDS and MUSIC: African-American spiritual

PEACE LIKE A RIVER
 77.10 D

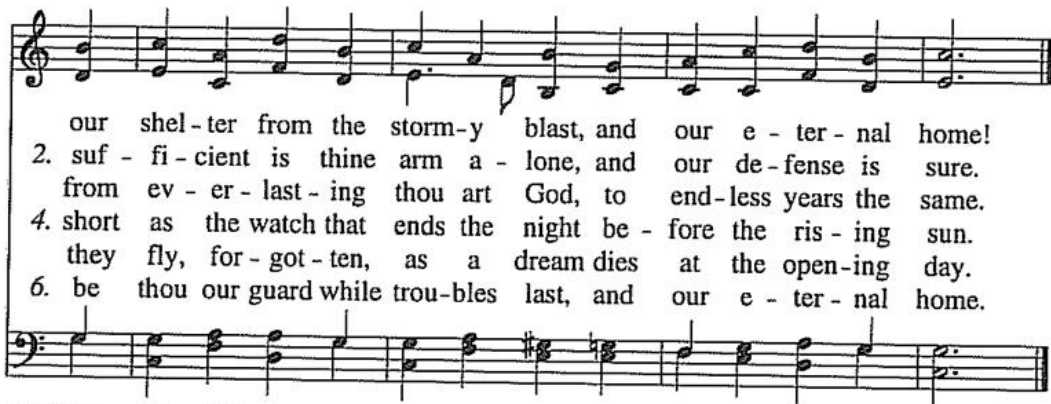
Spirituals draw heavily from Old Testament imagery, including 'peace like a river' from Isaiah 48:18. The New Testament also provided imagery for this song in the fruits of the Spirit—love, joy and peace (Galatians 5:22).

CLOSING HYMN

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past



1. Our God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2. Un - der the shad - ow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,
4. A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are like an eve - ning gone,
5. Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, bears mor - tals all a - way;
6. Our God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home!
2. suf - fi - cient is thine arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing thou art God, to end - less years the same.
4. short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.
they fly, for - got - ten, as a dream dies at the open - ing day.
6. be thou our guard while trou - bles last, and our e - ter - nal home.

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.
MUSIC: Attr. William Croft, 1708

ST. ANNE
CM

Watts wrote this hymn, based on Psalm 90, while serving as pastor of Mark Lane Independent (Congregational) Church in London.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

- 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 the family, friends, and many UCC colleagues mourning the loss and remembering the significant work of Rev. Avery Post, former President of the United Church of Christ, who died this week at age 96.
- 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 in California 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 Hurricane Laura and all those in Southern and Gulf Coast communities living through what is expected to be a particularly unrelenting hurricane and tropical 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.
- 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.

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

REGATHERING SUNDAY Today we “regather” the First Church community from near and far for a morning of online programming and a special live-stream service! ***From 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. or so, plan to join a Zoom call for an orientation to our fall programming for all ages.*** Learn about how we can all stay connected through this extended season of social distance. Then take a break for a walk or a cup of coffee and ***come back at 11 for worship from our sanctuary,*** with greetings from a host of First Church members! After church, connect with old friends and meet new ones via ***Zoom coffee hour with break-out rooms, including one for Newcomers.*** We may not be able to gather in person yet, but we can surely gather and re-gather in Spirit, giving thanks to God for our community that connects us even when we are apart.

[Click here for the direct link to the All-Church Orientation](#), or use the following information:

Meeting ID: 833 1457 1044 Passcode: 941580 Call-in Number: +1 929 205 6099

[Click here for the direct link to Zoom Coffee Hour](#), or use the following information:

Meeting ID: 876 6474 8993 Passcode: coffee Call-in Number: +1 929 205 6099

[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. And plan to join the Newcomers’ gatherings in a breakout room at Zoom Coffee Hour today!

FALL AT FIRST CHURCH

REGISTER FOR REMOTE CHURCH SCHOOL Families are invited to complete a brief form to register children and youth for our remote formation programs. [Please click here to find the form.](#) While children are always welcome to drop in to Remote Church School on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m., our teachers appreciate the opportunity to plan a welcome for each individual. Class gatherings begin on September 20. Please contact Sarah Higginbotham with any questions or concerns: shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org.

“CHURCH AT HOME” KITS Saturday, September 19, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., FCC front lawn and playground All First Church members and friends, but especially families, are invited to come by the church to pick up a “Church at Home” kit. The kits contain objects that connect us as a church while we are apart. Inside your cardboard box (which you can decorate any way you wish!), you’ll find an LED tealight and a piece of fabric for your home altar, along with supplies for our first Creative Arts workshop on October 4. Plan to come by 11 Garden St. on next Saturday morning to see Sarah, pick up your kit, and maybe play for a bit on the playground. We’ll practice safe distancing and mask-wearing. It will be WONDERFUL to see you in person!

FALL AT FIRST CHURCH

WALKING WITH THE DEACONS While the weather is still good, the Deacons of First Church invite you to consider joining a small group and enjoying an outdoor “prayer walk” with one or two deacons. Watch this space for more information and sign-up details!

ADULT FORMATION: PLYMOUTH’S PILGRIMS Sundays, 9:30 a.m., September 20, October 4, 11 & 18, 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.

A BETTER FUTURE: PERSPECTIVES DURING A PANDEMIC Climate Change, Covid, and Racial Equity with Laurie Burt Sunday, September 20, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom Join us 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. On Sunday, September 20, 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. Zoom information will be provided in our all-church emails this coming week and in next Sunday’s bulletin.

THE CALL TO RETURN: SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS ON RACIAL JUSTICE with Carlyle Stewart Town Hall meetings beginning on Sunday, September 27 and weekly small group sessions begining Wednesday, September 16. 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. We are pleased to announce that Carlyle Stewart will be joining us in the coming season to lead a series of sessions and town hall meetings around the theme of The Call to Return: Spiritual Reflections on Racial Justice.

How can we return to God in our daily walks and in our daily work for racial justice? How can we return to our truest and fullest selves in ways that can celebrate and manifest diversity in our relationships and community? We will explore together how our scriptural and theological tradition shows us that returning towards God involves turning towards a place of harmony,

FALL AT FIRST CHURCH

inclusion, and the abolition of structural racism in our communities. This shared journey will require humility and vulnerability that will allow us to strengthen our faith and our bonds with others while restoring our common hope and joy.

In the coming months, we will be hosting a series of town hall meetings starting on Sunday, September 27 at 12:30 p.m. We will also be having weekly sessions on Wednesdays, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m., beginning September 16, where those interested can gather and discuss assigned texts and engage in deeper reflection around the topics presented. If you are interested in participating in the regular reflection sessions, please email Carlyle at cfstewartiv94@gmail.com or carlyle@firstchurchcambridge.org.

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 Covid-19 has changed our lives in fundamental ways, including how we do ministry together. We have been worshipping and doing the work of the church online for months, and still we are learning new ways to live into the “new normal” of digital ministry. In the midst of it all, we are also in the middle of a new website project, imagining our new website as a virtual hub for our life together. ***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 all so much for making online church feel like church! Questions? Contact Lexi Boudreaux: lexi@firstchurchcambridge.org

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 pre-recorded services. The link to the channel is: <https://tinyurl.com/ryac3av>

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.

We need each other now more than ever. If you are looking for a great way to dip your toes into the life of our church and stay connected outside of Sunday Worship, this is for you!



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

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

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.

FALL FAITH & LIFE GROUPS

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
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 Kidder
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

FALL FAITH & LIFE GROUPS

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!

Facilitators: Paul Sawyer and Carter West

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 through 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.

THE FRIDAY CAFÉ BAGGED LUNCH SIGNUP HAS MOVED! Please note the new web address—and thank you for signing up to prepare 10 bagged lunches for hungry neighbors some upcoming Friday! <https://signup.com/go/rfHdKHr>

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!

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, August 30, 2020

<https://complinepodcast.org>

Washington National Cathedral, Morning Service, September 6, 2020

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3LCrcIYGvka>

Byzantine Chant, Cappella Romana & Alexander Lingas

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wr8hE-KgptM>

WIDER COMMUNITY EVENTS

CLIMATE CHANGE, OUR FAITH VALUES, AND 2020 Monday, September 14, 3:00 p.m. Join a conversation between Dr. Katharine Hayhoe and Rev. Susan Hendershot, hosted by Interfaith Power and Light, the Catholic Climate Covenant, and Young Evangelicals for Climate Action. Dr. Hayhoe is a climate scientist at Texas Tech, where she co-directs the Climate Center. She is also married to a pastor in Lubbock. Join the webinar to learn effective ways to talk to your faithful friends and colleagues about the importance of caring for Creation and voting our values. [Click here for more details](#); to register, go to: bit.ly/Sept14Hayhoe

POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN MORAL MONDAY RALLY Monday, September 14, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., via Zoom

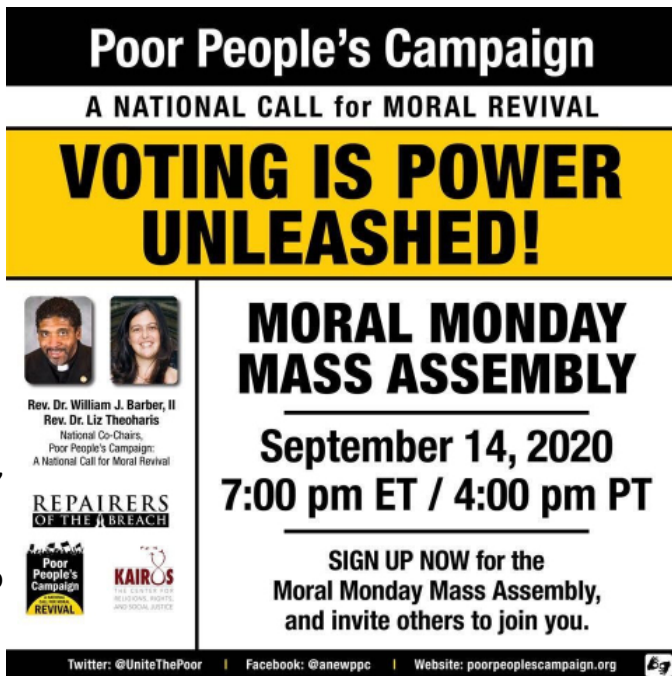
Join the Poor People's Campaign for an evening that will bring together thousands of poor and low-income people and their allies as they share tools and teach-in on voter engagement, registration and protection, and announce their upcoming activities this election season.

This massive online event will feature the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Forward Justice, the 43 PPC State Coordinating Committees, our co-chairs, directly impacted people, artists and special guests. You won't want to miss it!

[Click here to register.](#)

PERFECTERS OF THIS DEMOCRACY: CONVERSATION WITH NIKOLE HANNAH-JONES Tuesday, September 15, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m., via Zoom The public is invited to the Radcliffe Institute 20th Anniversary Lecture. [Nikole Hannah-Jones](#), Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter and creator of the [1619 Project](#), will engage in conversation with Tomiko Brown-Nagin, dean of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University, about pressing issues of race, civil rights, injustice, desegregation, and resegregation. This program is presented in cooperation with [the presidential initiative on Harvard and the Legacy of Slavery](#), a University-wide effort housed at the Radcliffe Institute.

[Click here to register.](#)



Poor People's Campaign
A NATIONAL CALL for MORAL REVIVAL

VOTING IS POWER UNLEASHED!

MORAL MONDAY MASS ASSEMBLY
September 14, 2020
7:00 pm ET / 4:00 pm PT

SIGN UP NOW for the Moral Monday Mass Assembly, and invite others to join you.

Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II
Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis
National Co-Chairs
Poor People's Campaign:
A National Call for Moral Revival

REPAIRERS OF THE BREACH

Poor People's Campaign REVIVAL

KAIROS

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

WIDER COMMUNITY EVENTS

GETTING PREPARED: NONVIOLENT ACTION PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE Sundays, **September 20 & 27 and October 4 & 11, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., via Zoom** Covid. Threats to democratic institutions. Systemic racism. These are unprecedented times! A coordinated, strategic nonviolent response is urgently needed; a response embedded in communities supporting human dignity. 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

Professor Paula Rayman, Professor of Peace and Conflict Studies, UMass Lowell
Rabbi Everett Gendler, Lifelong Nonviolent Activist who has worked with MLK to the Dali Lama

Dr. Mary Gendler, Lifelong Nonviolent Activist who has worked with MLK to the Dali Lama

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

Seth Izen, Executive Director, MetroWest Mediation Services

Reverend Vernon Walker, Program Director, Communities Responding to Extreme Weather (CREW)

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

Jamila Raqib, Executive Director, Albert Einstein Institution

October 11: How We Win

George Lakey, longtime activist, sociologist and writer

[Click here to register.](#)

A registration donation of \$25 is suggested.

Suggested Reading:

George Lakey, *How We Win: A Guide to Nonviolent Direct Action Campaigning*

Gene Sharp, *The Politics of Nonviolent Action*

Paula Rayman and Yoram Meital, *Recognition as Key for Reconciliation*

LOOKING AHEAD

September 13 — REGATHERING SUNDAY

- 9:30 a.m. All-Church Orientation to Fall Worship and Programming, via Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. Live-stream Regathering Worship Dan Smith, preaching
- 12:15 pm Zoom Coffee Hour with Newcomers' Breakout

Monday, September 14

- 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

Tuesday, September 15

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

Wednesday, September 16

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

Thursday, September 17

- 6:00 p.m. Bible Study, via Zoom
- 7:45 p.m. Choir Call, via Zoom

Friday, September 18

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

Saturday, September 19

- 9:00-12:00 "Church at Home" Kit Distribution, front lawn & playground
- 5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

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. "Perspectives Amidst a Pandemic" with Laurie Burt, via Zoom
- 2:00 p.m. Youth Group (9th-12th grade), church playground (weather permitting)

THE STAFF AT FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

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Would you like to give to
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Here are easy ways to do it:



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



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