



SEASON OF PENTECOST

FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE

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

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE...
Grounded in God • Growing in Community • Acting in Love

We're glad you are worshiping with us today! First Church is a vibrant, multi-generational, engaged, urban church. We care a lot about each other and what's happening in the world around us. Wherever you are on the journey of faith, you are welcome here.

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

Sunday, June 6, 2021

Preaching Today Leading Worship

Lexi Boudreaux, *Pastoral Associate*
Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*
Sarah Higginbotham, *Director of Creative Worship & Arts*
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*
Dean Eaton, *liturgist*
Moana Bentin, *Deacon offering Ministry Moment*
Dan Smith and Sarah Higginbotham, *tech support*
Gaylen Morgan, *First Church member*

Bulletin Cover Image

TODAY'S PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: Exploring Reparations, [via Zoom](#)
9:30 a.m. Children's Formation: Thanking our Church School Teachers, [via Zoom](#)
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, [via livestream](#)
12:30 p.m. *Heroic Souls* - Puritan Women as the First American Individuals, [via Zoom](#)

NEW TO FIRST CHURCH?

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

GIVE TO FIRST CHURCH

You can give online at www.firstchurchcambridge/give or by texting "\$___" to: 1-844-996-0982.

CONTACT A PASTOR OR STAFF MEMBER

Find [contact information](#) for our ministerial, program, and building staff on our website. For general information and inquiries: info@firstchurchcambridge.org

*Have a church program or event to promote?
Complete the [First Church Communications Request form](#).*

*Have an edit or update for our website?
Complete the [FCC Website Changes form](#).*

GATHERING

*We invite you to bring some bread or crackers and some water, juice,
or wine to your home altar, so that you may participate in Holy Communion.
All are welcome at the Table!*

VOLUNTARY

Elevation

Girolamo Frescobaldi

*HYMN 315

We Are People on a Journey

(see page 4)

*GREETING

Dean Eaton

L: Beloved of God, the Spirit is with us even now, gathering us in.

**C: Then let us be held in God's presence, courage, strength, and love.
The Spirit meets us wherever we are!**

L: Her love is poured out in abundance—
where tears and hope are mingled together,
where anger cries out for justice and peace.

**C: Receive her power and wisdom, through works of mercy
and healing and liberation.**

L: Come, then, let us worship God.

WORDS OF WELCOME

CANDLELIGHTING

Sarah Higginbotham

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

**C: Holy One, in the light of your risen glory
we see the harm we have done, the suffering we have caused,
the good we have refused, and the truth we have denied.**

Heal us, we pray.

**Wash us in your mercy, and feed us with your grace,
so that we may follow in your way
and tell the good news of the gospel.**

Amen.

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

***GREETING OF PEACE**

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

READING

Luke 8:26-39

SERMON

Lexi Boudreaux

***HYMN 244**

Like a Tree Beside the Waters

(see page 5)

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Smith

MINISTRY MOMENT

Moana Bentin

INVITATION TO OFFERING

***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.**

SHARING THE FEAST

INVITATION

REMEMBERING AND GIVING THANKS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Please pray this prayer and address God 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.**

SHARING BREAD AND CUP

All who seek to follow Jesus' way of justice, compassion and love are invited to partake of this feast wherever you are. May there be no barriers to participation in this meal, in this holy communion!

COMMUNION MOTET

Eternal Light
First Church Choir, 2018

Mark Schweizer

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

L: Let us give thanks!

**All: Thank you, God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus –
for gladness in this bread and cup,
for love that cannot die, for peace the world cannot give,
for joy in the company of friends, for the splendors of creation,
and for the mission of justice you have made our own.
Give us the gifts of this holy communion –
oneness of heart, love for neighbors,
forgiveness of enemies, the will to serve you every day,
and risen life that never ends.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

GOING FORTH

*HYMN 325

Now Let Us From This Table Rise

(see page 6)

*BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

Canzona

Girolamo Frescobaldi

OPENING HYMN

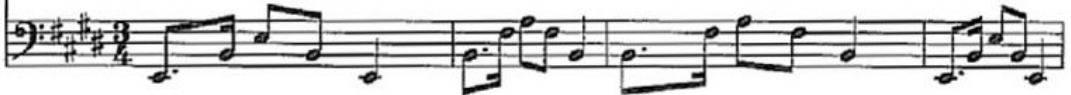
We Are People on a Journey

(Somos pueblo que camina)

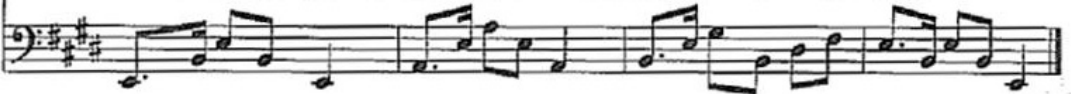
Unison (optional S. A.)



1. We are peo-ple on a jour-ney; pain is with us all the way.
2. God has sent the in - vi - ta - tion to the hum-ble and the poor.
3. This is bread that God pro-vides us, nour-ish - ing our u - ni - ty.
4. Christ is ev - er pres-ent with us to u - nite us all in love.
5. All who tru - ly thirst for jus - tice seek their lib - er - a - tion here.
(1). *So - mos pue - blo que ca - mi - na por la sen - da del do - lor.*

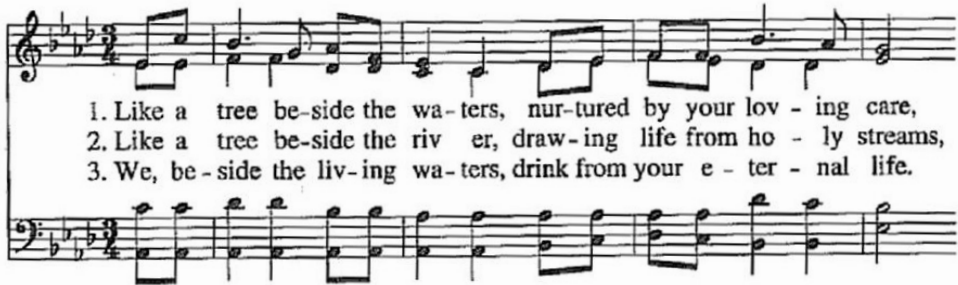


Joy-ful-ly we come to- geth - er at the ho - ly feast of God.
A - cu - da - mos ju - bi - lo - sos a la san - ta co - mu - ni - ón.

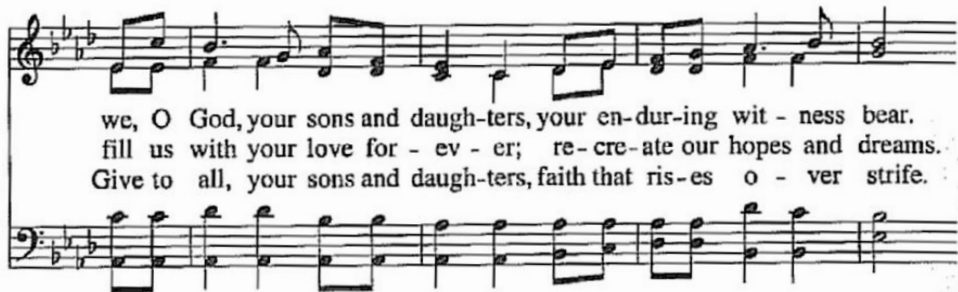


SERMON HYMN

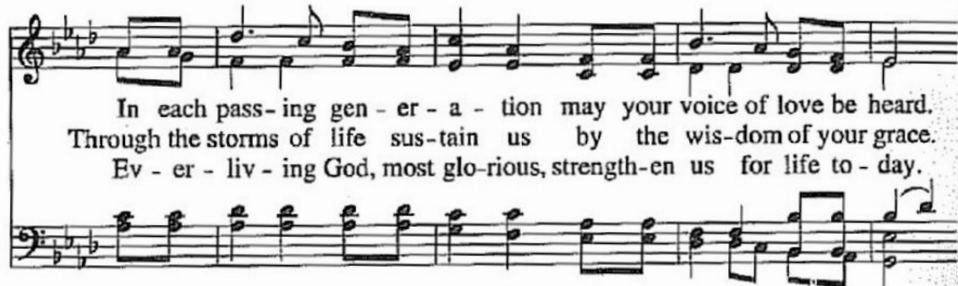
Like a Tree Beside the Waters



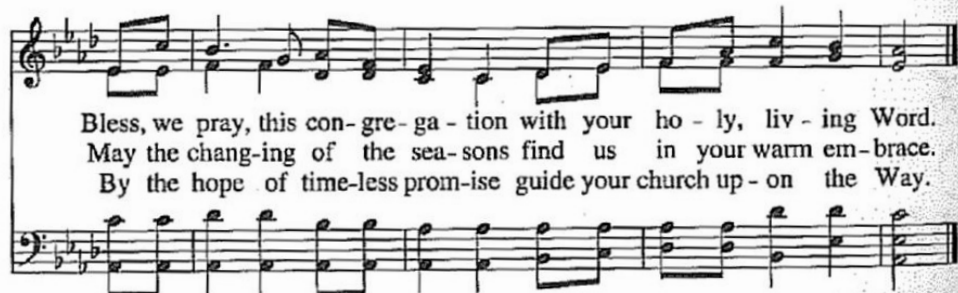
1. Like a tree be-side the wa-ters, nur-tured by your lov - ing care,
2. Like a tree be-side the riv er, draw-ing life from ho - ly streams,
3. We, be - side the liv-ing wa-ters, drink from your e - ter - nal life.



we, O God, your sons and daugh-ters, your en-dur-ing wit - ness bear.
fill us with your love for - ev - er; re - cre - ate our hopes and dreams.
Give to all, your sons and daugh-ters, faith that ris - es o - ver strife.



In each pass - ing gen - er - a - tion may your voice of love be heard.
Through the storms of life sus-tain us by the wis-dom of your grace.
Ev - er - liv - ing God, most glo-rious, strength-en us for life to - day.



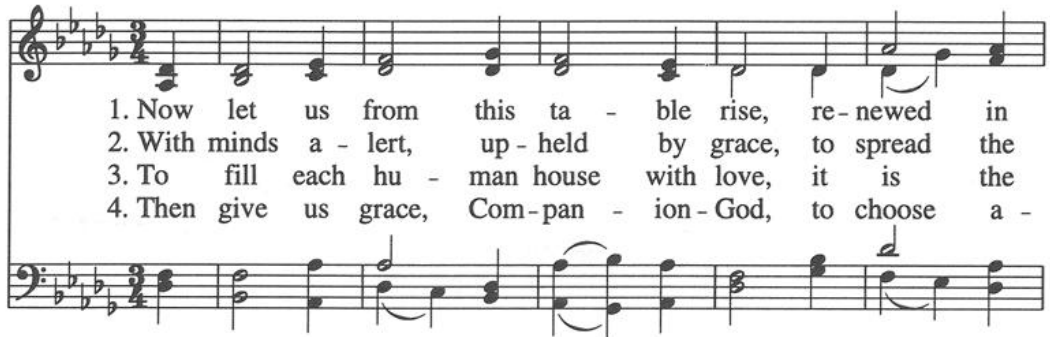
Bless, we pray, this con-gre - ga - tion with your ho - ly, liv - ing Word.
May the chang-ing of the sea-sons find us in your warm em-brace.
By the hope of time-less prom-ise guide your church up - on the Way.

WORDS: James F. D. Martin, 1992, alt.
MUSIC: Roy Hopp, 1989, adapt.

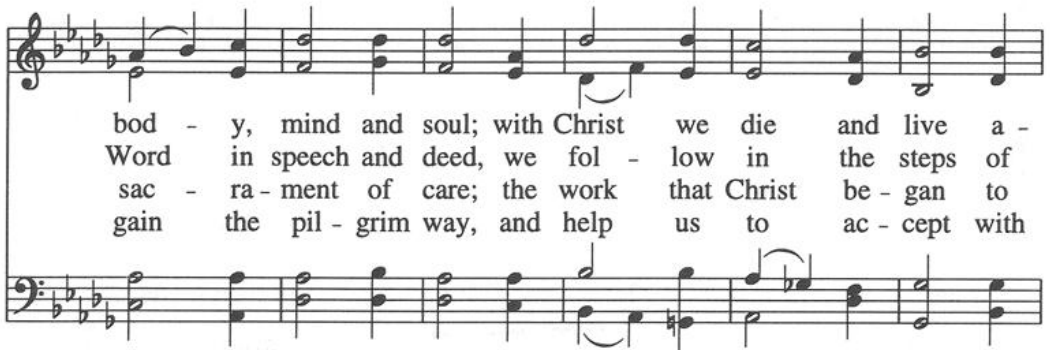
SILVER CREEK
87.87D

CLOSING HYMN

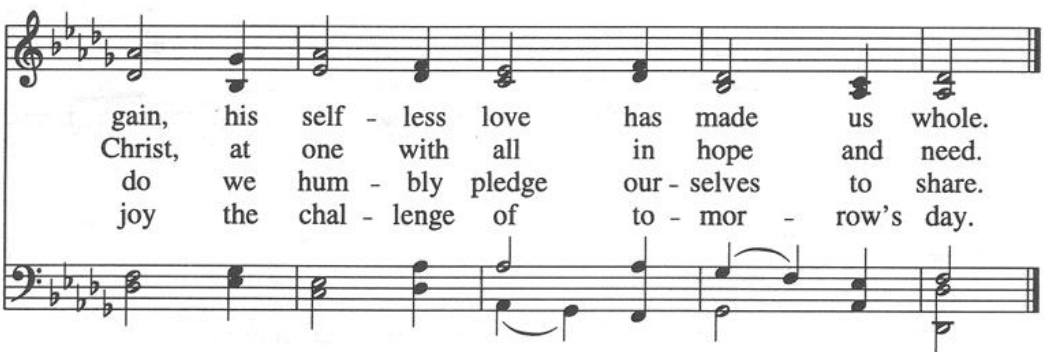
Now Let Us from This Table Rise



1. Now let us from this ta - ble rise, re - newed in
2. With minds a - lert, up - held by grace, to spread the
3. To fill each hu - man house with love, it is the
4. Then give us grace, Com - pan - ion - God, to choose a -



bod - y, mind and soul; with Christ we die and live a -
Word in speech and deed, we fol - low in the steps of
sac - ra - ment of care; the work that Christ be - gan to
gain the pil - grim way, and help us to ac - cept with



gain, his self - less love has made us whole.
Christ, at one with all in hope and need.
do we hum - bly pledge our - selves to share.
joy the chal - lenge of to - mor - row's day.

WORDS: Fred Kaan, 1968

MUSIC: Melody, *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1609;
harm. George R. Woodward, 1910

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR
LM

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- As we begin this month of honoring LGBTQ Pride, we celebrate sexual and gender diversity as a blessing that enriches us all and pray for full inclusion and justice for all LGBTQ persons.
- We pray for Linda Ziebell as she recovers from a recent surgery to remove a sarcoma from her leg. We also pray for solace and grace for Linda and Ken Ziebell as Ken transitions from their shared home and settles into a care facility in Bedford.
- We pray with Abby Shuman for her uncle Barry, who is undergoing radiation treatment for a brain tumor.
- We pray for Monica Maher's sister Julie Maher, who suffered a series of heart attacks in Portland, Oregon.
- We pray in joyful celebration with Jim Rissling and Biss Teelucksingh, and daughter Aadya, as they welcome a newborn son and baby brother, Devdan Vir Rissling Teelucksingh, born on May 8, through surrogacy.
- We celebrate the graduates among us, including high school grads Emma Blanc and Ella Simons; college grads Jessica Goode, Nicole Haas-Loomis, James Clark Stewart, and Craig Williams; as well as Pastoral Associate Jaz Buchanan (M.Div) and Shelter Staff Janella Sorin Kang (M.P.H).
- We pray with grateful hearts for First Church Moderator Julie Pridham as she prepares to move to Flagstaff, Arizona.
- We pray with Giselle Korn for her friend Jessie and Jessie's infant daughter Zoey. Zoey is currently recovering after emergency brain surgery; her mother Jessie is unable to be with her due to her recovery from her own recent surgery.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Carol Wilson-Braun; Joanne Paul; Sarah Robinson, daughter of Mary Robinson and Mary Martha Thiel; Penny Kilburn, Nancy Kilburn's mother; Amy Golodet, Jonathan New's sister-in-law; Karen Anne Zee's daughter Becky Collet, and her sons-in-law, Denis Collet and Stewart Bailey; and Beth and Polly, Ann McCann's sisters.
- We pray for all who are receiving hospice care, including Rich Goode's mother Donna Goode.
- We pray for all those who are affected by ongoing gun violence in our country, especially the families and communities of the multiple victims of a shooting at the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority railyard in San Jose, CA, last week.
- We pray for peace and justice in Palestine and Israel, and for an ongoing cease-fire following a period of deadly warring violence, especially in Gaza and Jerusalem. We pray for communities most impacted that they may find resilience and hope to process their grief and trauma, assess damage, and rebuild.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for the 14 men who are finding sustenance and protection in our First Church Shelter, and we pray for the guests of the Friday Café, who are finding food and listening ears. We pray for all who are experiencing deprivation and hardship in these uncertain times.
- We pray for all those impacted by hate crimes and by misogyny. We lift up all Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in this time of increased threat and discrimination.
- We pray for the friends and family of the 27 (known and reported) transgender and gender non-conforming people who have been murdered in the US in 2021. We pray for lawmakers to make compassionate, equitable, and just decisions as they are faced with bills that seek to discriminate against transgender people.
- We pray for all who are awaiting vaccines, especially families with young children—may there be a swift, hassle-free, and equitable distribution for all. We continue to pray for all who are grieving the loss of loved ones to COVID-19. We pray for the “long-haulers,” and we continue to lift up health care professionals and essential workers.
- We pray for our nation and our world as we experience the effects of the climate crisis. We pray especially for the poor, who are disproportionately affected by our inaction.
- We pray for immigrants and asylum seekers at our southern border, as well as undocumented people throughout the country, who continue to live in fear, often separated from family, as our nation struggles to develop just and compassionate policies.

Join the [First Church List](#) to see and offer up more community prayer requests.

FIRST CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS

Today's 9:30 Hour

Exploring Reparations

Today at 9:30 a.m., via Zoom

Since last summer, a small group of First Church members has been meeting monthly as the “Exploring Reparations” Faith & Life group. The group has explored what reparations have looked like and what reparations could look like, and they have shared experiences of personal and local reparations. They’ve wondered about where God is calling us next on our individual and collective First Church journey towards repair. Please join members of this group for a discussion of their learning and to consider how First Church, as a whole, could move towards a local reparations initiative...

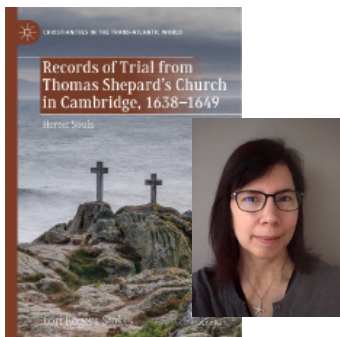
[Read more](#)



First Church history, reinterpreted.

Heroic Souls - Puritan Women as the First American Individuals

Today at 12:30 p.m., via Zoom



Historian Lori Rogers-Stokes has studied the precious few records that remain from the time of Thomas Shepard, the first minister of the Puritan congregation that evolved, over nearly 400 years, to today's First Church in Cambridge. The most exciting find in the records from Shepard's ministry (1636-1649) are the voices of women who came to tell him their stories of spiritual seeking. Young wives and mothers, elderly widows, serving women, daughters of powerful men — all told stories that feature their independent labor in reading, praying, listening, asking questions, and making meaning in a world narrowed down to just the seeker and her God... [Read more](#)

Register for Tomorrow's Update

Greater Boston Interfaith Organization

Listening Campaign Update

Monday, June 7, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m., via Zoom

We've told our stories and listened closely to each other; now it's time to reflect! Anyone who participated in a GBIO Listening Session at First Church is invited to this update meeting to hear where we're headed.

Register for Zoom link at: bit.ly/gbiojune7

June 7th, 6:30-8:00 pm
Register to receive Zoom link
bit.ly/gbiojune7

GBIO Virtual Listening Campaign Update

Hear the top issues across GBIO's 60 institutions so we can start shaping our platform!

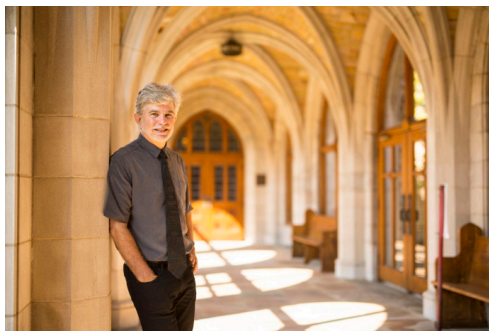
FIRST CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS

Upcoming Adult Formation Series

Religion, White Supremacy, and Capitalism Sundays, June 13 and 20, 9:30 a.m., via Zoom

Please join us for a special two-part series on Religion, White Supremacy, and Capitalism, led by Vanderbilt University Professor and Theologian [Dr. Joerg Rieger](#). For more than two decades, Dr. Rieger has worked to bring together theology and the struggles for justice and liberation that mark our age. His work addresses the relation of theology and public life, reflecting on the misuse of power in religion, politics, and economics...

[Read more](#)



Next Sunday!

Children's Sunday, June 13 11:00 a.m., via livestream

On the second Sunday of June, it is our tradition to mark the end of the program year with celebrations of things accomplished and gifts of gratitude for the many people who make our children's formation offerings so special. This year, most of our moments of recognition will be virtual, but the feeling will be the same... [Read more](#)



An Opportunity Before Us

June 13 Congregational Forum and June 27 Special Congregational Meeting

As we look ahead to the summer and fall, we are invited to discern next steps as we journey further into post-pandemic life, our three-phase staffing plan, and our vision of being an anti-racist church. Please plan to join an important Congregational Forum after worship on Sunday, June 13, to learn more about the opportunity before us to call Lexi Boudreaux to the role of Transitional Minister for a designated term. You can read more [here](#).

Come with your questions and your input for the discussion. We will also hear a mid-year financial report and an update on our reopening plan. Please also mark your calendars for a Special Congregational Meeting after worship on Sunday, June 27, at which time First Church members will be asked to vote on how we feel led by the Spirit.





Summer's coming...

"Popsicle Hour" Kick-Off

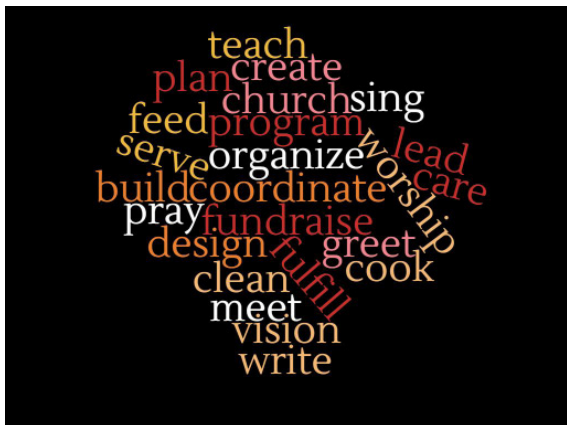
Sunday, June 13 at 2:00 p.m.

Following next Sunday's online Congregational Forum, join us at 2:00 p.m. for a time of fellowship on the church lawn. We will have time to reconnect in person, enjoy the weather, and try out this new way of doing coffee hour for the summer... [Read more](#)

UCC General Synod XXXIII - Register Now

Registration is open for a Special Virtual General Synod 33 which will be held July 11-18, 2021. This bi-annual meeting for the United Church of Christ is a chance to connect in covenant for worship, keynote addresses, learning and justice-making with siblings in the Spirit across the country...

[Read more and register here](#)



How Can You Serve First Church?

As a faith community, we have devoted much love and energy to moving First Church forward in its ministries and aspirations over the past year. This is the time of year when the Gifts Discernment/Nominating Committee reaches out to First Church members and friends. While we have specific Officer and Committee positions to discuss, we'd also like to know your general thoughts about your involvement at First Church... [Read more](#)

Timing of Reopening

June 13

- Congregational Forum via Zoom, 12:15 p.m.
- Summer "Popsicle Hour" Kickoff, 2:00 p.m.

June 20

- Regathering Group for Inclusion & Belonging attends worship in-person to begin work of transition to hybrid worship

June 27

- Special Congregational Meeting via Zoom, 12:15 p.m.



Timing of Reopening

July & August

- Deacons and church leaders attend worship in person at 10:00 a.m. to acclimate, offer feedback, and recalibrate for fall reopening
- Popsicle Hour every Sunday at 11:30 a.m. with time for individual prayer in the sanctuary, open to all (*BYO picnic lunch, weather permitting*)

September 12: Regathering Sunday

- All are welcome to our reopened hybrid worship services in the sanctuary



FIRST CHURCH REOPENING PLAN



Hybrid Structure: Fall 2021

(subject to change)

- 9:30 a.m.** Zoom Church School (*1st & 3rd Sundays*)
Zoom Adult Formation
- 10:15 a.m.** Choir Rehearsal in MJH
Worship Leaders' run-thru in Sanctuary
- 10:45 a.m.** Sanctuary doors open
Nursery open in Sage Hall
- 10:50 a.m.** Live-stream begins with pre-worship slides
- 11:00 a.m.** Hybrid Worship in Sanctuary
- 11:20 a.m.** Church School in-person (*most Sundays*)
- 12:15 p.m.** Fellowship Hour on lawn/in MJH
- 12:30 p.m.** Hybrid post-worship programs in MJH
(starting in October)

Practical & Theological Considerations

We believe in science.

- *We will follow CDC guidelines and city/state protocols for masking/distancing.*
- *Because we are a multigenerational community, we may take a more conservative stance.*

We are called by God to offer a radical welcome to all.

- *We strive to be accessible to all: in-person and remote, cautious and venturesome, local and afar.*
- *We are improving our technology in order to offer a similar experience of worship and programs, no matter where you are.*

We wish to offer our communal "first Sunday back" at a time when most can attend.

- *As many First Church folks travel in the summer, we want to wait until September for a powerful moment of shared celebration, grief, healing, and joy.*
- *Our "Regathering Group on Inclusion and Belonging" is meeting to plan for a reopening that is as consistent as possible with our Antiracist Vision and our Christian values of radical hospitality.*





THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, June 7

- 4:00 p.m. Contemplative Practices Group, via Zoom
- 4:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 6:30 p.m. GBIO Listening Campaign Update, via Zoom

Tuesday, June 8

- 5:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee, via Zoom

Wednesday, June 9

- 4:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 7:30 p.m. Missions & Social Justice Committee, via Zoom

Thursday, June 10

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

Friday, June 11

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

Saturday, June 12

- 4:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

Sunday, June 13

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: Religion, White Supremacy, and Capitalism, via Zoom
- 9:30 a.m. Children's Formation: Read-Alouds from the Children's Book Corner, via YouTube Premiere
- 11:00 a.m. Children's Sunday Morning Worship, via livestream
- 12:15 p.m. Congregational Forum, via Zoom
- 2:00 p.m. Popsicle Hour Kickoff, First Church lawn

Sign up [here](#) to receive our weekly e-newsletter.

See our [Events Calendar](#) for Zoom links and details.

Committee meeting links are provided to committee members via email.

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC
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