



Regathering Sunday
Hybrid Morning Worship
September 12, 2021

**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, September 12, 2021

Preaching Today	Dan Smith, <i>Senior Minister</i>
Assisting in Worship	Lexi Boudreaux, <i>Transitional Minister</i>
	Jaz Buchanan, <i>Pastoral Associate</i>
	Kate Layzer, <i>Minister of Street Outreach</i>
	Karen McArthur, <i>Minister of Stewardship & Finance</i>
	Sarah Higginbotham, <i>Director of Creative Worship & Arts</i>
	Peter Sykes, <i>Director of Music</i>
	Moana Bentin and Amy Matias, <i>Deacons</i>
	Carlyle Stewart, <i>Community Minister for Racial Justice</i>
	Kevin Newell, <i>tech support</i>
Bulletin Cover Image	Gaylen Morgan, <i>First Church member</i>

Today's Programs and Events

9:45 a.m.	First Worship on the Lawn
10:15 a.m.	Outdoor fellowship time with informal activities
10:15 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
11:00 a.m.	Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream
11:20 a.m.	All-Church-School Activity with Sarah, MJH
12:15 p.m.	Popsicle Hour on the church lawn
12:15 p.m.	Zoom Coffee Hour
5:00 p.m.	Young Adults Gathering: Castle Island Walk
7:30 p.m.	Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream

New to First Church?

Have you just begun joining us for 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.org/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

VOLUNTARY

Prelude in E-Flat Major

J. S. Bach

*HYMN C-3

Come, All You Thirsty

(see Hymn Insert 1)

*GREETING

Moana Bentin and Amy Matias

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

C: Come, all who thirst for warmth and connection.

L: Come, all who yearn for solace and hope!

C: Come, all who are hungry for kindness and courage.

L: Come, all who are feeling strong and ready. Come, all who are feeling anxious and afraid.

C: Come, wherever you are on the journey.

L: Enter into this river of life and compassion, and let God's presence—calm, clear and deep—hold you.

C: Let God's presence carry us all in this river of Love!

WORDS OF WELCOME

CANDLELIGHTING

Lexi Boudreaux

ANTHEM

How Can I Keep From Singing?

Robert Lowry

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

**C: 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 judgment to wonder, from anger to compassion,
from sorrow to joy, from despair to hope,
from fear to love, from death to new life!
Amen.**

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

***GREETING OF PEACE**

Staying in place and observing social distance, share this good news wherever you are! Send it back to us! Share it with a neighbor! Open your arms and send it to the world!

***HYMN 426**

I've Got Peace Like a River

(see Hymn Insert 2)

A TASTE OF FIRST WORSHIP

Jaz Buchanan and Sarah Higginbotham

Children from preschool to 7th grade are now invited to join Sarah and a few volunteers in Margaret Jewett Hall for an All-Church-School activity. The children will return to the sanctuary for the Lamentation and Blessing ritual.

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Kate Layzer

READING

Isaiah 55:1-3, 6-13

READING

John 7:37-39

SERMON

Dan Smith

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINISTRY MOMENT

Carlyle Stewart

LAMENTATION AND BLESSING

A TIME OF LAYING DOWN AND LIFTING UP

At this time, we ask you to take out your stone for a time of prayer and reflection.

L: O God, River of Life,

All: Wash us with your deep compassion now.

CLOSING 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

***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 Hymn Insert 3)

***BENEDICTION**

VOLUNTARY

Fugue in E-Flat Major

J. S. Bach

OPENING HYMN

Come, All You Thirsty

1. Come, all you thirst - y, to the riv - er,
2. Come to the good, for - giv - ing riv - er,
3. Come to the strong, re - new - ing riv - er,
4. Riv - er of life, what deep com - pass - ion

here where the Word_ runs cool and deep.
here where the Word_ runs calm and clear.
here where the Word_ runs sweet and wild.
feeds your e - ter - nal mer - cy song?

Come with the out - casts, crushed and bro - ken,
Wash in the truth that frees the spi - rit;
Come by God's gift, though un - de - ser - ving;
God's own face shines in you re - flec - ted,

come, you who rage_ and you_ who weep._
shed the ex - cus - es you_ hold dear._
come be - cause God_ has called_ you Child._
call - ing us back_ where we_ be - long._

WORDS: Kate Layzer
MUSIC: Peter Sykes

"Then the angel showed me the river of life,
bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God
and from the Lamb."
Rev 22.1

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.

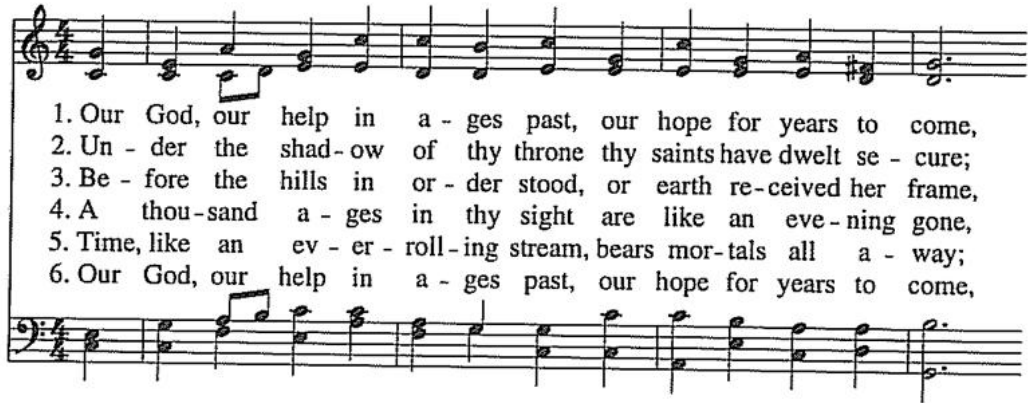
WORDS and MUSIC: African-American spiritual

PEACE LIKE A RIVER
 77.10 D

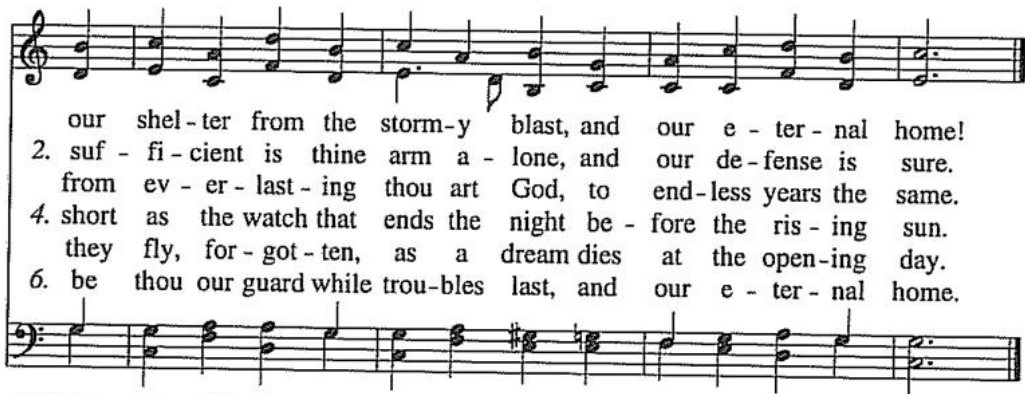
Spirituals draw heavily from Old Testament imagery, including 'peace like a river' from Isaiah 48:18. The New Testament also provided imagery for this song in the fruits of the Spirit—love, joy and peace (Galatians 5:22).

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.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray in celebration with Dom Ackermann, who was approved unanimously for ordination in the UCC at his Metropolitan Boston Area Ecclesiastical Council this past Wednesday night.
- We give thanks for the life of Rev. Leonard Clough, who served twice as Associate Minister of First Church in Cambridge in the 1940's and 50's, and who died recently at the age of 101. We pray for his son Rev. Tom Clough and his daughter-in-law Rev. Ann Plumley, and for all of Leonard's loved ones as they grieve his loss.
- We pray for the loved ones of First Church friend, piano player, and longtime Jazz 5:30 attendee David Angney, who died on August 18 at the age of 79.
- We celebrate the birth of Laurie Burt's new granddaughter Olivia (Liv) Burt Engelkowski, who was born on August 19.
- We pray in gratitude and celebration for the birth of Silvana and Gloria Culpepper, twin daughters of Sophia Guglietti and Mellisha Culpepper, sisters to Frankie and Angelo, and granddaughters to Gaylen Morgan.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Pauline Fennel; Carol Wilson-Braun; Joanne Paul; Dave Kidder's sister Lucinda Kidder; Sarah Robinson, daughter of Mary Robinson and Mary Martha Thiel; Abby Shuman's uncle Barry; 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 students, teachers, administrators, and school staff who are returning to school amidst rising Covid cases and ongoing divisive politics around masking and vaccinations. We also pray for healthcare workers who are stretched thin by ongoing demands of the pandemic.
- We pray for all who have been impacted by Hurricane Ida; may they receive support in assessing damage and rebuilding from the wreckage. We pray for those who grieve the loss of life during this disaster.
- On this weekend of the 20th anniversary of 9/11, we remember and honor all whose lives were lost and forever changed by the tragic events of that day. We pray for wisdom, clarity of purpose, and peace as our leaders address the ongoing reality of terrorism, both at home and abroad.
- We pray for the people of Afghanistan in the wake of the U.S. military pull-out and the rapid and tragic collapse of the Afghani government at the hands of the Taliban, and for a swift and humane evacuation and resettling process for all who are fleeing. We pray especially for women, children and all who are facing increased violence, terror, discrimination and the constriction of human rights. We also pray for all who have served in the counter-terrorism efforts in Afghanistan, who are watching events unfold with particular grief and dismay.
- We pray for the people of Texas and for all Americans in the wake of state legislation passed that limits choice in reproductive rights. We pray for the health and wellness of all pregnant people in Texas and for those who are continuing to fight for a person's right to choose what is best for their wellbeing.

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 who are affected by the recent surge of COVID-19 diagnoses due to the Delta variant and the lower levels of vaccination in parts of the US and around the world. We pray for all who are awaiting vaccines, globally and locally, 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 and for the “long-haulers.”
- We pray for all who are acutely experiencing the effects of climate change, for all who live in paths of storms and wildfires, and especially for the poor, who are disproportionately affected by our inaction. We pray for those demonstrating against the Line 3 tar sands pipeline in Minnesota, which threatens indigenous tribal lands and promotes climate change. We pray for renewed commitment on the part of all levels of every government, corporations, and each of us to make necessary changes to sustain our planet for this and future generations.

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

THIS AFTERNOON AT FIRST CHURCH



Popsicle Hour Continues Into September!

12:15 p.m. on September Sundays

We are continuing our outdoor fellowship time after 11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship in September. Come to Popsicle Hour to connect with First Church friends, old and new.



Regathering Zoom Coffee Hour

Today at 12:15 p.m., via Zoom

Whether you are out-of-town, under-the-weather, or just aren't feeling ready to be in-person yet, please join us for Zoom Coffee Hour [LINK EVENT]. Bring your own coffee or beverage of choice and join for a time of connection, on-line sharing of joys and concerns, and Q&A about all things First Church.



Young Adults Gathering: Castle Island Hike

Today at 5:00 p.m., meet at Broadway T stop

Hike from the city to the sea! Plan for a long walk from the Broadway MBTA station out to the ocean. Meet at Broadway at 5:00 p.m. Those seeking a shorter walk can meet at Sullivan's, Castle Island at 6:00 p.m.

The stroll will hopefully get us deep into conversation, and the sunsets on Castle Island are unmatched. All who are out of high school are welcome! Please tell Phil (youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org) to expect you!

SEPTEMBER REGATHERING



Come, All You Thirsty:

Regathering Sunday, September 12

Today we host a Regathering Sunday like no other! It is fully hybrid. It is deeply worshipful. It is a chance to come together—in-person if you choose, or online if that's better for you, for whatever reason. It is a regathering of our Covid-weary, connection-parched souls, near and far—a time to celebrate the Spirit and this community which sustains us. It is a chance

to come to that "strong, renewing river" of our life together in God, to come "here where the Word runs cool and deep, calm and clear, sweet and wild." [Read more](#)

Regathering, Hybrid Style

September Sundays, beginning at 9:45 a.m.

We are eager to welcome everyone back to worship at First Church. Given ongoing concerns about the Delta variant, we've revised earlier plans and are now offering a range of options, indoor and outdoor, in-person and online...

[Read more](#)



First Worship on the Lawn

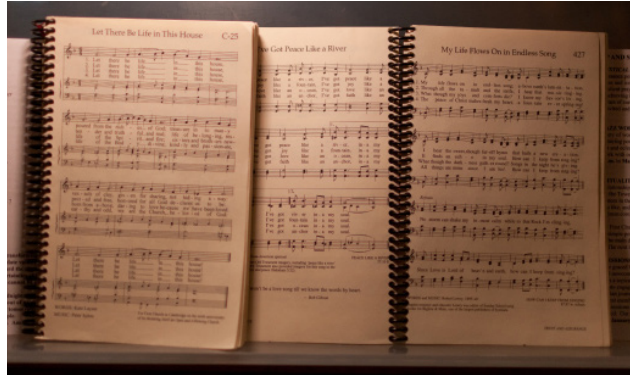
September 12, 19, and 26 at 9:45 a.m.

Sarah and Jaz lead this 30-minute casual, family-friendly, movement-oriented, joy-filled service for all, and especially for those who aren't yet ready to worship inside. Join us for songs of praise, wondering questions, sharing time, and prayer time. Look for us under the blue tent by the Yellowwood tree!

FALL AT FIRST CHURCH

First Church Choir Returns to Hybrid Worship

After many, many months of Zoom chats in the place of rehearsal, the First Church Choir returns to singing together this fall. They meet at 10:15 on Sunday mornings in Margaret Jewett Hall to briefly rehearse a familiar anthem, and then offer the piece in 11:00 a.m. Hybrid Worship. Choir members will remain masked when singing, and they will sing from “under the dome” on the chancel to allow for more distancing. Questions about the Choir? Contact Music Director [Peter Sykes](#).



NightSong Returns as a Hybrid Experience

Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary and via livestream

[NightSong](#) is a weekly, hour-long meditation featuring sublime choral music and transformational instrumental accompaniment in our quiet, candle-lit sanctuary, and it is returning in a hybrid capacity this evening, September 12! The doors to the Sanctuary will open at 7:15 p.m., and the livestream will be available on our website... [Read more](#)



Youth Group Kick Off

Sunday, September 19, 1:15 p.m.

Are you in 8th-12th grade this year? Are you looking to connect with a group of friends at church? Join us for our first Youth Group gathering of the Fall season! Weather permitting, we will gather on the First Church lawn to get reacquainted, play some games, and have lunch together. Looking ahead, we plan to go kayaking on the Charles River on October 3 (1:15 p.m.), so be sure to mark your calendars. If you are looking for more information, would like to sign up for our communications, or have any questions, please contact [Lexi Boudreaux](#) and Becky Moyer, beckym678@yahoo.com.

FALL AT FIRST CHURCH

Call for Fall Faith & Life Group Leaders by September 22

Are you interested in leading a small group over Zoom or in-person this Fall? [Contact Pastoral Associate Lexi Boudreaux](#) to discuss your idea for a Fall Faith & Life Group. Led by First Church members, Faith & Life Groups are designed to encourage meaningful connections through shared interests, and they involve making a short-term commitment (a single session to several weeks, depending on the group). Pitch your idea for a Faith & Life Group to [Lexi](#)!

Deadline for proposals extended to Wednesday, September 22.



A Call to Return: Part 2

Six Wednesday evenings, beginning September 22

7:00 - 8:00 p.m., via Zoom

Building on last year's "Call to Return: Spiritual Reflections on Racial Justice," Community Minister Carlyle Stewart will lead a second series this fall, in which First Church will have the opportunity to recreate a holy space to learn about relationship building, mutual commitments, and relationships. [Email Carlyle](#) to participate... [Read more](#)

Newcomers Gathering

Sunday, September 26, 12:30 p.m.

If you are new to First Church, are feeling a little bit new, or are interested in exploring membership, please join us for our first Newcomers Gathering of the year. We'll meet after Hybrid Worship on September 26 during Popsicle Hour on the lawn. Come with your questions and with an expectation to meet some new people. Come to learn a bit more about First Church and how you might find a sense of belonging here. We'd love to see you! If you have any questions about this gathering or the First Church community, please be in contact with [Lexi Boudreaux](#) via email.



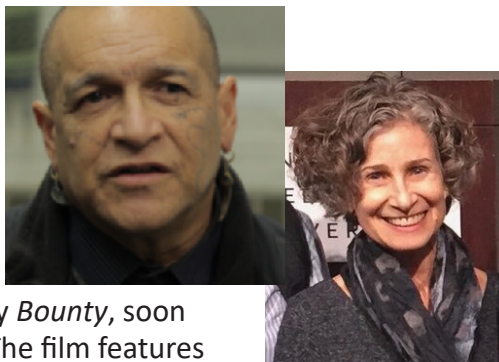
FALL AT FIRST CHURCH

The Friday Café returns indoors (sort of)!

After 18 months outside, serving bag lunches and packaged restaurant meals to go, the Friday Café shifted to a hybrid model on September 10. We had hoped to be fully indoors from that date, but the Delta variant makes indoor dining too risky. So we have resumed in-person volunteering, with home-cooked food served hot in Margaret Jewett Hall... but we're using take-out containers instead of plates, and seating continues to be on the church lawn in dry weather... [Read more](#)



**A Sneak Peek at *Bounty* and
Conversation with gkisedtanamoogk
(Mashpee Wampanoag) and
Mishy Lesser, Ed.D.
Sunday, October 3, 2021
12:30 p.m., via Zoom**



Join us for a special preview of the 9-minute documentary *Bounty*, soon to be released by the award winning Upstander Project. The film features Penobscot parents and their children celebrating their survival by reading and reacting to a government-issued bounty proclamation that promised large sums of money for colonial settlers to hunt, scalp, and murder Penobscot people. The proclamation was issued in 1755 by Lieutenant Governor Spencer Phips, Commander-in-Chief of the Province of the Massachusetts-Bay, and member of First Church in Cambridge who lived for many years on nearby Brattle Street. After the film, we will be joined by two outstanding educators from the Upstander Academy, gkisedtanamoogk (Mashpee Wampanoag) and Mishy Lesser, Ed.D., for a time of conversation and learning together... [Read more](#)

STAYING CONNECTED TO FIRST CHURCH



Do you want to follow the hyperlinks, but you're holding a paper bulletin in your hand?
Scan here with your phone to access the **Members & Friends** page of our website, where you'll find the bulletin online, as well as links to news, events, and more!

Scan the codes below to connect via social media.

SCAN ME





THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, September 13

4:00 p.m. Contemplative Practices Group, via Zoom

Tuesday, September 14

4:00 p.m. Buildings & Grounds Committee, via Zoom

Wednesday, September 15

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room

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

7:30 p.m. Missions & Social Justice Committee, via Zoom

Thursday, September 16

6:00 p.m. Weekly Bible Study, via Zoom

6:00 p.m. Friday Café food dropoff, Tower Room

Friday, September 17

9:00 a.m. Friday Café food dropoff, Tower Room

12:00 p.m. Friday Café, Margaret Jewett Hall and the church lawn

Sunday, September 19

9:45 a.m. First Worship on the Lawn

10:15 a.m. Informal Outdoor Activities

10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, MJH

10:45 a.m. Sanctuary doors open

11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship in the Sanctuary and via livestream

12:15 p.m. Popsicle Hour on the Lawn

1:15 p.m. Youth Group Kickoff on the Lawn

7:30 p.m. Night Song in the Sanctuary and via livestream

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

Committee meeting links are provided to committee members via email.

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

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC

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