



Season of Regathering
Hybrid Morning Worship
September 19, 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 19, 2021

Preaching Today	Lexi Boudreaux, <i>Transitional Minister</i>
Assisting in Worship	Dan Smith, <i>Senior Minister</i>
	Jaz Buchanan, <i>Pastoral Associate</i>
	Sarah Higginbotham, <i>Director of Creative Worship & Arts</i>
	Peter Sykes, <i>Director of Music</i>
	Dave Dyer, <i>Deacon</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 Lawn
12:15 p.m.	Zoom Coffee Hour
1:15 p.m.	Youth Group Kickoff on the Lawn
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

Sonata IV in B-Flat Major

Felix Mendelssohn

A WORD ABOUT TODAY'S WORSHIP

Dan Smith

*HYMN C-23

Come, All You Thirsty (verse 1 only)

For everyone's safety, please sing quietly or hum.

*GREETING

Dave Dyer

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

BLESSING FOR ALL STUDENTS, EDUCATORS, AND SCHOOL STAFF

This is the first in a series of blessings we will be offering this season giving thanks for those for whom Covid has been a particular stress and strain.

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Sarah Higginbotham

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

C: Loving God, we meet you in our quiet place to ask you to forgive us.

Help us find our way to being our best selves,

following the example of Jesus, our brother and our friend.

Keep us going when we struggle.

Don't let us give up when things are hard.

Show us, through your love, that we are enough. Amen.

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

L: God is good,

C: all the time!

L: All the time,

C: God is good!

*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! Send it to the world!

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. Parents can meet their children on the outdoor playground after worship.

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING

Isaiah 43:16-21

SERMON

Lexi Boudreaux

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A TIME OF LAYING DOWN AND LIFTING UP

Jaz Buchanan

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

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

***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 503**

Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service
For everyone’s safety, please sing quietly or hum.

***BENEDICTION**

VOLUNTARY

Sonata IV in B-Flat Major

Felix Mendelssohn

STAYING CONNECTED TO FIRST CHURCH



Do you want to follow the hyperlinks, but you’re holding a paper bulletin in your hand? Use your phone’s camera to hover over the QR code marked “scan me;” this will take you to the **Members & Friends** page of our web-site, where you’ll find the bulletin online, as well as links to news, events, and more.

You can scan the codes below to connect with First Church via social media.



OPENING HYMN

Come, All You Thirsty

C-23

verse 1 only

→ 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,

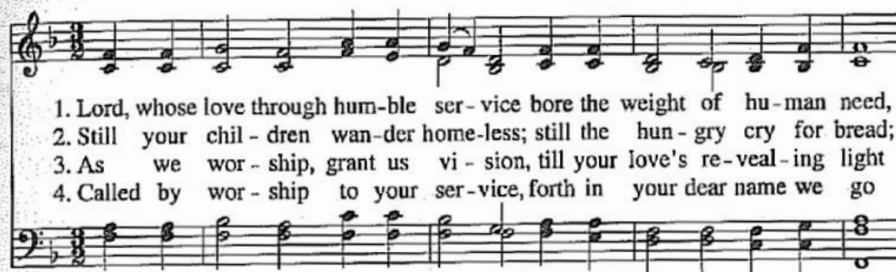
come, you who rage_ and you_ who weep._
shed the ex - cus - es you_ hold dear._
come be - cause God_ has called_ you Child._
call - ing us back_ where we_ be - long._

WORDS: Kate Layzer
MUSIC: Peter Sykes

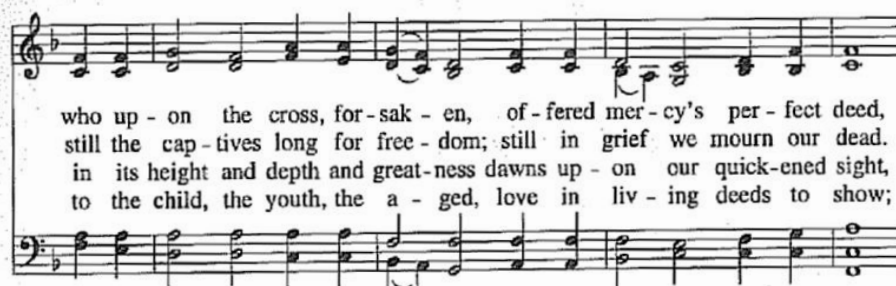
"Then the angel showed me the river of life,
bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God
and from the Lamb."
Rev 22.1

CLOSING HYMN

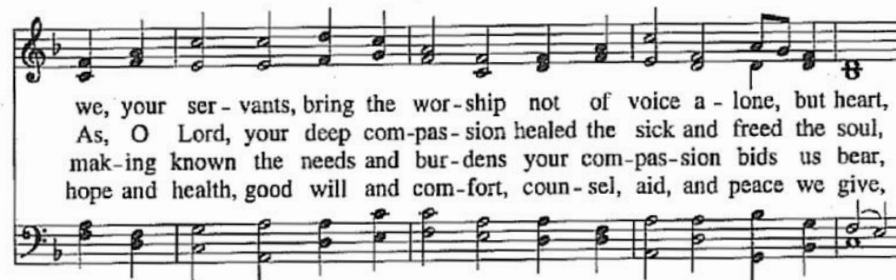
Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service 503



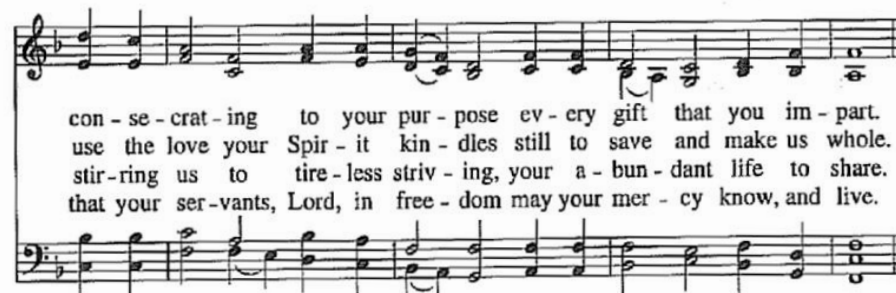
1. Lord, whose love through hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
2. Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;
3. As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, till your love's re-veal-ing light
4. Called by wor-ship to your ser-vice, forth in your dear name we go



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 Harp*, 1844; harm. FCC, 1997

English Congregational minister Bayly wrote this text in response to a call by the Hymn Society of America for hymns on social concerns.

BEACH SPRING
87.87D

Words © Oxford University Press,
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Harm. © 1998 FCC Houston TX

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Ida Peterson (age 2) and her moms Kelsey and Tori, as Ida recovers from a recent hospitalization and as she prepares for a rescheduled third cardiac surgery in November.
- We pray for Ken Ziebell, who is recovering at home after suffering a series of seizures and spending several days in a Neurological ICU earlier this week.
- We pray for Paula Stanley, who was hospitalized with cellulitis and is now recovering at home.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

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.

- 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.

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, join us for [Zoom](#) Coffee Hour. Bring your own coffee or beverage of choice and join for a time of connection, online sharing of joys and concerns, and Q&A about all things First Church.



Youth Group Kick Off

Today at 1:15 p.m., Church Lawn

Are you in 8th-12th grade this year? Are you looking to connect with a group of friends at church? Join us today 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.

SEPTEMBER REGATHERING SUNDAYS

A Season of Regathering, Hybrid Style September Sundays, beginning at 9:45 a.m.

This year, given ongoing Covid concerns, the regathering of our community isn't limited to the second Sunday of September! We are taking our time this month to experience new ways of being together with new guidelines for how we keep each other safe and healthy. Consider it a "Season of Regathering," as more and more of us get comfortable with hybrid experiences. We're offering a range of options, indoor and outdoor, in-person and online...[Read more, including our Covid protocols](#)



FIRST CHURCH
in Cambridge

Come, All You Thirsty:
Regathering 2021

SEPTEMBER SUNDAYS

- 9:45 First Worship on the Lawn
- 10:15 Informal Outdoor Activities
- 10:45 Sanctuary Doors Open
- 11:00 Hybrid Worship in Sanctuary and livestreamed online
- 12:15 Popsicle Hour on the Lawn

firstchurchcambridge.org



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!



First Church in Cambridge

FIRST WORSHIP ON THE LAWN

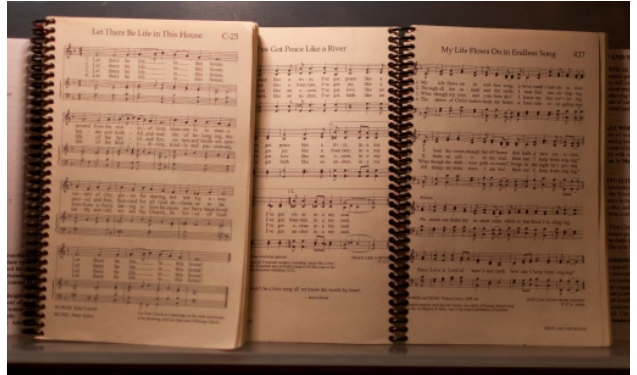
9:45 a.m. on September 12, 19, and 26
All are welcome!

FIRST CHURCH
in Cambridge

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](#).



Night Song Returns as a Hybrid Experience Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary and via livestream

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

Young Adults Gatherings in September

The First Church Young Adults Group is back in action! We get together a few times every month for some low stakes conversation, sharing faith journeys, and hanging out. For now, all gatherings will be outside. It would be great to see you, whether you're checking out First Church for a day or have been here for a long time. All who are out of high school are welcome!

Wednesday September 22: Faith on Tap returns!

Come for drinks and chats in our longest running event series, back for the first time since February 2020. Meet at the Druid in Inman Square at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday September 26: After-church brunch at Grendel's Den in Harvard Square. Meet on the church lawn at 12:15 p.m. or at Grendel's at 12:30 p.m.

For all events, please tell Phil (youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org) to expect you!



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 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.



LOOKING AHEAD

SNEUCC Super Saturday

Saturday, October 2, 9:00 - 3:00 p.m.

The Southern New England Conference's [Super Saturday](#) is a day filled with a variety of virtual workshops, marketplace, and networking. Meet other people from the UCC in the New England area, worship, and attend as many or as few workshops as you would like! The theme this year is: ***Building on God's Promises: A Time of Personal Renewal.*** [Super Saturday registration is now open!](#) See all the workshop offerings [here](#).



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

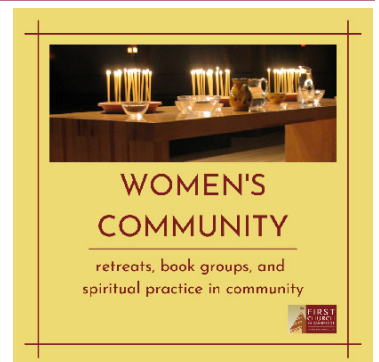
Join us for a special preview of the 9-minute documentary *Bounty*, soon to be released by the award winning Upstander Project. The film features Penobscot parents and their children celebrating their survival by reading and reacting to a government-issued bounty proclamation that promised large sums 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](#)

Women's Book Group

Tuesday, October 12, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., via Zoom

Please join other First Church women for a lively and thoughtful discussion of our book-of-the-month, chosen by all who are involved. We read a variety of books—contemporary, classics, fiction, non-fiction, or whatever our group wants. We are always open to suggestions. This month we have decided on [The Testament of Mary by Colm Tóibín](#) (90 pages!); we hope to see you there. Questions? Contact Community Minister [Alex Steinert-Evov...](#) [Read more](#)





THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, September 20

- 4:00 p.m. Contemplative Practices Group, via Zoom
- 5:00 p.m. Staff Policy Committee, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting, via Zoom

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

Tuesday, September 21

- 4:00 p.m. Buildings & Grounds Committee, via Zoom
- 7:30 p.m. Shelter Oversight Committee, via Zoom

Committee meeting links are provided to committee members via email.

Wednesday, September 22

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room
- 4:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 7:00 p.m. Christian Formation Committee, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. A Call to Return: Part 2, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Young Adults: Faith on Tap, Druid in Inman Square

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

Thursday, September 23

- 6:00 p.m. Weekly Bible Study, via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Friday Café food dropoff, Tower Room

Friday, September 24

- 9:00 a.m. Friday Café food dropoff, Tower Room
- 12:00 p.m. Friday Café, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH) and the church lawn

Sunday, September 26

- 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
- 12:30 p.m. Newcomers Gathering on the Lawn
- 12:30 p.m. Young Adults: Brunch at Grendel's Den
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song in the Sanctuary and via livestream

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC

11 Garden St. • Cambridge, MA 02138

617-547-2724 • info@firstchurchcambridge.org • www.firstchurchcambridge.org

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