



Hybrid Morning Worship
October 10, 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, October 10, 2021

Preaching Today	Dan Smith, <i>Senior Minister</i> and Lexi Boudreaux, <i>Transitional Minister</i>
Assisting in Worship	Jaz Buchanan, <i>Pastoral Associate</i> Ebony West, <i>Ministerial Intern</i> Sarah Higginbotham, <i>Director of Creative Worship & Arts</i> Peter Sykes, <i>Director of Music</i> Hilary Hopkins, <i>liturgist</i> Kevin Newell, <i>tech support</i>
Bulletin Cover Image	Gaylen Morgan, <i>First Church member</i>

Today's Programs and Events

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
12:00 p.m.	After-Church on the Lawn and Zoom Coffee Hour
12:30 p.m.	First Church Forum: Our Land Acknowledgment, via Zoom
2:00 p.m.	Multigenerational Hike, Habitat Sanctuary, Belmont
3:00 p.m.	Fall Pilgrimage: Royall House & Slave Quarters, Medford
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

Psalm 36

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck

***HYMN 516**

O Day of God, Draw Near
For everyone's safety, please sing quietly or hum.

***GREETING**

Hilary Hopkins and Ebony West

- L: Siblings in the Spirit from North, South, East and West,
gather now, and know the goodness of God's love!
- C: From generation to generation,
we gather in God's strength and presence!**
- L: Gather, and receive the Spirit's grace, solace and healing.
Gather, and know the gifts of this community of belonging and becoming!
- C: Let the Spirit hold our sins and sorrow, our hopes and our joy.**
- L: Then open your hearts now,
open your souls now,
- C: and let us worship, giving God all thanks, glory, and praise!**

WORDS OF WELCOME

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Sarah Higginbotham

SILENCE

SUNG PRAYER

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
sanctuary for you!**
Please sing or hum twice through.

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

**You are invited to stand. Hymns preceded by a "C" are found in the beginning section of the hymnal. This section contains hymns written and composed by current and past members of First Church in Cambridge.*

*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. We will return to the Sanctuary for Communion.

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING

Exodus 3: 1-6

SHARED REFLECTION

Lexi Boudreaux and Dan Smith

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jaz Buchanan

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

L: God be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray... *(silence, intercessions, and the Lord's Prayer)*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Please pray this prayer in words most meaningful to your heart.

All: Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING



Give by Text



Give Online

Know that God loves you.

God's command is this: Love one another as I have loved you.

*For neither death nor life, nor present nor future,
can separate us from the love of God.*

*DOXOLOGY

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

**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 C-9

Psalm 148

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

*BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

Psalm 36

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck



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 website, 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.

SCAN ME



O Day of God, Draw Near

516

1. O day of God, draw near in beau - ty and in power,
 2. Bring to our trou - bled minds, un - cer - tain and a - fraid,
 3. Bring jus - tice to our land, that all may dwell se - cure,
 4. Bring to our world of strife your sov - ereign word of peace,
 5. O day of God, draw near as at cre - a - tion's birth;

come with your time-less judg - ment now to match our pres - ent hour.
 the qui - et of a stead - fast faith, calm of a call o - beyed.
 and fine - ly build for days to come foun - da - tions that en - dure.
 that war may haunt the earth no more and des - o - la - tion cease.
 let there be light a - gain, and let your judg - ment reign on earth.

CLOSING HYMN

Psalm 148

C-9

1. O praise the Lord, praise God in all the heav'n - ly land.
 2. All heav - ens praise the Lord, and all the cloud - filled sky.
 3. Praise God from earth be - low; great fish and o - ceans deep.
 4. All moun - tains, cat - tle too, wild game and birds that fly.
 5. For God a - lone is great; great - er than earth and sky.

All an - gels praise our God, and all the sa - cred band.
 O let them praise the Lord, for God has set them high.
 Fire and hail, frost and snow, strong winds God makes to sweep.
 All lead - ers of the earth, judg - es that rule on high.
 God prais - es all the saints and strength - ens Is - rael's cry.

O give God praise; sun and moon bright, all stars of light, O give God praise!
 God made all lands; through-out all time all things sub-lime dis-play God's hand!
 O give God praise; all fruit-ful trees, all hills and ce-dars, Give God praise!
 Sing-ing the same; all wom-en, chil-dren, men, and in-fants, Praise God's name!
 With one ac - cord, let Is - ra - el and all God's peo-ple praise the Lord!

WORDS: New translation by Denise Karuth
 MUSIC: New England Psalter, 1698

PROPER TUNE for PSALM 148

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

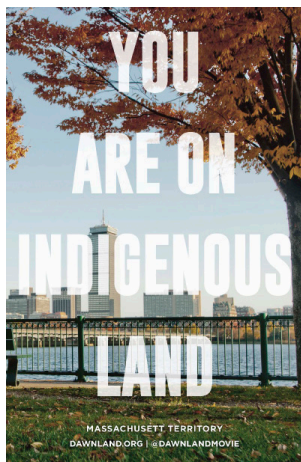
- We pray for First Church Sexton Kimel Williams and his family as they grieve the loss of Kimel's nephew Jesse Eason, who died recently from Covid-19.
- We pray for Hilary Hopkins and her husband John, who is at home recovering from eye surgery this past Wednesday.
- We pray for Wendy Vander Hart as she begins serving the Union Church in Waban as their Interim Pastor.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Pauline Fennel; Carol Wilson-Braun; 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 caught in divisive politics around masking and vaccinations, as well as for healthcare workers who are stretched thin by ongoing demands of the pandemic.
- We pray for the people of Afghanistan, 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 Haitian immigrants at the US southern border who have experienced violent and harsh treatment from border patrol agents. We pray that the US government may find a way to lead boldly in developing compassionate policies for those seeking refuge in our country.
- 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 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.

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

After-Church on the Lawn or Zoom Coffee Hour

Today at 12:00 p.m.

Choose how to meet up with First Church friends, either by walking out to the lawn or [zooming in](#) to a virtual gathering.



First Church Forum: Our Land Acknowledgment

Today at 12:30 p.m.

Hybrid: MJH and [via Zoom](#)

Grab a bite to eat after Hybrid Worship at home or on the church lawn (bring a bag lunch or pop into Harvard Square), and then join us for a forum about our recent and ongoing work to better understand the living legacy of settler colonialism. We will introduce a First Church land acknowledgment that we are beginning to share in worship and before events. This time will also allow us to debrief the October 3 session with gkisentanamoogk (Wampanoag) and Mishy Lesser, of the Upstander Project.

Multigenerational Hike

Today, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Habitat Audubon Sanctuary, 10 Juniper Road, Belmont

Join First Church's own naturalist Hilary Hopkins for an easy walk around the Sanctuary. We'll look at the pond, the meadow, and the forest, stopping to try a few simple activities. How are you at building elf houses? Parking on-site. You do not need to be an Audubon member.

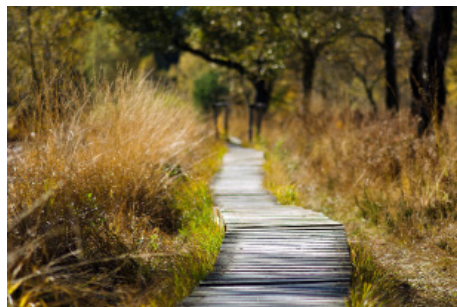


image from royallhouse.org

Fall Pilgrimage: Royall House and Slave Quarters - Medford

Today at 3:00 p.m.

Join a pilgrimage to Royall House and Slave Quarters in Medford, inhabited by the largest slaveholding family in Massachusetts in the 18th century. The tour takes about two hours and does involve staircases in the building, but the landscape itself is mostly flat.

We will meet at the museum! The museum is accessible by public transportation: the 96 bus can take you from Massachusetts Ave/Waterhouse Street to George Street/Main street (one-minute walk to the museum). Group tour tickets are \$12 per person; scholarships are available.

FALL AT FIRST CHURCH

How We Are Gathering in October

Welcome back! And...welcome forward!

On Sunday, September 12, our annual Regathering Sunday, First Church flung wide its doors and resumed offering in-person worship to all. It was a joy-filled reunion and a chance to begin to experience our hybrid worshipping community in new ways. We are in-person, and we continue to live-stream indefinitely. Given ongoing concerns about the Delta variant, we are offering a range of options, indoor and outdoor, in-person and online. Some of us are now coming to church. Some of us are choosing to join online. Some of us are taking it week-to-week. And many of you provided valuable feedback on your experiences in our Fall Regathering Survey. [See details of our Sunday Schedule for October 10, 17, 24, and 31](#) and [read highlights from the survey](#).



Register for a Fall Faith & Life Group

Led by First Church members, Faith & Life Groups are designed to encourage meaningful connections through shared interests. If you are looking for a way to dip your toes into the life of our church and stay connected outside of Sunday Worship, this is for you!

- **Art Symbolizes Faith** with Henry Gates
- **EcoFaith Group** with Jim Brown and Jaz Buchanan
- **Exploring Our Relationship with the Bible** with Lexi Boudreaux
- **Group Spiritual Direction** with Alex Steinert-Evoy
- **Embodied Readings** with Bruce Hoppe and Amy Matias

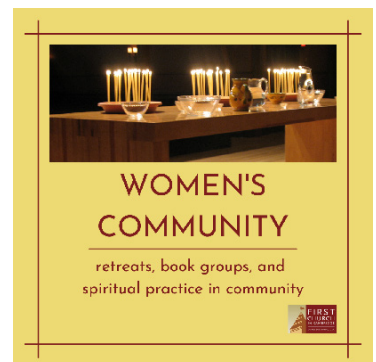
Read the full descriptions of each group on the signup form:

<https://forms.gle/NN4QPT22S6h1EKPM7> **Deadline to register is this Wednesday, October 13.**

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-Evoy... \[Read more\]\(#\)](#)



FALL AT FIRST CHURCH

Consider Joining First Church on Sunday, October 17

Is First Church tugging at your heart? Does it feel like home to you, or like the sanctuary you need? Is your spirit fed by our music, worship, and study? Is First Church a place where you are challenged, engaged, and growing? If so, we invite you to consider membership with First Church in Cambridge... [Read more](#)



All-Church Luncheon on the Lawn

Sunday, October 17

12:15 p.m.

During this extended regathering season we are offering another opportunity for some fellowship on the lawn in the form of an all-church luncheon. Join us for some food, conversation, and time to connect with First Church friends, old and new.

Rain date: October 24



Youth Group: Baking Cookies & Making Care Packages

Sunday, October 17 at 1:15 p.m.

Church Lawn and Kitchen

The Youth Group will be meeting in the kitchen this Sunday to bake cookies and make cards for people in our own neighbors who need a bit of cheer.

Questions? Contact [Lexi Boudreaux](#).



Young Adult/Multigenerational Hike

Sunday, October 17, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Great Hill Recreation Area, Acton

Join Ariel Ackermann & Robb Morgan for a hike through the fall foliage at the [Great Hill Recreation Area](#) in Acton, MA. We will meet at 2:00 p.m. at the parking off Main St (Route 27) in Acton. This hike is dog- and family-friendly, and the trail can be reached by taking the Fitchburg Line Commuter Rail to South Acton and walking to the trail entrance... [Read more](#)

FALL AT FIRST CHURCH

In Memoriam A memorial service will be held for beloved First Church member Eric Riedel on Saturday, October 23, at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary with an outdoor reception to follow, weather permitting. The service will also be livestreamed. Eric, who was married to First Church member Karen Anne Zee in 2014, died peacefully by her side on January 16, 2020, in Gainesville, Florida, following a long illness.



First Church Forum: Reparations at First Church Sunday, October 24 at 12:30 p.m.

Hybrid: MJH and via Zoom

Grab a bite to eat after Hybrid Worship at home or on the church lawn (bring a bag lunch or pop into Harvard Square), and then join us for a forum about First Church's ongoing reparations work. We will offer a bit of background on the Reparations Fund approved by our Executive Council in June, as well as information on the emerging collective of community members who guide its use. Please bring your questions and ideas!

Ordination of Lexi Boudreaux

Sunday, October 24, 3:00 p.m. at United Parish in Brookline

It is with great joy that United Parish in Brookline extends to First Church a warm invitation to the Service of Ordination for our Transitional Minister Lexi Boudreaux! First Church called Lexi to this position by a unanimous vote at a Special Congregational Meeting last June, and now is the time to celebrate with Lexi as she becomes an ordained clergyperson in the United Church of Christ. The service will be a hybrid one, so you may choose to attend in-person or online... [Read more](#)



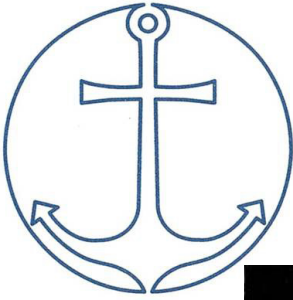
Greater Boston
Interfaith Organization

GBIO Mayoral Forum

Wednesday, October 27, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

This fall, First Church and the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization have been hard at work bringing a new platform, built on the stories of 1,500 people across faith communities in Boston, to City Hall. We will gather via Zoom on Wednesday, October 27, for our second Mayoral Forum! We want to bring at least 30 First Church folks to the virtual gathering: bit.ly/gbiomayor2 [Read more](#)

FALL AT FIRST CHURCH



First Church Shelter presents the 2021 Mitch Snyder Awards
Sunday, October 31, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Awards Ceremony [via livestream](#)

Invitation-Only Reception in Margaret Jewett Hall

The First Church Shelter will present the 2021 Mitch Snyder Awards in a brief ceremony to be livestreamed from the Sanctuary of First Church in Cambridge. This year's recipients are:



- Ms. Tehya Johnson, *Boston Healthcare for the Homeless*
- The Tuesday Meal Program, *First Parish in Cambridge*
- Mr. Joe Finn, *Massachusetts Housing & Shelter Alliance*
- The Harvard Square Meals Program, *Cambridge*
- The University Lutheran Church, *Cambridge*

The ceremony will be followed by an invitation-only (due to Covid) reception in Margaret Jewett Hall.

Our Whole Lives: Student Meetup and Parent Orientation

Sunday, October 31 at 1:15 p.m.

Church Playground and Sage Hall

After delaying the start of Our Whole Lives (OWL) to observe and respond to Covid

concerns this fall, First Church in Cambridge and

Old South Church will launch the 2021-22 OWL program for 8th and 9th graders with a student meetup and a parent orientation meeting on October 31. Students will participate in a "get to know you" session with facilitators, who will introduce OWL values and goals for learning.

Parents will meet with Sarah Higginbotham and her OSC colleague for a required orientation to the curriculum. Weekly OWL sessions for students will begin on Sunday, January 9, 2022, 1:15 - 3:00 p.m. If you have questions about OWL at First Church, please [contact Sarah](#).



Youth Group: Pumpkin Carving

Sunday, October 31 at 2:15 p.m.

Church Lawn

The Youth Group will be meeting on the lawn to carve and paint pumpkins in celebration of All Souls Day and Halloween. Come in costume and bring your favorite kind of candy to share! Questions? Contact [Lexi Boudreaux](#).



THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, October 11 - Church Office & Building Closed for Indigenous Peoples' Day

4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Group, via Zoom

Tuesday, October 12

6:00 p.m. Women's Community Book Group, via Zoom

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

Wednesday, October 13

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

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

7:00 p.m. A Call to Return: Part 2, via Zoom

Committee meeting links are provided to committee members via email.

Thursday, October 14

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

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

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

Friday, October 15

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, October 17

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
Joining of New Members; Lexi Boudreaux, preaching

11:20 a.m. All-Church-School Activity in MJH

12:15 p.m. Zoom Coffee Hour and All-Church Luncheon on the Lawn

2:00 p.m. Young Adults/Multigenerational Hike, Great Hill, Acton

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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