



Hybrid Morning Worship
October 17, 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 17, 2021

Preaching Today	Lexi Boudreaux, <i>Transitional Minister</i>
Assisting in Worship	Kate Layzer, <i>Minister of Street Outreach</i>
	Sarah Higginbotham, <i>Director of Creative Worship & Arts</i>
	Peter Sykes, <i>Director of Music</i>
	Winne Yip, <i>liturgist</i>
	Taj Smith, <i>Deacon</i>
	Phil Jones, <i>Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) liaison</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.	Zoom Coffee Hour
12:15 p.m.	All-Church Luncheon on the Lawn
2:00 p.m.	Young Adults/Multigenerational Hike, Great Hill, Acton
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

Intermezzo

Carson Cooman

***HYMN 520**

Restless Weaver

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

***GREETING**

Winnie Yip

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.

C: **Gather, and know the gifts of this community of belonging and becoming!
Let the Spirit hold our sins and our 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

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

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

***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.

JOINING OF NEW MEMBERS

INVITATION

Kate Layzer

PROMISES

Lexi Boudreaux

***COVENANT OF FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE**

Taj Smith

L: United with the church of every time and place,
we covenant with Christ, with these siblings,
and with one another, sharing the words of our historic covenant:

**All: We who are now brought together and united into one Church
under the Lord Jesus Christ, our Head, in such sort
as becometh all those whom he hath redeemed and sanctified unto himself,
do solemnly and religiously, as in His most holy presence,
promise and bind ourselves to walk in all our ways
according to the rule of the Gospel, and in all sincere conformity
to His holy ordinances and in mutual love and respect
each to other, so near as God shall give us grace.**

***ADDRESS**

***WELCOME**

L: Friends, let us welcome these new members
and affirm the ministry we share in Jesus Christ.

**All: We welcome you with joy into the common life of this church.
We promise you our friendship and prayers.
We will share with you the hope and labor of Christ.
By the power of the Spirit, we are one family for the glory of God!**

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING

Mark 10: 35-45

SERMON

Lexi Boudreaux

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sarah Higginbotham

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

OFFERTORY

Psalm 108

Patricia Van Ness

***DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

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.**

GOING FORTH

***HYMN 374**

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

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

***BENEDICTION**

VOLUNTARY

Alleluia

James Woodman

520

Restless Weaver

1. Rest - less Weav-er, ev - er spin-ning threads of jus - tice and sha-lom;
 2. Where earth's frag - ile web is rav-eling help us mend each bro-ken strand.
 3. When our vio-lent lust for pow - er ends in lives a-bused and torn,
 4. Rest - less Weav-er, still con-ceiv - ing new life—now and yet to be—

dream-ing pat-terns of cre - a - tion where all crea - tures find a home;
 Bless our ur - gent, bold en-deav - ors cleans-ing wa - ter, air, and land.
 from com-pass-ion's stur-dy fab - ric fash-ion hope and trust re - born.
 bind-ing all your vast cre - a - tion in one liv - ing tap - es - try:

gath-ering up life's var-ied fi - bers—ev - ery tex - ture, ev - ery hue:
 Through the Spir-it's in - spi - ra - tion— of - f - ring health where once was pain—
 Where in - jus - tice rules as ty - rant, give us cour - age, God, to dare
 you have called us to be weav-ers. Let your love guide all we do.

grant us your cre - a - tive vis - ion. With us weave your world a - new.
 strength-en us to be the stew-ards of your world knit whole a - gain.
 live our dreams of trans-for - ma - tion. Make our lives in - car - nate prayer.
 With your reign of peace our pat - tern, we will weave your world a - new.

374 Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

1, 6. Won't you let me be your ser-vant, let me be as Christ to you?
 2. We are pil-grims on a jour-ney, we are trav-'lers on the road;
 3. I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shad-ow of your fear;
 4. I will weep when you are weep-ing; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
 5. When we sing to God in heav-en we shall find such har-mo-ny,

Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser-vant, too.
 we are here to help each oth-er go the mile and bear the load.
 I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
 I will share your joy and sor-row till we've seen this jour-ney through.
 born of all we've known to-geth-er of Christ's love and ag-o-ny.

repeat st. 1.

WORDS: Richard Gillard, 1977, alt.
 MUSIC: Richard Gillard, 1977; harm. FCC, 1997

Text and tune writer Gillard, who lives in New Zealand, here writes of the Christian community in which we serve and are served.

SERVANT SONG
 87.87

Words, music © 1977 Scripture in Song
 (a div. of Integrity Music, Inc.)
 Harm. ©1998 FCC Houston TX

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for First Church Sexton Kimel Williams and his family. Kimel's sister Janet died this past week, and as the family continues to grieve the loss of Kimel's nephew Jesse Eason, who died recently from Covid-19.
- We pray for First Church Sexton George Williams, who is recovering at home from eye surgery.
- We pray for Abby Shuman's mother Jeri, who was hospitalized on Wednesday with two broken ribs and difficulty breathing as a result from a fall.
- 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 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.

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

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

Welcome, New Members! We are so pleased to welcome the newest members of First Church in Cambridge joining today.

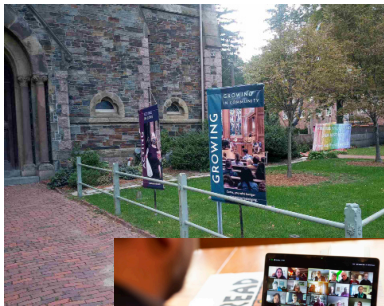
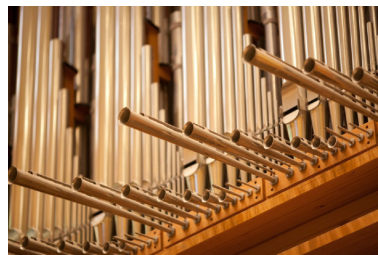
Xiaomeng Han is a doctoral student at Harvard. Her research involves using light and electron microscopy to study the brain. Xiaomeng has been participating in the Young Adults group here at First Church; she's excited to join us as a member.

Patrick Smith has been attending First Church for a while now, and he has enjoyed being back in person for worship in his usual spot near the front pew. Patrick has a passion for music, both as a player in a band and as a fan of music groups, some of which you might see on his t-shirts.

Kathy Williams (she/her/hers) is a native of North Carolina and for more than 30 years has lived in Medford with her husband Jim Williams. They have two adult children, Brett and Laura, who are both Newtowne School alumni. Kathy is employed by the Committee for Public Counsel Services (CPCS) as a paralegal. She volunteers as a facilitator at Communities for Restorative Justice (C4RJ) and enjoys gardening, hiking in the Middlesex Fells, and her little dog Lily.

A Note on Today's Music

Psalm 108 was written in 2013 by First Church Staff Composer Patricia Van Ness, as part of her ongoing project to set to music all 150 of the Psalms. The organ music was written by Cambridge composers Carson Cooman (Memorial Church, Harvard) and James Woodman (Society of St. John the Evangelist). And [check out this video clip](#) from an interview with Patty at the Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields in London.



All-Church Luncheon on the Lawn Today at 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

Zoom Coffee Hour
Today at 12:00 p.m.



TODAY 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. 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.](#)



Youth Group: Baking Cookies & Making Care Packages Today at 1:15 p.m.

Church Lawn and Kitchen

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

Questions? Contact [Lexi Boudreaux](#).

Young Adult/Multigenerational Hike

Today, 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](#)



SCAN ME

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.

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

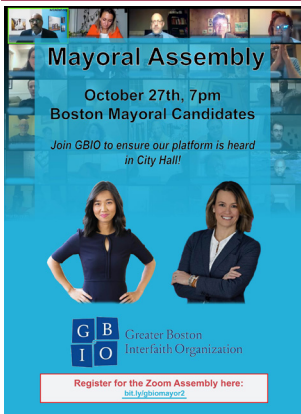
Grab a bite to eat after Hybrid Worship at home or on the church lawn (bring a bag lunch or pop into Harvard Square), and then join us for a forum about First Church's ongoing reparations work. We will offer a bit of background on the Reparations Fund approved by our Executive Council in June, as well 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 clergy person 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](#)

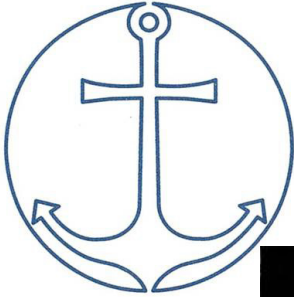


GBIO Mayoral Forum

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: register here: 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 reception (due to Covid) in Margaret Jewett Hall.

Our Whole Lives: Student Meetup and Parent Orientation

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

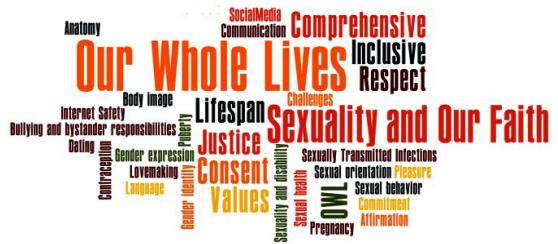
Church Playground and Sage Hall

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](#).

FALL AT FIRST CHURCH

First Worship on the Lawn: All Saints Sunday Sunday, November 7 at 9:45 a.m.

Come celebrate All Saints Sunday at a 30-minute casual, family-friendly service for all, and especially for those who aren't yet ready to worship inside. We'll be joined by First Church's Saint Puppets, as we remember all those in the "communion of saints." We'll celebrate Communion and enjoy the sounds of our All Saints Band. Look for us under the blue tent by the Yellowwood tree!



Fall Pilgrimages with First Church

Join us this fall as we embark on holy pilgrimages in prayer, quieting our minds and expanding our hearts to hear the Word of God across time and space.



image from nps.gov

Black Heritage Trail - Beacon Hill, Boston

Sunday, November 14 at 3:00 p.m.

rain date: November 28 at 3:00 p.m.

[Learn more and sign up here.](#)



image from cctvcambridge.org

African American Heritage Trail - Cambridgeport

Sunday, December 12 at 3:00 p.m.

rain date: December 26 at 3:00 p.m.

[Learn more and sign up here.](#)

Fellowship Volunteer Opportunities

After an 18-month hiatus, the Fellowship Committee is gearing up again to provide food for Coffee Hour, after-church lunches, and our other community-building activities, and we couldn't be more excited about it. We wish we could feed our virtual worshipers, too.

Fellowship at First Church is coordinated by a small group of Coordinators and supported by a modest church budget. First Church volunteers help us to stretch this budget by bringing goodies and pitching in with prep and cleanup. Thank you for helping to make worship nourishing in more ways than one! [Read more and sign up to help here.](#)





THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, October 18

- 4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Group, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Deacons' Meeting, via Zoom

Tuesday, October 19

- 6:00 p.m. "Exploring Our Relationship with the Bible" Faith & Life Group
- 7:30 p.m. Shelter Oversight Committee, via Zoom
- 7:00 pm. Finance Committee, via Zoom

Wednesday, October 20

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room
- 4:00 p.m. Gifts Discernment Committee, via Zoom
- 4:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 6:30 p.m. Investments Committee, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. A Call to Return: Part 2, via Zoom
- 8:00 p.m. Missions & Social Justice Committee, via Zoom

Thursday, October 21

- 5:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee, via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Weekly Bible Study, via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Friday Café food dropoff, Tower Room

Friday, October 22

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

Saturday, October 23

- 11:00 a.m. Memorial Service for Eric Riedel, Sanctuary and via livestream

Sunday, October 24

- 10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, MJH
- 11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship in the Sanctuary and via livestream
- 12:00 p.m. After-Church on the Lawn and Zoom Coffee Hour
- 12:15 p.m. First Church Forum: Reparations at First Church, MJH and via Zoom
- 3:00 p.m. Service of Ordination for Lexi Boudreaux, United Parish in Brookline
- 7:30 p.m. NightSong 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.

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