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World Communion Sunday  
Hybrid Morning Worship  
October 3, 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 3, 2021

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

### Today's Programs and Events

9:45 a.m.	First Worship on the Lawn: Blessing of the Animals
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 <a href="#">via livestream</a>
11:20 a.m.	All-Church-School Activity with Sarah, MJH
12:00 p.m.	After-Church on the Lawn and <a href="#">Zoom</a> Coffee Hour
12:30 p.m.	A Sneak Peek at <i>Bounty</i> with Conversation, via <a href="#">Zoom</a>
1:15 p.m.	Youth Group: Tie-Dye and Grilled Cheese, church lawn
7:30 p.m.	Night Song, Sanctuary and <a href="#">via livestream</a>

### 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](http://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](mailto: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

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

**VOLUNTARY**

Prelude and Fugue in C Major

J. S. Bach

**A WORD ABOUT TODAY'S WORSHIP**

Sarah Higginbotham

**\*HYMN C-23**

Come, All You Thirsty (verses 1 and 4 only)

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

**\*GREETING**

Nora Willcutts

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 ESSENTIAL WORKERS**

Lexi Boudreaux

*This is the third 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**

**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.** *(cont'd. on next page)*

**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. We will return to the Sanctuary for Communion.*

**OPENING THE WORD**

**PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING**

Ebony West

**READING**

Luke 14:1, 7-14

**SERMON**

Dan Smith

**SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Jaz Buchanan

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**

Bread of the World      Louis Bourgeois, arr. Carlton Young

**\*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**

## SHARING THE FEAST

### INVITATION AND PRAYER OF PREPARATION

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT AND 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.**

### \*SHARING BREAD AND CUP

*All who seek to follow Jesus' way of justice, compassion and love are invited to partake of this feast. Please take now and eat; or if you are in the sanctuary, please approach one of the stations in the front or back to receive the elements. You may leave your empty juice glass in the tray provided before returning to your seat.*

### \*THANKSGIVING

**L: Let us give thanks!**

**C: 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 C-3

Psalm 23

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

### \*BENEDICTION

### VOLUNTARY

Canzona

Girolamo Frescobaldi

# OPENING HYMN

## Come, All You Thirsty

C-23

*verses 1 and 4 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

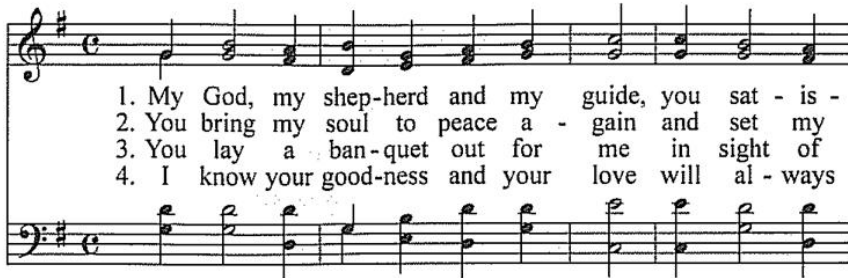
MUSIC: Peter Sykes

"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

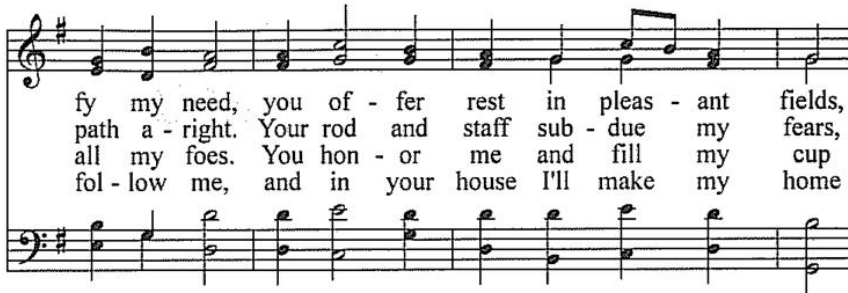
# CLOSING HYMN

## Psalm 23

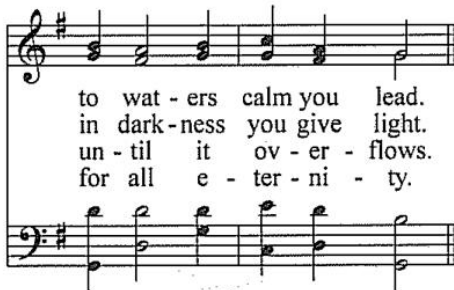
C-3



1. My God, my shep-herd and my guide, you sat - is -  
2. You bring my soul to peace a - gain and set my  
3. You lay a ban-quet out for me in sight of  
4. I know your good-ness and your love will al - ways



fy my need, you of - fer rest in pleas - ant fields,  
path a - right. Your rod and staff sub - due my fears,  
all my foes. You hon - or me and fill my cup  
fol - low me, and in your house I'll make my home



to wat - ers calm you lead.  
in dark-ness you give light.  
un - til it ov - er - flows.  
for all e - ter - ni - ty.

WORDS: New translation by Denise Karuth

MUSIC: New England Psalter, 1698

LOW DUTCH

One has to need the Psalms before one greatly prizes them. It is not until we are the sheep of the Shepherd, and we are aware that he is leading us and making us to rest by the still waters that we know the twenty-third psalm. It is not until we are in the valley of the shadow of death that we can sing, as it should be sung: "I will fear no evil, for thou art with me."

The Psalms deepen and exalt life. The deepened and exalted life is fond of the Psalms.

Alexander McKenzie  
*Eleventh Minister 1867-1912*

## 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 last week 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 Paula Stanley, who was re-hospitalized last week and is now recovering from surgery 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 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



### **Blessing of the Animals at First Worship Sunday, October 3 at 9:45 a.m.**

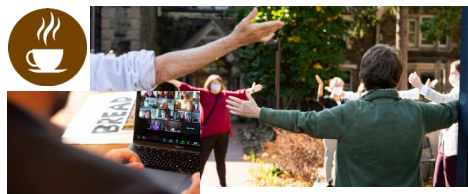
On the Sunday nearest to St. Francis Day, we invite you and your beloved animal companions to join us for a special Blessing of the Animals as part of our First Worship service at 9:45 on the First Church lawn. This will be a moment of gratitude for all the gifts our pets give us and a celebration of all God's creatures and creation!

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small are welcome! Pets are welcome on leash or in crates; if it's easier on you and/or your pet, you may also bring a photo to be blessed.

### **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.



### **A Sneak Peek at *Bounty* and Conversation with gkisedtanamoogk (Mashpee Wampanoag) and Mishy Lesser, Ed.D.**

**Today at 12:30 p.m., in MJH and 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](#)

### **Youth Group: Tie-Dye and Grilled Cheese**

**Today at 1:15 p.m., Church Lawn and Kitchen**

The Youth Group will be meeting on the lawn this Sunday for a tie-dyeing party and making grilled cheese for lunch. Please bring a white item of clothing (or several) you want to give new life to! If you have no such item, we will have t-shirts on hand to tie-dye. Questions? Contact [Lexi Boudreaux](#).



## FALL AT FIRST CHURCH



### Register for a Fall Faith & Life Group

It's time to sign up for fall Faith & Life Groups! 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
- **Stroll and See Fresh Pond** with Hilary Hopkins
- **Embodied Readings** with Bruce Hoppe and Amy Matias

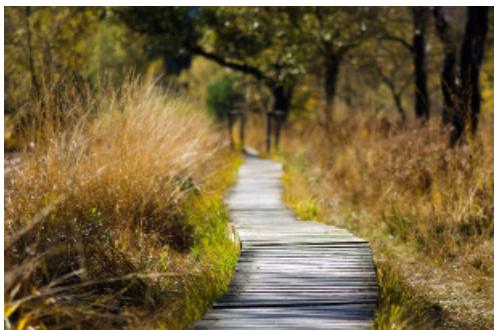
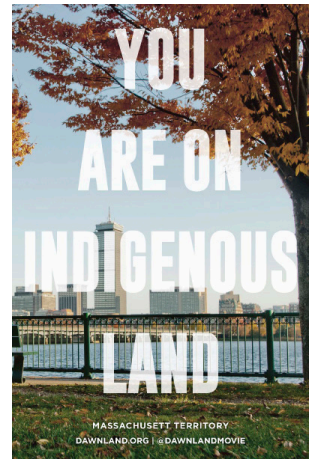
Read the full descriptions of each group on the signup form:

<https://forms.gle/NN4QPT22S6h1EKpm7>

### Coffee and Conversation: First Church's Land Acknowledgment Sunday, October 10 at 12:15 p.m.

#### Hybrid: MJH and via Zoom

Join us after Hybrid Worship on Sunday, October 10, for a hybrid time of coffee and conversation 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 gkisentanamooqk (Wampanoag) and Mishy Lesser, of the Upstander Project.



### Multigenerational Hike

Sunday, October 10, 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.

## FALL AT FIRST CHURCH

### 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 royallhouse.org



image from nps.gov



image from cctvcambridge.org

### Royall House and Slave Quarters - Medford Sunday, October 10 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. [Sign up here](#). Contact [Jaz Buchanan](#) for more information.

### 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.](#)

### 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.](#)

### 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](#)



### WOMEN'S COMMUNITY

retreats, book groups, and  
spiritual practice in community



## 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? Perhaps it is a place to find an anchor for your activism and community involvement. Perhaps First Church has become a place where you can pour out your heart, or where you can simply ask the

questions that really matter. We hope so! If you're experiencing any of these things, we invite you to consider membership with First Church in Cambridge. New members will be welcomed into membership by covenant during our 11:00 a.m. Hybrid Worship on Sunday, October 17. Lexi Boudreaux welcomes the chance to reflect with you, answer questions, or provide more information; [please be in touch](#) to let her know of your interest.

### Ordination of Lexi Boudreaux

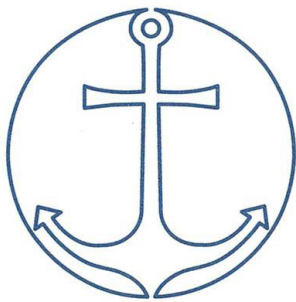
**Sunday, October 24, 3:00 p.m. at United Parish in Brookline**

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. More details will be forthcoming as the day approaches, but, for now, please save the date.



**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.

## 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 in Margaret Jewett Hall.

Have you completed the [First Church Fall Regathering Survey](#)?

Given the ongoing reality of the pandemic and now that we are a few weeks into a fall of hybrid worship, we are reaching out to members and friends for feedback about your connection to First Church. We are eager to hear from all of you, whether you've been joining in person or online. Your input is invaluable to us as we continue to craft our worship and programming opportunities moving forward. **Please complete the [survey](#) by tomorrow, Monday, October 4.**



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.

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





# THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



## Monday, October 4 - [First Church Fall Regathering Survey Due](#)

- 4:00 p.m. Contemplative Practices Group, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. GBIO Core Team, via Zoom

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

## Tuesday, October 5

- 10:00 a.m. Stroll and See at Fresh Pond Faith & Life Group

Committee meeting links are provided to committee members via email.

## Wednesday, October 6

- 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

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

## Thursday, October 7

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

## Friday, October 8

- 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 10

- 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
- 11:20 a.m. All-Church-School Activity in MJH
- 12:00 p.m. After-Church on the Lawn and Zoom Coffee Hour
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee and Conversation: Land Acknowledgment
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song in the Sanctuary and via livestream

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC  
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