



FF 2022

Lent
Hybrid Morning Worship
March 13, 2022

**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
386 YEARS
ON THE WAY
1 6 3 6 – 2 0 2 2

Sunday, March 13, 2022

Preaching Today Leading Worship

Lexi Boudreaux, *Transitional Minister*
Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*
Jaz Buchanan, *Pastoral Associate*
Sarah Higginbotham, *Director of Creative Worship & Arts*
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*
Perry Neubauer, *liturgist*
Kevin Newell, *tech support*

Bulletin Cover Image Freddie Funck, *Youth Group member*

Today's Programs and Events

9:30 a.m. Contemplative Prayer, [via Zoom](#)
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. Church School: Classes for PreK-7th graders
12:00 p.m. [Zoom](#) Coffee Hour
12:15 p.m. Hybrid Adult Formation: Jesus, Our Center, MJH and [via Zoom](#)
1:15 p.m. Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 8/9th graders, Harter Room
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

For those participating at home, we invite you to have a candle at your home altar.

A TIME FOR QUIET REFLECTION AND PREPARATION

As we begin our Lenten worship, we invite you to light a candle and to pray for peace in our hearts and in Ukraine.

VOLUNTARY

Cantabile

César Franck

*GREETING AND CANDLE LIGHTING

Dan Smith

L: Friends, grace and peace, and welcome!

(Candles are lit.)

Now is the needed time

C: to let God's love and light surround us,

L: to let Jesus be our center,

C: to let the Spirit give us courage and peace.

L: In every sound and silence,

C: in every heart and hurt,

L: in quiet kindness, in bold witness,

C: God's presence meets us here, wherever we are.

*LENTEN OPENING SONG

Jesus, Won't You Come By Here

Traditional

Jesus, won't you come by here, Jesus, won't you come by here,

Jesus, won't you come by here?

For now is the needed time, now is the needed time.

Jesus, won't you come by here?

WORDS OF WELCOME

Perry Neubauer

CONFESSING

ANTHEM

Kyrie

Charles Gounod

Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison.

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

**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.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

All: God of love and grace, show us what you would have us see when we bring Jesus near to our hearts. Teach us to surrender to his love and mercy. Release us from our self-centered longings. Transform us and recenter our lives in your love: for ourselves, our neighbors, our enemies, and our world. Amen.

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

GREETING OF PEACE

*HYMN 396

Strong, Gentle Children

Children up through 7th grade are now invited to Church School classes. Godly Play (PreK-3rd grade) and Middler (4/5th grade) students can meet their teachers at the side door by the Children's Book Corner. Bible 101 (6/7th grade) students can meet their teachers in the Narthex. Caregivers can find the children in Hastings Common after worship.

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING

Luke 13:31-35

SERMON

Lexi Boudreaux

SILENCE

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEACHING MOMENT

Peter Sykes

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

Jaz Buchanan

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



I've Given Already

*DOXOLOGY

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine
Demands my soul, my life, my all! Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOING FORTH

*HYMN 295

O Christ, the Word Incarnate

*BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

Adagio

César Franck



First Church Land Acknowledgment

We, gathered here, acknowledge that we are meeting on land which has been the traditional ancestral homeland of the Massachusetts people. We acknowledge that this land is unceded and remains sacred to the Massachusetts, and to their close neighbors and relatives, the Nipmuc and Wampanoag peoples.

You can find a longer version of this acknowledgment [here](#) or by scanning the QR code.

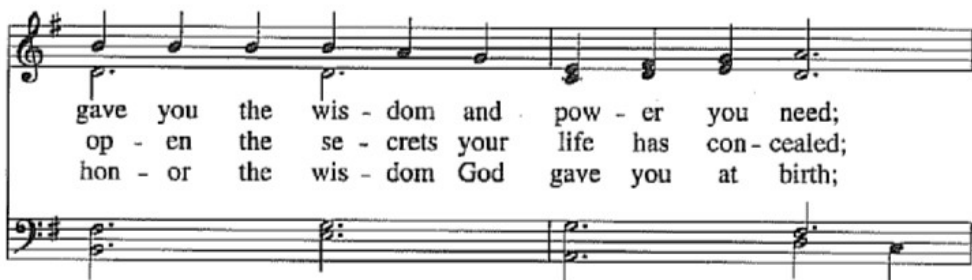
Strong, Gentle Children

396

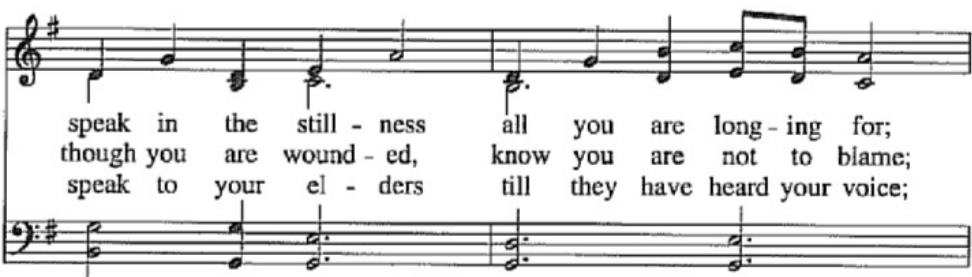
Unison



1. Strong, gen - tle chil - dren, God made you beau - ti - ful,
 2. Strong, hurt - ing chil - dren, an - gry and ter - ri - fied,
 3. Strong, know - ing chil - dren, ut - ter your cry a - loud,



gave you the wis - dom and pow - er you need;
 op - en the se - crets your life has con - cealed;
 hon - or the wis - dom God gave you at birth;



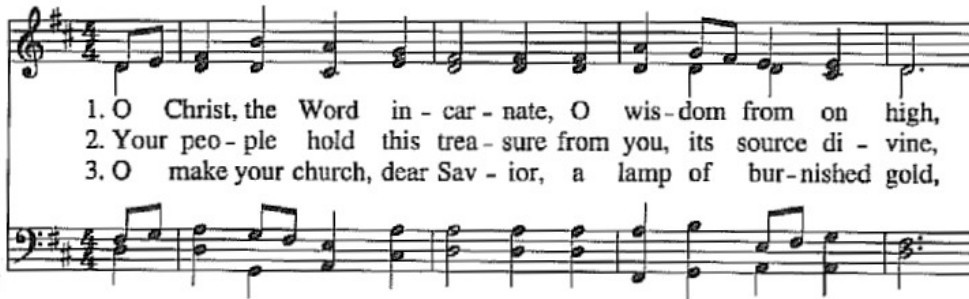
speak in the still - ness all you are long - ing for;
 though you are wound - ed, know you are not to blame;
 speak to your el - ders till they have heard your voice;



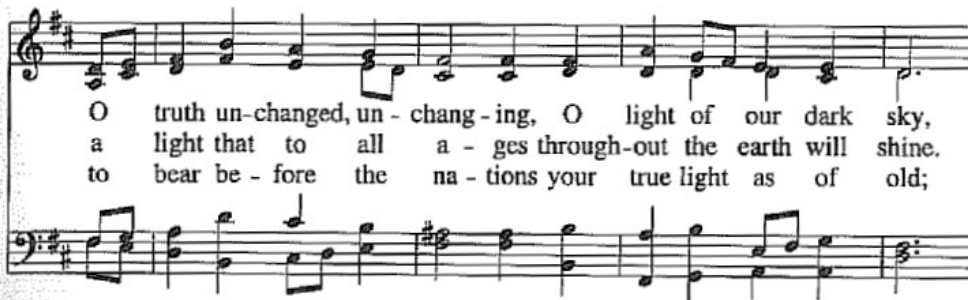
live out your call - ing to love and to lead.
 cry out your sto - ry till truth is re - vealed.
 sing out your vi - sion of heal - ing on earth.

O Christ, the Word Incarnate

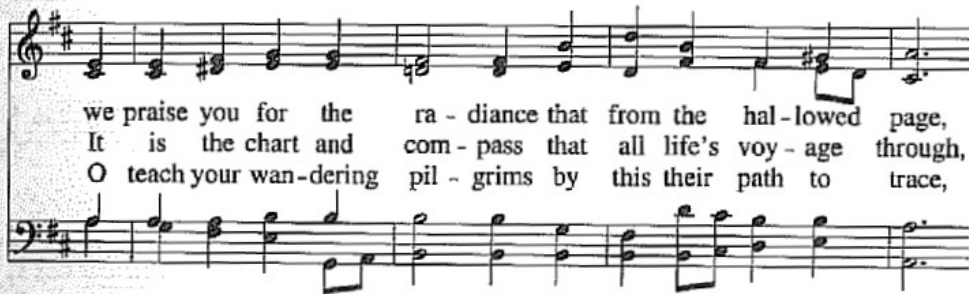
295



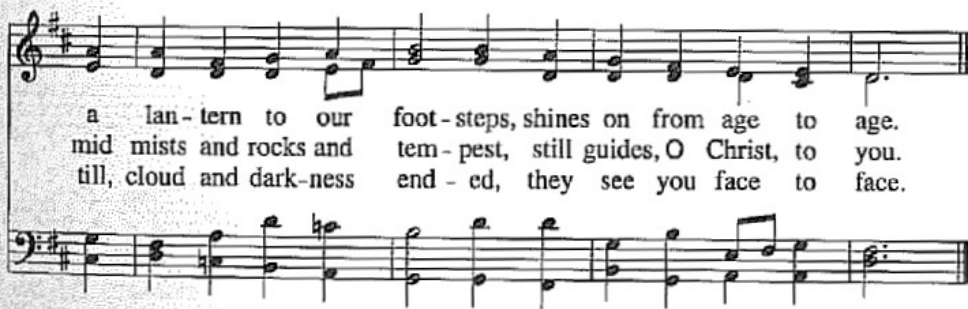
1. O Christ, the Word in - car - nate, O wis - dom from on high,
 2. Your peo - ple hold this trea - sure from you, its source di - vine,
 3. O make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of bur - nished gold,



O truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O light of our dark sky,
 a light that to all a - ges through - out the earth will shine.
 to bear be - fore the na - tions your true light as of old;



we praise you for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page,
 It is the chart and com - pass that all life's voy - age through,
 O teach your wan - dering pil - grims by this their path to trace,



a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.
 mid mists and rocks and tem - pest, still guides, O Christ, to you.
 till, cloud and dark - ness end - ed, they see you face to face.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray in joyful celebration at the recent birth of Piyô Pataqahak Tinsley Burnham, grandson of Krysia Burnham, son of Jon and Phoebe Burnham.
- We pray for Alice Napoleon Jones and her family as Alice’s mother Judith Semmler continues to struggle with stage IV cancer in New Jersey.
- We pray for Hilary Hopkins’s Ukrainian family, especially Yaroslav Zapotichniy and his family, who live in Lviv, Ukraine.
- We pray for Katie Omberg, who has been called to serve as the Interim Minister at Melrose Highlands Congregational Church.
- We continue to pray for Alice Kidder, who is in a rehab hospital recovering from a recent treatment for internal bleeding.
- We pray for Nancy Kilburn’s mother Penny Kilburn, who is in rehab following a recent hospitalization for heart issues.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Pauline Fennel; Amy Matias’s mother Linda, 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; Beth and Polly, Ann McCann’s sisters; and Keith Peterson, brother of Friday Café volunteer Neil Peterson.
- We pray for the people of Ukraine and surrounding regions amid Russian military escalation and invasion. We pray for all troops and civilians, and for bordering countries receiving refugees; and that diplomatic measures, sanctions, and peace prevail.
- We pray for our LGBTQ+ siblings around the country as state leaders and lawmakers in Florida, Texas, and elsewhere push for laws that threaten their civil rights and basic freedoms.
- We pray for all who are affected by COVID-19—those experiencing symptoms, those grieving the loss of loved ones, and those awaiting vaccines. We pray with and for anxious hearts, and especially for educators, healthcare personnel, and other essential workers.
- When we encounter worrisome or troubling feelings in the face of the climate crisis, we pray for the courage to plant seeds of God’s justice, grace, and hope. We pray for divine wisdom to help nourish these seeds, so that they may grow into holy kin-doms where all God’s creation may flourish.
- 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



Contemplative Prayer

Sundays in Lent, 9:30 - 10:00 a.m., [via Zoom](#)

Join us as we begin our Sundays with a time of quiet spiritual practice. We'll start with a scripture, then introduce simple guidelines for centering prayer before entering into a time of shared silence. Choir members in the building for rehearsal are invited to find a quiet place where they can connect to this offering with their own devices.

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

Hop on the Coffee Hour [Zoom](#) immediately following the service for a time of connection, sharing of joys and concerns, and Q&A about all things First Church. Bring your own coffee or beverage of choice!



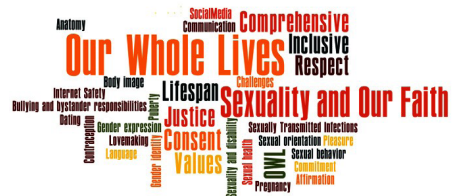
Hybrid Adult Formation: Jesus, Our Center

Sundays in Lent, 12:15 - 1:15 p.m., MJH and [via Zoom](#)

Join a conversation about the morning's themes. The preacher for the morning will offer a brief frame with a 'living question' or two, and then we will divide into small groups for a time of sharing our faith and struggles, with Jesus as our center!

Our Whole Lives (OWL) Today, 1:15 - 3:00 p.m., Harter Room

8th and 9th graders from First Church, Old South Church, and the community meet for our denomination's sexuality education curriculum.



Night Song

Sundays at 7:30 p.m., 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.

Learn more about Night Song [here](#).

LENT AT FIRST CHURCH

This Lent, join us as we explore what it means to hold Jesus at the center of our faith and lives.

- How might focusing on Jesus' life and teachings ground and clarify our conversations about how we hold the loneliness, anger, and grief of these times?
- How might focusing on *his* story help us to feel more centered, as we come through this pandemic together and as we live and shape *our* stories?

Each week, we'll offer a different scripture and related theme of daily living, along with several opportunities for weekly prayer and reflection. Themes and scriptures we'll be exploring together include:

- Feb 27: **Jesus, Our Center** Introduction of our theme
- Mar 6: **Jesus and Solitude** Luke 4:1-11
- Mar 13: **Jesus and Anger** Luke 13:31-35
- Mar 20: **Jesus and Creation** Luke 13:1-9
- Mar 27: **Jesus and Loss** Luke 15:1-2, 11-32
- Apr 3: **Jesus and Trust** John 12:1-8
- Apr 10: **Jesus and Courage** Luke 19:28-40

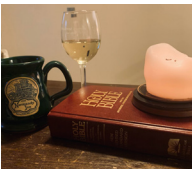
Wednesdays in Lent



Midweek Contemplative Prayer

Wednesday mornings, 8:00 - 8:30 a.m., [via Zoom](#)

Want to explore centering prayer as a spiritual practice? [Read more](#)



Midweek Small Group: Hanging out with God

Wednesday afternoons, 5:30 - 6:15 p.m., [via Zoom](#)

Join Lexi Boudreaux and Jaz Buchanan weekly on Wednesdays during Lent for some theological reflection... [Read more](#)

Hybrid Adult Formation:

Learn about the Miyawaki Forest in Danehy Park

Sunday, March 20, 12:15 - 1:15 p.m., MJH and [via Zoom](#)

On our "Jesus and Creation" Lenten Sunday, join us after worship to learn about the Miyawaki Forest in Danehy Park! [Biodiversity for a Livable Climate](#) is joining us for our 12:15 hour and will share with us how Miyawaki forests can help restore biodiversity and fight the climate crisis.

They are a nonprofit organization seeking to bring back lost biodiversity, cool the biosphere, and draw down excess atmospheric greenhouse gasses through living systems worldwide.



UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

SNEUCC Super Saturday

Saturday, March 19, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

TODAY is the last day to register [here](#).

The Southern New England Conference's Super Saturday is a day filled with a variety of virtual workshops, a marketplace, and plenty of networking. Meet other people from the UCC in the New England area, worship, and attend as many or as few workshops as you like!



The theme this spring is ***A Future With Hope: Relevant, Prophetic and Transformative***, and the keynote speaker is Rev. Sarah Drummond, Founding Dean of Andover Newton Seminary at Yale Divinity School.

[Super Saturday registration](#) is now open!

Contact treasurer@firstchurchcambridge.org to be reimbursed for your registration fees. See all the workshop offerings [here](#).

Young Adults: Faith on Tap

Monday, March 21, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Bow Market, Somerville

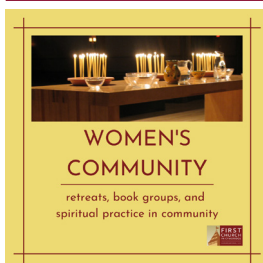
Join the Young Adults for Faith on Tap, a time for fellowship and conversation with other folks out of high school and looking to meet some new people. Contact Phil with questions: 585-610-7919



CISC Celebration

Sunday, March 27, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., University Lutheran Church and via Zoom ([link to follow](#))

The Cambridge Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition (of which First Church is a founding member) warmly invites all past CISC volunteers to a celebration of the journey that has led to our guests' transition out of sanctuary. There will be a short service for reflecting and remembering, followed by a social time with sharing of food and drink. Covid safety protocols will be in place: masking required, except when eating/drinking in a designated area. If you wish to attend, but did not receive the emailed invitation to the event that included a link to RSVP and sign up to bring food, please contact [Sarah Higginbotham](#).



Women's Community Book Club

Tuesday, March 29, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., via Zoom

Come, one and all who identify as women, to our monthly book club. In March, we turn to non-fiction: *Love Is the Way* by Episcopalian Bishop Michael Curry. As always, if you are having trouble finding the book, please let [Susan](#), [Alex](#), or the group know, and we will do our best to get a copy to you.

UCC AID APPEAL FOR UKRAINE

WE STAND
FOR PEACE.

WE STAND WITH
UKRAINE.

On February 24, the Russian military attacked Ukraine. In less than two weeks, more than 1,000,000 persons have already sought refuge outside of Ukraine, and even more have remained in the country, but have been displaced from their homes.

The humanitarian crisis is accelerating in Ukraine and in neighboring countries, as the violence escalates and the number of people on the move multiplies.

**Please consider supporting the
[United Church of Christ Appeal to Aid Those Unable to Leave Ukraine.](#)**

The United Church of Christ (UCC) is appealing for support for refugees and for elderly and other vulnerable people who are displaced within Ukraine and unable to leave. As a member of the ACT Alliance, UCC support is being targeted to people most in need through humanitarian relief partners with a history of working in the region. Aid also is being extended through Hungarian Reformed Church Aid, the relief agency of the Reformed Church in Hungary. The UCC's long-term relationship with the Reformed Church in Hungary is held through the Europe and the Middle East Office of Global Ministries.

Gifts made to UCC Ukraine Relief Fund will provide shelter, food, and other care to war refugees and internally displaced people. It also will help refugees and asylum seekers from African, Middle Eastern and other countries who had sought refuge in Ukraine and now are twice displaced, as well as other citizens of more than 125 countries living in Ukraine.

Uniting in prayer, action, and giving, we stand as a people of faith in love and compassion with the people of Ukraine and all who are affected, and with our global partners who are welcoming those driven from their homes.

[Read more and donate here.](#)

FROBENIUS AT FIFTY

**Help us to celebrate
and fundraise for our Frobenius organ.**

A letter from Music Director Peter Sykes:

The three-manual, forty-stop Frobenius organ at First Church in Cambridge, made in Copenhagen in 1972, the first Danish organ imported to the United States, is about to mark the fiftieth anniversary of its installation and dedication.

In those fifty years, it has been part of the life of the church for countless services, weddings and funerals, has accompanied hundreds of concerts given by numerous performing organizations, and has provided another important service as a practice and teaching organ for generations of students; right now, it is being played on average about forty hours each week by students practicing and taking lessons. It is not too much to say that it has formed a musical foundation of all who come in contact with it. It's time, now, to thank it for its service by giving it a much-needed overhaul and tune-up....

[Read Peter's full letter here.](#)





THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, March 14

- 2:30 p.m. Beloved Community, via Zoom
- 4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Group, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. "Telling our White Stories" Faith & Life Group, via Zoom

Tuesday, March 15

- 7:00 p.m. "Troublesome Attitudes and Antidotes" Faith & Life Group, via Zoom
- 7:30 p.m. Shelter Oversight Committee, via Zoom

Wednesday, March 16

- 8:00 a.m. Midweek Contemplative Prayer, via Zoom
- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room
- 5:30 p.m. Midweek Small Group: Hanging Out with God, via Zoom
- 8:00 p.m. Missions & Social Justice Committee, via Zoom

Thursday, March 17

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

Friday, March 18

- 9:30 a.m. Friday Café food dropoff, Tower Room
- 12:00 p.m. Friday Café, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH) and the church lawn

Saturday, March 19

- 9:00 a.m. SNEUCC Super Saturday, via Zoom

Sunday, March 20 - Third Sunday of Lent

- 9:30 a.m. Contemplative Prayer, via Zoom
- 10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, MJH
- 11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Classes for PreK-7th graders
- 12:00 p.m. Zoom Coffee Hour
- 12:15 p.m. Hybrid Adult Formation: Jesus, Our Center, MJH and via Zoom
- 1:15 p.m. Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 8/9th graders, Harter Room
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream

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

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

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC

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