

Food for the Birds

Bag of birdseed, the feeder filled;
watching for sparrows, titmouse, black cap.
Birds return when it suits them;
cardinal pair, one pale, one vivid.
Dove couple now rummage below,
picking their way through bits of verse.

EARTH SUNDAY
Hybrid Morning Worship
April 24, 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

Easter Sunday, April 24, 2022

Preaching Today	Ariel Ackermann Claire Hunt Laurie Burt
Leading Worship	Dan Smith, Senior Minister Lexi Boudreaux, Transitional Minister Jaz Buchanan, Pastoral Associate Ebony West, Ministerial Intern Peter Sykes, Music Director Jim Brown, liturgist Susan Redlich, Earth Stewardship Kevin Newell, tech support
Bulletin Cover Image	Joanne Paul
Bulletin Cover Poem	Dave McCann

Today's Programs and Events

9:30 a.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal, Chapel
10:15 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal, MJH
11:00 a.m.	Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream
11:20 a.m.	Church School: Creative Arts Workshop, Church Lawn
12:00 p.m.	Refreshments on the Lawn and Zoom Coffee Hour
12:00 p.m.	Newcomers Meet and Greet, Church Lawn
12:15 p.m.	A Blessing on the Lawn
12:30 p.m.	New Members Session 1, The Landing and via Zoom
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: www.firstchurchcambridge.org/give or by texting “\$ _” to: 1-844-996-0982.

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.
For those gathering in the sanctuary, please remain masked while in Morning Worship.
Masks are optional once you leave the Sanctuary.*

VOLUNTARY

Pastorale

J. S. Bach

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN God's Got the Whole World in God's Hands

***God's Got the Whole World in her Hands.
God's Got the Whole World in his Hands.
God's Got the Whole World in their Hands.
God's Got the Whole World in God's Hands.***

God's got the wind and the rain in (her, his, their, God's) hands...

God's got the sun and the moon in (her, his, their, God's) hands...

God's got ev'rybody here in (her, his, their, God's) their hands...

*GREETING

Jim Brown

L: Siblings in the Spirit, grace and peace to you from God!

C: From God the Life Giver, peace to you!

L: Let us praise our God in the presence of Love —

C: Love divine, stronger than death!

L: Let us praise God in the companionship of the Risen Christ —

C: The Risen Christ, source of gentleness, who abides with us now!

L: Together, let us proclaim God's justice and love for all creation!

WELCOME

Jaz Buchanan and Jim Brown

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Deb Cunningham

ANTHEM

Blue Green Hills of Earth

Kim Oler

*For the earth forever turning; for the skies, for ev'ry sea;
for our lives, for all we cherish, sing we our joyful song of peace.
For the mountains, hills, and pastures in their silent majesty;
for the stars, for all the heavens, sing we our joyful song of peace.
For the sun, for rain and thunder, for the seasons' harmony,
for our lives, for all creation, sing we our joyful praise to Thee.
For the world we raise our voices, for the home that gives us birth;
in our joy we sing returning home to our bluegreen hills of earth.*

**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.*

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

**C: God of earth and heaven,
We confess to you the harm we have done
to this earth, one another, and to all of your sacred creation.
When we seek domination,
Humble us with Your grace.
Breathe in us Your wisdom.
For the threads that bind us surely extend beyond our church,
to every seed growing,
to every bird singing,
to the water flowing through us and around us.
Help us when we forget to see with our hearts and souls
the blessed woven relationships among all life.
Forgive us, we pray, and grant us your mercy and peace. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

Children up through 7th grade are now invited to Church School: Creative Arts Workshop on the lawn. Caregivers can find the children on the playground after worship.

*HYMN 456

God of the Fertile Fields

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Ebony West

READING

Job 12:7-10

READING

John 20: 19-31

REFLECTIONS

Ariel Ackermann, Claire Hunt, Laurie Burt

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lexi Boudreaux

CELEBRATING EARTH STEWARDSHIP

Susan Redlich

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Dan Smith

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

OFFERTORY

Psalm 24, vv. 1-5

Bay Psalm Book/Denise Karuth
Text - Hymn C-4

***DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**O Jesus, risen now to bless,
do thou thyself our hearts possess;
that we may give thee all our days
the willing tribute of our praise! Amen.**

GOING FORTH

***HYMN 461**

We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky

***BENEDICTION**

VOLUNTARY

Herzlich tut mich erfreuen

Johannes Brahms

God of the Fertile Fields

456

1. God of the fer - tile fields, shap - er of
 2. We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in
 3. As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that
 4. God of the coun - try - side, dear to the

earth that yields our dai - ly bread; forth from your
 trust from you all that you give; help us in
 serves our need, your reign yet grows. So let our
 Christ who died to make us one; we pledge our

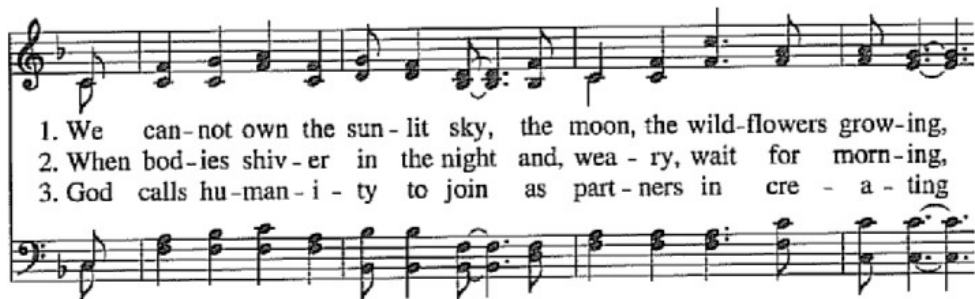
boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
 love to share, teach us like you to care
 toil be used, no gift of yours a - bused,
 lives a - new in faith - ful love to you;

that all in ev - 'ry land be clothed and fed.
 for peo - ple ev - 'ry - where, that all may live.
 no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.
 guide all we say and do, till life is done.

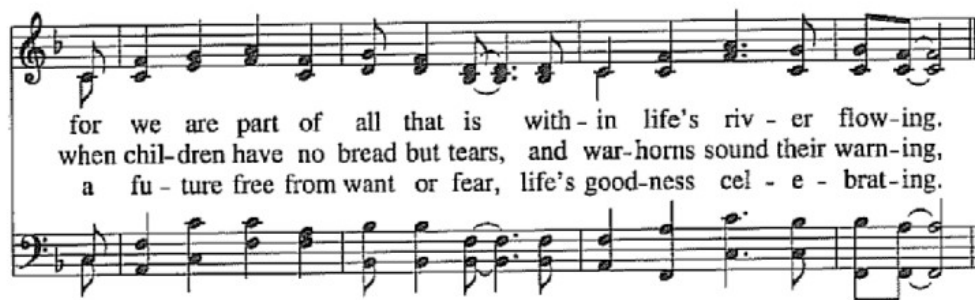
CLOSING HYMN

461

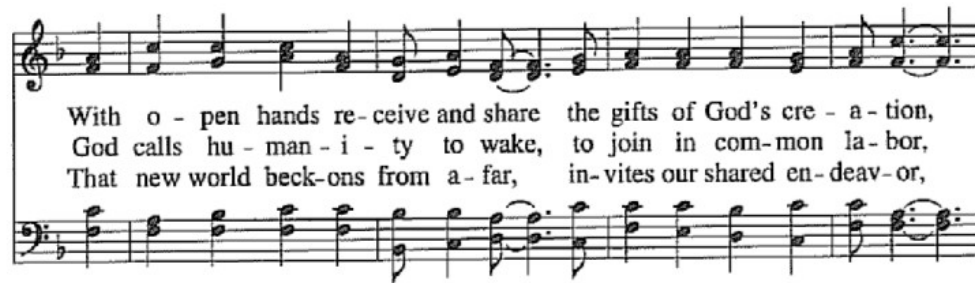
We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky



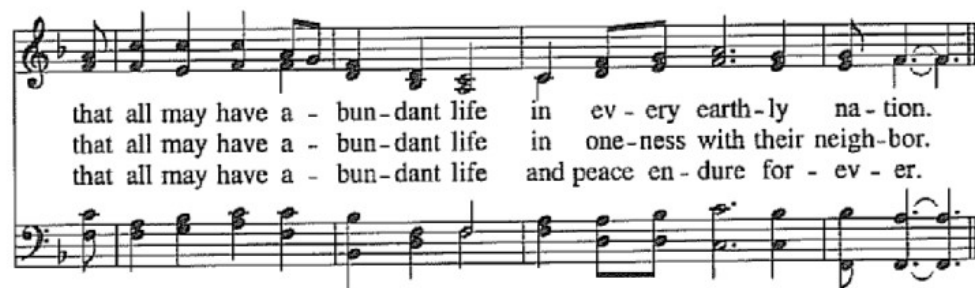
1. We can-not own the sun-lit sky, the moon, the wild-flowers grow-ing,
 2. When bod-ies shiv-er in the night and, wea-ry, wait for morn-ing,
 3. God calls hu-man-i-ty to join as part-ners in cre-a-ting



for we are part of all that is with-in life's riv-er flow-ing,
 when chil-dren have no bread but tears, and war-horns sound their warn-ing,
 a fu-ture free from want or fear, life's good-ness cel-e-brat-ing.



With o-pen hands re-ceive and share the gifts of God's cre-a-tion,
 God calls hu-man-i-ty to wake, to join in com-mon la-bor,
 That new world beck-ons from a-far, in-vites our shared en-deav-or,



that all may have a-bun-dant life in ev-ery earth-ly na-tion.
 that all may have a-bun-dant life in one-ness with their neigh-bor.
 that all may have a-bun-dant life and peace en-dure for-ev-er.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Steve LaMaster as he recovers from a ski accident and recent shoulder surgery.
- We pray for Peggy Stevens's husband Mike as he recovers from back surgery.
- We pray for safety, strength, and courage for Moana Bentin's daughter Kalo Daley, who is joining the crews of the *Hikianalia* and the *Hokulea*, to sail in a canoe from Oahu to Hilo, and on the open waters of the Pacific from Tahiti to Hawaii, with the Polynesian Voyaging Society.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Pauline Fennel; Judith Semmler, Alice Napoleon Jones's mother; Abby Shuman's uncle Barry; Penny Kilburn, Nancy Kilburn's mother; 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 as they face a full-scale Russian assault, and in light of further horrific reports of war crimes against civilians. We pray for people in war-torn areas around the world. We pray for all troops and civilians, and for bordering countries receiving refugees. We pray that diplomatic measures, sanctions, and peace prevail in Ukraine and all places experiencing war.
- We pray for all those impacted by the passage of laws in multiple states limiting access to abortion care and trans-affirming health care.
- We pray for all who are affected by COVID-19—those experiencing symptoms, those grieving the loss of loved ones, and those awaiting vaccines and boosters. We pray with and for anxious hearts, especially for educators, healthcare personnel, and other essential workers.
- We pray for indigenous communities whose ancestral homes and water supplies are threatened by pipelines, for those who have lost homes and loved ones to wildfires, floods, and tornadoes, and for those who strive to preserve living space for all of God's creatures. We pray that we may escape the trap of resignation and emerge into the dawn of possibility.
- 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

Earth Sunday Hybrid Morning Worship

Today at 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary and via livestream

Today, we are dedicating our Hybrid Morning Worship to Earth Day! Come join us in person or via livestream, as together, we lean into the wisdom of interconnection that God teaches us through animals, birds, fish, and the very earth herself. What can our scripture teach us about our relationship to all God's creation? What does it mean to be created in God's image? As we move into Eastertide and remember the resurrected Jesus welcoming his disciples with the words "receive the Holy Spirit," we might ask ourselves: What kind of divine responsibility are we holding amidst a climate crisis and various environmental injustices? All questions, doubts, fears, joys, and hope are welcome.



A Blessing on the Lawn

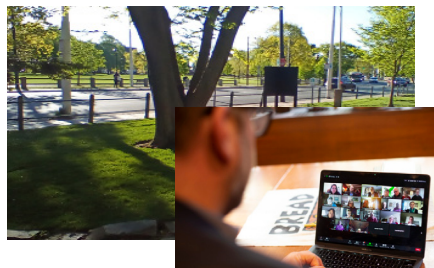
Today at 12:00 p.m.

Join us after worship for refreshments and a blessing on the lawn. At about 12:15, we will bless our bikes, Charlie Cards, canes, wheelchairs, walkers—all the many resources we use to move in this world to proclaim God's love, justice, and peace for all of creation. If it rains, we will offer the blessing in Margaret Jewett Hall. After the blessing, join us in Margaret Jewett Hall to enjoy Henry Gates's paintings entitled "GENESIS: the Seven Days."

Newcomers Meet and Greet and First New Members Session

Today, 12:00 - 12:30 p.m., Church Lawn

Those feeling new to First Church, or interested in meeting (in person!) someone new to our community, are warmly invited to meet up directly after worship on the front lawn. Some of what you can expect: friendly faces, new friends?, questions answered, snacks, and an informal atmosphere for conversation. Directly following the Meet and Greet, those interested in exploring membership at First Church are invited to meet in The Landing for the first of a series of New Member sessions.



Refreshments on the Lawn and Zoom Coffee Hour

Today at 12:00 p.m.

Join us after church today for coffee and refreshments and for a continuation of our Easter celebration on the Lawn! It has been such a joy to see so many faces in person, and we welcome this chance to connect with friends, old and new! For those joining online, [Zoom Coffee Hour](#) will launch at the end of worship.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Vaccine Equity Rally

Saturday, April 28, 5:00 p.m., Galaxy Park, Cambridge

Just 12% of people in Africa have been vaccinated compared to 70+% in rich countries. This “vaccine apartheid”, as the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu called it, not only threatens the safety and health of folks in the low- and middle-income countries, it leads to variants that affect people around the world. Moderna is one of the worst actors in addressing global vaccine inequity. JOIN US for a rally and march to their headquarters on April 28th to pressure them to share the vaccine technology and help end the pandemic. Questions? Contact Nancy Kilburn at nkkilburn@comcast.net.



Harvard and the Legacy of Slavery Film and Discussion

Sunday, May 1 at 9:30 a.m., Harter Room and via Zoom; and 12:15 p.m., MJH and via Zoom

On April 29, the Radcliffe Institute of Advanced Study and the Harvard and the Legacy of Slavery Initiative will be hosting a free day long conference entitled: [“Telling the Truth about All This: Reckoning with Slavery and Its Legacies at Harvard and Beyond.”](#)

The day will include panels and presentations by renowned scholars including Tracy K. Smith, Ruth Simmons, Henry Louis Gates, Ibram X. Kendi, and more, and will be centered around the

late April release of a robust report on Harvard’s history with recommendations for reparative action. Given First Church’s historic connection to this legacy, Dan Smith has been a member of the faculty committee guiding this initiative. We will engage in learning and reflection on this work at First Church starting on May 1 at 9:30 a.m., when we will view a 25-minute film about Harvard’s legacy. We will also hold an after-worship discussion about the committee’s report and recommendations. Please join us!

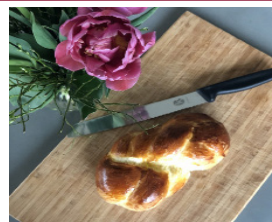
Young Adults: Brunch after Church

Sunday, May 1, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

RSVP for address

Join other First Church Young Adults (18-early 30’s) at the home of Robb Morgan and Claire Hunt for a late brunch and social time after church.

Carpooling is very much encouraged, so please [RSVP](#).



Service of Ordination for Katie Omberg

Sunday, May 1, 3:30 p.m., Sanctuary and via livestream

First Church in Cambridge cordially invites you to the Service of Ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament for First Church member Katie Omberg.

Katie was called by Melrose Highlands Congregational Church to be their Interim Minister. Let us celebrate together with Katie as she becomes an ordained clergy person in the United Church of Christ! There will be a cake reception outside after the service, weather-permitting.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Queer Bingo Night

Wednesday, May 3, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.,

Harter Room

Think you know the Bible? Come put it to the test with a friendly competition of Bible Bingo! This will be a safe and open environment for those of the LGBTQIA+ community, but of course all are welcomed. Bring your Bible, flash cards, and the Holy Spirit! See you there!



Young Adults: Faith on Tap

Wednesday, May 4, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Trina's Starlite Lounge, Somerville

The Young Adults continue their Faith on Tap Series at Trina's Starlite Lounge in Somerville. Join other 20- and 30-somethings for some casual fellowship and some extravagant hot dogs, Trina's specialty. Can't make this one, but want to keep up on other YA events? Reach out to [Phil Jones!](#)



An Invitation to Covenant Dinners, May 20 and 21

Would you like to reconnect with old friends, meet new friends, and take a moment to reflect on what it means to be a part of our church community? Would you like to share conversation, food, and drink with interesting people over a potluck dinner? Now that we can more safely gather outside, the Stewardship Committee is revitalizing the Covenant dinner tradition. If you are interested in participating, either as an attendee or a host, on Friday, May 20, or Saturday, May 21, please let us know by completing this [sign-up form](#); the Stewardship Committee will follow up to confirm the date, time, location, and to coordinate a potluck sign-up. If you would be willing to host, you simply need an outdoor space that can accommodate a group of about 8-10 people and provide plates and silverware. The Stewardship Committee will make sure to take care of the rest!

BECOMING A MEMBER OF FIRST CHURCH

Preparing for Joining Sunday, May 22

Have you been thinking about exploring membership at First Church in Cambridge?

Do you have a growing sense that First Church is where you belong?

Have you recently joined or enjoy meeting new folks in our community and are looking to support others in this process?

You are in luck! Please save the dates for our upcoming opportunities to explore membership and to build deeper connections with one another as we prepare for a Joining Sunday. For more details on New Member sessions or our Newcomers community events in general, please be in touch with the staff liaison to the Welcoming Team, Lexi Boudreaux.

Sunday, April 24

12:00 p.m.

Meet & Greet after Worship, Front Lawn

12:30 p.m.

New Members Session 1, The Landing and via Zoom

Sunday, May 1

12:15 p.m.

New Members Session 2, The Landing and via Zoom

Sunday, May 15

Deadline to give notice to join on Joining Sunday

Deadline for submission of bios & address info

for Parish List

Sunday, May 22 - Joining Sunday

9:30 a.m.

New Members Breakfast, Front Lawn

(rain location: Hastings Common)

11:00 a.m.

Joining New Members in Covenant in Morning Worship



NEWS FROM FIRST CHURCH AND THE UCC

First Church Shelter News

We celebrate good news from the First Church Shelter: Three Shelter guest has moved out of the Shelter into a shared living situation, and the City has committed funds to the First Church Shelter through 2023. These funds will be used for showers, additional hours to operate the Shelter, and for staff to help First Church Shelter guests access state and city resources. We celebrate this good news alongside Shelter Director Jim Stewart.



WE STAND
FOR PEACE.

WE STAND WITH
UKRAINE.

United Church of Christ (UCC) Appeal Tops \$1 Million to Help Ukrainians

Learn how our denomination is directing much needed aid to Ukraine and to surrounding countries, where refugees are fleeing from the war. The full article by Connie Larkman on ucc.org provides updates on how the United Church of Christ is using our donations to plan for the long term needs.

[Read the full article to learn how you can contribute.](#)

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 to the right.



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 to the left 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.



THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, April 25

- 4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Group, via Zoom
- 5:00 p.m. Exploring Reparations Group, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Executive Council, via Zoom

Tuesday, April 26

- 7:30 a.m. Space to Listen: Reflecting on the Gospel of Luke, via Zoom
- 3:00 p.m. Aging with Grace Reunion, Front Lawn

Wednesday, April 27

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room
- 7:00 p.m. Finance Team, via Zoom
- 7:30 p.m. Missions and Social Justice Committee, via Zoom

Thursday, April 28

- 2:00 p.m. Beloved Community, via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Friday Café food dropoff, Tower Room
- 6:00 p.m. Drop-in Bible Study, via Zoom

Friday, April 29

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

Sunday, May 1

- 9:30 a.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal, Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Harvard and Legacy of Slavery Film and Discussion, Harter Room and 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: Pastoral Care Sunday, MJH
- 12:00 p.m. Refreshments on the Lawn and Zoom Coffee Hour
- 12:15 p.m. Harvard and Legacy of Slavery Report and Discussion, MJH and via Zoom
- 12:15 p.m. New Members Session II, The Landing and via Zoom
- 12:30 p.m. Young Adults Brunch, home of Robb Morgan and Clare Hunt
- 1:15 p.m. Our Whole Lives, Harter Room
- 3:30 p.m. Service of Ordination for Katie Omberg, Sanctuary and via livestream
- 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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