



Hybrid Summer Worship
August 14, 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

August 14, 2022

Preaching Today	Dan Smith, <i>Senior Minister</i>
Leading Worship	Lexi Boudreaux, <i>Transitional Minister</i> Jaz Buchanan, <i>Pastoral Associate</i> Peter Sykes, <i>Director of Music</i> Kevin Newell, <i>tech support</i>
Bulletin Cover Image	Gaylen Morgan, <i>First Church member</i>

Today's Programs and Events

- 10:00 a.m. Hybrid Summer Worship, Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)
- 11:00 a.m. Refreshments on Lawn and [Zoom](#) Coffee Hour
- 11:15 a.m. Deacons Walk, meet on front lawn

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.

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

Fantasia

William Byrd

***HYMN 1**

We Limit Not the Truth of God

***GREETING**

Joanne Paul

- L: Beloved, wherever you are on your journey of life and faith,
C: gather in this sacred time and space.
L: Come, just as you are, beautifully and wonderfully made.
C: Gather in our Creator's steadfast love that endures forever.
L: Come, all who seek rest and Sabbath,
C: gather in Christ who will give you renewal.
L: Come, all who yearn for justice, hope and peace.
C: Gather in the presence of the Spirit who guides us now.
L: Come, let us give thanks and worship God!

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANTHEM

Sing to the Lord

Christopher Tye

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- L: Together, let us pray for healing, pardon, and peace:
**All: Before you, O God, and before one another,
we confess the times when our words and actions
separated us from your greatest commandment
to love you, our neighbor, and ourselves.
God, tend to all the places within us that need healing and peace,
and fill us with your hope, strength, and wisdom.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**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.*

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

*HYMN 281

Spirit of the Living God

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING

Jeremiah 23:23-29

Lexi Boudreaux

READING

Luke 12: 49-56

SERMON

Dan Smith

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD

Jaz Buchanan

L: God be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.

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**

**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**HYMN 259**

Awake, Awake to Love and Work

BENEDICTION*VOLUNTARY**

Gigge - Dr. Bull's My Selfe

John Bull

First Church Land Acknowledgment

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

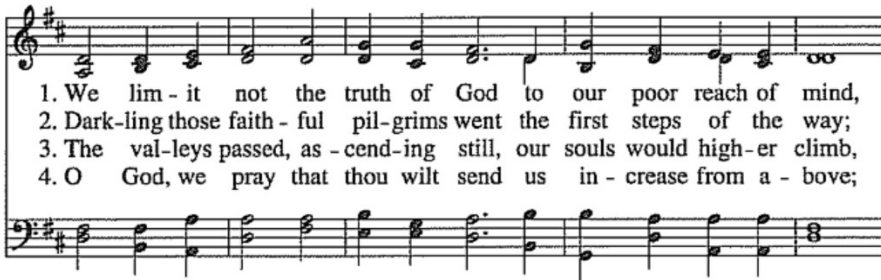
You can find a longer version of this acknowledgment [here](#) or by scanning the QR code to the right.



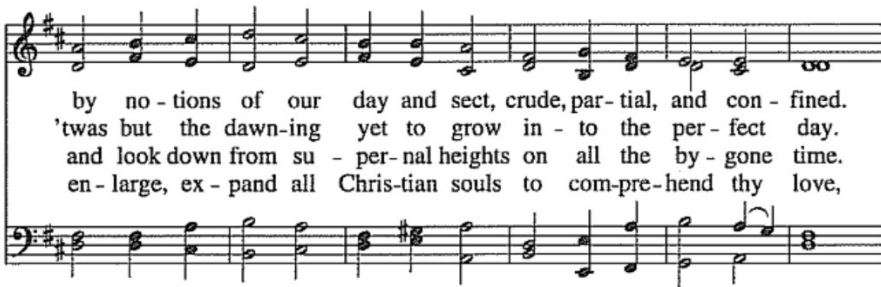
OPENING HYMN

We Limit Not the Truth of God

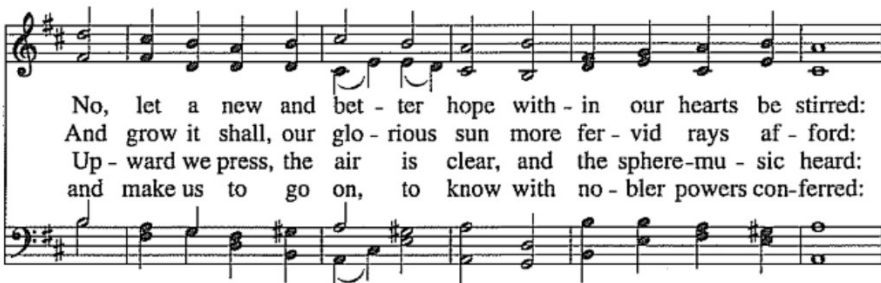
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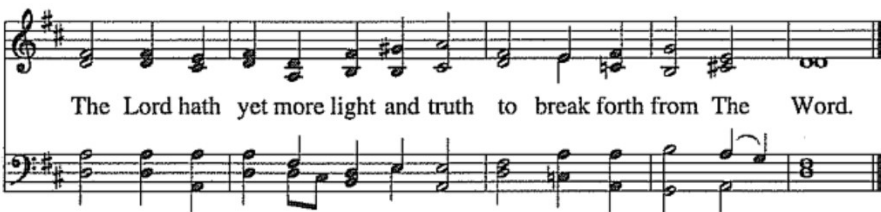
1. We lim - it not the truth of God to our poor reach of mind,
 2. Dark-ling those faith - ful pil-grims went the first steps of the way;
 3. The val-leys passed, as - cend-ing still, our souls would high-er climb,
 4. O God, we pray that thou wilt send us in - crease from a - bove;



by no - tions of our day and sect, crude, par - tial, and con - fined.
 'twas but the dawn-ing yet to grow in - to the per - fect day.
 and look down from su - per - nal heights on all the by - gone time.
 en - large, ex - pand all Chris-tian souls to com-pre-hend thy love,



No, let a new and bet - ter hope with - in our hearts be stirred:
 And grow it shall, our glo - rious sun more fer - vid rays af - ford:
 Up - ward we press, the air is clear, and the sphere-mu - sic heard:
 and make us to go on, to know with no - blier powers con - ferred:



The Lord hath yet more light and truth to break forth from The Word.

WORDS: George Rawson, 1853, alt.

MUSIC: Anglo-Genevan Psalter, 1556

George Rawson, a Congregational layman from Leeds, England, based the refrain of this text on the parting words of John Robinson to the Pilgrims (see facing page).

OLD 22nd

CMD

PEACE HYMN

281

Spirit of the Living God

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me; Spir - it of the

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff contains the melody with lyrics underneath. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note Bb4, and a quarter note C5. The lyrics 'Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me; Spir - it of the' are aligned with the notes.

liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me,

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff has lyrics underneath. The bass staff continues the accompaniment. The melody continues with a quarter note C5, a quarter note Bb4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note G4. The lyrics 'liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me,' are aligned with the notes.

use me. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

The third system of musical notation concludes the piece. The treble staff has lyrics underneath. The bass staff continues the accompaniment. The melody ends with a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, a quarter note E4, and a quarter note D4. The lyrics 'use me. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.' are aligned with the notes.

WORDS and MUSIC: Daniel Iverson, 1926

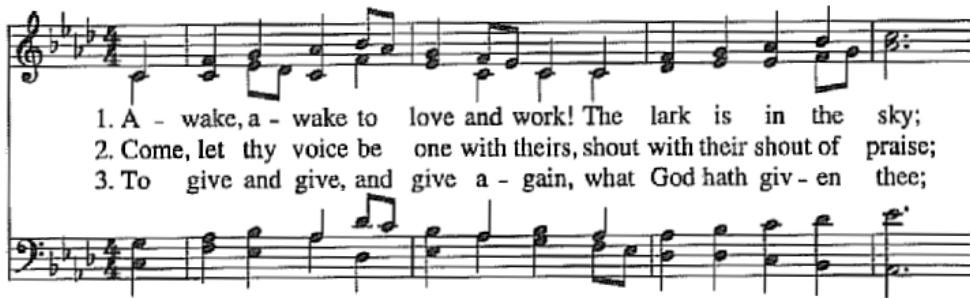
Daniel Iverson was a North Carolina Presbyterian minister who was moved to create this response while attending a revival service.

IVERSON
75.75.875

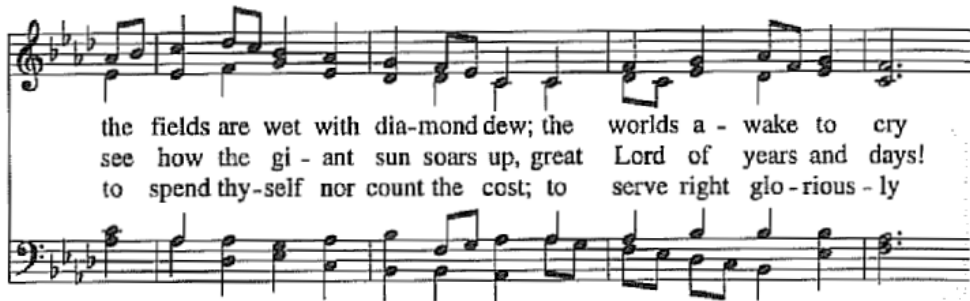
© 1935 Birdwing Music, admin. EMI
Christian Music Publishing

CLOSING HYMN

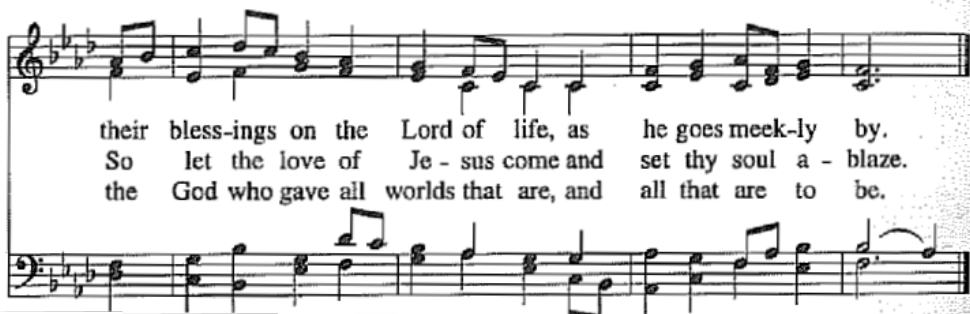
259 Awake, Awake to Love and Work



1. A - wake, a - wake to love and work! The lark is in the sky;
2. Come, let thy voice be one with theirs, shout with their shout of praise;
3. To give and give, and give a - gain, what God hath giv - en thee;



the fields are wet with dia-mond dew; the worlds a - wake to cry
see how the gi - ant sun soars up, great Lord of years and days!
to spend thy-self nor count the cost; to serve right gio - rious - ly



their bless-ings on the Lord of life, as he goes meek-ly by.
So let the love of Je - sus come and set thy soul a - blaze.
the God who gave all worlds that are, and all that are to be.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for healing for James Ross, who is recovering at home after an extended hospitalization, following an unexpected onset of pain and lack of mobility.
- We pray for John McCarty's father Jim, who is in the hospital recovering from a stroke.
- We pray for Paula Stanley, who is recovering from recent hand surgery and hospitalization related to cellulitis.
- We pray for Anita Anger as she navigates some recent health challenges.
- We pray for Perry Neubauer, who is recovering at home after long-awaited kidney stone surgery, and who is now undergoing tests for a seemingly unrelated bout of anemia.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Pauline Fennel; Judith Semmler, Alice Napoleon Jones's mother; 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; a current First Church Shelter guest; and friend of Homeless Ministries Brian O'Donovan.
- We pray for all who are facing severe, dangerous heat, droughts, and fires in Massachusetts, across the U.S., in Europe, and around the world.
- We pray for all who have been affected by the monkeypox outbreak around the world, and for our public health officials, that they might mitigate the harm done to our public and individual health. We pray that all may access medical care without shame.
- We pray for those experiencing the loss of vital reproductive rights across the nation, and all those who care about them. We also pray for compassion, wisdom, grace, and courage, as the public discourse around abortion may cause each of us to wrestle with our own thoughts and feelings surrounding the complexities of this issue.
- We pray for the people of Ukraine and for people in war-torn areas around the world. We pray for all troops and civilians, and for bordering countries receiving refugees.
- 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 all transgender and gender non-conforming people who are experiencing hostility, discrimination, and violence across the country, in connection with the increased number of legislative actions that negatively impact their civil rights.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray with hope at the news of possible climate action included in recently negotiated legislation in the Senate. Endow our political leaders and all of us with the strength and courage needed for ongoing climate and environmental justice.
- 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.



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.

You can scan these codes to connect with First Church via social media:



TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH



Neighborhood Prayer Walk

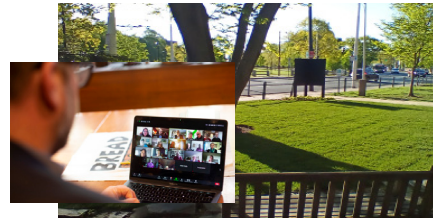
Today after worship

Come join Lexi and some of the deacons for a walk after worship on Sunday! We'll leave from coffee hour and walk about 15-20 minutes, with a final destination of [The Little Crepe Cafe](#) at 102 Oxford Street. Some of you know that Jean-Dany's wife Jocelina is one of the managers, and that the crepes are delicious! There are tables in the cafe and also tables in the park across the street. Contact [Beth Spaulding](#) or [Lexi Boudreaux](#) if you have any questions or want to let us know that you are planning on coming!

Refreshments on the Lawn and [Zoom](#) Coffee Hour

Today at 11:00 a.m.

Join us after church today for coffee, lemonade, and refreshments on the front lawn! For those joining online, Zoom Coffee Hour will launch at the end of worship.



Pastoral Care Cards this Summer

During the summer months, we invite you to support our Pastoral Care ministry by writing a simple note to First Church members who are on our weekly prayer list. It may be to share congratulations, condolences, or "get well soon" wishes. Look for the "card table" at Coffee Hour each Sunday, where you'll find the weekly list of pastoral care needs and/or the Sunday bulletin prayer section, blank cards, pens, and a Church Directory with addresses. We have also included stamps and return address labels.

Please affix to the completed cards and place them in one of the mailboxes on Garden St. as you leave (corner of Garden and Mason or corner of Garden and Berkeley). If you'd like to write cards from home, use the online bulletin and Church Directory found in the "Quick Links" on the [Members & Friends page](#) of our website. Many thanks in advance for sharing in this important ministry of outreach and care.

SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH



Summer Hours

Through the months of July and August, **Hybrid Morning Worship begins at 10:00 a.m.**, with pick-up choir meeting at 9:15 a.m.

Over the summer, church school-aged children are invited to remain in the sanctuary for the entire worship service. The Nursery continues to be staffed by our regular caregivers for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.

During the summer, the church building closes at 2:00 p.m. from Thursday through Sunday. The building is open for regular hours Monday through Wednesday. A Sexton is in the building when it is open.

Leadership Retreat Summary & Opportunities to Offer Input

In early June, 35 members of our Executive Council, Board of Deacons, and Staff met for an after-church leadership retreat. We tried to take stock of where we've been since Covid and where we are now. We invited leaders to share both celebrations and questions around several key areas of our life together. Imagine Margaret Jewett Hall set up around 5 newsprint stations with lots of colorful scribbles under these topics:



- Hybrid Worship and Community
- Our Financial Life
- Our Staffing Model
- Becoming an Antiracist Church
- Everything Else!

And now, we'd love to hear from you!

For a **summary of our celebrations and questions**, please [click here](#).

For a chance to **add your own celebrations and questions**, please [click here](#).

If you are interested in **joining a summer gathering where we can share in conversation about all of the above**, please [sign up here](#).

After a time of being apart for so long, the retreat and these ongoing exercises are helping us to orient and share a common sense of where we are! Stay tuned for more opportunities this fall, as we continue to celebrate and deepen our discernment about where God is leading us next.

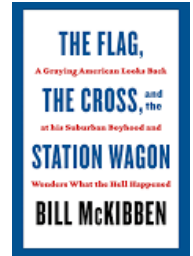
SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH

Summer Book Reading Group

The Flag, the Cross and the Station Wagon: A Graying American Looks Back at His Suburban Boyhood and Wonders What the Hell Happened
by Bill McKibben

Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m., August 2 - 16, and Wednesday, August 31

Please email Dan Smith (dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org)
to RSVP and receive Zoom info.



Young Adults: Faith on Tap

Wednesday, August 17, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Druid, Inman Square

Join other 20- and 30-somethings from First Church for a casual get-together of drinks outside at the Druid in Inman Square. Text Phil if you plan to come, or to get on the mailing list for the group as we plan events for the fall: 585-610-7919

Looking Ahead:

Young Adults: Sunset Stroll & Ice Cream

Sunday, August 21, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Meet @ Lizzie's, Harvard Square

Summer Healing Service, August 21

This summer we offer a return of our healing services. In these services, we have an opportunity to reflect together on God's healing peace and to participate in a simple healing ritual involving a brief prayer, laying on of hands, and—for those who wish—anointing with oil, an ancient Christian practice now being revived across the ecumenical spectrum of churches. At the time of the sermon, we offer instead a brief introduction to the ritual and then invite forward all who would like to participate. For those who prefer to remain seated, there will be music and a time of silence for individual prayers.



Grassroots Reparations Sunday Conversation

Sunday, August 21, 11:15 am Harter Room and [via Zoom](#)

After morning worship, and as part of our ongoing participation in and learning from the national Grassroots Reparations Campaign, we will be joining other faith communities around the country in hosting a "Reparations Sabbath" conversation after church next weekend. Our hybrid session will include a time of spiritual grounding, resourcing and open conversation of where we are with our individual and collective commitments towards truth telling, repair and reparations. With others in this growing movement, we hope this work "lays the foundation for communities to honor the call for racial justice in America and across the globe."

SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH

A Post Roe v. Wade Faith Gathering

Monday, August 22, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., via Zoom

Join us for a facilitated conversation that welcomes different ideas and perspectives on how to make sense of a post Roe v. Wade nation in the context of our faith. Please email Jaz Buchanan (jaz@firstchurchcambridge.org) or Lexi Boudreaux (lexi@firstchurchcambridge.org) to RSVP and receive the Zoom invitation.



First Church Returns to Craigville for our All-Church Fall Retreat

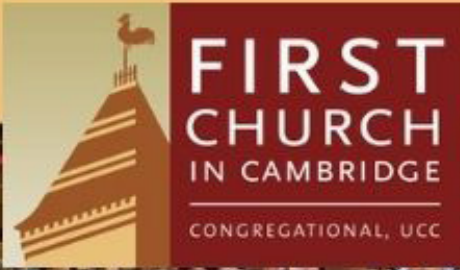
Friday, September 30 - Sunday, October 2

After two pandemic cancellations (as well as the “year off” we took in 2019), First Church is returning to [Craigville Retreat Center](#) for our beloved All-Church Fall Retreat! All are welcome to join us for a weekend of community-building in fellowship, formation, and fun. Take advantage of scheduled large group gatherings, small group sessions, supervised play/crafting time for kids, worship, group games, and more. Or, opt for a quiet walk on the beach, bird-watching at the marsh, or whatever your soul needs. Arrive on Friday evening, September 30, and stay through midday on Sunday, October 2, for the full event; or come for a portion of the weekend, for just one night or for a daytrip on Saturday. [Register now](#) to reserve your spot! Lodging and meals, plus all our First Church programming, are included; see the [registration form](#) for details.

Support the Fair Share Amendment

Do you know about the Fair Share Amendment, which will appear on the Massachusetts ballot this November? Fair Share is a proposed amendment to tax 4% of the portion of a person’s annual income over \$1 million to fund public education and transportation in our state. If you would like to support this economic and climate justice initiative, the Missions & Social Justice Committee invites you to help get it passed by canvassing, making calls, and joining other volunteer opportunities throughout the summer and early fall.

More information is available at: <https://www.fairsharema.com/volunteer>



THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, August 15

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

Tuesday, August 16

5:00 p.m. Summer Book Group: The Flag, the Cross, and the Station Wagon, via Zoom

Wednesday, August 17

7:00 p.m. Young Adults: Faith on Tap, Druid, Inman Square

Thursday, August 18

6:00 p.m. Drop-in Bible Study, via Zoom

Friday, August 19

9:30 a.m. Friday Café food dropoff, Tower Room

12:00 p.m. Friday Café, Tower Room and Lawn

Sunday, August 21

10:00 a.m. Hybrid Summer Worship, A Service of Healing
Dan Smith and Lexi Boudreaux, leading

11:00 a.m. Refreshments on the Lawn and Zoom Coffee Hour

11:15 a.m. Grassroots Reparations Sunday Conversation, Harter Room and via Zoom

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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