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Hybrid Summer Worship  
August 28, 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 28, 2022

<b>Preaching Today</b>	Isabella Yao, <i>friend of First Church</i>
<b>Leading Worship</b>	Lexi Boudreaux, <i>Transitional Minister</i> Jaz Buchanan, <i>Pastoral Associate</i> Sarah Higginbotham, <i>Director of Creative Worship &amp; Arts</i> Peter Sykes, <i>Director of Music</i> Bruce Hoppe, <i>liturgist</i> Deb Cunningham and Nick Stauffer, <i>offering a Stewardship Moment</i> Kevin Newell, <i>tech support</i>
<b>Bulletin Cover Image</b>	Gaylen Morgan, <i>First Church member</i>

### Today's Programs and Events

9:15 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
10:00 a.m.	Hybrid Summer Worship, Sanctuary and <a href="#">via livestream</a>
11:00 a.m.	Refreshments on Lawn and <a href="#">Zoom</a> Coffee Hour
11:00 a.m.	Newcomers Meet and Greet, Church 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](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

**VOLUNTARY**

Preludes

Benjamin Latrobe

**\*HYMN 387**

Thou, God of All, Whose Spirit Moves

**\*GREETING**

Bruce Hoppe

- 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**

Lead me, Lord

S. S. Wesley

*Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness; make Thy way plain before my face.  
For it is thou, Lord, thou Lord only, who makest me dwell in safety.*

## 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 C-20

The Household of God

## OPENING THE WORD

## PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Sarah Higginbotham

## READING

Acts 17:22-28

## REFLECTION

Isabella Yao

## SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jaz Buchanan

## PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD

Lexi Boudreaux

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

Deb Cunningham and Nick Stauffer



Give by Text



Give Online



I've Given Already

**OFFERTORY**

Simple Gifts

Mark Schweizer/Johann Pachelbel

*'Tis a gift to be simple, 'tis a gift to be free, 'tis a gift to come down where we ought to be,  
and when we find ourselves in a place just right, 'twill be in the valley of love and delight.*

*'Tis a gift to be loving, 'tis a gift to be kind, 'tis a gift to leave our bitterness behind,  
and when we find ourselves in a place just right, 'twill be in the valley of love and delight.*

*When true simplicity is gained, to bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,  
to turn, turn, will be our delight, till by turning, turning, we come round right.*

*'Tis a gift to be thankful, 'tis a gift to forgive, 'tis a gift to find out how we ought to live,  
and when we find ourselves in a place just right, 'twill be in the valley of love and delight.*

**\*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 80**

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

**\*LEAVE-TAKING BLESSING FOR KEVIN NEWELL****\*BENEDICTION****VOLUNTARY**

Voluntary

William Selby

**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.



OPENING HYMN

387 Thou God of All, Whose Spirit Moves

1. Thou God of all, whose spir-it moves from pole to si-lent pole,  
 2. One in the pa-tient com-pa-ny of those who heed thy will,  
 3. One in the truth that makes us free, the faith that makes us brave;

whose pur-pose binds the star-ry spheres in one stu-pen-dous whole,  
 and stead-fast-ly pur-sue the way of thy com-mand-ments still;  
 one in the love that suf-fers long to seek, and serve, and save;

whose life, like light, is free-ly poured on all be-neath the sun,  
 one in the ho-ly fel-low-ship of those who chal-lenge wrong,  
 one in the vi-sion of thy peace, the king-dom yet to be,

to thee we lift our hearts, and pray that thou wilt make us one:  
 and lift the spir-it's sword to shield the weak a-against the strong;  
 when thou shalt be the God of all, and all be one in thee.

PEACE HYMN

C-20


The Household of God



1. The\_ house - hold of God has\_\_\_ room for us all, ev - ery -  
2. The\_ house - hold of God has\_\_\_ work for us all, by\_\_\_  
3. The\_ house - hold of God gives a voice to us all, we can  
4. The\_ house - hold of God has\_\_\_ hope for us all, in the



one has a place at the feast, the\_\_\_ best and the worst have\_\_\_  
man - y have seeds been\_\_\_ sown, in the har - vest of heal - ing, of  
sing in a cho - rus di - vine, we can hear ev - ery life as a  
dark - ness a hand holds our own, as we walk by that guid - ance our



hearts need - ing love, there is truth for the great - est and least.  
jus - tice and love, there is no need to la - bor a - lone.  
sto - ry of grace, ev - ery soul a mir - a - cu - lous sign.  
faith is the dawn, by its light our re - demp - tion is shown.

WORDS: John Evans-Klock

MUSIC: Peter Sykes

## Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

80

1. Our God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,  
 2. Un - der the shad - ow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt se - cure;  
 3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,  
 4. A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are like an eve - ning gone,  
 5. Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, bears mor - tals all a - way;  
 6. Our God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,

our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home!  
 2. suf - fi - cient is thine arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
 from ev - er - last - ing thou art God, to end - less years the same.  
 4. short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.  
 they fly, for - got - ten, as a dream dies at the open - ing day.  
 6. be thou our guard while trou - bles last, and our e - ter - nal home.

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.  
 MUSIC: Attr. William Croft, 1708

ST. ANNE  
 CM

Watts wrote this hymn, based on Psalm 90, while serving as pastor of Mark Lane Independent (Congregational) Church in London.



## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Nancy O’Connell, who is grieving the loss of her beloved husband Steve. Steve was diagnosed with cancer in July and died on Friday, August, 19.
- We pray for Kathy Williams, who is grieving the loss of her husband Jim. Though Jim had been experiencing health challenges, he died unexpectedly last week.
- We pray with grateful hearts that James Ross is feeling better and is back to work after an extended hospitalization following an unexpected onset of pain and lack of mobility.
- We pray for Kirsten Manville’s father Keith, who has been moved out of the ICU, but is still hospitalized for a serious fall that caused bleeding in his brain.
- We pray for John McCarty’s father Jim, who is recovering from a stroke.
- We pray for Heather Stanford, who is grieving the loss of her older “sister” Judy, who died this past week of Glioblastoma.
- 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 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.

## TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

- We pray with hope at the news of climate action legislation recently passed at both the federal and state levels.
- 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.



### 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, or write cards from home, using the online bulletin and Church Directory found in the “Quick Links” on the [Members & Friends page](#) of our website.



### Newcomers Meet and Greet

**Sunday, August 28, 11:00 - 11:30 a.m., Church Lawn**

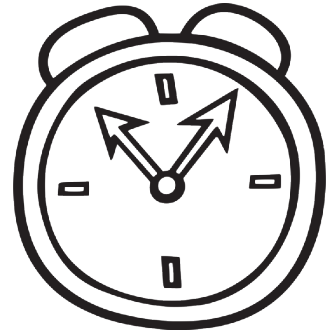
Those feeling new to First Church, or interested in meeting (in person!) someone new to our community, are warmly invited to meet up directly after worship at Coffee Hour on the lawn. Some of what you can expect: friendly faces, new friends?, questions answered, snacks, and an informal atmosphere for conversation. Our first Joining Sunday of the season will be in mid-Fall. Stay tuned for details, or be in touch with a staff member for more information.



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.

***Sunday Morning Worship  
returns to 11:00 a.m.  
next Sunday, September 4.***



**Shall We Gather?  
Fall 2022 and Regathering Sunday**

*And let us consider each other carefully for the purpose of spurring one another toward love and good words, not giving up meeting together... but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the day approaching.*

- Hebrews 10: 24-25



This fall, we are excited to be more intentional about how we gather! In worship, on retreat, and in our small group life, we will bring some First Church wonder and curiosity to this ancient, yet timely theme. In a season when many are already re-imagining what it means to gather, we ask:

***How do we gather?***

- What makes for good gatherings, anyway?
- How can we be more intentional about our purpose for meetings?
- How do we open and close our times together?
- How do we ensure there are chances to share our stories and lives with another?
- Who are the hosts, really, and who are the guests, especially when we are at church?
- What attention to detail might make our gatherings all the more powerful, memorable, and true?

Priya Parker, author of [\*The Art of Gathering: How We Meet and Why It Matters\*](#), offers helpful tips on some of the above that we are eager to explore together. Not surprisingly, our scripture and tradition have a lot to say about this, too! Join us on **Regathering Sunday, September 11**, as we gather in the Spirit. Come Sunday, and come this fall—let's make some First Church art of gathering together.

## LOOKING AHEAD TO FALL AT FIRST CHURCH



### **Young Adults: Faith on Tap** **Thursday, September 8, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.** **Grendel's Den, Harvard Square**

Join the Young Adults at First Church for some casual fellowship with other 20- and 30-somethings. All welcome; we'll meet outside at Grendel's. Text Phil if you can make it or to get on the group's mailing list: 585-610-7919

### **Faith Formation for Children & Youth Starts Up in September!**

We are very happy to welcome children and youth back to in-person classes, workshops, and social gatherings this fall!

[Register your children for this year's programs here.](#)

Parents and caregivers, make sure you are on the "First Church Families" email list. Sarah Higginbotham sends a "News for First Church Families" e-newsletter every Thursday afternoon. Contact Sarah to get on the list.



- **Church School Classes**

We plan to offer Godly Play (PreK-4th grade) and Bible 101 (5/6th grade) classes in our Church School. On **Regathering Sunday, September 11**, children will be invited to leave Morning Worship after the Passing of the Peace to meet their teachers and get a taste of what their classes are all about.

- **Youth Programs: Our Whole Lives, Confirmation Class & Youth Group**

ALL of our youth opportunities will take place on **Sunday afternoons, starting at 1:30 p.m...** [Read more](#)



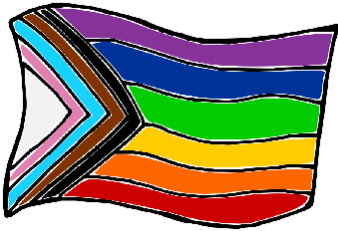
### **Family Night Reunion** **Tuesday, September 13, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.** **The Parsonage, 44 Garden St.**

For many years before 2020, First Church families with young children would gather on Tuesday evenings in Sage Hall for a simple pasta potluck dinner. Parents would linger over dinner as kids raced around our basement playspace on tricycles or built towers with blocks. Deeper reflection and connection amongst parents would take place during seasonal small group offerings during this time, including Bible study and book group discussion. Now, all those who participated in Tuesday Family Nights are warmly invited to a reunion! [Read more](#)

## LOOKING AHEAD TO FALL AT FIRST CHURCH

### Call for Fall Faith & Life Group Leaders by September 18

Are you interested in leading a small group over Zoom or in-person this Fall? [Contact Transitional Minister Lexi Boudreaux](#) to discuss your idea for a Fall Faith & Life Group. Led by First Church members, Faith & Life Groups are designed to encourage meaningful connections through shared interests, whether exploring a spiritual practice, opening our eyes to the beauty around us, delving into a challenging social issue, or attending to significant life stages (parenting, aging, job transitions, etc.). Faith & Life Groups involve making a short-term commitment (a single session to several weeks, depending on the group). Pitch your idea for a Faith & Life Group to [Lexi!](#) ***Deadline for proposals is Wednesday, September 18.***



### Celebrating Our ONA History—Faithfully (& Queerfully) Responding to the Present

Sundays, September 18 & 25, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.

Harter Room and via Zoom

Join us as we celebrate our history as an Open and Affirming (ONA) congregation since 1991! Grounded in our faith, we will discern together how we can continue to lovingly embrace our

LGBTQ+ siblings—especially our trans and nonbinary siblings, whose civil rights are under attack across our nation. We will talk about and give thanks to God for a wide breadth of sexualities and genders, and for every color on the rainbow that connects us all as beloved children, deeply cherished by our Creator. We look forward to seeing you there!

### Aging With Grace and Dying Well Reunion

Tuesday, September 20

3:00 - 4:15 p.m., Harter Room and via Zoom

Join us as we regather the members of last year's group, where we offered each other companionship and spiritual resources for encountering the end of life. In this current season of regathering, let's again wrestle with the big questions together as we let God's presence and this community hold us. Let's learn together how we can find dignity, courage, grace, hope, and peace in our aging and in our dying. We will offer spiritual readings, time for conversation and reflection, along with a few practical resources for end-of-life planning. This group may continue on a monthly basis for ongoing support. Please email [Lexi](#) or [Dan](#) if you have questions.



## LOOKING AHEAD TO FALL AT FIRST CHURCH



### **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.

From UCC News:

[\*\*\*At 150, Craigville Village recalls its “progressive, prophetic” UCC roots\*\*\*](#)

### **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: [fairsharema.com/volunteer](http://fairsharema.com/volunteer)



# THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



## Tuesday, August 30

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

## Wednesday, August 31

5:00 p.m. Summer Book Group Follow-Up Session: *The Flag, the Cross, and the Station Wagon*, via Zoom

## Thursday, September 1

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

## Friday, September 2

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

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

## Sunday, September 4 - MORNING WORSHIP RETURNS TO 11:00 A.M.

10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, MJH

11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream

12:00 p.m. Refreshments on the Lawn and Zoom Coffee Hour

## Monday, September 5 - Church Office & Building Closed for Labor Day Holiday

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

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

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