



Season of Regathering
October 9, 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

October 9, 2022

Preaching Today Leading Worship

Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*
Lexi Boudreaux, *Transitional Minister*
Kate Layzer, *Minister of Street Outreach*
Carla Carbajal, *Ministerial Intern*
Ahmaad Edmunds, *Ministerial Intern*
Holly Marple, *liturgist*
Issa and Marcia Bibbins, *guest musicians*
Lee Prouty, *tech support*

Bulletin Cover Image Freddie Funck, *First Church youth*

Today's Programs and Events

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: Where Are We Now?, Harter Room and [via Zoom](#)
- 10:15 a.m. Coffee and Conversation, Hastings Common
- 11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)
- 12:00 p.m. Refreshments in Margaret Jewett Hall and [Zoom](#) Coffee Hour
- 12:25 p.m. Harvard Square Churches Legacy of Slavery Walking Tour, meet on church lawn
- 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 a visitor card found on the small clipboard in the pews or 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

*HYMN

Woke Up This Morning

Woke up this morning with my mind (and it was) stayed on Jesus.

Woke up this morning with my mind (and it was) stayed on Jesus.

Woke up this morning with my mind (and it was) stayed on Jesus.

Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah!

Singing and praying with my mind....

Living and loving with my mind....

*GREETING

Ahmaad Edmunds

L: Siblings in the Spirit, come in, and know the goodness of God's love!

C: Enter into this sanctuary of rest and healing.

L: Come in, and know this community of justice and joy.

**C: Come in, and hear stories of hope and challenge;
drink of God's beauty and mercy!**

L: Friends, gather and regather, from near and far,
enter anew into this space of wonder and grace,

All: and let us give our hearts to God's praise!

WORDS OF WELCOME

Dan Smith

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 Nations. We acknowledge the violence and erasure perpetrated upon Indigenous peoples in the name of this country, and by our First Church forebears. We commit to ongoing listening, learning, and acting in ways that honor Indigenous peoples and the land.

ANTHEM

You Deserve the Glory / There is None Like You

Aaron Keys / Don Moen and Paul Wilbur

**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.*

CONFESSION

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Holly Marple

SUNG PRAYER

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
sanctuary for you!**
(sing twice through)

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

GREETING OF PEACE

Children are invited to remain in worship this Sunday. If kids need a more active environment, they are welcome to join the Nursery in our Sage Hall basement playspace.

*HYMN 442

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING

Luke 17:11-19

SERMON

Dan Smith

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lexi Boudreaux

MINISTRY MOMENT

Kate Layzer

PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD

Carla Carbajal

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

OFFERTORY

*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

GOING FORTH

*HYMN 427

My Life Flows on in Endless Song

*BENEDICTION

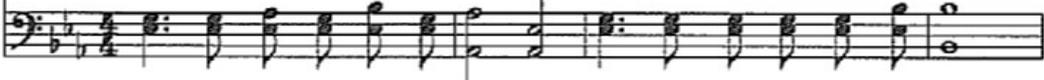
VOLUNTARY

442

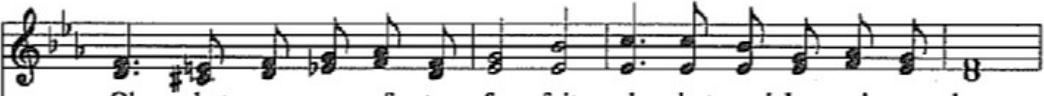
What a Friend We Have in Jesus



1. What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 2. Have we tri - als and temp-ta - tions? Is there trou-ble an - y-where?
 3. Are we weak and heav-y lad - en, bur-dened with a load of care?



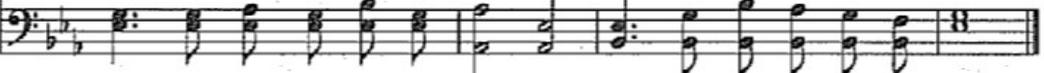

What a priv-i - lege to car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged; take it to the Lord in prayer!
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge, take it to the Lord in prayer!

Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, oh, what need-less pain we bear,
 Can we find a friend so faith-ful, who will all our sor-rows share?
 Do your friends de-spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer!




all be-cause we do not car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer.
 Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak-ness; take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In his arms he'll take and shield you, you will find a sol-ace there.



My Life Flows On in Endless Song 427

1. My life flows on in end-less song; a-bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,
 2. Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu-sic ring-ing.
 3. What though my joys and com-forts die? I know my Sav-ior's liv-ing.
 4. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing!

I hear the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
 What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he's giv-ing.
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain

No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.

Since Love is Lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

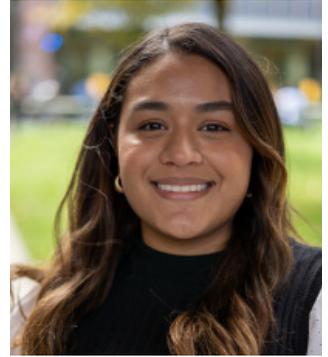
COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for healing and strength for Ann Riker’s brother Lyman Morrill, who is being tested and treated for a new area of cancer after surviving previous occurrences with treatment.
- We pray for Alice Kidder, who is facing ongoing health challenges.
- We pray for First Church Shelter staff, guests, and family members who are grieving the loss of Shelter guest George McKenna, who died unexpectedly in Harvard Square recently.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Anita Anger; 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; and friend of Homeless Ministries Brian O’Donovan.
- We pray for all those grieving the loss of life and the destruction caused by Hurricane Ian, as well as for the people of Puerto Rico as they continue to recover from Hurricane Fiona.
- We pray for all impacted by the shooting at a child care center in northeastern Thailand, where more than 30 people, including at least 20 children, were killed on Thursday.
- We pray for the people of Haiti, where water, food, and fuel shortages are leading to widespread protests, violence, and civil unrest.
- We pray for the people of Iran, especially women, as anti-government protests continue, sparked by the death of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Kurdish Iranian woman who was arrested by the Guidance Patrol because of an “improper hijab.”
- We pray for migrants caught up in the politicized actions of governors who are sending them across the country with no preparation or concern for their welfare. May our state and national leaders find ways forward that show respect and compassion for all persons fleeing their homes and seeking a better life.
- We pray for the residents of Jackson, MS, who are experiencing a catastrophic water emergency stemming from years of neglect rooted in systemic racism.
- We pray for those experiencing the loss of vital reproductive rights across the nation, and all those who care about them, especially as threats of a national abortion ban loom.
- We pray for the people of Ukraine as they continue to live through war and heightened concern of escalation.
- We pray for all who are affected by COVID-19, especially as case counts rise in our area.
- 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.

MEET OUR MINISTERIAL INTERNS

Meet Ministerial Intern Carla Arevalo Carbajal

Carla is an international student from Tegucigalpa, Honduras, and identifies as a mestiza. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies with a minor in Pastoral Ministry from Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville, Tennessee. Carla is completing her Master's Degree in Divinity at Harvard Divinity School and is passionate about liberation theology, decolonial theory, and community life. Her biggest motivations are her family and friends that have supported her with so much love and care throughout her journey. Carla's favorite place is her home at Christmas; she also loves coffee, ice-cream, and plantains. Often, Carla describes her life in ministry as a journey into discovering all the beautiful and magical worlds within Christianity, constantly referring to one of her favorite magical worlds in *The Lord of The Rings*. She is truly honored and excited to start this new part of her journey at First Church in Cambridge.



Meet Ministerial Intern Ahmaad Jahi Edmund

Ahmaad is a Master of Divinity student from Louisville, Kentucky. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a minor in Leadership Studies from Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia. Ahmaad's passions include Black liberation theology, racial justice and healing, and community empowerment. He loves coffee, bowling, biking along the Charles River, and spending time with his grandparents during school breaks. Ahmaad describes his life in ministry as an opportunity to make positive deposits of love, justice, and healing in our world. He is truly honored to begin serving at First Church in Cambridge.



In Memoriam

A memorial service for longtime, beloved First Church member Pauline Fennel will take place on All Saints Sunday, November 6, at 2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary and via livestream with a reception to follow. Pauline died on Tuesday, September 13, 2022, following a year-long struggle with cancer.

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH



Where Are We Now?

Perspectives on the American Church

Today and Sunday, October 16, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.

Harter Room and [via Zoom](#)

Behind all of the headlines about religion in the United States and all of the threats of polarization and evidence of dwindling church membership, there are deeper stories to tell.

Picking up from our summer read of Bill McKibben's memoir,

The Flag, the Cross and the Station Wagon, we will look at the big picture of what researchers have learned about the strengths and weaknesses of American church life and what they've concluded about the future of mainline Protestantism. We will think together about what it all means for First Church and how we relate to that bigger story. First Church Deacon Peggy Bendroth will lead our exploration and discussion. Peggy is the former director of the Congregational Library and Archives, and a historian of American religion with an abiding interest in all of this—past, present, and future.

Refreshments in Margaret Jewett Hall and [Zoom](#) Coffee Hour

Today at 12:00 p.m.

Join us in person or online for social connection and the making of new friends.



Harvard Square Faith Communities

& The Legacy of Slavery: Landscape of Slavery Tours

Today at 12:30 p.m.

The Sunken Garden at Radcliffe, 10 Garden St.

Drawing from the [Report of the Presidential Committee on the Harvard & the Legacy of Slavery](#), this six-stop tour engages with the local geography of African and Indigenous enslavement in words, silence and stillness. Join us as we learn

about those who were wrongly oppressed, enslaved, and buried here, but whose dignity and humanity we aim to acknowledge and honor during this exploration.

Night Song

Sundays, 7:30 - 8:15 p.m., Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)

Night Song is a worship opportunity that offers stillness and sublime music in a darkened sanctuary for respite and reset...

[Read more about Night Song.](#)



FALL AT FIRST CHURCH

Register for Fall Faith & Life Groups

You are warmly invited to sign up for a Fall Faith & Life Group.

Some groups begin very soon, so take a moment to [read the full descriptions and register here](#).

This season we have an array of options to choose from:

Support

- **Parenting Faithfully, Today and Tomorrow** with Sarah Higginbotham
- **Encouragement Group for Children of Aging Parents** with Beth Spaulding

Nature & Environment

- **Fall Revelations** with Hilary Hopkins
- **Family-Friendly Astronomy Nights** with Adam Weiss

Exploring Faith

- **Faithfully (& Queerfully) Reading Scripture** with Jaz Buchanan
- **Encountering Faith and the Bible Anew** with Lexi Boudreaux
- **Metaphors for God** with Mary Martha Thiel

Justice & Faith in the World

- **Prophetic Voices of the 20th Century** with Paul Sawyer
- **1619 Project Discussion Group** with Peggy Stevens & Mary Robinson

The registration form can be found at: <https://forms.gle/wZ1zkeeA4i8pqNNB8>



Reflective Conversations with Brent Coffin on the Parables of Jesus

Tuesdays, beginning October 11, 7:15 - 8:45 a.m., [via Zoom](#)

In a new series of small group sessions via Zoom, Brent Coffin will lead as we share in weekly reflection about the parables of Jesus, bringing these ancient and often confounding stories into

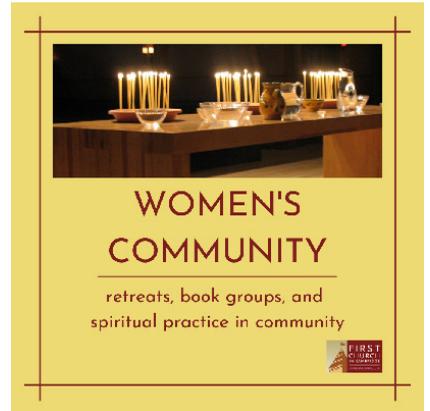
conversation with our own stories and lives. Meetings will start on Tuesday morning, October 11, from 7:15 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. A time of informal check-in will begin promptly at 7:15, followed by framing remarks from Brent, with space for intimate small group listening and sharing to follow.

FALL AT FIRST CHURCH

Women's Community Book Group

Tuesday, October 11, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., [via Zoom](#)

Please join us, all FCC people who identify as women, to re-start our women's book club. We will be starting with Bernhard Schlink's *The Reader*, and we hope to have a lively discussion. Please bring a friend; newcomers are enthusiastically welcomed! If you have trouble finding the book, please contact [Alex Steinert-Evoy](#); we'll do our best to get you a copy.



HARVARD SQUARE FAITH COMMUNITIES & THE LEGACY OF SLAVERY



Here Lies Darby Vassall Film Premiere

Wednesday, October 12 at 6:00 p.m.

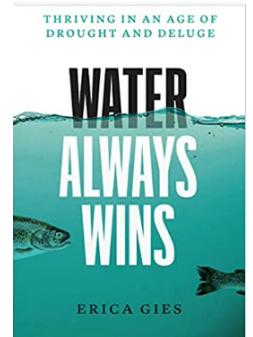
Christ Church, Cambridge

A 10-minute short film entitled Here Lies Darby Vassall explores the obscured and concealed history of slavery at Christ Church. Join us for a short service of prayer and hear from Darby Vassall's living descendants before the film premieres.

EcoFaith Book Group

Thursday, October 13, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m., [via Zoom](#)

You are warmly invited to join the Earth Stewardship group for their next EcoFaith Book Group meeting. *Water Always Wins, Thriving in an Age of Doubt and Deluge* examines the special role water plays in our lives as we negotiate droughts and downpours brought on by climate change. Author Erica Gies looks at the history, science, and meaning of water, and reports on special situations from around the world. Together, we will consider how our Christian faith intersects with the issues raised. All are welcome!



Healing Sunday, October 16

Next Sunday, October 16, will be a Healing Service. In Morning Worship, we have an opportunity to reflect together on God's healing peace and to participate in a simple healing ritual involving a brief prayer and laying on of hands... [Read more](#)

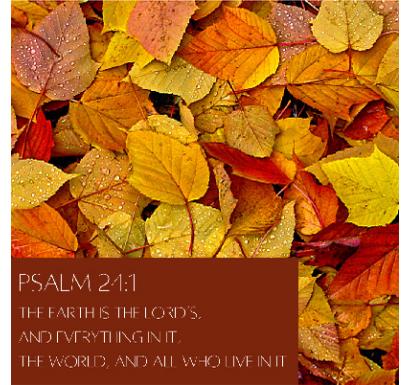
FALL AT FIRST CHURCH

Green Faith Forum

Sunday, October 16, 12:15 - 1:00 p.m.

Harter Room and [via Zoom](#)

Join First Church's Earth Stewardship group after worship, either in person or virtually, as we share local green initiatives and resources like Third Act and 350 Mass. We will begin discerning together how First Church can help support green justice work in our neighborhoods.



Rev. James Ross, Guest Preacher Sunday, October 23

We are so pleased to welcome Rev. James Ross as our guest preacher in Morning Hybrid Worship on October 23. James currently serves as the Minister for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for the Southern New England Conference UCC. He is also a First Church member, having recently joined in November 2021. James lived most recently in St. Louis, where he was Pastor at Pilgrim

Congregational United Church of Christ. He previously lived and served congregations in Washington, D.C. A former journalist, James also worked in organizational and political communications, and as an advocate for sentencing reform and racial, economic, and queer justice. We are thrilled that James will be leading us and breaking open God's holy word for us!

Church Staffing and Finance Forum

Sunday, October 23, 12:15 - 1:30 p.m.

Harter Room and [via Zoom](#)

Join church leaders for an important after-worship conversation about our church's finances and future staffing plans. Given Covid, we're just now coming through a highly unusual stretch, in terms of our demands and opportunities related to our staff and budget. We are now needing a clear-eyed assessment and realignment of where we are and where we are going in our ministry. We welcome, need, and value your input and insight in this moment of challenge and opportunity!



FALL AT FIRST CHURCH

Interested in Joining First Church on Sunday, October 30?

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?

Membership at First Church involves joining the church through covenantal promises to be an active member of our community of faith and gives you the opportunity to vote at congregational meetings. If you would like to join the church during Sunday Morning Worship on October 30, the deadline for submitting your information and an introductory bio to be put in the bulletin is Oct 23. Registration form here: <https://forms.gle/hT8NjnrEPqpwYDk19>



Investing for Racial Equity

[The UCC Cornerstone Fund](#) is offering a Racial Equity Bonus Fund that asks the investor to give back at least 10% of their earnings from a 5-year certificate of deposit fund to a nonprofit organization of the investor's choice that addresses racial inequality. Included in the national listings are Black colleges affiliated with the UCC. [Learn more here.](#)

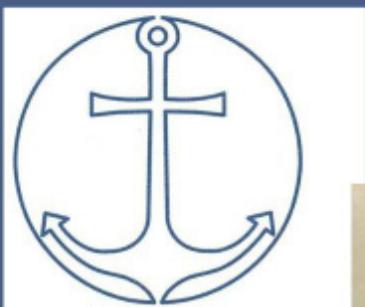
Fair Share Forum: Recording Available

Thank you to all who joined us for our Fair Share Amendment Forum! A very special thank you to Jonathan Cohn, the policy director at Progressive Massachusetts and the MetroNorth Coordinator for the Fair Share Amendment campaign for leading the forum! If you were not able to attend and would like to learn more, the forum was recorded; [check it out here](#) to learn more about the amendment and how you can support this economic and climate justice initiative.



Invitation to Contribute to Coffee Hour

Please help us make worship as delicious as it is spiritually sustaining! For Coffee Hour each week, we are looking for 2-4 households to bring 3 dozen cookies each, or the equivalent of snacks, such as cheese & crackers or fruit. In general, the church has a "No Nuts" policy; a brief list of relevant ingredients for those with allergies would be appreciated. Please leave food donations on the kitchen island. Thank you for providing sustenance for our gathered community!



The 2022
Doris Beauvais
Luncheon &
Mitch Snyder
Awards

First Church Shelter
presents



Sunday, October 30
12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

**First Church Shelter presents
the 2022 Doris Beauvais Luncheon and Mitch Snyder Awards
Sunday, October 30, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m
Margaret Jewett Hall**

The Shelter Oversight Committee hopes you will make time to attend this year's Doris Beauvais Luncheon. The event commemorates and recommends the leadership and example of the late Doris Beauvais, a First Church member who, 35 years ago, played a crucial role in the First Church community's decision to open and support a shelter for homeless adults. The luncheon will be free; donations to support First Church Homeless Ministries will be gratefully accepted.

The 2022 Mitch Snyder Awards will also be presented. This year's recipients include:

- Chris Alba, *Substance Use Initiative, Revere*
- Kim Powers, *Access Hope*
- Mary Wheeler, *Healthy Streets, Lynn*
- Joe Freitas, *First Church Shelter*
- Nikki Bell, *Living in Freedom Together, Worcester*

FALL AT FIRST CHURCH

Adult Formation: The Doctrine of Discovery **Sundays, November 13 & 20, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.** **Harter Room and via Zoom**

The Christian Formation Committee invites you to a two-part series on the Doctrine of Discovery.

November 13: Session 1

What exactly is the “Doctrine of Discovery?”

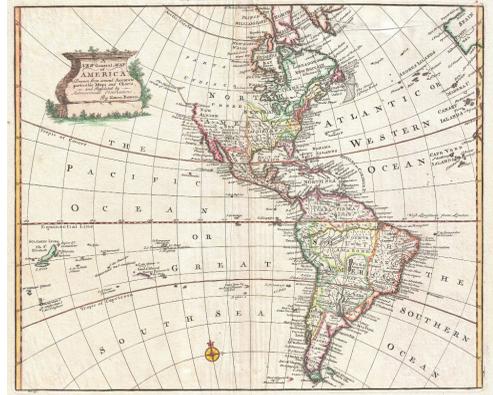
Did you ever hear of Johnson v. McIntosh?

What is “Manifest Destiny?”

How did, and how do, these rulings affect Native Americans? We’ll view a TED talk by a powerful American Indian speaker and explore some issues it raises.

November 20: Session 2

We’ll talk religion. How might our theology blind us to American Indian spiritual identity? The Promised Land: promised to whom by whom? How can the church support a new sense of God’s mission among American Indian Christians? We’ll view a video prepared by the Episcopal church, which was the first denomination to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery.





THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, October 10 - First Church Office & Building Closed for Indigenous Peoples Day

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

Tuesday, October 11

7:15 a.m. Reflective Conversations with Brent Coffin, via Zoom

10:30 a.m. Communications Team Meeting, Harter Room

4:00 p.m. Buildings & Grounds Committee, via Zoom

6:00 p.m. Women's Community Book Group, via Zoom

7:00 p.m. Finance Team Meeting, via Zoom

7:30 p.m. Faith & Life Group: Metaphors for God, via Zoom

Wednesday, October 12

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom

6:00 p.m. Harvard Square Faith Communities & the Legacy of Slavery:
Here Lies Darby Vassall Film Premiere, Christ Church, Zero Garden St.

6:30 p.m. Investments Committee Meeting, via Zoom

7:30 p.m. Faith & Life Group: Prophetic Voices of the 20th Century, via Zoom

Thursday, October 13

10:00 a.m. Faith & Life Group: Fall Revelations, Harter Room

5:00 p.m. EcoFaith Book Group, via Zoom

5:30 p.m. Friday Café food dropoff, Tower Room

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

Friday, October 14

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

12:00 p.m. Friday Café, Margaret Jewett Hall and Lawn

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

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



THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Sunday, October 16

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: Where Are We Now? Harter Room and via Zoom
- 10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, MJH
- 10:15 a.m. Coffee and Conversation, Hastings Common
- 11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Healing Service, Sanctuary and via livestream
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Godly Play and Bible 101 Classes
- 12:00 p.m. Refreshments on the Lawn and Zoom Coffee Hour
- 12:15 p.m. Green Faith Forum, Harter Room and via Zoom
- 1:30 p.m. Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 7/8th graders, Old South Church
- 1:30 p.m. Confirmation Class for 9/10th graders, Harter Room
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream

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

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