



Advent
December 11, 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

December 11, 2022

Preaching Today Leading Worship

Carlyle Stewart, *Community Minister of Racial Justice*
Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*
Lexi Boudreaux, *Transitional Minister*
Jaz Buchanan, *Pastoral Associate*
Ann McCann, *liturgist*
Gaylen Morgan and Frankie & Angelo Culpepper, *Advent candle-lighting*
Yoo-Kyung Kim, *guest musician*
Lee Prouty, *tech support*

Bulletin Cover Image

Carina Nebula, photographed by the James Webb telescope
this image and many more may be found at: webb.nasa.gov

Today's Programs and Events

- 9:30 a.m. Behold: Advent Reflection on the Psalms, Harter Room & [via Zoom](#)
- 10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 10:15 a.m. Coffee and Conversation, Hastings Common
- 11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Godly Play and Bible 101 Classes
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour, Hastings Common and [via Zoom](#)
- 12:15 p.m. Alternative Christmas Fair, MJH
- 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](#)

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

THE WORD OF GOD

Isaiah 60:1-5

Dan Smith

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN 128** Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

*GREETING

Ann McCann

L: Siblings in Christ, Behold! For God is doing a new thing!

**C: Let us open our hearts to watch for awe in the ordinary,
for peace in our distress, and for hope in our despair,**

L: for joy in our lives, and for Love to lead the way.

**C: We gather now, in this season of wonder and waiting,
finding strength in beholding the sacred in all that is here.**

L: Prepare the way for God's presence in the world!

All: Let it be revealed in Christ and in us!

WORDS OF WELCOME

ADVENT CANDLE-LIGHTING

Gaylen Morgan and Frankie & Angelo Culpepper

L: God, we light the third candle of Advent.
We kindle it with joy!

**C: May that joy sustain us in this time,
and guide us in our work for compassion and justice.**

SONG

Peter Sykes, 2022

Be - hold, ___ for God is do - ing a new thing! ___ Let us

5
look, watch and wait, ___ to - geth - er!

The musical notation is in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 6/8 time signature. The melody consists of two lines of music. The first line contains the lyrics 'Be - hold, ___ for God is do - ing a new thing! ___ Let us'. The second line starts with a measure rest marked '5' and contains the lyrics 'look, watch and wait, ___ to - geth - er!'. The notes are mostly quarter and eighth notes, with some dotted notes and rests.

*The Choir will sing through once to teach us.
The congregation is invited to join on the second and third times through.*

**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 justice, pardon and peace:

**C: God, when we turn away from gifts of your presence everyday help us open our hearts to wonder.
When we ignore the sacred in each other's humanity, forgive us.
When we grow weary and turn to distractions, guide us.
Help us to attend to creating a world rooted in your justice and joy.
We pray all this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

We invite you to greet each other with a hug or handshake. If you prefer to maintain social distance, please put your hands together or fold your arms to share the peace.

*HYMN 121

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

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

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Lexi Boudreaux

READING

Luke 1:46-56

ANTHEM

There Is No Rose

Jessica Nelson

There is no rose of such virtue as is the rose that bare Jesu: Alleluia.

For in this rose contained was heaven and earth in little space: Res miranda.

By that rose we may well see that there be one God in person three: Pari forma.

The angels sung, the shepherds, too: "Gloria in excelsis Deo:" Gaudeamus.

Then leave we all this worldly mirth and follow we this joyful birth: Transeamus.

SERMON

Carlyle Stewart

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

Jaz Buchanan

L: God be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray....(*silence, intercessions and the Lord's Prayer*)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Please pray this prayer in words most meaningful to your heart.)

**All: Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not
into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO OFFERING



Give by Text



Give Online



I've Given Already

OFFERTORY

Creator of the Stars of Night

Sarum plainsong

*Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, redeemer of us all, we pray you, hear us when we call.*

*To you the deep travail was known that made the whole creation groan.
You came, O Savior, to set free your own in glorious liberty.*

*When this old world drew on towards night, you came, but not in splendor bright,
not as a monarch, but the child of Mary, blameless mother mild.*

*At your great name, O Jesus, now, all knees must bend, all hearts must bow;
all things on earth with one accord like those in heav'n shall call you Lord.*

*ADVENT DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**To God, all glorious heavenly Light,
to Christ revealed in earthly night,
to God the Spirit now we raise
our joyful songs of thankful praise. Amen.**

GOING FORTH

*HYMN 124

My Heart Sings Out With Joyful Praise

*BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY



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 left.

OPENING HYMN

128

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

1. Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing; the watch-men on the
 2. All who hear the watch - ers sing - ing, whose hearts with deep de -
 3. Now let all the heav'ns a - dore you, let saints and an - gels

heights are cry - ing, "A - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!"
 light are spring - ing, a - wake and rise up from your gloom.
 sing be - fore you, let harp and cym - bal now u - nite.

Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es and at the thrill - ing
 Forth the Sav - ior comes, all glo - rious, in grace ar - rayed, in
 Of one pearl each shin - ing por - tal, where we shall join the

cry re - joic - es; Christ comes, O Church, lift up your eyes!
 truth vic - to - rious; our Star is risen, our Light is come!
 choir im - mor - tal in prais - es round your throne of light.

OPENING HYMN, cont'd.

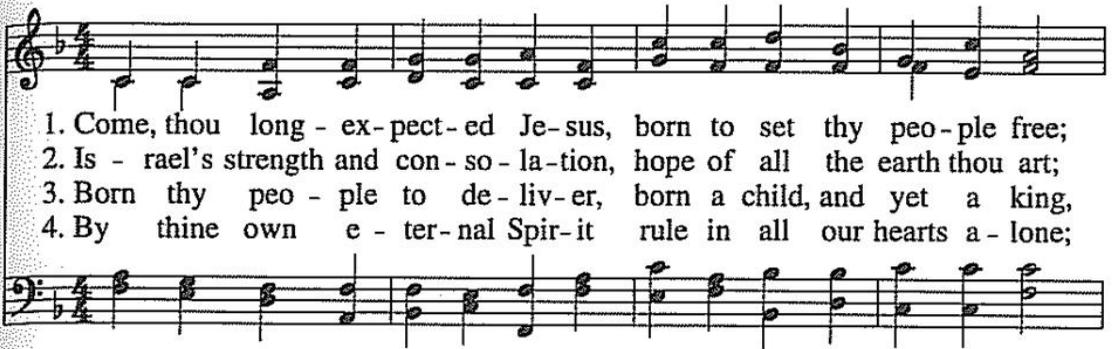
Rise up, with will - ing feet go forth, the Sav - ior meet:
Now come, O bless - ed One, God's own be - lov - ed Son,
Our eyes be - hold the sight, our ears fill with de - light:

Al - le - lu - ia! Lo, great and small, we an - swer all;
Al - le - lu - ia! We haste a - long, an ea - ger throng,
Al - le - lu - ia! There - fore we sing, our hymns we bring,

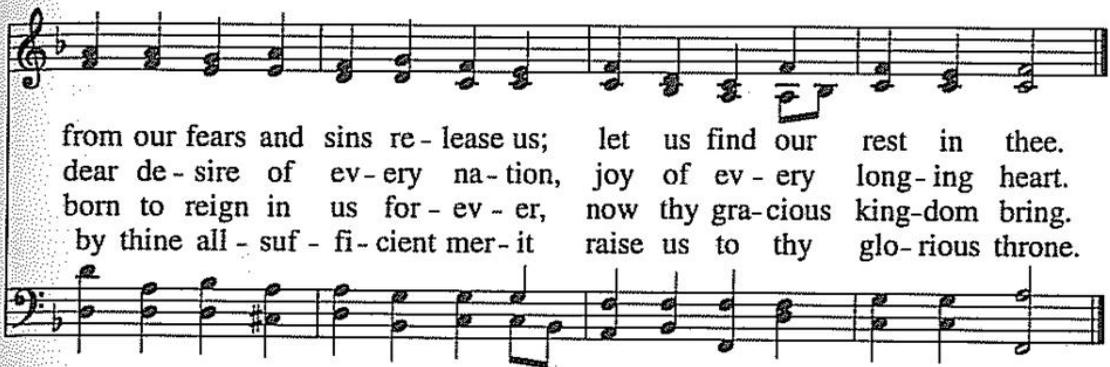
we fol - low now with joy the call.
and glad - ly join the ad - vent song.
in praise to you our voi - ces ring.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

121



1. Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
 2. Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
 3. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,
 4. By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
 dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1744, alt.

MUSIC: Melody attr. Christian F. Witt, (1660-1716), *Psalmodia Sacra*, Gotha, 1715STUTT GART
87.87

CLOSING HYMN

124 My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise
(Song of Mary)

1. My heart sings out with joy - ful praise to God who rais - es me,
2. The arm of God is strong and just to scat - ter all the proud.
3. The prom - ise made in a - ges past at last has come to be,

who came to me when I was low and changed my des - ti - ny.
The ty - rants tum - ble from their thrones and van - ish like a cloud.
for God has come in pow'r to save, to set all peo - ple free.

The Ho - ly One, the Liv - ing God, is al - ways full of grace
The hun - gry all are sat - is - fied; the rich are sent a - way.
Re - mem - b'ring those who wait to see sal - va - tion's dawn - ing day,

to those who seek their Mak - er's will in ev - 'ry time and place.
The poor of earth who suf - fer long will wel - come God's new day.
our Sav - ior comes to all who weep to wipe their tears a - way.

WORDS: Ruth Duck, 1981, 1985, 1992
MUSIC: Traditional English melody; coll. Lucy Broadwood;
arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, *The English Hymnal*, 1906

KINGSFOLD
CMD

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Karen Anne Zee, who had a stroke recently and is now recovering in a rehab hospital.
- We pray for Kathy Williams, who is undergoing neurological testing for an unknown condition.
- We pray for Poppy & Brent Coffin as they continue loving & living with Alzheimer's.
- We pray in gratitude and celebration for Facilities Manager Lee Prouty's partner Phil, who received excellent news about his prognosis after surgery
- We pray for Bridget Melle, sister of Rich Goode, who was recently diagnosed with skin cancer.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Anita Anger; Robin Williams, Kimel Williams's wife; Lyman Morrill, Ann Riker's brother; 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 with grateful hearts for WNBA basketball player Brittney Griner, who was released from the Russian penal system after 10 months of incarceration.
- We pray for all affected by mass shootings that occur with too much frequency in our country.
- We pray for our Jewish siblings as antisemitic expression is on the rise in local communities, and as antisemitic rhetoric espoused by public figures continues to appear in social media.
- We pray for the people of Haiti, where water, food, and fuel shortages are leading to widespread protests, violence, and civil unrest. We continue to pray for all areas in the world experiencing natural disasters and their aftermath.
- We pray for the people of Iran, especially women, as anti-government protests continue.
- We pray for those experiencing the loss of vital reproductive rights across the nation, and all those who care about them. We pray for our country in the lasting wake of changing reproductive rights: for all those struggling through the moral and political complexities of pregnancy and childbearing, and for the integrity of our legal and judicial institutions at a time of extreme political polarization.
- We pray for the people of Ukraine and stand in hope and solidarity as they continue to resist unjust and unlawful Russian invasions and retake occupied regions, even in the face of escalating violence. We pray for all soldiers and civilians in Ukraine, Russia and surrounding areas, and all global regions impacted by the violence of war.
- We continue to pray for all who are affected by COVID-19, and we pray for healthcare professionals as they navigate caring for children and the elderly through a winter season with heavy rates of RSV and the flu, in addition to increasing cases of COVID-19.

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

Adult Formation

Behold: Advent Reflection on the Psalms
Today and December 18, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.,
Harter Room and [via Zoom](#)

First Church artist Audrey Bellinger, Dan Smith and Lexi Boudreaux lead a time of quiet conversation and contemplation of themes and images inspired by the Psalms and Advent readings. Join us as we open our hearts to a spiritual practice of wondering about, waiting for, and perhaps even expecting glad tidings of the new things God has in store, this season and every day.



Coffee Hour in Hastings Common and [via Zoom](#), Today at 12:15 p.m.

Join us in person or online for social connection and conversation. Beginning in the new year, we will shift from weekly Zoom Coffee Hours to monthly Hybrid Community Coffee Hours! Folks joining us online are invited to stop by Zoom Coffee Hour on the second Sunday of the month after worship to see your church friends' faces, share joys and concerns, or just smile and wave! Find the link in the bulletin or on the calendar.



The Alternative Christmas Fair Is Back!

Today, 12:15 - 2:00 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall

After two long years, First Church is excited to once again host the annual Alternative Christmas Fair! What makes it “alternative?” All proceeds raised by the vendors will go directly to benefit their charitable and social justice causes. Come buy presents for your loved ones, and support worthy causes!

Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 7/8th Graders

Today, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m., Old South Church, Boston

7th and 8th graders meet for OWL, a comprehensive sexuality education curriculum produced by the United Church of Christ and the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Confirmation Class for 9/10th Graders

Today, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m., Harter Room

Our year-long Confirmation journey for 9th and 10th graders continues today with a session entitled “Forgiveness and Grace.”



TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

Behold, Take a “Divine Time Out,” and Try Night Song This Advent!

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

Have you beheld Night Song? Especially amidst this busy season, set aside some time from the demands of daily life, the season, and the troubling issues facing our country and our world. Claim a time to be still, to find clarity and purpose, and to center yourself for the coming week. Come and behold God’s quiet presence in our candle-lit sanctuary. Enter into stillness; be transported and transformed by ancient and modern contemplative music.

[Read more about Night Song.](#)



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. Recently some have requested a brief list of relevant ingredients for those with allergies, if at all possible.

Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E044EA8AE2CABFD0-fcccookies>

Questions? Difficulty with the online signup? Contact Lisa DiNardo at ladinardo@hotmail.com.

Holiday Gift-Giving and Donation Suggestions

The Missions & Social Justice Committee has had another eventful year of supporting the work of non-profits both near and far. We share with you a list of organizations with which First Church partners closely and who are seeking donations.

[See the full list of organizations on our website.](#)



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 right 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.



ADVENT AT FIRST CHURCH



The UnPageant Sunday, December 18 at 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary and via livestream

On the fourth Sunday of Advent, we'll gather for our untraditional take on the Christmas pageant: the UnPageant! The UnPageant is First Church's unrehearsed, low-stress, multigenerational telling of the story of Jesus' birth. This year, Mary, Joseph, and the donkey will travel through our Sanctuary on their way to Bethlehem. We'll behold them on their journey and encircle them with love and joy on the chancel as our community's youngest member appears in the starring role. Come hear the age-old texts and sing the cherished carols as we celebrate the wonder of God's love among us.

Christmas Cookie Swap and Reception for Jaz Buchanan Sunday, December 18, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Margaret Jewett Hall

After the UnPageant, help us bring some pre-Christmas joy with a cookie swap and hot apple cider and cake reception in honor of our beloved Pastoral Associate, Jaz Buchanan! (You can read Jaz's farewell letter on our website.) There is much to celebrate, given all the gifts Jaz has shared with us, as well as her happy news of a baby on the way.

For the cookie swap, please bake or buy 6-10 dozen of your favorite holiday cookies, and then package them by the ½ dozen (6 cookies per bag). Label each bag with ingredients/allergy info before dropping them off in Margaret Jewett Hall before or just after Hybrid Worship. In your baking/buying plans, consider if you can provide gluten-free, dairy-free, or low-sugar options, and definitely label any baked goods that contain nuts. We'll organize them on tables and invite everyone to pick up treats during the reception. Help spread some Christmas joy on UnPageant Sunday; the more cookies, the merrier, and let's send Jaz off with our love!



Youth Group: Christmas Gift Swap Sunday, December 18, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m., Library

Join the Youth Group for our annual Christmas Gift Swap! We will be meeting to exchange gifts and to spend time with one another enjoying some festive snacks starting at 12:30 p.m. Gift limit to \$10.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Harvard Square Poetry Stroll

December 10, 2022 - January 1, 2023

Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site announces the third annual [Harvard Square Holiday Poetry Stroll](#) in partnership with Mass Poetry and the Harvard Square Business Association. Short works by local poets are on view at outdoor locations around the Square, including at First Church in Cambridge. Many of this year's poems were selected in conjunction with Mass Poetry's [The Hard Work of Hope](#) series, which featured "poems from our community that offer moments of reprieve and inspiration in these difficult and confusing times." Please enjoy the self-guided outdoor Holiday Poetry Stroll with your friends or loved ones. There is no designated start or end point for this experience. [Check out the map](#) for this year's poems and locations, and the opportunity to create your own poetry.



Illustration by Grace Coffey (NPS)



**PENTECOSTAL
TABERNACLE**

**2022 Community Service Award
from Pentecostal Tabernacle Church
Sunday, December 18 at 9:00 a.m.
Pentecostal Tabernacle Church,
56 Magazine St., Cambridge**

Bishop Brian Greene and the Pentecostal Tabernacle Church will present their 2022 Community Service Awards to recently retired Cambridge City Manager Louis DePasquale and our own Senior Minister Dan Smith. Dan's award recognizes his "leadership and work in the area of anti-racism." The recognition will be part of the 9:00 a.m. service at PT; First Church members are warmly invited to attend.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Hybrid Service

December 24 at 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Hybrid Worship

Sunday, December 25 at 11:00 a.m.

New Year's Day Hybrid Worship

Sunday, January 1 at 11:00 a.m.

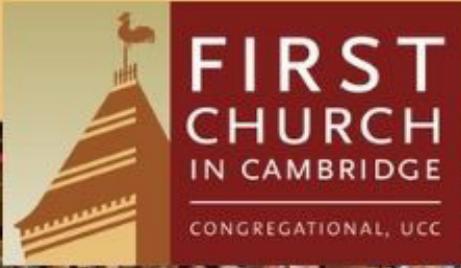
Epiphany Potluck and Service

Friday, January 6 at 6:00 p.m.

Find details: [Christmas and Epiphany at First Church](#)

THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, December 12

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

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

Tuesday, December 13

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

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

3:00 p.m. Aging with Grace Advent Gathering, Harter Room and via Zoom

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

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

Wednesday, December 14

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

Thursday, December 15

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

Friday, December 16

12:00 p.m. Friday Café, MJH and Lawn

Sunday, December 18 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: Advent Reflection on the Psalms, Harter Room and via Zoom

10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

10:15 a.m. Coffee and Conversation, Hastings Common

11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, The UnPageant

Sanctuary and via livestream

12:15 p.m. Christmas Cookie Swap and Reception for Jaz Buchanan, MJH

7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream

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