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SUMMER WORSHIP  
Bulletin Announcements  
August 9, 2020

FIRST CHURCH  
IN CAMBRIDGE  
Congregational 1633-1636  
United Church of Christ  
Garden and Mason Streets  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

FIRST CHURCH  
IN CAMBRIDGE  
CONGREGATIONAL  
**384 YEARS**  
ON THE WAY  
1 6 3 6 – 2 0 2 0

## WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE...

### Grounded in God • Growing in Community • Acting in Love

These past weeks have brought home to all of us the vital importance of working together to slow and limit the spread of Coronavirus. We know we are called to be a community of faith, not fear. We also know we are called to care for the most vulnerable in our midst, to be good stewards of our staff and resources, and to be good citizens of the wider community.

Under normal circumstances, people of faith would care for each other by drawing close together. It's what we do. It's who we are. In times of loss or threat, we respond by coming together to pray and to sing, to hug and hold each other tight.

Pandemics are different. During an outbreak such as the one we are facing now, we are called to care for each other by moving farther apart, creating a holy buffer of social distance. We do this not only for our own safety and the safety of the people around us, but in loving stewardship to our wider world.

Even when apart, we are not alone. God is with us, in every heartbeat, every breath: strengthening, comforting, and upholding us. Christ is with us, walking beside us, sharing our trials, speaking peace to our fears. The Spirit is with us, uniting us one to another across the barrier of physical distance.

These are temporary measures only. They won't last forever. We will rejoice and celebrate all the more when we are able to come back together, to share stories of what it was like, to laugh, to cry, and to share hugs and handshakes again. Until then, day by day, let's hold one another in prayer.

### WORSHIP LEADERS

August 9, 2020

Dom Ackermann, FCC Member in Discernment, preaching  
Dan Smith, Senior Minister  
Lexi Boudreaux, Pastoral Associate  
Susie and Perry Neubauer  
Dean Eaton  
Mark Destler

*The photograph on the bulletin cover is by Gaylen Morgan..*

## YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

- For Jaime Bonney and Charlie Riggs who were married last week in a small outdoor ceremony.
- For the people of Beirut and all others affected by the explosions this past week, as they grieve the loss of life and work to rebuild.
- For all students, parents, teachers, administrators, and support staff trying to navigate the seemingly impossible terrain of school re-opening decisions and plans. May they have strength and wisdom to balance competing demands for ongoing education, caregiving, and safety.
- For our cities and our nation during this time of reckoning with historic and ongoing violence against Black and Indigenous persons and persons of color. We pray for all who are protesting, including those in Portland, Oregon who are facing extreme policing measures. We pray for a new birth of justice and healing throughout our land. We pray also for all who are continuing to grieve the recent killings of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Rayshard Brooks, and so many others.
- For all who are grieving the loss of loved ones due to Covid-19; for all those who are ill with COVID-19 and their families; and for all of us who are navigating this strange new world, that we may receive God's comfort, strength, and peace.
- For all essential workers, who continue to put themselves at risk to care for the sick and most vulnerable, maintain our food supply, deliver supplies, keep our public services running, and lead us through this crisis. And for all who are experiencing unemployment or underemployment during this crisis, including undocumented workers who cannot find a safety net in our government's response.
- For African Americans and communities of color around the country that are facing disproportionately high rates of coronavirus death and infection, revealing entrenched inequalities in resources and access to healthcare. And for Asian Americans as they face unwarranted discrimination and hostility during this Covid-19 pandemic.
- For all who are in treatment for cancer: Penny Kilburn, Nancy Kilburn's mother; Amy Golodet, Jonathan New's sister-in-law; Becky Collet, Karen Anne Zee's daughter; Stewart Bailey, Karen Anne Zee's son-in-law; Beth and Polly, Ann McCann's sisters; Katie, Moana Bentin's sister; and former First Church member Nancy Sanders.
- For the 14 men who are finding care and residence in our First Church Shelter and for the guests of the Friday Café, who are experiencing worsening deprivation and hardship in this time of disruption; that may they know warmth, compassion, and companionship.
- For those who seek sanctuary in houses of worship around the country, including our partner University Lutheran Church in Harvard Square. We pray for tranquility for immigrants who live in constant fear and anxiety. And we pray for all who are working for a just and compassionate future for immigrants and asylum seekers.
- For God's strength as we combat the realities of the climate crisis. May God empower us and our leaders to take bold steps, personally and politically, to care for God's creation and for the poor around the world who are most affected by our inaction.

## TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

**ZOOM COFFEE HOUR Today, 11:00 a.m., via Zoom** Join us for a time of fellowship and connection after the service. A breakout room for pastoral care card-writing will be available if folks wish to write together. [Click here to join](#) or use the following information:  
Meeting ID: 876 6474 8993 Password: coffee

**NEW TO FIRST CHURCH?** Have you just begun joining us for online worship? Please consider filling out this [“virtual visitor card”](#) so that we might reach out and connect with you about our community.

**SUMMER SCHEDULE** Worship begins at 10:00 a.m. through August. We are offering a mix of livestream and pre-recorded worship. We’re excited to continue experimenting with the possibilities surrounding virtual services, and we hope you will continue to worship with us online until we can all be together again in the sanctuary. The church building continues to be locked, but is staffed by sextons. We are offering building access from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m., Monday - Friday. If you need access to the building, please email Director of Operations Kirsten Manville and give prior notice of the day and time you would like to enter. This is both for contact tracing purposes and also to let the sextons know to expect you. Office Assistant Bruce Dillenbeck will also be in the church office for a few hours every Tuesday and Friday afternoon throughout the summer, answering the phone, sorting the mail, and doing other tasks that cannot be done from home.

**PLANNING FOR THE FALL** Living through a pandemic is not something most of us could have predicted, or even thought of as a possibility. We have all been learning as we go—adjusting to this new way of interacting, doing, and being. One thing has become clear over these last months: this pandemic will be with us for a long time yet. In recognition of this, First Church staff are homing in on a structure for our Sunday schedule that provides remote programming, worship, and fellowship/connection. If at some point this fall, we find that limited in-person gatherings seem feasible, we will plan to “add on” in-person components, but not alter the remote access. Remote will be our default; in-person will be an added bonus. We are working to ensure that, even though we need to remain physically distanced, our connection as a congregation remains strong and is felt deeply by each of you. We look forward to sharing more information about fall worship and programming in future bulletins and in the Fall issue of **EVENT**.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR STAYING CONNECTED

### **TUESDAY EVENING ZOOM COMPLINE PRAYER SERVICE** Tuesdays, 8:30 - 8:45 p.m., via Zoom

Are you feeling the need to switch up the way you connect with worship this summer? Are you craving some time before bed to center yourself in sacred stillness and the comfort of community? We are offering a participatory evening prayer service this summer on Tuesdays at 8:30 p.m.

[Click here to join](#) or use the following information:

Meeting ID: 890 9172 4810

Password: summer

**ONGOING PROGRAM OFFERINGS** Zoom invitations to all our week's programs are in the all-church email that was sent this morning. If you are not receiving our e-newsletter, please sign up by clicking on the E-Newsletter icon at the bottom of our homepage to receive future correspondence. Email Lexi Boudreaux (lexi@firstchurchcambridge.org) this morning to have today's email forwarded to you.

- **Tuesdays** FCC Professional Caregivers' Call, 4:00 p.m.  
*(Note change: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays only)*
- **Thursdays** Shared Reflections on Richard Rohr Daily Devotionals, 5:00 p.m.  
*(Note change: 2nd and 4th Thursdays only);*  
Weekly Bible Study, 6:00 p.m.;  
First Church Choir Call with Peter Sykes, 7:45 p.m.
- **Fridays** Spiritual Practices with Lexi Boudreaux, 8:00 a.m.

**PLEASE NOTE WEEKLY SCHEDULE CHANGES** Our Tuesday FCC Caregiver Call has shifted to a bi-weekly format and will gather via Zoom on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 4:00 p.m. Our Thursday Reflections on Richard Rohr Daily Devotional has shifted to a bi-weekly format, as well, and will gather via Zoom on the second and fourth Thursdays at 4:30 p.m. In addition, the Thursday Kids Prayer and Connection Call has finished meeting for the summer, and will resume again in the fall.

**"WHAT ABOUT PUBLIC SAFETY?" A CONVERSATION WITH REV. ADAM DYER** Monday, August 10, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom Many of us are interested in a deeper conversation on the national call to reimagine policing, hold police departments accountable for violence, and reallocate resources to other forms of public safety service. Old Cambridge Baptist Church has invited Rev. Dyer from First Parish to engage in a robust discussion of public policy, activism, and faith in relation to policing and public safety. First Church members have been welcomed to tune in!

To join [click here](#) or use the following information:

Meeting ID: 840 1935 1451

Or dial in: +1 646 558 8656.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR STAYING CONNECTED

You can read two recent posts by Rev. Dyer on police accountability here: ["Systems and Silos"](#) and ["People Not Problems."](#)

**YOUNG ADULTS ZOOM GATHERING** The Young Adults of First Church (mostly 20- and 30-some-things) gather regularly on Zoom for a casual catch up and discussion of faith journeys, with questioning encouraged! Our "Gentle Blasphemy" group meets casually, as able, usually on Wednesdays. Get more info from Phil Jones: [p.robbennolt.jones@gmail.com](mailto:p.robbennolt.jones@gmail.com)

**FIRST CHURCH YOUTUBE CHANNEL** Continue to tune into our First Church YouTube channel as we offer pre-recorded reflections and devotions. Subscribe to make sure you don't miss new videos, including our pre-recorded services. The link to the channel is: <https://tinyurl.com/ryac3av>

***Have an announcement for the bulletin?***

***Please send information about church or wider community events to Sarah Higginbotham (shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org) by 10:00 a.m. on Tuesdays to be considered for the following Sunday's bulletin.***

## **BECOMING AN ANTI-RACIST CHURCH**

**Prayer, Reflection, and Action**

**Summer 2020**

*The following statement expresses First Church's intentions and commitments for the summer of 2020. We join with a global outcry against recent and past events of violence against black and brown persons. This statement builds on several years of concerted efforts to raise our self-awareness, build relationships, and act towards racial justice and healing. We approach this work with hearts open to listening, learning, and change.*

White silence is violence.  
**Black Lives Matter**



**First Church affirms that Black Lives Matter and Indigenous Lives Matter.**

**We celebrate the gifts, presence, and leadership of persons of color within First Church and beyond.**

**We recognize that the problem of racism is a white person's problem and that this is white people's work.**

**Becoming an anti-racist church means that we are determined not merely to raise our consciousness of racism, but to actively call out and intentionally work for change.**

**We do this work because we know our individual and collective spiritual health, transformation, and liberation depend on it.**

**We do this work relying on God's help and knowing that we cannot do it alone.**

*We invite you to commit serious energy  
and sacrificial love to at least  
two of these levels of work.*

## **SOUL LEVEL**

☪ Say Their Names. North Carolina Laureate Jaki Shelton Green mourns George Floyd and other lives that were taken with [Oh My Brother, a work of spoken word and images](#).

☪ Learn more about how to act on your belief that [Black Lives Matter](#).

## **CONGREGATIONAL LEVEL**

☪ By the end of August, over 50 First Church people will have engaged in Faith & Life groups looking at issues of race. There will be further opportunities for congregational-level work in the fall.

## **COMMUNITY LEVEL**

☪ Follow the [Greater Boston Interfaith Organization](#) on social media to follow the progress of our efforts with legislators on Beacon Hill. Re-post and re-tweet GBIO to amplify the message.

☪ Consider following FCC member Alice Kidder's suggestion to begin your work on police accountability in your town by creating a list of questions about your town's police force. Then find out if grassroots organizations working on the issue already exist and get connected. Alice has joined "[Watertown Citizens for Black Lives](#)" and is collaborating with their Police Accountability subcommittee. Can't find a citizens' organization in your town? Consider starting one!

## **NATIONAL LEVEL**

☪ Join the Poor People's Campaign by visiting: <https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/>  
Read their Policy Platform:  
<https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/about/moral-justice-jubilee-policy-platform/>  
and take action.

☪ Follow the [Movement for Black Lives](#) that recently announced [a police reform proposal](#) at national level.

**SHOW  
UP  
AND  
DO  
THE  
WORK**



## WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

**DAY SHELTER AND FOOD DISTRIBUTION UPDATE** The City of Cambridge is continuing food and funding so that the meal distribution program from the Tower Room here at First Church will continue through the summer. Since many community meal programs were shut down due to the pandemic, as many as 120 meals (prepared by local restaurants) are distributed, 5 days a week, from First Church. The city also has committed to continue funding to allow the First Church Shelter to remain open on a 24-hour basis through the summer. First Church's Shelter staff, Oversight Committee, Director of Operations, and Facilities Manager are working together to identify ways to ensure that this essential service is able to continue without disrupting the return of Newtowne School and others who make use of the building in the weeks and months ahead.

**COVID-19 HOUSING STABILIZATION PROGRAM** The City of Cambridge has announced the creation of a COVID-19 Housing Stabilization Program to provide short-term financial assistance to individuals and families in Cambridge who are experiencing housing instability due to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Residents are encouraged to apply for the COVID-19 Housing Stabilization Program online at [www.cambridgema.gov/housingfund](http://www.cambridgema.gov/housingfund).

**YOUR FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS ARE NEEDED AS MUCH AS EVER!** And our neighbors need YOUR help. Please add some items to your own shopping lists: canned fruits/vegetables, cereal, proteins, sauce for pasta, feminine products. No fresh food, please, and no opened or expired containers. Leave your donations in the box on Hilary's front porch at 30 Winslow St., Cambridge, a quick .75 mile from First Church, just off Sherman St. where it diverges from Garden St. She will see that they are delivered to the pantry on the one day a month that it is open. *Thanks for remembering our neighbors who are struggling in these hard times.*

**THE FRIDAY CAFÉ BAGGED LUNCH SIGNUP HAS OPENINGS!** Sign up to prepare 10 bagged lunches for hungry neighbors some upcoming Friday by visiting: [www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d45aaa628ab9-friday](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d45aaa628ab9-friday) to claim your spot. Many thanks!

**VOLUNTEER TO BAKE SOME GOODIES FOR OUR EVENING MEAL PROGRAM** First Church is now serving 500 meals a week to help feed hungry neighbors! If you would like to make a few dozen sweet treats to hand out at one of our evening meals on Monday, Wednesday, Saturday, or Sunday, please visit <https://signup.com/go/DCsUUei> to sign up. Treats can be dropped off at the Tower Room door at 4:30 on any of those nights. Thank you!

## WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

**SUPPORT FOR LEBANON** Earlier this week an explosion in Beirut injured over 4,000 Lebanese people with at least 100 fatalities. Prayers and aid are needed to help recovery, and to begin rebuilding destroyed sections of downtown. The Red Cross of Lebanon is accepting donations at [redcross.org.lb](https://redcross.org.lb)

**TAKE TWO MINUTES TO ACT FOR POLICE REFORM** The policing reform omnibus bill, still in legislative committee, diverts away from what Black and Latinx people most impacted by incarceration are calling for. It is not good enough! Read [Families for Justice As Healing's statement](#) on their [website](#). You will see suggestions for action, including support for No Cost Calls from prisons. Sheriffs are exerting pressure to oppose this humanitarian bill. A script for e-mailing or calling your legislators is provided on the website.

## MEDITATIVE MUSIC FOR YOUR WEEK

### LINKS TO CHANT WORKS PROVIDED BY NIGHT SONG

Looking for meditative chant music  
during your time at home?

Night Song Director Daryl Bichel  
offers the following suggestions:



#### **Stella Caeli Exstirpavit - Gregorian Chant during Times of Pestilence**

**Recorded by The Brebeuf Virtual Choir**

<https://www.ccwatershed.org/2020/07/31/stella-caeli-exstirpavit-gregorian-chant-during-times-of-pestilence/>

#### **St. Mark's Cathedral in Seattle, Compline on July 19, 2020**

**Sung by the Women's Compline Choir**

<https://saintmarks.org/2020/07/compline-on-the-seventh-sunday-after-pentecost/>

#### **Hildegard von Bingen**

**Vox Cosmica Hirundo Maris with Arianna Savall**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EzEb3va14LQ>

#### **St. John Cantius, Chicago**

**High Mass, August 2**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9oCmHiPFI8k>

*Next week the musicians of Night Song will have a compline liturgy for you to enjoy, prepared at home or at the churches where we work, and threaded together by our tenor and tech wizard, Erik Bertrand. There will be organ music based on chant melodies, a beautiful arrangement of Psalm 23 for soprano, Gregorian chant and hymns, and prayers written by soprano Beth Spaulding.*

## LOOKING AHEAD

### Sunday, August 9

- 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship via YouTube premiere, FCC member-in-discernment Dom Ackermann, preaching
- 11:00 a.m. Zoom Coffee Hour
- 11:00 a.m. Executive Council Meeting, via Zoom
- 5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

### Monday, August 10

- 5:00 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

### Tuesday, August 11

- 5:00 p.m. "Diversifying Your Bookshelf" Faith & Life Group, via Zoom
- 7:30 p.m. "Book of Exodus" Faith & Life Group, via Zoom
- 8:30 p.m. Compline Prayer Service, via Zoom

### Wednesday, August 12

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, via Zoom
- 5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

### Thursday, August 13

- 8:30 a.m. Me & White Supremacy Faith & Life Group, via Zoom
- 5:00 p.m. Shared Reflections on Richard Rohr Daily Devotionals, via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Bible Study, via Zoom
- 7:45 p.m. Choir Call, via Zoom

### Friday, August 14

- 8:00 a.m. Spiritual Practices with Lexi Boudreaux, via Zoom
- 1:00 p.m. Friday Café lunch bag pickup, Tower Room

### Saturday, August 15

- 5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

### Sunday, August 16

- 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship via Live Stream, Sacrament of Baptism, Dan Smith preaching
- 11:00 a.m. Zoom Coffee Hour
- 5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

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***Email Lexi Boudreaux (lexi@firstchurchcambridge.org) this morning to have today's email forwarded to you.***

## THE STAFF AT FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

### Senior Minister

Rev. Dan Smith  
617-547-2724 ext.23  
dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org

### Minister of Stewardship & Finance

Rev. Karen McArthur  
karenmc@firstchurchcambridge.org

### Minister of Street Outreach

Rev. Kate Layzer  
617-851-5074  
kate@thefriday.cafe

### Pastoral Associate

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### Director of Music

Peter Sykes  
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psykes@aol.com

### Director, Creative Worship & Arts

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### Staff Composer

Patricia Van Ness  
www.patriciavanness.com

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Joe Welker

### Sextons

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George Williams, Kimel Williams  
617-642-3980

Would you like to give to  
First Church in Cambridge?  
Here are easy ways to do it:



Text \$ \_\_ to 1-844-996-0982



FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE  
CONGREGATIONAL, 1633-1636  
United Church of Christ  
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