

Palm Sunday
April 2, 2023

**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
387 YEARS
ON THE WAY
1 6 3 6 – 2 0 2 3

April 2, 2023

Preaching Today Leading Worship

Lexi Boudreaux, *Transitional Minister*
Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*
Carla Carbajal, *Ministerial Intern*
Sarah Higginbotham, *Creative Worship & Arts Director*
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*
Leslie Pelton-Cairns, *Deacon*
Emma Blanc, Matt Hanna, and Callum Pelton-Cairns,
leading Palm Processional
Lee Prouty, *tech support*

Today's Programs and Events

10:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Breakfast, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
10:55 a.m. Gather on Church Lawn for Palm Procession
11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)
11:20 a.m. Church School: Creative Arts Workshop, Library
12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour and Visit a Truth Teller, MJH
1:30 p.m. Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 7/8th graders, Library
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 clipboards or this "[virtual visitor card](#)" so that we might 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

Minister On Call

If you have an urgent pastoral need, please call 857-331-7136 ext.222. Your call will be routed to a First Church minister based on a rotating schedule that covers staff time off.

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

*GREETING ON THE LAWN

Sarah Higginbotham

L: Friends, grace and peace, and welcome! Now is the needed time

C: to let God's mercy and presence surround us,

L: to let the truths of our world be unveiled,

C: to let the story of love be revealed;

L: to lay down our cloaks,

C: to lay down our hurts, and open our hearts.

L: In quiet kindness, in bold witness,

All: let us sing Hosanna and lift high our palms!

Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

All Glory, Laud and Honor

see page 5

WORDS OF WELCOME

Leslie Pelton-Cairns

ANTHEM

Hosanna to the Son of David!

Vittoria

Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is He, that cometh in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest!

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

SUNG PRAYER

Teach Me Your Way, O God

from Psalm 86; Layzer/Sykes

The Choir will sing through once; please join them on the second time 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.*

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 180

A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd

Children up through 6th grade are now invited to Church School: Pastoral Care Sunday in Margaret Jewett Hall. Children will return to worship in time for Communion.

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING

Matthew 21:1-11

HOMILY

Lexi Boudreaux

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Smith

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*Ave verum corpus,
natum ex Maria Virgine,
vere passum,
immolatum in cruce pro homine
cuius latus perforatum
fluxit aqua et sanguine:
esto nobis prægustatum
in mortis examine.
O clemens, o pie, o dulcis Jesu,
fili Mariae.*

Ave verum corpus

*Hail, true Body,
born of the Virgin Mary,
truly suffered,
sacrificed on the cross for humanity;
from whose pierced side
water and blood flowed:
Be for us a foretaste [of the Heavenly banquet]
in the trial of death!
O merciful, o holy, O sweet Jesus,
son of Mary.*

Edward Elgar

*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine
Demands my soul, my life, my all! Amen.**

SHARING THE FEAST

*INVITATION

Carla Carbajal

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

REMEMBERING AND GIVING THANKS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

L: Come Holy Spirit.

By this bread connect us more closely with you
and with our neighbors near and far.

All: Bless this bread, we pray.

L: May this fruit of the vine remind us of the interconnectedness
of people around the world.

All: Bless this cup, we pray.

L: May this simple meal enlighten the eyes of our hearts
and bring us into union with you, your people and your world
united in the Body of Christ as one.
We do this in the name of Jesus, our friend and companion,
who taught us to pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

*SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

All who seek to follow Jesus' way of justice, compassion, and love are invited to partake of this feast. If you are joining us from home please take now and eat; if you are in the sanctuary, please approach one of the stations to receive the elements. You may leave your empty bread cup and juice glass on the tray next to the station. Please bring your palm and bulletin with you. After you receive Communion, please walk to find a place on the chancel or around the sanctuary. If you wish, lay down your palm with a prayer or intention to prepare the way for a truth to be revealed during your experience of Holy Week.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

L: Let us give thanks!

**All: Thank you, God, for life in the spirit of Jesus,
for the gladness in this bread and cup,
for love that cannot die, for peace the world cannot give,
for joy in the company of friends, for the splendors of creation,
and for the mission of justice you have made our own.
Give us the gifts of this holy communion —
oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies,
the will to serve you every day, and life that never ends.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

ENTERING INTO HOLY WEEK

*HYMN

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

see page 6

*BENEDICTION

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 left.



PROCESSIONAL HYMN

178

All Glory, Laud and Honor

1. All glo - ry, laud and hon - or to thee, Re - deem - er, King,
 2. Thou art the King of glo - ry thou God's own right - eous son,
 3. Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring!
 who in the Lord's name com - est, the King and bless - ed One;
 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King.

The peo - ple of Jer - u - sa - lem with palms be - fore thee went;
 to thee, be - fore thy pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;
 All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re - deem - er, King,

our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.
 to thee, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring!

PEACE HYMN

180 A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd

1. A cheer - ing, chant - ing, diz - zy crowd had
 2. They laid their gar - ments in the road and
 3. When day dimmed down to deep - 'ning dark the
 4. Lest we be fooled be - cause our hearts have
 5. In - stead of palms a wind - ing sheet will

stripped the green trees bare, and hail - ing Christ as
 spread his path with palms and vows of last - ing
 crowd be - gan to fade 'til on - ly tram - pled
 surged with pass - ing praise, re - mind us, God, as
 have to be un - rolled, a car - pet much more

king a - loud, waved branch - es in the air.
 love be - stowed with roy - al hymns and psalms.
 leaves and bark were left from the par - ade.
 this week starts where Christ has fixed his gaze.
 fit to greet the king a cross will hold.

CLOSING HYMN

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

471

1. I want Je - sus to walk with me; (walk with me)
 2. In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
 3. When I'm trou - bled, Lord, walk with me;
 4. When I'm dy - ing, Lord, walk with me;

I want Je - sus to walk with me; (walk with me)
 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
 When I'm trou - bled, Lord, walk with me;
 When I'm dy - ing, Lord, walk with me;

all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
 when my heart is al - most break - ing,
 when my head is bowed in an - guish,
 when I'm on my bed of sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me. (with me)

WORDS: African-American spiritual
 MUSIC: African-American spiritual; harm. *The Presbyterian Hymnal: Hymns, Psalms and Spiritual Songs*, 1990

SOJOURNER
 88.89

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Lisa McCarty and her family as they grieve the loss of Lisa's father Michael Triplett, who died unexpectedly of a heart attack last week.
- We pray for Renate Rose, who is recovering at home after a serious fall.
- We pray for Tim and Ami Brenner as Tim's dad transitions out of the hospital into a rehab facility. And we celebrate that after treatment, Ami's dad is now cancer-free.
- We pray for Carol Wilson-Braun as she deals with a slow-progressing motor neuron disorder.
- We pray with gratitude with Joanne Paul, who qualified for a new breast cancer research study at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute that began on March 28.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Bridget Melle, Rich Goode's sister; 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.
- Knowing that prayers are not enough, we pray for families and loved ones grieving the loss of three children and three school staff killed in the school shooting in Nashville, TN. We pray for all whose lives are touched by our nation's still raging epidemic of gun violence, and for ongoing efforts to create lasting change and relief.
- We pray for the wellbeing and safety of our trans siblings as they face the impact of dozens of bills seeking to restrict transgender health care access and gender expression that have been introduced—and, in some cases, have passed into law—in state houses across the country.
- We pray for our rapidly warming planet and for redoubled efforts to reduce fossil fuel emissions in light of another alarming report recently released by the world's top climate scientists.
- We pray for those recovering after tornadoes tore through parts of Mississippi and Alabama last weekend, and we pray for those grieving the loss of 21 people who died because of the destruction.
- We pray for all those affected by police violence. We pray for all those protesting and working at the local, state, and federal level to end police brutality, which disproportionately affects persons and communities of color.
- We pray for all living in Israel and Palestine amid widespread protests against Benjamin Netanyahu's anti-democratic leadership.
- We pray for our Jewish siblings as antisemitic expression continues to appear with alarming frequency in our communities and around our nation.
- We pray for our country and for those most affected by changes in 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.

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

- We pray for the people of Ukraine and stand in hope and solidarity as they continue to resist unjust and unlawful Russian invasions. We pray for all soldiers and civilians in Ukraine, Russia, and surrounding areas, as well as all global regions impacted by the violence of war.
- We pray for all who are affected by COVID-19 and those grieving Covid-related loss.
- We pray for the 14 men finding sustenance and protection in our First Church Shelter; and we pray for the guests of the Friday Café, who are finding resources and listening ears.

[Join the First Church List](#) to see and offer up more community prayer requests.

Visit a Truth Teller

Sundays, March 5 - April 2, 12:15 p.m.

We invite you to gather around the final two of our Truth Telling portraits for a brief ritual after worship. After listening to a short description of the truth-teller's life and work, we will pause to look at the faces—the eyes—and to read the quote. We will sing a verse or two of a song and then send each other forth, inspired to go speak the truth in our lives and in our world! These portraits are the opposite of “hot takes” or quick opinions. They invite you to ponder a person, their words, and the issues that inspire their life's journey, work, activism, and imagination. They welcome you into a vital conversation, across time and space, about what it means to be an American. [Read more about the Americans Who Tell The Truth exhibit here.](#)



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

Today, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m., Library

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

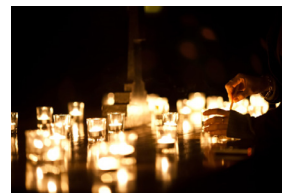
Our year-long Confirmation journey for 9th and 10th graders continues today with a session entitled “Making Meaning of Death/The Death & Resurrection of Jesus”

Night Song

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

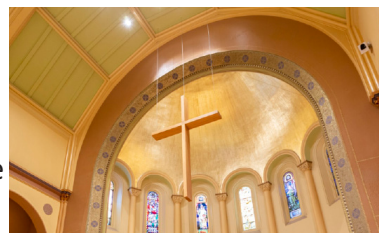
Night Song is a worship opportunity that offers stillness and sublime music in a darkened sanctuary for respite and reset.

[Read more about Night Song.](#)



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER AT FIRST CHURCH

Plan to walk with us through the rest of Holy Week as we gather to hear the gospel stories and face the hard truth of what happened to Jesus. In the days leading up to Easter, we confront our own and humankind's shadows. And God too is revealed, standing firmly on the side of the persecuted—even those who are persecuted “in God's name.” Come to contemplate how this truth matters in our lives and in our world today.



Maundy Thursday Service with Communion and Tenebrae **Thursday, April 6 at 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary and via livestream**

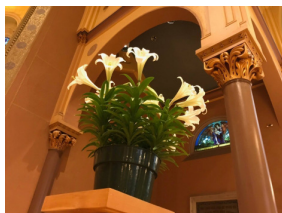
We recall the new commandment Jesus gave his disciples “to love one another as I have loved you.” We remember his last meal with his friends by celebrating Holy Communion. And in a candle-lit, then darkened, sanctuary, we call to mind Jesus' anguish and arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane. We depart in silence. *Parents are encouraged to use their judgment; this service is likely most suitable for children older than 10.*

Good Friday Service of Lamentation **Friday, April 7 at 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary and via livestream**

We gather to lament the world's pain and injustice and to remember Jesus' death on the cross. Join us for this solemn service of ritual, reverence, and remembrance, where we meditate on Jesus' story and the stories and images from our current lives and recent past. *Parents are encouraged to use their judgment; this service is likely most suitable for children older than 10.*

Easter Hybrid Morning Worship, **Sunday, April 9 at 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary and via livestream**

Christ is Risen! We celebrate and rejoice in God's gift of new life through the resurrection of Jesus, as we proclaim the liberating truth of God's forgiving, redeeming, all-embracing love, greater even than death.



Memorial Flowers for Easter

Today is the last day to donate memorial flowers for loved ones this Easter. Please send the names of those to be remembered to [Kirsten Manville](#) in the First Church office. Contributions of \$20 to help defray the cost of flowers can be made online (check off the Easter Flowers category) or can be included in the offering baskets found at the front and back of the Sanctuary (checks payable to First Church in Cambridge, with a memo line of “Easter Flowers”). Please email Kirsten the names even if you pay by check through the offering basket or online; this way we can make sure no one is missed. On Easter Sunday, the congregation is invited to take a plant to a homebound parishioner to spread the joy of Easter.

LOOKING AHEAD



Young Adults Easter Brunch **Sunday, April 9, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.** **Grendel's Den in Harvard Square**

Join other First Church 20- and 30-somethings for brunch at Grendel's in Harvard Square. We'll meet in front of church after Easter worship and walk to Grendel's, or meet us there! Those interested in coming should let Casey Marsh or Phil Jones know by emailing:

youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org. This will also keep you in the loop for our casual, bi-monthly get togethers for young adults.

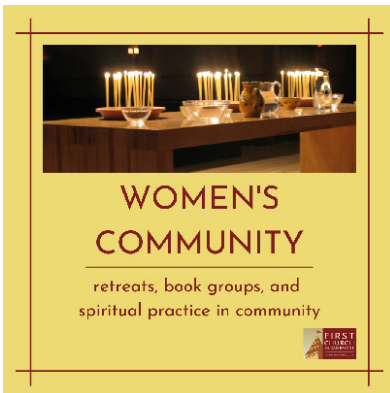
First Church Membership and Joining By Covenant **Sunday, April 16, 12:15 - 1:15 p.m., Harter Room & via Zoom**

What does it mean to join a church community "by covenant?" What does it mean to become a member of First Church—for you and your spiritual journey, as well as for our church community? In this discussion hour, we will address these questions and more. Please join us if you are considering membership at First Church or if you are a member who is curious about our covenants—both historic and modern.



Women's Community Book Group **Tuesday, April 18, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., via Zoom**

Please join us, all who identify as women, newcomers and those who have been coming for a while, to discuss this month's book: [*Matrix*](#) by Lauren Groff. It is a story of a member of the royal court, "17-year-old Marie de France, [who] is sent to England to be the new prioress of an impoverished abbey, its nuns on the brink of starvation and beset by disease." We hope for another thoughtful and fun discussion.



LOOKING AHEAD

Remembering and Honoring: First Church Embroidery Project Learning Session and Workshop

Sunday, April 23 at 12:30 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall

Join local textile artists Sarah Fuijwara and Gail Willett, along with other project leaders for a session in which we take the next steps in our community project to embroider names of enslaved persons connected with First Church into a large-scale piece of fabric art. We'll begin by sharing and discussing one or two ["Stories Impossible To Tell"](#) about enslaved persons whose names we will eventually embroider. Sarah and Gail will guide us through an exercise of sewing and practicing our embroidery skills on muslin sacks. This activity is inspired by Tiya Miles's National Book Award Winner *All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley's Sack, a Black Family Keepsake*, which was one of our First Church Summer Reads last year. Please be thinking in advance about three family keepsakes you would put in your sack to pass along to future generations.



Neighborhood Youth Group Service Project

Sunday, April 23, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m., First Church Kitchen

Teens from 7th to 12th grade are invited to join youth from other churches bordering the Cambridge Common for an afternoon of cooking lasagnas for the Friday Café and First Church Shelter. We will meet in the First Church kitchen to cook together.

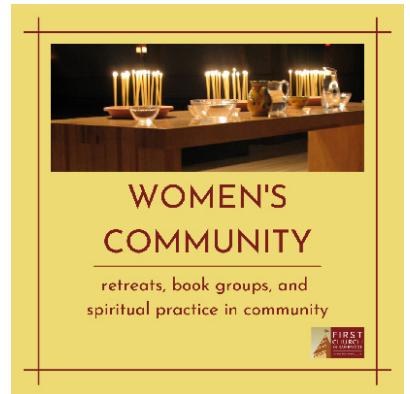
LOOKING AHEAD

Women's Community Eastertide Retreat Saturday, April 29, 12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The women of First Church are invited to gather for a time of worship, spiritual practice, reflection, and fellowship to observe Eastertide. Everyone who identifies as a woman is welcome to join! Come as you are to take time out of our busy weeks for rest, renewal, and spiritual practice in the midst of a supportive community.

To let us know that you plan to attend, please sign up here:

<https://forms.gle/h4Lm3cRhsoXdubig9>



Celebrations on April 30

We have much to celebrate on Sunday, April 30!

Good news! First Church is being recognized for our efforts in reaching Level One of the Southern New England Conference UCC (SNEUCC) Green Congregation Challenge. Paul Dale from the SNEUCC Environmental Team will join us in Morning Worship to present us with an award for taking the first steps on a journey toward addressing the climate crisis and environmental injustice.

More good news! Former Pastoral Associate Jaz Buchanan will be joining us for the Green Challenge celebration, along with her new baby! We are so grateful to Jaz and to Jim Brown for their recent efforts to mobilize our First Church Earth Stewardship Team.

Even more good news! Former longtime members Dick and Gay Harter will also be with us, and they will receive a Cockerel tile acknowledging their 50+ years of involvement at First Church.

It will be a rich and joyful Sunday that you won't want to miss!

FIRST CHURCH SUPPORTS GBIO'S HOUSING JUSTICE CAMPAIGN



On March 16, the 50+ member institutions of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) rallied outside the State House. It was a pivotal moment as Governor Healy's first budget takes shape and tens of thousands in the Commonwealth are housing insecure. Leaders in GBIO spoke about the need to battle racist zoning histories in the suburbs, the huge potential in Real Estate Transfer Fees, the impossible barriers to housing faced by people leaving incarceration, and the horrible conditions in much of the state's public housing.

Despite the dire needs, it was a fun and hopeful day! Ten First Church members joined the crowd of 300 (thanks Nancy, Kate, Lexi, Ellen, Don, Anne, Dave, Alice, Phil, and Sarah!), and the Governor herself let GBIO know she could hear the tuba. See this [GBH News](#) piece for video!

Afterwards, the faithful went into the State House to start meeting with our representatives to bring their attention to GBIO's campaign asks. Moving forward, First Church will keep showing up in greater numbers, along with all of GBIO, to pass a housing justice budget this spring.



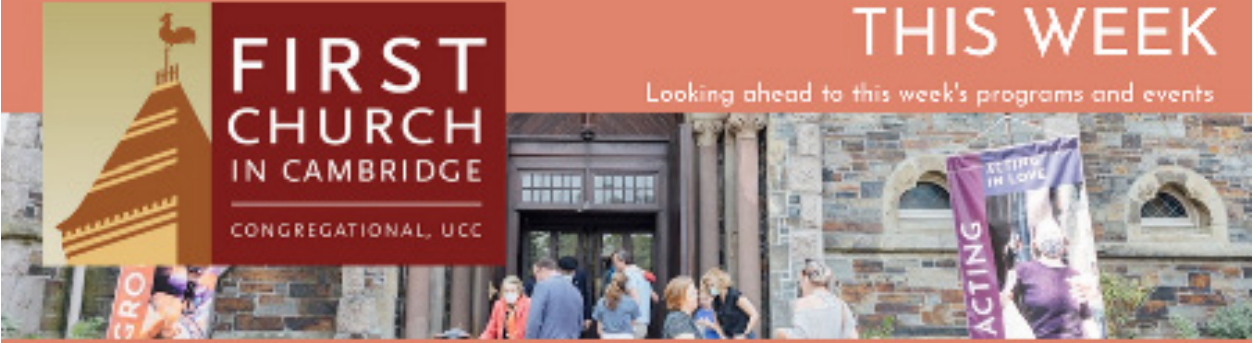
In fact, GBIO members gathered at the State House once again on March 27, this time to testify in support of H23, a bill calling for the creation of a new Cabinet position, Secretary of Housing and Livable Communities. Our coalition is making its presence felt in the halls of government.

To get involved with GBIO's work, which also includes a mental health campaign and continuing work for returning citizens, reach out to Will Erickson, Phil Jones, Kate Layzer, Casey Marsh, Adam Weiss, or Kathy Williams. You can also email gbio@firstchurchcambridge.org and read about the campaign at gbio.org.



THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, April 3

- 4:00 pm Embroidery Project Advisory Team Meeting, via Zoom
- 4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Gathering, via Zoom

Tuesday, April 4

- 7:15 a.m. Reflective Conversations with Brent Coffin, via Zoom
- 10:30 a.m. Communications Team Meeting, Harter Room
- 4:00 p.m. First Church Professional Caregivers' Meeting, via Zoom

Wednesday, April 5

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom
- 4:00 p.m. Gifts Discernment Committee, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Christian Formation Committee, via Zoom
- 7:30 p.m. GBIO Core Team meeting, via Zoom

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

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

Thursday, April 6 - Maundy Thursday

- 6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service with Communion and Tenebrae, Sanctuary and via livestream

Friday, April 7 - Good Friday

- 12:00 p.m. Friday Café, MJH
- 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service of Lamentation, Sanctuary and via livestream

Sunday, April 2 - Easter

- 9:45 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour, MJH
- 12:15 p.m. Hybrid Community Coffee Hour, Harter Room and via Zoom
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC
11 Garden St. • Cambridge, MA 02138

617-547-2724 • info@firstchurchcambridge.org • www.firstchurchcambridge.org

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