



*Awake, my soul! Awake, O harp and lyre!  
I will awake the dawn.  
I will give thanks to you, O Lord,  
I will sing praises to you among the nations,  
for your steadfast love is as high as the heavens;  
your faithfulness extends to the clouds.*

- Psalm 57:8-10

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Easter  
April 9, 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.

**April 9, 2023**

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

### Preaching Today

Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*

### Leading Worship

Lexi Boudreaux, *Transitional Minister*

Karen McArthur, *Minister of Stewardship & Finance*

Ahmaad Edmund, *Ministerial Intern*

Sarah Higginbotham, *Creative Worship & Arts Dir.*

Andy Clark, *conducting the Hallelujah Chorus*

Susie Neubauer and Adeline McNamara, *participating in the Prayers for Church and World*

Lee Prouty, *tech support*

Kate Layzer, *Minister of Street Outreach*

Carla Carbajal, *Ministerial Intern*

Peter Sykes, *Music Director*

Moana Bentin, *liturgist*

Robinson Pyle, *trumpet*

### Bulletin Cover Image

Psalm 57 collage by Audrey Bellinger

*This and other Psalm collages can be viewed in [a digital gallery](#).*

### Today's Programs and Events

9:45 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)

12:15 p.m. Easter Fellowship & Refreshments, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)

12:15 p.m. Hybrid Community Coffee Hour, Harter Room and [via Zoom](#)

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](http://www.firstchurchcambridge.org/give) or by texting "\$\_" to: 1-844-996-0982.

### Contact a Pastor or Staff Member

Find [contact information](#) for our ministerial, program, and building staff on our website.

For general information and inquiries: [info@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:info@firstchurchcambridge.org)

### 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

## VOLUNTARY

Concerto in D Major

Johann Heinrich Fasch

## \*HYMN 205

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

## \*GREETING

Moana Bentin

L: Sisters, brothers, siblings all, join me in the ancient Easter greeting:  
Christ is risen!

**C: He is risen, indeed —**

L: to bring God's grace and peace to our hearts,

**C: to share God's justice and joy with our world!**

L: Give thanks, then! Give thanks and praise,

**C: for God's lasting love and boundless beauty  
breaking forth from the darkness of the tomb!**

**All: Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen!**

## WORDS OF WELCOME

## EASTER PEACE

Lexi Boudreaux

## \*GREETING OF PEACE

*Please turn to your immediate neighbors and offer a handshake, or a hug! Or if you prefer to maintain social distance, fold your hands or arms in a sign of peace. We want everyone to be comfortable; today let there be no spiritual distance between us.*

## TIME WITH CHILDREN

Sarah Higginbotham

## CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Jubilate Deo

Michael Praetorius



*\*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.*

## OPENING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

#### READING

Psalm 57:8-10

#### ANTHEM

Easter Triumph, Easter Joy!  
Easter triumph! Easter Joy!  
*Jesus lives and death is destroyed,  
Cross and grave are past. Jesus lives at last!  
Sing and shout the gospel message, let our alleluias blaze!  
Jesus Christ, our world's redeemer, came to earth, sent by God's hand,  
Now he reigns in heavenly triumph. Tell the news throughout the land.  
Bring the blazing gospel message to our world so full of need.  
Jesus reigns alive and active, bringing life in word and deed.*

Carson Cooman

#### READING

John 20:1-18

Carla Carbajal and Kate Layzer

#### SERMON

Dan Smith

#### \*HYMN C-22

Come and Taste of Resurrection

### SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

#### PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

L: God be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.

For the beauty of this earth,  
for the joy of a new dawn,  
for the blessings of this community,

**All: we thank you!**

L: For sadness turned to laughter,  
for fear turned to love,  
for death turned to new life,

**All: we praise you!**

L: For this Easter joy that reminds us  
that we are already forgiven, loved, and free,

**All: we rejoice in you!**

L: And still we pray:

For peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts.

God, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayers.**

L: For peace for our parents, and peace for our children.

God, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayers.**

L: For peace in our church, and peace across all faiths.

God, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayers.**

L: For peace in our cities, and peace in our nation.

God, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayers.**

L: For peace in our world, and for the care of your creation.

God, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayers.**

L: O God in Christ, giver of new life, our Creator,  
our Redeemer, our Sustainer, we pray:

**All: bring us, now and always,  
a peace and wholeness the world cannot give.  
And let our souls rise to meet you  
as the day rises to meet the sun.**

## 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

Ahmaad Edmund

## OFFERTORY

Most Glorious Lord of Life

Edmund Spenser/Alice Parker

*Most glorious Lord of life, that on this day didst make thy triumph over death and sin,  
and having harrowed hell, didst bring away captivity thence captive, us to win:  
This joyous day, dear Lord, with joy begin, and grant that we for whom thou didst die,  
being with thy dear blood clean washed from sin, may live forever in felicity:  
And that thy love we weighing worthily, may likewise love thee for the same again;  
and for thy sake, who dost all grace supply, with love may one another entertain;  
So let us love, dear Love, like as we ought; love is the lesson which the Lord us taught.*

**\*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

O Jesus, risen now to bless,  
do thou thyself our hearts possess;  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
that we may give thee all our days  
the willing tribute of our praise!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**GOING FORTH**

**\*THE HALLELUJAH CHORUS**

from *Messiah*

Handel

**\*BENEDICTION**

**VOLUNTARY**

Toccatà

Giambattista Martini

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**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.





Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

1. Christ the Lord is risen to - day,  
 2. Lives a - gain our glo - rious King,  
 3. Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - - le - lu - ia!  
 4. Soar we now where Christ has led,  
 5. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!

Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say:  
 Where, O death, is now thy sting?  
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - - le - lu - ia!  
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head,  
 Praise to thee by both be given,

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high,  
 Dy - ing once, he all doth save,  
 Death in vain for - bids him rise, Al - - le - lu - ia!  
 Made like him, like him we rise,  
 Thee we greet tri - umphant now,

Sing, ye heavens, and earth re - ply:  
 Where thy vic - to - ry, O grave?  
 Christ has o - pened Par - a - dise, Al - - le - lu - ia!  
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies,  
 Hail, the Res - ur - rec - tion thou!

SERMON HYMN

C-22 Come and Taste of Resurrection

1. "Come and taste of Re - sur -  
 2. Who am I that you should  
 3. Yet you stand here watch - ing,  
 4. "Put a - way then all your  
 5. Christ, your name is glo - ry,

rec - tion," speaks the voice so sweet and  
 love - me? Just a crea - ture made of  
 wait - ing, hold - ing out your arms to  
 griev - ing, free your heart from point - less  
 glo - ry; hope of ev - er - las - ting

clear: "Rise and take a new di - rec - tion; if you  
 earth. Ev - ery mor - tal frag - ment of me shrinks a -  
 me, si - lent an - swer em - an - at - ing—"Love lasts  
 strife. Be not fear - ful but be - liev - ing: Now be -  
 grace: Deep in this un - fold - ing sto - ry we have

trust me, have no fear."  
 way from such re - birth.  
 an e - ter - ni - ty."  
 glimpsed Love face to face.

Our concept of healing is broad:  
 the love of God in us as  
 "earthen vessels"  
 bringing about wholeness of mind,  
 body and soul;  
 reconciliation with God,  
 with others,  
 with our deepest selves;  
 healing of the environment  
 and of the world's hurts.

Marjorie Williams

WORDS: Kate Layzer  
 MUSIC: Peter Sykes

*Come and Taste of Resurrection* was commissioned by and is  
 dedicated to Paula Stanley, Deacon of First Church,  
 who for many years coordinated healing services.



## HALLELUJAH CHORUS

Hal-lelujah! Hal-lelujah!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

King of Kings,  
For ever and ever,  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Halle-lujah! Hal-lelujah!  
Hal-lelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Halle-lujah!

And Lord of Lords,  
For ever and ever,  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

King of Kings,  
For ever and ever,  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Halle-lu-jah!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Halle-lu-jah!

And Lord of Lords,  
King of Kings,  
And Lord of Lords,  
  
And He shall reign, And He shall reign for  
ever and ever.

The kingdom of this world  
is become  
the Kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ,  
and of his Christ;

King of Kings  
For ever and ever!  
And Lord of Lords  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

And He shall reign for ever and ever  
For ever and ever  
And He shall reign and He shall reign  
For ever, for ever, for ever, for ever and ever  
For ever, for ever and ever,

And He shall reign for ever, for ever and  
ever.

King of Kings,  
For ever and ever,  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

King of Kings, and Lord of Lords,  
King of Kings, and Lord of Lords,

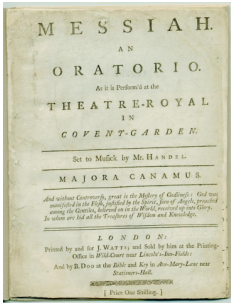
And Lord of Lords,  
For ever and ever,  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

And He shall reign for ever and ever,  
  
King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, Hallelujah!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

\*WAIT and WATCH\*

HAL – LE – LU – JAH!

## ABOUT THE HALLELUJAH CHORUS



Today, as on Easter's past, we joyfully sing out a beloved masterpiece that for many is synonymous with Easter celebration: the famous "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's oratorio *Messiah*. This year, however, we do so with an awareness that this piece has a complex history. As we are learning, some scholars believe *Messiah* contains elements of anti-Jewish hostility. The "Hallelujah Chorus" has come under particular scrutiny, leading to symposia and media coverage on the possible undertones of the piece, given where it falls in the oratorio. You may read more [here](#). Even as we sing out with joy today, we are committed to learning more and considering how we can hold a painful and complex legacy alongside our appreciation of iconic artworks from the past.

## EASTER FLOWERS

*Today's Easter flowers are given in celebration and in loving memory of:*

*Wilbur & Julia Applegate  
John Belak  
Rebecca Blank  
Dudne M. Breeze  
Lincoln & Nancy Parker Clark  
Park Curry  
Julia Defenderfer  
Rev. Robert C. Defenderfer  
Robert C. Defenderfer II  
Irmard Dinger  
Duane & Lois Dresser  
The Eaton Family  
Pauline Fennel  
Charles Lincoln Gagnebin  
C. Louis & Charlotte Gagnebin  
Homer and Doris Gere  
Hart & Alice Gilchrist  
Wells & Helen Grogan  
Ruth Hall  
Allen Happe & Judith McConnell  
Ruth Hsiao  
C. William Higginbotham  
Elizabeth Wood Holtzworth  
James Walther Holtzworth*

*Hilary Hopkins  
Robert H. Keith  
Frank Knab  
Harold & Laura Jensen  
Jan Johnson  
Richard Christian Luders  
Virginia Caird Ludwig  
Nell Martin  
Ann & Phil Matthews  
Marva & Bill McArthur  
John Steven Paul  
Cleone Pelton  
Eric Riedel  
Andy, Ione, and Jeri Shuman  
Franklin Slifkey  
Albert A Smith  
Daisy Smith  
The Speairs Family  
Charles and Margaret Spring  
Minnie Taylor  
Janet Wagner  
Patti A. Weller  
Rev. Robert A. Wendelin  
Margaret Wendelin*



*And in memory of  
all Cantabrigians lost to  
Covid-19.*

*Paul Wendelin  
Hans Gert Wengert  
Pauly West  
H. David & Honora Willcutts  
Jim Williams  
George & Marjorie Williams  
Wallace Williams  
Hing-Chung Yip  
Y.J. & Ruth Yu*

## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Carter West, who is facing the challenge of living with Parkinsonism.
- 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.
- We pray for Carol Wilson-Braun as she deals with a slow-progressing motor neuron disorder, and as she and her husband Jeff both have Covid.
- 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 have torn through multiple regions of the country over the past several weeks.
- 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 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.
- 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 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.**

## TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

### **Americans Who Tell The Truth Portraits Leaving Soon**

What an inspiring gift it has been to have Robert Shetterly's truth-telling portraits gracing our walls these past 40-plus days. Some of them will be leaving us this week, so as to be shown elsewhere. However, the following four will be with us through June: Harriet Jacobs, Maulian Dana, Ida B. Wells, and Bryan Stevenson. We are also hoping to use Memorial Funds to purchase two or three fine art prints of the portraits to keep on our walls throughout the coming year, even as we anticipate curating a new set of portraits in 2024. If you have not seen all 11 portraits in this exhibit, today is your chance! Please make your way into Hastings Common, Margaret Jewett Hall, and the Harter Room to see them, again or for the first time!



### **Americans Who Tell The Truth**

**February 26 - April 11, 2023**

**Documentary Screening:**  
Sunday, February 19 at 12:30 p.m.

**Exhibit Opening and  
New Harriet Jacobs Portrait Unveiling:**  
Sunday, February 26 at 12:30 p.m.

[firstchurchcambridge.org/AWTT](http://firstchurchcambridge.org/AWTT)



Hybrid  
Community  
Coffee Hour

Second Sundays  
Harter Room & via Zoom



### **Hybrid Community Coffee Hour** **Second Sundays, Harter Room and [via Zoom](#)**

On the second Sunday of each month, we offer a hybrid fellowship option. Those at home can join via Zoom, while those in person can make their way to the Harter Room for an opportunity to see your church friends' faces, share joys and concerns, or just smile and wave!

### **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](mailto:youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org). This will also keep you in the loop for our casual, bi-monthly get togethers for young adults.



### **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.](#)



## EASTERTIDE AT FIRST CHURCH

### 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, both 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.



### WOMEN'S COMMUNITY

retreats, book groups, and  
spiritual practice in community



### 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 Fujiwara 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 an overview 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.



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 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.



## EASTERTIDE AT FIRST CHURCH



### 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.

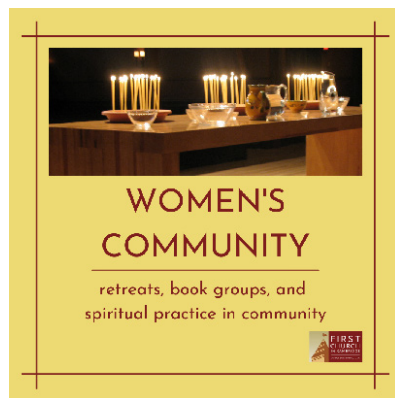
### Women's Community Eastertide Retreat

**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>



### 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-fcccokies>

Questions? Difficulty with the online signup? Contact Lisa DiNardo at [ladinardo@hotmail.com](mailto:ladinardo@hotmail.com).



First Church in Cambridge presents:

**TACKLING HOMELESSNESS:**

**HOPE** AMID  
**THE CHALLENGE**

**April 25, 7:00 pm**  
in the Sanctuary



with guest speaker

**Michael Kimmelman**  
of the New York Times

author of "How Houston Moved 25,000 People  
From the Streets Into Homes of Their Own"

Ticket sales support the work of the **Friday Café**



SCAN ME

**Buy tickets:**

[www.firstchurchcambridge.org/tackling-homelessness/](http://www.firstchurchcambridge.org/tackling-homelessness/)

This event will be both in-person and livestreamed.

## LOOKING AHEAD



### Call for Spring Faith & Life Group Leaders by April 18

Are you interested in leading a small group over Zoom or in person this Spring? Contact [Lexi Boudreaux](#) to discuss your idea for the last round of Faith & Life Groups in this program year.

Led by First Church members, Faith & Life Groups are designed to encourage meaningful connections through shared interests, whether exploring a spiritual practice, opening our eyes to the beauty around us, delving into a challenging social issue, or attending to significant life stages (parenting, aging, job transitions, etc.).

Faith & Life Groups involve making a short-term commitment (a single session to several weeks, depending on the group). Pitch your idea for a Faith & Life Group to [Lexi!](#)

### 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 as we lift up our shared 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!

## LOOKING AHEAD

### **First Church Treasures from the Past** **Sundays, April 30 and May 7, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.** **Harter Room and via Zoom**

Come and learn the fascinating story of the Cockerel weathervane that tops our church tower. The great gilded rooster was made in 1721 by famous Boston coppersmith Shem Drowne and was already 150 years old when it landed in Cambridge in 1873. Lindsay Miller tells the cockerel's story in a hybrid program at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 30. The following Sunday, May 7, at 9:30, Kate Judd, Chris Reynolds, and other members of the First Church Archives team reveal the once-forgotten history of the Archives and how some remarkable 17th and 18th century documents ended up in the collection. Join us to hear history come alive!



### **Ongoing Crisis in Israel/Palestine:** **Challenges and Opportunities** **on the 75th Anniversary of the Nakba** **Sunday, April 30, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.** **Harter Room and via Zoom**

May 2023 will mark the 75th anniversary of what Palestinians call the Nakba, or catastrophe: the founding of the modern State of Israel and the accompanying mass displacement and violence experienced by Palestinians. Grounded in its just peace commitment, First Church members are invited to hear from special guest Hilary Rantisi, Associate Director of the Religion, Conflict, and Peace Initiative at Harvard Divinity School. A Palestinian-American, Hilary formerly served as Director of the Middle East Initiative at Harvard's Kennedy School and as a grassroots activist in Jerusalem. Hilary will share her family's experience of the Nakba and offer an update on the current challenges to, and opportunities for, advancing just peace in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.



# THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



## Monday, April 10

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

## Tuesday, April 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

## Wednesday, April 12

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

6:30 p.m. Investment Committee, via Zoom

## Thursday, April 13

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

## Friday, April 14

12:00 p.m. Friday Café, MJH

## Sunday, April 16

10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

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

12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour, Margaret Jewett Hall

12:15 p.m. First Church Membership & Joining by Covenant, Harter Room and via Zoom

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

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

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