



*O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
For our God is a great God and great above all gods.
In her hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are hers also.
The sea is hers, for she made it, and the dry land, which her hands have formed.*

- Psalm 95:1, 3-5

Juneteenth Sunday
June 18, 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

June 18, 2023

Preaching Today	Dan Smith, <i>Senior Minister</i>
Liturgist	Sarah Fujiwara
Assisting in Worship	Lexi Boudreaux, <i>Transitional Minister</i> Sarah Higginbotham, <i>Creative Worship & Arts Director</i> Egypt Lloyd, Paula Paris, Marieke Van Damme, Gail Willett, and Laurie Williams, <i>members of the Embroidery Project Advisory Team</i> Lee Prouty, <i>tech support</i> Chris Reynolds, <i>Clerk</i> Peter Sykes, <i>Music Director</i>
Bulletin Cover Image	Psalm 95 collage by Audrey Bellinger <i>All Psalm collages can be viewed in a digital gallery on our website.</i>

Today's Programs and Events

- 10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)
- 12:15 p.m. Pre-Summer Farewell Reception for Lexi Boudreaux, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)

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

VOLUNTARY

Melody

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

***HYMN C-23**

Come, All You Thirsty

***GREETING**

Sarah Fujiwara

L: Come, beloved of God,
come, all who thirst for hope and healing!

**C: Come, all ancestors and descendants,
all elders and children!**

L: From generation to generation,
the Spirit sweeps across the oceans of creation
and rests in the rivers of our baptisms.

**C: She troubles the waters of our complicity
and leads us to streams of justice and joy.**

L: Come, beloved, on this day God has made,
wade in the water, together!

C: All thanks, glory, and praise be to her holy name! Amen!

WORDS OF WELCOME

Sarah Fujiwara and Marieke Van Damme

ANTHEM

The Negro Speaks of Rivers
poem by Langston Hughes
Laurie Williams, soloist

Howard Swanson

I've known rivers:

I've known rivers ancient as the world and older than the flow
of human blood in human veins.

My soul has grown deep like the rivers.

I bathed in the Euphrates when dawns were young.

I built my hut near the Congo and it lulled me to sleep.

I looked upon the Nile and raised the pyramids above it.

I heard the singing of the Mississippi when Abe Lincoln went down to New Orleans,
and I've seen its muddy bosom turn all golden in the sunset.

I've known rivers:

Ancient, dusky rivers.

My soul has grown deep like the rivers.

**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 ask for healing, pardon and peace:

**C: Holy One, in the light of your risen glory
we see the harm we have done,
the suffering we have caused,
the good we have refused,
and the truth we have denied.
Heal us, we pray.
Wash us in your mercy,
and feed us with your grace,
so that we may follow in your way
and tell the good news of the gospel. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*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.

*HYMN 426

I've Got Peace Like a River

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Lexi Boudreaux

READING

Deuteronomy 30:15-19

READING

John 5:1-8

READING

A Poem for Cicely

Paula Paris

REFLECTION

Dan Smith and Egypt Lloyd

COMMEMORATING AND RECOMMITTING

BLESSING THE WATER

READING OF NAMES

Lloyd Family and Advisory Team Members

REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISMS

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Wade in the Water

Traditional

Please join the Choir on the refrain:

**Wade in the water, wade in the water, children,
wade in the water, God's gonna trouble the water!**

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sarah Higginbotham

CALL TO SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Chris Reynolds

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

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

As a part of our commitment to taking reparative action, and inspired by United Parish in Brookline's Negro Spiritual Royalties Project, a portion of today's offering will go towards a donation to Hamilton-Garrett Music and Arts.

OFFERTORY

Steal Away

Spiritual, arr. J. D. Riding

***DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God, the source of life and birth,
Praise God, the Word who came to earth,
Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame,
All glory, honor to God's name! Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

GOING FORTH

***HYMN C-3**

Psalm 23

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

Ultimate Jude

Paul Sawyer

VOLUNTARY

Deep River

Spiritual, arr. Jeffery Nall

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.



SCAN ME

You can find a longer version of this acknowledgment [here](#) or by scanning the QR code to the left.

OPENING HYMN

Come, All You Thirsty

C-23

1. Come, all you thirst - y, to the riv - er,
 2. Come to the good, for - giv - ing riv - er,
 3. Come to the strong, re - new - ing riv - er,
 4. Riv - er of life, what deep com - pass - ion

here where the Word_ runs cool and deep.
 here where the Word_ runs calm and clear.
 here where the Word_ runs sweet and wild.
 feeds your e - ter - nal mer - cy song?

Come with the out - casts, crushed and bro - ken,
 Wash in the truth that frees the spi - rit;
 Come by God's gift, though un - de - ser - ving;
 God's own face shines in you re - flec - ted,

come, you who rage_ and you_ who weep._
 shed the ex - cus - es you_ hold dear._
 come be - cause God_ has called_ you Child._
 call - ing us back_ where we_ be - long._

WORDS: Kate Layzer
 MUSIC: Peter Sykes

"Then the angel showed me the river of life,
 bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God
 and from the Lamb."
 Rev 22.1

PEACE HYMN

426

I've Got Peace Like a River

1. I've got peace like a riv - er, I've got peace like a
 2. I've got joy like a foun-tain, I've got joy like a
 3. I've got love like an o - cean, I've got love like an
 4. I've got faith like an an - chor, I've got faith like an

1.
 riv - er, I've got peace like a riv - er, in - a my
 foun-tain, I've got joy like a foun-tain, in - a my
 o - cean, I've got love like an o - cean, in - a my
 an - chor, I've got faith like an an - chor, in - a my

2.
 soul. I've got riv - er in - a my soul.
 soul. I've got foun-tain in - a my soul.
 soul. I've got o - cean in - a my soul.
 soul. I've got an - chor in - a my soul.

WORDS and MUSIC: African-American spiritual

PEACE LIKE A RIVER

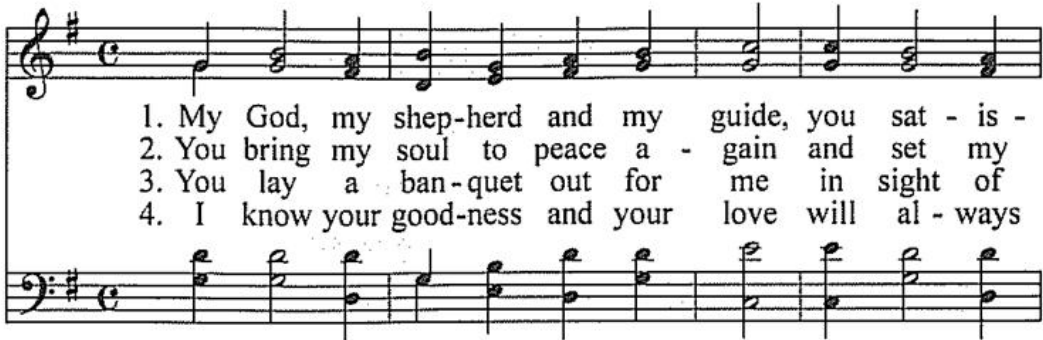
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Spirituals draw heavily from Old Testament imagery, including 'peace like a river' from Isaiah 48:18. The New Testament also provided imagery for this song in the fruits of the Spirit—love, joy and peace (Galatians 5:22).

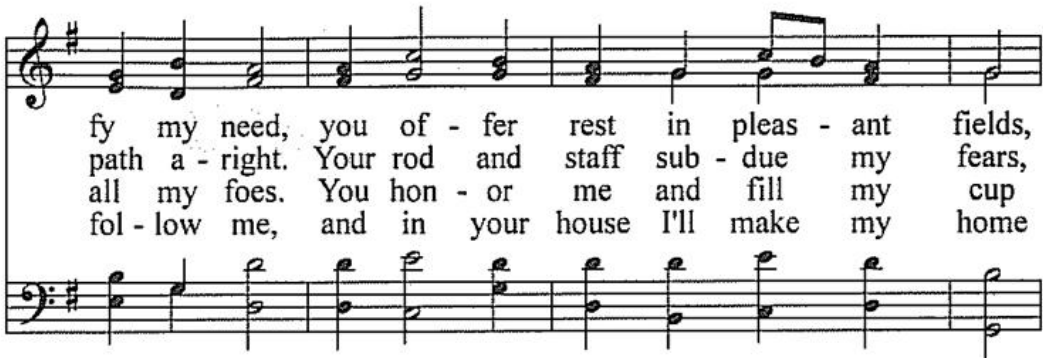
CLOSING HYMN

Psalm 23

C-3



1. My God, my shep-herd and my guide, you sat - is -
 2. You bring my soul to peace a - gain and set my
 3. You lay a ban-quet out for me in sight of
 4. I know your good-ness and your love will al - ways



fy my need, you of - fer rest in pleas - ant fields,
 path a - right. Your rod and staff sub - due my fears,
 all my foes. You hon - or me and fill my cup
 fol - low me, and in your house I'll make my home



to wat - ers calm you lead.
 in dark-ness you give light.
 un - til it ov - er - flows.
 for all e - ter - ni - ty.

WORDS: New translation by Denise Karuth

MUSIC: New England Psalter, 1698

LOW DUTCH

REMEMBERING AND HONORING

From 1638-1830 more than one hundred persons of color are recorded in the records of First Church in Cambridge. They were baptized, married, and buried here; some joined as full or partial members. Between 1698 and 1776, when slavery was legal in Massachusetts, at least 36 people — 33 Africans and 3 people identified as Indians — were enslaved by members of First Church and became members of First Church, according to our records. Each accepted the church's covenant and was baptized. Twelve were "admitted to full communion." The rest had limited or no access. Enslaved members and Harvard students sat in the balcony — in separate sections. We do not know if they joined willingly or unwillingly. We honor and remember their names, their humanity, and their God-given dignity today.

-
- 1698 **Philip**, African man enslaved in service to Mr. Danforth
 - 1705 **Mingo**, African man enslaved in service to Mr. Town
 - 1705 **Charles**, African man enslaved in service to Mr. Town
 - 1705 **Jeffry**, an African man enslaved in service to Mr. Goff
 - 1705 **Scipio**, an African man enslaved in service to William Brattle, fifth minister of First Church
 - 1727 **Joseph English**, an Indigenous man, enslaved in service to William Russell
 - 1728 **Pompey**, an African man enslaved in service to Nathaniel Appleton,
sixth minister of First Church
 - 1729 **Titus**, an indigenous man, enslaved in service to Benjamin Wadsworth,
President of Harvard College
 - 1729 **Rose**, an African woman enslaved in service to A. Bordman
 - 1731 **Philicia**, an African woman enslaved in service to Major Brattle
 - 1736 **Hannibal**, an African man enslaved in service to Dr. Wigglesworth
 - 1736 **Margaret**, an African woman enslaved in service to the widow Oliver
 - 1737 **Roger**, an African man enslaved in service to Henry Prentice
 - 1737 **Zillah**, an African woman enslaved in service to Major Brattle
 - 1740 **Lucy**, an indigenous woman enslaved in service to Mr. Bordman
 - 1740 **Venus**, an African woman enslaved in service to Madam Wadsworth
 - 1740 **Cuffy**, an African man enslaved in service to Lieutenant Governor Phipps
 - 1740 **Toby**, an African man enslaved in service to Samuel Whitmore
 - 1741 **Jack**, an African man enslaved in service to the widow Tufts
 - 1741 **Cuffy**, an African man enslaved in service to Mr. Judah Monis
 - 1741 **Flora**, an African woman enslaved in service to Mr. Foxcroft

REMEMBERING AND HONORING

1742 **York**, an African man enslaved in service to Mr. Trowbridge
1744 **Harry**, an African man enslaved in service to Mr. Brandon
1745 **Rose**, an African woman enslaved in service to Lieutenant Governor Phipps
1745 **Cato**, an African man enslaved in service to Madam Brown
1749 **Leos**, an African man enslaved in service to Mr. Foxcroft
1753 **Jane**, an African woman enslaved in service to Mr. Kent
1755 **James**, an African man enslaved in service to Lieutenant Governor Phipps
1760 **Peter**, an African man enslaved in service to Moses Bordman's widow
1761 **Cato**, an African man enslaved in service to Jonathan Hastings
1768 **Jane**, an African woman enslaved in service to Elizabeth Nutting
1768 **Violet**, an African woman enslaved in service to Mr. Faneuil
1769 **Philip**, an African man enslaved in service to Mr. Abraham Watson
1771 **Jerusha**, an African woman enslaved in service to Lieutenant John Dickson
1771 **Anne**, an African woman enslaved in service to Jonathan Hastings, Esq.
1776 **Dilla**, an African woman enslaved in service to Samuel White of Watertown

We also honor **Tony and Cuba**, and their children **James, Dorrenda, Flora, Darby, Cyrus, and Catherine**, enslaved by the Royall and Vassal family, who had many connections to Cambridge and First Church. Our membership records indicate that Cuba was baptized, "by her own desire," on September 13, 1812, just three days before she died.

Wade in the water
Wade in the water, children,
Wade in the water
God's gonna trouble the water

See that host all dressed in white
God's gonna trouble the water
They look like the ones who saw the light
God's gonna trouble the water

Wade in the water...

See that band all dressed in red...
Looks like the band that Moses led...

Look over yonder, what do you see?...
The Spirit coming for you and me...

If you don't believe I've been redeemed...
Just follow me down to the Jordan's stream...

Oh we've seen trouble, and we've seen woe,...
But our God will bring us safely through...

traditional, alt. K. Layzer 2023

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Norman and Peggy Bendroth and their family as they mourn the loss of Norm's mother Carolyn.
- We pray for Carter West, who continues to struggle with Parkinsonism and will soon be transitioning to an assisted living residence near to where his partner Julie lives.
- We pray for Jennifer Petrallia as she grieves the loss of her uncle David Moran, who died this past week.
- We pray for Sally O'Brien, who underwent a brain procedure to address her tremors and will be making an extended recovery.
- We pray for Hui-Hui Hu, who is recovering from brain surgery to address a hearing issue.
- We pray for Kathy Williams, who is recovering from knee replacement surgery.
- We pray for Gaylen Morgan, who has been struggling with dizziness and hearing loss, and is awaiting vestibular surgery.
- We pray for Devin Hansen's father Charles Spring, who is recovering from hip replacement surgery.
- We pray for Carol Wilson-Braun as she deals with slow-progressing ALS.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Bridget Melle, Rich Goode's sister; Judith Semmler, Alice Napoleon Jones'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 also pray for those in hospice care: Penny Kilburn, Nancy Kilburn's mother.
- We pray for our siblings at First Church Somerville, UCC, where an investigation is underway following a fire set in their sanctuary after a Pride worship service last Sunday.
- We continue to pray for all those in global regions impacted by the violence of war, including Sudan and Ukraine, and especially those displaced and seeking refuge in other countries.
- We pray for all whose lives are touched by our nation's raging epidemic of gun violence. We pray for ongoing advocacy to create lasting change in our country's gun safety laws.
- We pray for the wellbeing and safety of our trans and gender non-conforming siblings as they face the impact of legislation passing in many states across the country that dramatically restricts and criminalizes transgender health care access and gender expression.
- We pray for all impacted by severe wildfires in Canada. We continue to pray for our rapidly warming planet and for redoubled efforts to reduce fossil fuel emissions.
- We pray for those most affected by changes in reproductive rights: for all those struggling with the moral and political complexities of pregnancy and childbearing, and for patients and healthcare providers who are unable to give and receive care in their own states.
- 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.

CELEBRATE LEXI BOUDREAUX

Pre-Summer Farewell Reception for Lexi Today at 12:15 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall

Lexi Boudreaux's term as Transitional Minister at First Church comes to an end on August 31, but not before we celebrate the remarkable gifts she has shared with us these last five years, beginning with her time as a Ministerial Intern and as a Pastoral Associate from Harvard Divinity School. Today, we are hosting a congregational celebration of her ministry, while most of us are still gathered, leaving time throughout the summer for further goodbyes. Lexi's last Sunday with us will be August 27. ***We are overjoyed to share that, with a unanimous vote, Lexi has been called as the Settled Pastor of First Congregational Church in Hopkinton, New Hampshire!*** She will begin her ministry there in mid-September. Join us to revel in the good news and to celebrate Lexi!



CELEBRATE JUNETEENTH



Juneteenth at Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters Sunday, June 18, beginning at 4:00 p.m., 105 Brattle St.

Gather for Juneteenth to honor those who endured slavery and seized freedom on Brattle Street before the American Revolution, their living descendants, and the long history of Black freedom activism in Cambridge and beyond. This event will feature an outdoor community gathering on the Longfellow House lawn from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. with music, poetry, art, speeches, and family activities, followed by a screening of the award-winning 2022 documentary *Descendant* next door at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy at 6:15 p.m. [Learn more here.](#)



Textile & Text: Sacred Ally Quilt Ministry, June 19-21 Congregational Library, 14 Beacon St., Boston

You are invited to visit a powerful quilt exhibition memorializing the words of George Floyd, on display for three days beginning on Juneteenth at the Congregational Library. The Sacred Ally Quilt Ministry was formed by nine New Hampshire United Church of Christ congregations, who came together in response to the senseless killing of George Floyd. The exhibition prayerfully, stitch by stitch, invites us to be more deeply present with his final words. [Find more information and reserve free tickets here.](#)

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.



UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROGRAMS



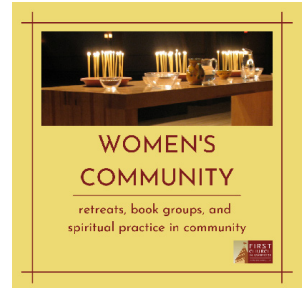
Young Adults: Faith on Tap **Monday, June 19, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.** **Veggie Galaxy in Central Square**

Check out the next installment of the Young Adults' "Faith on Tap" series this Monday night at Veggie Galaxy in Central Square. Email Phil Jones (youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org) to RSVP and to stay in the loop for future YA get-togethers.

Women's Community Book Group

Tuesday, June 20, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., [via Zoom](#)

Please join us for our final book before we break for the summer. Because we were unanimously intrigued by Claire Keegan's writing, we have decided to read her novella next. *Foster* is the story of a small girl sent to live with foster parents on a farm in rural Ireland without knowing when she will return home. The unfamiliar kindness she experiences is tempered by an uncertainty about her future. We hope you will be able to join us.



Reparations Conversations, Part 2 **Postponed to Sunday, June 25, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.** **Harter Room and [via Zoom](#)**

Please join us for the second of two conversations about First Church's journey thus far regarding reparations. We'll talk about the communities most harmed by our history of church members enslaving in the congregation and our painful response to the work of abolition in previous centuries, as well as the living legacy of slavery in the forms of Jim Crow segregation, the war on drugs, redlining, and mass incarceration. We'll update the congregation on the Reparations Fund and the work of the Collective, which is convened by First Church member Karlene Griffiths Sekou. We'll share information about efforts to engage in repair with the Indigenous communities most harmed by us and plans for learning & action opportunities in the Fall. We'll reflect on how God is calling First Church to engage in this powerful and life-changing work.

Staff Transition

After 10 years of faithful service, Kimel Williams resigned as First Church Sexton and will be pursuing a new chapter! We will miss Kimel and wish him the very best in his future endeavors. We thank him for his good work and friendship at First Church over the past decade. Stay tuned for an update as we begin the search for a new sexton over the summer.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROGRAMS



Guest Preacher Rev. Dr. Mónica Maher, June 25

We are pleased to welcome Community Minister in Latin America Rev. Dr. Mónica Maher as our guest preacher on Sunday, June 25. Mónica is a Social Ethicist with decades of professional experience in Latin America. Currently, she teaches in the Gender, Violence, and Human Rights Graduate Specialty of the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences, and serves as Senior Minister of the United Church of Ecuador and Founding Director of the Ecuadorian Faith Network. From 2016-2021, she served as Coordinator of the Latin American Program of Friends Peace Teams, dedicated to trauma healing and peace-building in Central America, Colombia, and Ecuador. Based in Quito, Ecuador, Mónica travels frequently throughout Latin America and is a fierce advocate for LGBTQI+, indigenous, and women's rights. Join us during and after Morning Worship, as we continue to build this powerful connection with Mónica and her ministry!

Call to Special Congregational Meeting

Notice is hereby given that
a Special Meeting of First Church in Cambridge,
Congregational, United Church of Christ,
will be held in its 388th year
at 12:15 p.m., Sunday the 25th of June, 2023,
in the Sanctuary and via Zoom, for the following purpose:

1. to approve the deaccessioning and sale of archival materials that are not related to First Church, in accordance with our First Church Archives Collection Policy.

No other business may legally come before the meeting.

By direction of Executive Council,
Chris Reynolds, Clerk



GBIO Housing Justice Action

Monday, June 26, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

(arrive by 6:30 p.m.; food vendors available from 6:00 p.m.)

Temple Israel, 477 Longwood Ave., Boston

Join the biggest in-person Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) action since before the pandemic! At this critical event, we will stand

alongside our closest allies and demand true, comprehensive action from Massachusetts leadership on the housing crisis. This action will demonstrate the full power of GBIO's diverse membership and show our officials that housing justice must be prioritized! First Church has promised to send 40 members to take part in this action. Even if you've never participated in a GBIO event before, now is the time! Let's turn our justice commitments into action by showing up for communities of color. [Register here!](#)

AN APPEAL FROM THE GIFTS DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE



First Church is an amazing community, and each of us makes a difference here! We each bring a wide variety of life experiences, our own unique humor and insights, and differing gifts or skills. The magic happens when we share them, asking God to help us accomplish together what none of us could accomplish alone. And—surprise!— there is deep joy in getting to know our siblings in faith better, as well as growing in faith and ministry.

Most of us have full schedules and obligations beyond this church. But think for a minute: what could you bring to the magic of this community? The folks on the Gifts Discernment Committee are the matchmakers who try to shepherd your talents and interests to the various committees that lead and enliven our church life.

We welcome a chat if you would like to imagine together some possibilities, based on the amount of time you can share. We welcome suggestions if you know someone who could bring wisdom or talent to a committee—be it Fellowship, Buildings & Grounds, Christian Formation, or maybe Missions and Social Justice, Finance, Shelter Oversight, or Deacons. More information about each of these groups can be found on our website [here](#). Perhaps you have something altogether different in mind, such as helping to organize a particular event? If so, we'd love to hear it.

Do be in touch,

Your Gifts Discernment Committee:

Beth Loomis, Mary Robinson, Dave Kidder, Jenny Stuart, and Gail Breeze

[P.S. Learn more about Gifts Discernment and Service at First Church!](#)

Debt Retirement Appeal

In late May, First Church members received an invitation from church leaders to make a special contribution toward the long-term financial health of our community. Our goal is to raise \$450,000 over the next three years, an amount that will allow us to pay-off two major loans, one from our 2016 building renovations and the other for the 2020 installation of our energy efficient boilers. A successful appeal would restore approximately \$80,000 to our annual operating budget. This is one of several strategies the church is pursuing to set our church on a strong financial footing for the future. ***We hope you will give prayerful consideration to this effort and respond, if you are able, by June 30.*** Please know that any amount and level of participation helps, and we are so grateful for all of your ongoing financial support. **[Read the initial invitation letter here.](#)**





THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, June 19 - Church Office & Building Closed for Juneteenth Holiday

- 4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Gathering, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Young Adults: Faith on Tap, Veggie Galaxy in Central Square

Tuesday, June 20

- 10:30 a.m. Communications Team Meeting, Harter Room
- 1:30 p.m. Beloved Community, via Zoom
- 3:00 p.m. Aging with Grace Monthly Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Women's Community Book Group, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Deacons' Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom
- 7:30 p.m. Shelter Oversight Committee, via Zoom

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

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

Wednesday, June 21

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom
- 12:00 p.m. Wednesday Lunch Check-In with Brent Coffin, via Zoom
- 4:00 p.m. Wednesday Meal Distribution Program, Tower Room
- 7:30 p.m. Missions & Social Justice Committee, via Zoom

Thursday, June 22

- 6:00 p.m. Drop-In Bible Study, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Finance Team Meeting, via Zoom

Friday, June 23

- 12:00 p.m. Friday Café, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)

Sunday, June 25

- 9:30 a.m. Reparations Conversation, Part 2, Harter Room and via Zoom
- 10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream
- 12:15 p.m. Special Congregational Meeting, Sanctuary and via livestream & Zoom
- 12:30 p.m. Coffee Hour on the Lawn

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

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