

# Stewardship Season November 12, 2023

# FIRST CHURCH

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,

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 1636-2023

# November 12, 2023

Preaching Today Liturgist Leading Worship Ahmaad Edmund, Pastoral Associate Winnie Yip Carla Arevalo, Pastoral Associate Chris Reynolds, Clerk Mary Robinson, Community Minister Peter Sykes, Music Director Dan Smith, Senior Minister Emma Thomas, Ministerial Intern

Bulletin Cover Image "A Future With Hope" logo by Salt\*

#### **Today's Programs and Events**

9:30 a.m.			
	Harter Room & <u>via Zoom</u>		
10:15 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary		
11:00 a.m.	Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream		
11:20 a.m.	Church School: Godly Play, Middler, and Bible 101 classes		
12:15 p.m.	Refreshments in Hastings Common		
1:00 p.m.	Spiritual Practice of Reparations Workshop, Margaret Jewett Hall		
7:30 p.m.	Night Song, Sanctuary and <u>via livestream</u>		

#### 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: <u>www.firstchurchcambridge.org/give</u> or by texting "\$\_" to: 1-844-996-0982.

# **Contact a Pastor or Staff Member**

Find <u>contact information</u> 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 617-547-2724 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 <u>First Church Communications Request</u> form. Have an edit or update for our website? Complete the <u>FCC Website Changes</u> form

#### GATHERING

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)	
Celebrate the splendor of God's creation and the depth of God's love. <b>Ne gather in joy, ready to share our gifts for the common good.</b>	

L: So come, from wherever you are this day, and let us worship together.

# WORDS OF WELCOME

ANTHEM

Psalm 108

Patricia Van Ness

#### CONFESSING

# INVITATION TO CONFESSION

# SILENCE

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Let us pray for healing, pardon and peace:

C: God of Justice, when we settle for the way things are, instead of the way you would have them be, forgive us. When we are immobilized by fear or limited in vision, increase our trust in you.
When we offer charity, but fail to work for justice, show us what your love requires.
When we walk ahead or behind, instead of with our neighbor, open our eyes to their humanity.
When we tire of the struggle, and tomorrow feels overwhelming, restore our hope and renew our courage.
In the name of Jesus, our brother, we pray. Amen.

#### \*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 487

#### Abide with Me

Children up through 7th grade are now invited to Church School classes. Godly Play (PreK-4th grade), Middlers (5th grade), and Bible 101 (6/7th grade) students can meet their teachers at the side door by the Children's Book Corner. Caregivers can find the children in the Chapel after worship.

#### **RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS AND THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

#### INVITATION

#### THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

#### The Promises

- L: Do you who witness this sacrament promise Mackenzie your love, support and care?
- C: We do!
- L: Will you help her grow in faith and witness with her to the love and mercy of Christ?
- C: We will, with the help of God!

#### Blessing of the Baptimal Waters Baptism Prover

Prayer

# **NEW MEMBERS' PROMISES**

# \*COVENANT OF FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

- L: United with the church of every time and place, we covenant with Christ, with these siblings, and with one another, saying:
- All: We who are now brought together and united into one Church under the Lord Jesus Christ, our Head, in such sort as becometh all those whom he hath redeemed and sanctified unto himself, do solemnly and religiously, as in His most holy presence, promise and bind ourselves to walk in all our ways according to the rule of the Gospel,

Mary Robinson

Dan Smith and Carla Arevalo

	and in all sincere conformity to His holy ordinances and in mutual love and respect each to the other, so near as God shall give us grace.			
*ADDRESS				
*WELCOME AND CONGREGATION'S PROMISES				
*CONCLUDING PRAYER				
OPENING THE WORD				
PRAYER FOI	R UNDERSTANDING			
READING	Jeremiah 29:11			
SERMON	Hope in Hard Times	Ahmaad Edmund		
*HYMN 444	Lord of All Hopefulness			
SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER				
ANNOUNCEMENTS		Emma Thomas		
CALL TO FALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING		Chris Reynolds		
PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLDL:God be with you.C:And also with you.L:Let us pray (silence, intercessions, and the Lord's Prayer)		Carla Arevalo		
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.				

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

#### INVITATION TO OFFERING







Give by Text

I've Given Already

#### OFFERTORY

Geistliches Lied, op. 30

**Johannes Brahms** 

Laß dich nur nichts nicht dauren mit Trauren, sei stille, wie Gott es fügt, so sei vergnügt mein Wille!

Was willst du heute sorgen auf morgen? Der Eine steht allem für, der gibt auch dir das Deine.

Sei nur in allem Handel ohn Wandel, steh feste, was Gott beschleußt, das ist und heißt das Beste. Amen.

Do not be sorrowful or regretful; Be calm, as God has ordained, and thus my will shall be content.

What do you want to worry about from dav to dav?

There is One who stands above all who gives you, too, what is yours.

Only be steadfast in all you do, stand firm; what God has decided, that is and must be the best. Amen.

# \*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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.

# GOING FORTH

\*HYMN 80

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

\*BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

Scherzetto

Louis Vierne

#### **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 neiahbors and relatives, the Nipmuc and Wampanoag peoples.

You can find a longer version of this acknowledgment here or by scanning the QR code.

#### **OPENING HYMN**

# All My Hope Is Firmly Grounded

words: Fred Pratt Green, alt. K. Layzer music: Herbert Howells (MICHAEL)



<sup>-</sup>Hymn Insert 1-



Abide with Me



#### SERMON HYMN



# Lord of All Hopefulness



<sup>-</sup>Hymn Insert 3-

#### **CLOSING HYMN**



#### COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Ginny Harlan's son Michael and his family, who live in Louisville, as Michael has just been diagnosed with Mantle Cell Lymphoma
- We mourn the loss of beloved First Church member Anita Anger, who was remembered and celebrated here yesterday in a memorial service. We hold her daughter Martha and family in our prayers.
- We pray for Krysia Burnham, who is having hip surgery this Tuesday.
- We pray for Alice Kidder, who is now recovering in a rehab facility after an extended hospital stay for various serious medical issues.
- We pray for Jim Brown, who was hospitalized for pneumonia while traveling in South Africa.
- We pray for Jennifer Petrallia, who is suffering from debilitating anxiety and depression.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer and other ongoing health challenges: Carol Wilson-Braun, who is managing ALS; Jim Rae, Ami Brenner's father; Ellen Smith, Devin Hansen's aunt; 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.
- We pray for all those in Lewiston, ME, and the surrounding towns, as they continue to cope with their shared experience of a tragic mass shooting. We continue to pray and advocate for common sense national gun control legislation.
- We pray for workers who are unemployed, laid off, or displaced. We pray for immigrants waiting for work permits or desperate for work, and for union workers who are striking for better pay and working conditions.
- We continue to pray for all impacted by and recovering from recent natural and climate related disasters, most recently the hurricane in Mexico. We continue to pray for our rapidly warming planet and for redoubled efforts to reduce fossil fuel emissions.
- We pray for all those impacted by the violence of war and political upheaval, including in Ukraine, Sudan, and Haiti. As we prepare to welcome two refugees through the Welcome Corps, we pray for all political and climate refugees and migrants who make often life-threatening border crossings over land and open water.
- We pray for the wellbeing and safety of our trans and gender non-conforming siblings as they face the impact of vitriolic public discourse and of state laws that restrict and criminalize transgender health care, personal expression, and wider LGBTQ+ education.
- 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.

# Join the <u>First Church List</u> to see and offer up more community prayer requests.

# **TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH**

# Prayer for Israel and Palestine

We pray for an end to the war and the heartwrenching violence in Israel and Palestine. We pray for all hostages and their families; for those living in daily fear for their and their loved ones' safety; and for all who are grieving the thousands of deaths of Israelis, Palestinians, and others in Israel, Gaza, and around the world, including members of our congregation who have close ties with people who are currently in the area.

We decry the horrifically violent Hamas attacks against Israel on October 7. We decry retaliation that involves violence against civilians, including deprivation of water, fuel, and food in Gaza. We pray for redoubled diplomatic efforts to address the escalating humanitarian crisis in Gaza and the ongoing occupation of Palestinian territories. We continue to pray for a just peace in Israel and Palestine and throughout the region. We also pray for Jews and Muslims, nearby and around the world, who are facing increased threats and acts of anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim discrimination, hatred, and violence.

We pray for ourselves, that we will be faithful, compassionate, and open to God's love and leading, and to all whom we encounter through these tension-filled times. Across whatever division or disagreement, may our words and deeds seek to honor the humanity and God-given dignity of every human being.

#### **Introducing Our New Members**

**Emma Marie Duke** has been coming to First Church since August 2022, when she moved here from the other Cambridge (UK)! She grew up in the Lutheran church; consequently, her favorite part of church is singing. She can sometimes be found in the Choir with her husband Owen. Starting in early 2024, Emma will be leading the Faith on Tap series for Young Adults.

**Owen Duke** has been coming to First Church since January 2022, when his wife found it (from afar) on Google maps. He grew up in an agnostic family and started believing in high school. He can often be found in the Choir with his lovely wife Emma. Owen occasionally rings the bell to mark the beginning of our Morning Worship.

**Mackenzie Dwyer** is a senior Psychology and Religious Studies student at UMass Boston. She is applying to divinity school, where she hopes to study environmental chaplaincy, theodicy, theologies of liberation, and the population dynamics of climate change. In her free time, Mackenzie enjoys walks in nature, time spent with family and friends, and reading texts that help her consider how the Gospel might be applied to life here and now. She is eager to deepen her learning and action amidst the vibrant community of worship, discernment, and just service at First Church.



# 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.

# **TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH**

# Adult Formation: How Does Hope Inspire Spending? Sunday, November 12, 9:30 - 10: 15 a.m. Harter Room and <u>via Zoom</u>

Treasurers Rich Goode & Jim Cairns will lead a discussion about the church's proposed 2024 budget. How does our budget reflect a sense of hope?



# A FUTURE WITH HOPE



#### Spiritual Practice of Reparations: A Workshop with Dave Ragland Today, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall

Our shared local legacies of slavery, colonization, and white supremacy call us to ground our work in ongoing learning, relationship-building, and lasting commitment. Please join us for an afternoon with Dr. David Ragland, co-director and co-founder of the <u>Truth Telling Project</u> and director of the <u>Grassroots Reparations</u> <u>Campaign</u>. Dr. Ragland will speak about the various ways ordinary

people can build a spiritual and practical culture of reparative justice work. There will be time for questions and for envisioning what reparations can look like in our community, along with several immediate, accessible, joyful suggested actions that you can take towards healing and reparation work. **UPDATE: The workshop is full.** 

Sponsored by First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, in partnership with Old Cambridge Baptist Church, Christ Church in Cambridge, Harvard Epworth United Methodist Church, First Parish Unitarian Universalist, University Lutheran Church and the Massachusetts Reparations Interfaith Coalition.

#### Night Song

Sunday evenings, 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.



#### 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. <u>SIGN UP HERE.</u> Questions? Difficulty with the online signup? Contact Lisa DiNardo at: ladinardo@hotmail.com.

# NOVEMBER AT FIRST CHURCH

# GBIO Update: Bond Bill & In-District Meetings

Good news in the Greater Boston Interfaith Organizations's Housing Justice Campaign! On October 18, 2023, Governor Healey introduced <u>a</u> <u>bond bill</u> with \$1.6 billion dollars of reinvestment in our deteriorating public housing, as well as legislation enabling municipal transfer fees to fund more affordable housing. It's a good bill! Back in June, nearly 50 First Church folks

turned out at a big action at Temple Israel—had we and other institutions not shown up in such a powerful way, this bill wouldn't be as strong. So, congratulations! This bill's passage is by no means a sure thing, however, so now our focus shifts to our state legislators. Members of dozens of different GBIO institutions (including ours) are organizing In-District Meetings between state reps and senators and their districts' voters. In the coming weeks, a meeting will take place in just about all of the places that First Church members live, and we'd love for all of you to turn out to it to show your support. If you register at <u>bit.ly/gbioidm</u> you will be told about your specific In-District Meeting as soon as it's organized... <u>Read more</u>



#### Young Adults: Fall Social at the Parsonage Tuesday, November 14, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. First Church Parsonage, 44 Garden St., Cambridge All young adults from undergrads to those in their 30s, including newcomers, are invited to reconnect and meet new faces over for

newcomers, are invited to reconnect and meet new faces over food and drink, hosted by Dan Smith at the Parsonage. Let Phil Jones know that you can make it by emailing: youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org

# Cambridge Common Youth Group: Pie-Baking Sunday, November 19, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Christ Church Cambridge, Zero Garden St.

Join the Cambridge Common Youth Group at Christ Church Cambridge to bake pies for the Harvard Square Meals Program at Christ Church and the Friday Café at First Church for Thanksgiving week. **Bring a package of frozen pie crust and either a can of** 



**pumpkin puree or six apples.** We will make as many pumpkin and apple pies as we can! The rest of the ingredients will be provided. If you need service hours for school, this is an excellent opportunity to accrue two hours of service work. **Please contact** <u>Ahmaad Edmund</u> if you have any questions.



#### NOVEMBER AT FIRST CHURCH

#### Pledge Dedication Sunday November 19 at 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary and via livestream

Find your pledge card and plan on joining us, online or in person. With a past so full of grace, our future, thanks be to God, is likewise full of hope.

#### Fall Congregational Meeting and Luncheon Sunday, November 19, 12:30 - 1:45 p.m. Margaret Jewett Hall and via Zoom

Enjoy a light luncheon prepared by Caitlin Anderson and the Friends of Fellowship or join us virtually, as we gather for a special meeting of the congregation to review and vote on the proposed 2024 annual budget as recommended by the Executive Council.

See the Call to Meeting for the agenda.



# **Call to Congregational Meeting**

Notice is hereby given that a Fall Congregational Meeting of First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, United Church of Christ, will be held in its 388th year at 12:30 p.m., Sunday, November 19, 2023, in Margaret Jewett Hall and via Zoom, for the following purposes:

- 1. To review and vote on the proposed 2024 annual budget of the Congregation as recommended by the Executive Council.
- 2. To hear a presentation and discuss options for the First Church cockerel weathervane.

No other business may legally come before the meeting.

By direction of Executive Council, Christine Reynolds, *Clerk* 



#### Monday, November 13

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

#### **Tuesday, November 14**

- 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
- 6:30 p.m. Young Adults: Fall Social at the Parsonage, 44 Garden St.

#### Wednesday, November 15

9:30 a.m.9:30 a.m.Staff Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom7:30 p.m.Missions & Social Justice Committee, via Zoom

See our <u>Events Calendar</u> for Zoom links and details.

#### Sign up <u>here</u> to receive our weekly e-newsletter.

#### Thursday, November 16

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

7:00 p.m. Faith & Life Group: Creating a Spiritual Autobiography, via Zoom

#### Friday, November 17

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

#### Sunday, November 19 - Pledge Dedication Sunday

- 9:30 a.m. Confirmation Class for 8/9th graders, The Well
- 10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Godly Play, Middler, and Bible 101 classes
- 12:30 p.m. Fall Congregational Meeting & Luncheon, MJH 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

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