

All Saints Sunday November 5, 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, 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.

November 5, 2023

Preaching Today
LiturgistEmma Thomas, Ministerial Intern
Joanne PaulLeading WorshipCarla Arevalo, Pastoral Associate
Ahmaad Edmund, Pastoral Associate
Sarah Higginbotham, Creative Worship & Arts Director
Lee Prouty, tech support
Chris Reynolds, Clerk
Peter Sykes, Music Director
Dan Smith, Senior Minister
Laurie Williams, for the "Wade in the Water" project advisory groupBulletin Cover ImageSaint Puppets created by the First Church children

Today's Programs and Events

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9:30 a.m.	Adult Formation: How Does Hope Inspire Giving?
	Harter Room & <u>via Zoom</u>
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: Pastoral Care Sunday, Library
12:30 p.m.	Saints & Stewards Luncheon, Margaret Jewett Hall
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: <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

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE congregational **387 YEARS** ON THE WAY 1636-2023

GATHERING

For those participating at home, we invite you to bring bread or crackers and water, juice, or wine to your home altar, so that you may participate in Holy Communion. All are welcome at the Table!

Fantasia in A minor

Wade in the water Wade in the water. children. Wade in the water God's gonna trouble the water 1. See that host all dressed in white 3. Look over yonder, what do you see?... The Spirit coming for you and me... Refrain Refrain But our God will bring us safely through... 2. See that band all dressed in red... Refrain Looks like the band that Moses led... Refrain *GREETING Joanne Paul 1: Dear friends in Christ, the peace of God be with you, And on the whole world, peace! **C**: Come in, and be at home 1: **C**: with saints of every time and place! L:

- Come in, and find a future with hope
- with saints of every time and place! C:
- Come in, and be in the company of God 1:
- **C**: with saints of every time and place!
- With saints of every time and place, give thanks and praise to God! 1:

WORDS OF WELCOME

VOLUNTARY

*HYMN

HONORING OUR ANCESTORS - WADE IN THE WATER

INTRODUCING THE PUPPET SAINTS

*You are invited to stand. Hymns proceeded 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.

William Byrd

Traditional, alt. K. Layzer

Wade in the Water Refrain:

- God's gonna trouble the water They look like the ones who saw the light God's gonna trouble the water
 - 4. Oh we've seen trouble, and we've seen woe,...

Laurie Williams

Sarah Higginbotham

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- L: Let us pray for healing, pardon and peace:
- C: God of Life, by the mercy of Jesus, calm our anxieties, soothe our sorrows, heal our weaknesses, and forgive our sins. Let the memory and example of yesterday's saints and the saints of here and now stir us to gratitude and love, action and praise, for the sake of tomorrow and the world that you love. 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

I Have Not Come Here Alone I have not come here alone I carry my people in my bones I have not come here alone If you listen, you can hear them in my song

The Peace Poets

Children up through 7th grade are now invited to Church School: Pastoral Care Sunday in the Library. Children will return to worship in time for Communion.

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING		
READING	Revelation 7:9-17	
HOMILY		Emma Thomas
HYMN REPRISE	I Have Not Come Here Alone	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Smith

Chris Reynolds

CALL TO FALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

INVITATION TO OFFERING





Give by Text



I've Given Already

OFFERTORY

Lead, Kindly Light

J. H. Newman, arr. R. Lehman

*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION From all who dwell below the skies,

let the Creator's praise arise. Alleluia! Alleluia! Let the Redeemer's name be sung, through every land by every tongue. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

SHARING THE FEAST

INVITATION

Ahmaad Edmund

REMEMBERING JESUS

- L: Now, O God, with grateful joy, we remember Jesus, his daring love, his open table. (silence)
- L: We remember how he fed the five thousand people with only a loaf of bread and a few fish.
- C: We remember how he never left anyone hungry.
- L: We remember how Jesus welcomed the children.
- C: We remember how he didn't turn them or anyone away.
- L: We remember that the women came, early in the morning, on the third day.
- C: They did not find him among the dead.
- L: We remember him still,
- C: centering our lives on his firm foundation, our hope and our healing.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

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 share this feast with all the saints, past and present. Please bring your bulletin as you approach one of the stations, so that we may gather in a circle for a time of commemoration and thanksgiving.

*COMMEMORATIONS

Chris Alba Anita Anger Jordan Bearak Carolyn Bendroth Rebecca Blank Phil Brunell Warren Chapman Beverley Evans Joan Gonnoud John Hildebidle Hilary Hopkins Pat Hoppe Tom Karpe Penny Kilburn Robert Lamberts Bob Melichar David Moran Brian O'Donovan Frank Palmer James Shearer Shirley Smith Michael Triplett Alberta Rose Triplett John J. Williams III

We will all be invited to name (aloud or silently) people who have died, whom we remember and keep close in our hearts.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- L: Let us give thanks!
- C: Thank you, God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus, for 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 splendor 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 risen life that never ends. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

GOING FORTH

For All the Saints

see page 6

*HYMN

*BENEDICTION

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 <u>here</u> or by scanning the QR code.

CLOSING HYMN

FOR ALL THE SAINTS

Sine nomine	W. W. Hoy	v, alt. A. Happe, 1981
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Who Thee by faith	be - fore the world con	- fessed Thy
Thou, Lord, their Sa -	vior through the long cold	
We fee - bly strug -	gle, they in glo - ry	shine; Yet
Steals on the ear	the dis - tant har - vest	
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COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We mourn the loss of beloved First Church member Anita Anger, who died peacefully last Saturday in Gloucester, MA, and hold her daughter Martha and family in our prayers.
- 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 this week 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, who experienced a tragic mass shooting last week. We continue to pray and advocate for commons 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.



In Memoriam

A memorial service for beloved First Church member Anita Anger will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 11, in the Sanctuary and via livestream, with a reception to follow in Margaret Jewett Hall.

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.



St. Lucy, St. Louis, St. Valerie, St. Rainbow, St. Allie, and St. Sarah

First Church's Puppet Saints

Celebrating with us this morning are First Church's Puppet Saints, a symbolic representation of the Communion of Saints gathered with us today. Their presence in our worship provides a creative, playful, and accessible way for the youngest members of our community to encounter and contemplate the spiritual connections between the living and the dead. Each puppet was named and given a story by the children. Our oldest puppets were created in 2004, and subsequent generations were made in 2007 and 2013. On All Saints Sunday 2020, we hosted a virtual DIY puppet-making workshop; many new puppet saints were created that day!

Read all the puppet saint biographies on our website.

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

Stewardship 2024: A Future With Hope Adult Formation: How Does Hope Inspire Giving? Today, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m., Harter Room and via Zoom Join members of the Stewardship Committee for an introduction to the Stewardship 2024 campaign. What is your experience of hope?





Confirmation Class for 8/9th Graders Today, 9:30 - 10:45 a.m., The Well

Our Confirmands continue their journey with a session entitled "Meeting God Through Experience."

All Saints Sunday

On All Saints Sunday, we celebrate the lives, devotion, and example of members and friends of our congregation who died in the last year, as well as their immediate family members. With help from our larger-than-life puppet saints that have been a First Church tradition for many years, we also commemorate all God's holy ones, known and unknown to us, who have now entered God's joy. This year, we will also be featuring our *Wade in the Water* embroidery project that honors and remembers enslaved persons of African and Indigenous descent who lived and labored in our community. We recognize them as members of the "communion of saints" to which we are connected through spiritual ties that bind us together with ancestors and descendants. Our tradition teaches that a saint is anyone who is called and gifted by the Spirit to carry out a ministry of grace and reconciliation in the world, and who is responding generously. Our celebration will end with "Communion-in-the-round" and a lifting up of the names of all who are present in this sacred, liminal space across time and generations.



Seventy Witnesses: ReForm - All Saints Day Art Exhibit Sunday, November 5, Margaret Jewett Hall

Seventy Witnesses is a set of three vast oil paintings that survey our Hebrew Bible and Christian heritage. Each canvas symbolizes our saints of the past, with themes of Word of God, Christendom, and ReFORM. Both the vivid

spectral color display and careful documentation provide an immersion into these testimonies over time. Come to Margaret Jewett Hall to talk with First Church member and artist Henry Gates about the exhibit on All Saints Sunday.

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH



Saints & Stewards Luncheon Today, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall

Stay for a delicious meal to celebrate our saints and the beginning of our 2024 Stewardship season. The many gifts of our spiritual ancestors have provided this church community for us. How do we use this gift in our current ministry? What will we leave for the generations to come? Join us for some interactive fun as we ask together: what is your hope for First Church?

Night Song

Sunday evenings, 7:30 - 8:15p.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.



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>

Do you want to follow the hyperlinks, but you're holding a paper bulletin in your hand?

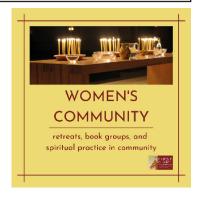
Use your phone's camera to hover over the QR code marked "scan me;" this will take you to the Members & Friends page of our website, where you'll find the bulletin online, as well as links to news, events, and more.



NOVEMBER AT FIRST CHURCH

Women's Community Book Group Tuesday, November 7, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., <u>via Zoom</u>

Please join us for a discussion of <u>The Water Dancer</u> by Ta-Nehisi Coates. This dramatic book, set amid the atrocities of slavery, tells the story of a man who uses memory, faith, and unique personal power to reclaim the humanity of enslaved people. Reading this will provide a connection with FCC's *Wade in the Water: Remembering and Honoring Enslaved Persons at First Church* textile art project. All those in the First Church community who identify as women are welcome.





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

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?

Joining Sunday, November 12

Have you been thinking about exploring membership at First Church in Cambridge? Do you have a growing sense that First Church is where you belong? Membership at First Church involves joining the church through covenantal promises. In addition to engaging in the life and ministries of the church, members are given the opportunity to vote at congregational meetings. New members are invited to



gather in Hastings Common at 10:00 a.m. on November 12 to receive their flowers and name tags, and to get any questions answered before worship begins. If you have any questions or would like to talk more about Joining Sunday, please do not hesitate to reach out to <u>Carla Arevalo</u>.



Join Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) "Stand in the G.A.P." response: Give, Act, and Pray

Following on Church for Middle East Peace Executive Director Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon's October 15 sermon at First Church, you are invited to "Stand in the G.A.P." with CMEP and Give, Act, and Pray. <u>Find links to</u> <u>prayer calls, briefings, and donation pages here.</u>

NOVEMBER AT FIRST CHURCH

Spiritual Practice of Reparations: A Workshop with Dave Ragland Sunday, November 12, 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. Space is limited.

UPDATE: The workshop is currently full, but please email <u>Dan Smith</u> if you would like to be added to the waitlist.

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.



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 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 6

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

Tuesday, November 7

- 7:15 a.m. Reflective Conversations with Brent Coffin, via Zoom
- 10:30 a.m. Communications Team Meeting, Harter Room
- 6:00 p.m. Women's Community Book Group, via Zoom

Wednesday, November 8

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

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

Thursday, November 9

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

- 6:00 p.m. Drop-In Bible Study, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Stewardship Committee, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Faith & Life Group: Creating a Spiritual Autobiography, via Zoom

Friday, November 10 - Church Office & Building Closed for the Veterans Day Holiday

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

Saturday, November 11

11:00 a.m. Memorial Service for Anita Anger, Sanctuary and via livestream

Sunday, November 12

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: How Does Hope Inspire Spending?, Harter Room & via Zoom
- 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: A Workshop with Dave Ragland, MJH
- 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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