



Advent
December 3, 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

December 3, 2023

Preaching Today Liturgist Leading Worship

Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*
Nora Willcutts, *Deacon*
Carla Arevalo, *Pastoral Associate*
Ahmaad Edmund, *Pastoral Associate*
Claire, Robb, and Wesley Morgan, *Advent candle-lighting*
Lee Prouty, *tech support*
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*
Emma Thomas, *Ministerial Intern*
Freddie Funck, *First Church member*

Bulletin Cover Image

Today's Programs and Events

9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: The Liturgical Year, Harter Room and [via Zoom](#)
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
12:15 p.m. Advent Workshop, Margaret Jewett Hall
2:00 p.m. Call to Repair Workshop, [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 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 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 [First Church Communications Request](#) form.
Have an edit or update for our website? Complete the [FCC Website Changes](#) form

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!

VOLUNTARY

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme

J. S. Bach

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

The Morgan Family

L: Loving God, be with us now as we light the first candle of Advent and kindle it with hope.

C: O Come, God of hope and healing!

L: Light our path, and guide us on our way.
The Light of Christ!

C: Thanks be to God!

*HYMN RESPONSE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

alt. Kate Layzer

**O come, O come, Emmanuel and with thy captive people dwell;
who mourn in lonely exile here, until the Child of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to us, in peace to dwell.**

*GREETING

Nora Willcutts

L: O Come, beloved of God!

C: with all your yearning and all your heartbreak,

L with all your wonder and all your love!

C: O Come, all you faithful

L: with your struggles and your doubts.

C: O Come, O Come!

L: For here Emmanuel, God-with-us, meets us just as we are.

C: Then let us rejoice – and give God thanks and praise!

*HYMN 116

People, Look East

WORDS OF WELCOME

Nora Willcutts and Ahmaad Edmund

ANTHEM

O Sapientia

Healey Willan

*O Wisdom, who camest forth from the mouth of the Most High,
Reaching mightily from one boundary of the world to the other,
And pleasantly ordering all things, Come to teach us the way of prudence.*

**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

ADVENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Now let us ask for healing, pardon and peace.

**C: In your presence, God, and in each other's company,
we confess that our lives and the life of the world
are cast in shadow by what we do and by what we fail to do.
But we know a light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness does not overcome it.
Pardon our deliberate faults.
Heal our weaknesses and fears.
Give us strength to grow in the love we lack.
Illumine our souls with the first glimmers
of the Coming Light of Christ, our Comfort and Redeemer.
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

Give Me Light in the Darkness

(see p. 6)

**Give me light in the darkness, light in the darkness,
light in the darkness to sing my soul awake.**

**Give me hope in the waiting, hope in the waiting,
hope in the waiting to sing my soul awake.**

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

Mark 13:24-37

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carla Arevalo

INVITATION TO OFFERING



Give Online



Give by Text



I've Given Already

OFFERTORY

O Magnum Mysterium

Tomas Luis da Victoria

*ADVENT DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

To God, all glorious heavenly Light,
to Christ revealed in earthly night,
to God the Spirit now we raise
our joyful songs of thankful praise. Amen.

SHARING THE FEAST

*INVITATION

- L: Friends, let's share what we know in our hearts.
Who is invited to this welcome table of love?
- C: Everyone!**
- L: Everyone! The young and the old,
- C: the rich and the poor,**
- L: the lowest and the least;
- C: sinners and saints together in communion.**
- L: Come, then, find your place here,
where there are no strangers or outcasts, only siblings in the sight of God.

REMEMBERING AND GIVING THANKS

Emma Thomas

- L: And what do we remember at this table?
- C: We remember Jesus' birth and his presence as God with us.**
- L: We remember his life and his love.
- C: We remember his suffering and death.**
- L: We remember his rising and the promise of new life.
- C: We remember that he taught us we are holy,**
- L: that every person and all creation is holy and beloved in God's sight.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 compassion, justice and peace are welcome at this table. If you are here in the Sanctuary, please approach one of the stations. (Please exit your pews to the right and return from the left.) The cup is filled with grape juice and the bread is gluten-free. Persons who, for any reason, are not able to come forward will be served in the pews. Young and old alike are welcome to share in the gift of Holy Communion!

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

L: Let us give thanks to God!
**All: 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 splendors of creation,
and for the mission of justice you have made our own.
Give us the fruits of this holy communion:
oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies,
the will to serve you every day, and life that never ends.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

GOING FORTH

***HYMN** O Come, O Come Emmanuel *(see p. 5)*

*BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland J. S. Bach

OPENING HYMN

116

People, Look East

1. Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 3. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
 4. An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
 that in course the flower may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing.

east and sing to - day - Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 Love, the Star, is on the way.
 Love, the Lord, is on the way.

WORDS: Eleanor Farjeon, *The Oxford Book of Carols*, 1928
 MUSIC: French carol; harm. Barry Rose, 1980

BESANÇON
 87.98.87

CLOSING HYMN

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Alt. Kate Layzer. Dec. 2016

1.0 come, O come Em - man - u - el, and with thy cap - tive
2.0 come, Thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spi - rits by thine
3.0 come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, and or - der all things,
4.0 come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one

5
peo - ple dwell; who mourn in lone - ly ex - ile here, Un -
ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and
far and night; to us the path of know - ledge show, and
heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife and quar - rels cease; fill

10
til the Child of God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
death's dark sha - dows put to flight. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
cause us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
the whole world with heav - en's peace. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -

15
man u - el shall come to us, in peace to dwell.
man - u - el shall come to us, in peace to dwell.
man - u - el shall come to us, in peace to dwell.
man - u - el shall come to us, in peace to dwell.

ADVENT WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH

Our Advent Banners

We are happy to bring back our Advent banners, depicting images designed by Vermont artist Janet McKenzie. Thanks to a generous donation from Laurie Williams and Andrea Seek, the Deacons were pleased to support this project in 2020 as part of our ongoing efforts to lift up historically and Biblically underrepresented images and voices of women and persons of color. This week, we re-introduce McKenzie's *The Visitation*, which reflects the story of a pregnant Mary visiting her pregnant cousin Elizabeth, as found in Luke 1:39-56.

Give Me Light in the Darkness... Our Advent Song

Our Peace hymn is based on "Give Me Birds at the Dawning," written by Betsy Binstock and arranged by Peter & Mary Alice Amidon, from *Twenty-five Anthems for Interfaith and Community Choirs* ©2016, Amidon Music Publishing. The words have been adapted to fit the Advent season.

Give me light in the dark-ness, light in the dark-ness,
Give me hope* in the wait-ing, hope* in the wait-ing,

light in the dark-ness to sing my soul a - wake.
hope* in the wait-ing to sing my soul a - wake.

* replace "hope" with "peace," "joy," and "love" on the following Sundays in Advent

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

Prayer for Israel and Palestine

We give thanks for the pause in fighting this week and recent exchange of hostages, even as we continue to pray for an end to the war and ongoing heartache 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.



Join Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP)

“Stand in the G.A.P.” response: Give, Act, and Pray

We are grieved by the war between Israel and Hamas. There is still work to do for peace and justice. We believe that, working together, justice can prevail. Peace is possible. Since October 7, CMEP has issued [many public statements and letters](#). CMEP Executive Director Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon, who preached at First Church on October 15, has been making daily update videos, which [you can watch here](#) to stay updated on pressing news in Gaza, Israel, and the West Bank. CMEP has been praying weekly (join on Wednesdays, 12:30 - 1:00 p.m. EST), and giving weekly briefings (join on Thursdays, 10:00 - 10:30 a.m. EST). Find links to prayer calls, briefings, and donation pages [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.



COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for a warm and safe arrival for Nuro and Idle, two Somali refugees who are being welcomed to Cambridge this week by the First Church & Friends Welcome Corps Team in the coming days. We also pray for the team's volunteers as they partner with Nuro & Idle in these first weeks of transition.
- We pray for Andrea Seek and her family as they grieve the loss of Andrea's mother Lynda Soderquist, who died recently.
- We pray for Marian Smith as she moves from her home in Arlington to a retirement community.
- We pray for Norm Bendroth, who is recovering from hip surgery that took place this past Tuesday.
- We pray for Ginny Harlan's son Michael and his family, who live in Louisville, as Michael has been diagnosed with Mantle Cell Lymphoma.
- We pray for Alice Kidder, who is recovering at home after an extended hospital stay for various serious medical issues.
- 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 son-in-law Stewart Bailey; Beth and Polly, Ann McCann's sisters.
- We pray for the many families seeking emergency shelter in cities and towns across Massachusetts.
- We continue to pray for all impacted by and recovering from recent natural and climate-related disasters. 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 [First Church List](#) to see and offer up more community prayer requests.

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

Advent 2023

O Come, O Come

O Come, O Come

O Come ...what? What are we longing for? Is it peace? Is it justice? Is it solace or silence? Is it healing or wholeness? Is it a simple gift of love? For what is your heart most yearning and waiting in this season of Advent? The familiar hymn *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* reminds us, eventually, that it is ours to “Rejoice! Rejoice!” For Emmanuel, which means “God with us”

comes at Christmas! But first, in this season of anticipation, we are invited to slow down, to wonder, to wait, to pray, and to prepare our hearts, to make space in our souls. “God with us” comes to us and meets us right where we are. Join us this Advent in worship and community, in study and small groups, as we yearn, sing, and pray together ... O Come, O Come...!



Adult Formation: Exploring the Seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany

Today and Sunday, December 10, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m., Harter Room and [via Zoom](#)

Join First Church member Beth Spaulding for an opportunity to delve into the richness of these seasons in the life of the church. We'll look at the themes of the seasons and how they are expressed in music and art, and we'll share memories of our own experiences.



Advent Workshop

Today, 12:15 - 1:30 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall

On this first Sunday of Advent, plan to join us after worship for a variety of arts and craft activities to prepare for the season. Bring your Advent candle ring to decorate with greens (new candle rings and candles will be available until we run out). Choose among other crafts, including beeswax candle-dipping, ornament-making, and more. Enjoy a soup-and-bread lunch as you take in the creative energy around you. All are welcome!

Call to Repair: Justice, Healing, and Reparations in Massachusetts

Today, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., [via Zoom](#)

The Reparations Interfaith Coalition hosts a virtual Interfaith Reparations Gathering, bringing together organizations, communities and congregations across Massachusetts to learn and discuss how the reparations movement is progressing locally and how we can move it forward. National and local Black leaders in the reparations movement will speak to our shared sense that reparations are not a transaction but rather a spiritual and ethical practice. This event is open to all those interested in building their understanding of and work towards reparations... [Read more](#)



ADVENT AT FIRST CHURCH

Women's Community Book Group

Tuesday, December 5 NEW DATE

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

Please join us for our reading and discussion of [The Time is Now: A Call to Uncommon Courage](#) by Joan Chittister. Based on scripture and bold truth-tellers, Chittister (a nun and social activist) encourages us to leave complacency aside and find ways to work for justice, peace, freedom, and empowerment. All those in the First Church community who identify as women are welcome. We hope to see you there!



WOMEN'S COMMUNITY

retreats, book groups, and
spiritual practice in community



Welcome Corps Newcomers coming from Somalia!

You've heard the exciting news that a Somali mother and her adult son are traveling very soon to make their new home here. Our Welcome Corps team is working to greet them at the airport with open arms and companion them as they find their way into housing, health care, learning English, finding jobs and more! If you can join us in assisting and getting to know them, [please complete this form](#) as a first step. We have roles for time commitments small and large, even just a couple of hours here or there! In addition to volunteer time, we have three specific needs:



Gift Cards: We would like to empower the newcomers to begin shopping for clothing, housewares, and food on their own by providing them with gift cards. We need financial contributions for this. You can donate at this link – please check the box for Refugee Resettlement Fund and all your donation will go specifically toward gift cards.

Social Media: To expand and amplify our work, we are still in need of Social Media efforts. If you have even a little time to help us out with this, we'd greatly appreciate it!

Warm Winter Clothing: We are still in need of some specific warm clothing items. Please bring in any items from the list below and place them in the plastic bin found near the Sextons' office in Hastings Common. We still need male or female adult, any size, of hats, gloves, mittens, boots, scarves, socks, and sweatpants.



A FUTURE WITH HOPE

Stewardship Campaign Update

As of November 27, First Church has received \$372,640 in 52 pledges and gifts from 74 people; we are over halfway toward our campaign goal of \$726,000. We are deeply grateful for these gifts and pledges. But dear friends, we need this trend of generosity to continue. We need your help, your comfort in taking a risk, your faith in this institution. This week, as we wrap up our "A Future with Hope" season, we invite you, if you haven't already, to:

- [pledge your financial gift](#) as well as your [time and talent commitments](#) for 2024.
- check on our progress toward our goal on the [campaign page](#) of our website.

ADVENT AT FIRST CHURCH



Advent Season Gift-Giving and Donation Suggestions

The Missions & Social Justice Committee is pleased to share with you a list of organizations with which First Church partners closely and who are seeking donations in this holiday season. In the case that you and your family are in a position to support any of these organizations, we hope that you find the list helpful. If you have any questions, please reach out to Molly Baker at: mollybaker96@gmail.com, co-chair of the Missions & Social Justice Committee.

Christmas at the First Church Shelter

At Christmas, each Shelter guest receives a \$25 - \$50 gift card for personal purchases. Would you like to sponsor one this year? Your donation will truly be appreciated by the Shelter guest. [Donate here.](#) Pies and other desert items are welcome, as well. For more information contact Shelter Director [Jim Stewart.](#)

Friday Café

This year, The Friday Café would love to help guests out with donations of warm winter gloves. Shop locally, or order from our Amazon wish list by visiting [our website.](#)

Coat Boston and the Christmas Shop

This year, Coat Boston and the Christmas Shop is seeking donations of gift cards, books, toys, socks, hats, mittens and coats. These gifts will be given directly to schools, partner agencies and organizations in Boston that serve individuals and families in need of resources. For ideas, please check out their [Amazon Wish List.](#) As is our tradition, **First Church will collect unwrapped gifts for the Christmas Shop and Coat Boston during our worship service on Sunday, December 10.**

Helping Hands Food Pantry

Donations continue to be welcomed and needed for the Food Pantry hosted by St. James Episcopal Church in Porter Square, Cambridge. The Food Pantry is looking for cereals and granola, canned fruit and veggies, proteins, condiments, and cooking oil. Diapers and feminine products are welcome, too. Fresh or frozen food cannot be accepted. Also please be sure that your contributions are unopened, unexpired, and not in glass containers. **Please bring your holiday season donations to First Church on Sunday, December 2 and Sunday, January 6.**

Solutions at Work Support

SAW is accepting cash donations to support their mission in breaking the cycle of poverty and homelessness by providing individuals and families with resources and opportunities to strengthen their self-confidence, achieve self-sufficiency, and participate in helping others. They do this by providing key services to people living in poverty such as a children's clothing and toy exchange and professional clothing for people in job training programs. You can donate by [visiting their website.](#)

ADVENT AT FIRST CHURCH



Coat Boston & Christmas Shop Collection

Sunday, December 10

This year, Coat Boston and the Christmas Shop is seeking donations of gift cards, books, toys, socks, hats, mittens and coats. These gifts will be given directly to schools, partner agencies and organizations in Boston that serve individuals and families in need of resources. For ideas, please check out their [Amazon Wish List](#). As is our tradition, First Church will collect unwrapped gifts for the Christmas Shop and Coat Boston during our worship service on Sunday, December 10.

Alternative Christmas Fair

Sunday, December 10, 12:15 - 2:00 p.m.

Margaret Jewett Hall

First Church is excited to once again host the annual Alternative Christmas Fair! What makes it “alternative?” All proceeds raised by the vendors will go directly to benefit their charitable and social justice causes. Our growing list of vendors this year includes: A Thread of Hope, Solutions at Work, Canaan Fair Trade, and Friday Cafe. Come buy presents for your loved ones, and support worthy causes! Hope to see you there!



Holiday Open House at the Parsonage

Wednesday, December 13, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

The Parsonage, 44 Garden St., Cambridge

Join Dan Smith and Nancy Kilburn for a First Church tradition of festive and fireside fun. Come for all or part of the evening. We'll provide a light meal and holiday spirit(s)! Feel free to bring some holiday cookies or drinks to share, or just bring yourselves and some holiday cheer. We hope to see you there!

Young Adults Christmas Party & Hymn Sing

Friday, December 15, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Home of Phil Jones and Angela Servello

All Young Adults are invited to celebrate the season at Phil and Angela's home in Brighton. Make a festive craft, drink a festive drink, and sing a festive hymn. RSVP to Phil at: p.robbennolt.jones@gmail.com. Even if you can't make it, get in touch with Phil for a full list of Young Adult get-togethers in the new year.



ADVENT AT FIRST CHURCH



Special Advent Music

Sunday, December 17

This year the First Church Choir will sing a setting of the beloved Magnificat text by Italian composer Isabella Leonarda (1620-1704), the first woman to have written sonatas for violin and basso continuo. This rich work is accompanied by strings. **Rehearsals are at 7:30 p.m. in Margaret Jewett Hall on three consecutive Thursdays:**

November 30 and December 7 & 14. Come and join us in our festive preparations! For more information, contact Music Director Peter Sykes at: psykes@aol.com.

Let's Show Up First Church!

The next leg of our Housing Justice Campaign is up and running. We are staging In-District Meetings (IDMs) with our local senators and representatives across Greater Boston, asking them directly to support our legislative and budget asks. If you have been looking for the opportunity to engage, this is your chance.

These meetings will be essential in ensuring that Governor Healey's Affordable Homes Act gets enough support on Beacon Hill to pass. Every one of us has a role to play by showing up, and bringing our neighbors! There will be over a dozen IDMs over the coming weeks and months. [Register for upcoming meetings here.](#)



Sunday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

11:00 a.m. The First Church UnPageant, Hybrid Morning Worship
6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Monday, December 25 - Christmas Day

11:00 a.m. Christmas Day Hybrid Worship

Sunday, December 31 - New Year's Eve

11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship

Saturday, January 6 - Epiphany

6:00 p.m. Epiphany Potluck & Worship Service



THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, December 4

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

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

Tuesday, December 5

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

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

Wednesday, December 6

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

4:00 a.m. Gifts Discernment Committee, via Zoom

7:00 p.m. Christian Formation Committee, via Zoom

7:00 p.m. GBIO In-District Meeting with Sen. Friedman and others, Hancock UCC, Lexington

Thursday, December 7

5:00 p.m. Drop-In Bible Study, via Zoom (note time change)

5:30 p.m. Welcome Corps Team Meeting, via Zoom

7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)

Friday, December 8

12:00 p.m. Friday Café, MJH

Sunday, December 10 - Second Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: Exploring the Seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, Harter Room and 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. Alternative Christmas Fair, MJH

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

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC
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