



Transfiguration Sunday
February 11, 2024

**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
388 YEARS
ON THE WAY
1 6 3 6 – 2 0 2 4

February 11, 2024

Preaching	Dan Smith, <i>Senior Minister</i>
Liturgist	Leslie Pelton-Cairns, <i>Deacon</i>
Leading Worship	Carla Arevalo, <i>Pastoral Associate</i> Kate Layzer, <i>Minister of Street Outreach</i> Lee Prouty, <i>tech support</i> Peter Sykes, <i>Music Director</i>
Bulletin Cover Image	Freddie Funck, <i>First Church member</i>

Today's Programs and Events

9:30 a.m.	Confirmation Class for 8/9th graders, The Well
10:00 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 Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
12:15 p.m.	Informal Conversation with Dan and Leaders, MJH and via Zoom
12:15 p.m.	Transfiguration: An Art Exhibit, MJH
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 electronically by using the QR code in the bulletin or explore more options for giving at: www.firstchurchcambridge.org/give

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

VOLUNTARY

Prelude in G Major

Felix Mendelssohn

*HYMN C-23

Come, All You Thirsty

*GREETING

Leslie Pelton-Cairns

L: Siblings in the Spirit, wherever you are,
hear God's welcome, gentle and deep!

C: Come, all who are thirsty for warmth and connection.

L: Come, all who yearn for solace and hope.

C: Come, all who are hungry for kindness and courage.

L: Come, all who are feeling strong and ready.

Come, all who are feeling anxious and afraid.

C: Come, wherever you are on the journey.

L: Enter into this space of grace, this river of life and compassion!

C: Let God's presence hold and enfold you!

WORDS OF WELCOME

Leslie Pelton-Cairns and Dan Smith

ANTHEM

Laudate Nomen Domini

Christopher Tye

*Laudate nomen Domini,
vos servi Domini;*

ab ortu solis usque ad occasum ejus.

Decreta Dei justa sunt, et cor exhilarant:

laudate Deum principes et omnes populi.

Praise the name of the Lord,

ye servants of the Lord;

from the rising of the sun until the same setting.

The decrees of the Lord are just, and their heart is

glad: Praise the Lord ye princes and all ye people.

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

**All: God of Love, whenever we settle for the way things are
instead of the way you would have them, forgive us.**

**Whenever we are paralyzed by fear or limited in vision,
increase our trust in you.**

(cont'd. on next page)

**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.*

**Whenever we offer charity, but fail to work for justice,
show us what your love requires.**

**Whenever we tire of the struggle and tomorrow feels overwhelming,
restore our hope and renew our courage
In the name of Jesus, our brother, Amen.**

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

***GREETING OF PEACE**

***HYMN 86**

The Lone, Wild Bird

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.

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING

Mark 9:2-9

SERMON

Dan Smith

***HYMN 417**

All My Hope on God Is Founded

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carla Arevalo

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

Kate Layzer

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

*Our offering supports the many ministries of our church,
with 10% for missions in the community and beyond.
Please use our new [all-in-one link](#) for gifts for 2023 or
2024, from your bank account or by credit/debit card:*



OFFERTORY

Joy Flows Down

Patricia Van Ness

***DOXOLOGY**

To God, all glorious heav'nly light,
To Christ revealed in earthly night,
To God, the Spirit, now we raise
Our joyful songs of thankful praise! Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

GOING FORTH

***HYMN 88**

My Shepherd, You Supply My Need

***BENEDICTION**

VOLUNTARY

Fugue in G Major

Mendelssohn

First Church Land Acknowledgment

We, gathered here, acknowledge that we are meeting on land which has been the traditional ancestral homeland of the Massachusetts people. We acknowledge that this land is unceded and remains sacred to the Massachusetts, 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.

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._

The Lone, Wild Bird

1. The lone, wild bird in loft - y flight is still with you, nor
 2. The ends of earth are in your hand, the sea's dark deep and
 3. Each se - cret thought is known to you, the path I walk my
 4. In se - cret depths you knit my frame, be - fore my birth you
 5. O search me, God, my heart re - veal, re - new my life, my

leaves your sight. And I am yours! I rest in
 far - off land. And I am yours! I rest in
 whole life through, my days, my deeds, my hopes, my
 spoke my name; with - in my soul, as close as
 spir - it heal; for I am yours, I rest in

you. Great Spir - it, come, rest in me, too.
 you. Great Spir - it, come, rest in me, too.
 fears, my deep - est joys, my si - lent tears.
 breath, so near to me, in life, in death.
 you. Great Spir - it, come, rest in me, too.

WORDS: Sts. 1, 2, Henry Richard McFadyen, 1925, alt.; sts. 3 - 5, Marty Haugen, 1991
 MUSIC: Walker's *Southern Harmony*, 1835; harm. David N. Johnson, 1968

PROSPECT
LM

417 All My Hope on God Is Founded

1. All my hope on God is found-ed, who does all my trust re-new.
 2. Day by day the al-might-y giv-er boun-teous gifts on us be-stows;
 3. Still from earth to God e-ter-nal hymns of grate-ful praise be sung,

Safe through change and chance God guides me, on-ly good and on-ly true.
 with de-light our souls are nour-ished, plea-sure leads us where we go.
 high a-bove all prais-es prais-ing for the gift of Christ the Son.

God un-known, One a-lone seeks to claim my heart as home.
 Love does stand at God's hand; joy a-waits each new com-mand.
 Hear Christ's call one and all; those who fol-low shall not fall.

WORDS: Joachim Neander, c. 1680; para. Robert Bridges, 1899, alt.
 MUSIC: Herbert Howells, 1930, 1977

MICHAEL
 87.87.337

88 My Shepherd, You Supply My Need

1. My Shep-herd, you sup - ply my need; most ho - ly is your name;
 2. When I walk through the shades of death, your pres-ence is my stay;
 3. Your sure pro - vi - sions, gra-cious God, at - tend me all my days;

in pas-tures fresh you make me feed, be - side the liv - ing stream.
 one word of your sup - port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.
 O may your house be my a - bode, and all my work be praise.

You bring my wan - dering spir - it back when I for - sake your ways;
 Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread;
 There would I find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers go and come;

you lead me, for your mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.
 my cup with bless - ings o - ver - flows, your oil a - noints my head.
 no more a strang - er or a guest, but like a child at home.

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.
 MUSIC: Walker's *Southern Harmony*, 1835; harm., FCC, 1997

RESIGNATION
 CMD

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Rob Newton and his family as they grieve the loss of Rob’s mother, Nancy Newton, who died peacefully in her sleep in early January.
- We pray for Emma Blanc as she recovers from surgery on her right arm to relieve nerve pain.
- We pray for the Ingersoll family as they mourn the loss of Evan’s mother Solveig Ingersoll, who died last week after a long decline with Alzheimers.
- We pray for Faith Ross as she mourns the unexpected death of her dear friend Oliver Edwards, and we pray for all who were close to Oliver.
- We pray for Brent and Poppy Coffin as Poppy experiences a significant decline in her struggle with Alzheimer’s and as she recovers from Covid and a bacterial infection.
- 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; Dana Hunt, Claire Morgan’s mother; 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; Michael, Ginny Harlan’s son; and Abby Shuman’s uncle Barry.
- We pray for the many families seeking emergency shelter in cities and towns across our state.
- We continue to pray for all who are recovering from recent natural and climate related disasters. We pray for our rapidly warming planet and for redoubled efforts to reduce fossil fuel emissions.
- We pray for all soldiers and civilians involved in recent U.S. retaliatory strikes in Yemen, Syria and Iran. We pray for all those impacted by the violence of war and political upheaval, throughout the Middle East and Ukraine, and also in Sudan and Haiti.
- We pray for 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 experience 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.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

Prayer for Israel and Palestine

As the war in Gaza and Israel enters its fourth month, our hearts cry out in prayer. With the death of 1400 Israelis and over 26,000 Palestinians so far, we pray for an end to the war and immediate de-escalation of tensions in the region that are threatening a wider and more lasting conflict. We decry the horrifically violent Hamas attacks against Israel on October 7, as well as the disproportionate use of force by the Israeli government and military.

We hold that every person is made in God's image and that every life is precious. We pray for the safe return of all hostages. We pray for redoubled diplomatic efforts to address the already devastating humanitarian crisis in Gaza and the ongoing occupation of Palestinian territories. We continue to pray for a just peace in Palestine and Israel 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 continue to pray for ourselves, that we will be courageous, 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. 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.

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH



Confirmation Class for 8/9th graders

Today, 9:30 - 10:45 a.m., The Well

Our year-long Confirmation journey for 8th and 9th graders continues today with a session entitled “Made in God’s Image.”

Informal Conversation with Dan and Church Leaders

Today, 12:15 - 1:00 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall and [via Zoom](#)

Join us after worship for a gentle time of table conversations and prayer with Dan, pastoral staff, and several First Church Deacons. We will create a space for listening, sharing and holding with God and with each other the big news of our upcoming pastoral transition. Please bring whatever questions or feelings you may have. For those who can’t make it to church in person, there will also be a Deacon-led Zoom option.



Transfiguration: An Art Exhibit

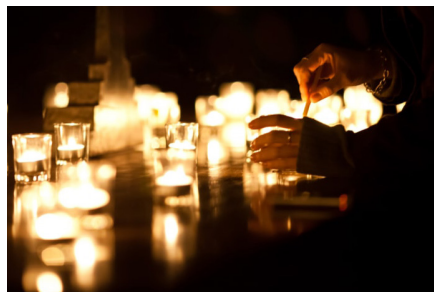
Today at 12:15 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall

On Transfiguration Sunday, visit the Chapel after worship to take in an exhibit of three paintings that indicate and symbolize the vision seen by the disciples, as found in the lectionary ready today. Artist Henry Gates’s display of Trinity provides a moment to reflect on the promise before Lent’s preparation for Easter.

Night Song

Sundays, 7:30 - 8:15 p.m., Sanctuary and via livestream

Night Song is a worship opportunity that offers stillness and sublime music in a darkened sanctuary for respite and reset... [Read more about Night Song.](#)



TRANSITION AT FIRST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Smith has shared big news. After 20 years with First Church, Dan will be leaving his role as our Senior Minister at the end of June. As Dan shared in his letter, we know this significant change comes at a time when other things are changing all around us. At all times, but especially in the season of Lent, our tradition invites us to lean into prayer and spiritual practice, and to find courage in God and in our community.

As we enter into a time of pastoral leavetaking and transition, we ask God's blessing upon our grief, our gratitude, and our discernment of next steps – including searching for an Interim Minister and planning for Dan's farewell. In this tender time, we invite your prayers for Dan and his family, and for our First Church community and its leaders as we prepare to say goodbye and open our hearts to what comes next.



[Read Dan's letter here.](#)

[Read the church leaders' letter here.](#)

Going forward, information about this process can be found at:
firstchurchcambridge.org/transition

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

10 Million Names, Slavery, and Descendant Communities of New England

Monday, February 12, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Sanctuary and via livestream

There are at least 44 million descendants of enslaved individuals living today, but slavery separated families, erased names, and obscured facts. [The 10 Million Names Project](#), launched by American Ancestors and its partners in 2023, aims to connect the family stories of these descendants to the 10 million men, women, and children of African descent who were enslaved in the U.S. prior to emancipation and to restore their names to history. Hear from Dr. Vincent Brown, Dr. Kendra Field, and Dr. Kerri Greenidge, members of the 10 Million Names scholars council, as they share histories and legacies of slavery in New England, the ongoing research of the 10 Million Names project, and ways to get involved. [Register here.](#)

This event will take place in conjunction with the Slave Legacy History Coalition, a descendant-led history organization; First Church in Cambridge; and Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site.

10 MILLION NAMES, SLAVERY, AND DESCENDANT COMMUNITIES OF NEW ENGLAND

INTRODUCING 10 MILLION NAMES: RECOVER. RESTORE. REMEMBER.

KENDRA TAIRA FIELD, PHD
VINCENT BROWN, PHD
KERRI GREENIDGE, PHD

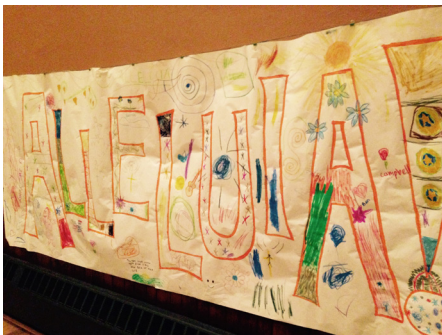
February 12, 2024
6:00 PM

First Church in Cambridge
11 Garden Street
In-person and streaming online

FREE AND OPEN TO ALL. REGISTER HERE:

[HTTPS://GO.NPS.GOV/10MILLIONNAMES](https://go.nps.gov/10millionnames)

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE
LONGFELLOW HOUSE-WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
10 Million Names



Mardi Gras Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 13, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Margaret Jewett Hall

All are warmly invited to our annual all-church pancake supper on Mardi Gras! Come celebrate with pancakes and maple syrup, a traditional sweet treat on the eve of the Lenten season. The children will decorate our "Alleluia" banner and bury it in the sanctuary, where it will await its unveiling on Easter morning. We'll also hear a preview of our

Lenten programs and formation opportunities. Pancakes will be provided; please bring fruit or breakfast meats (ready for heating or serving) to share. RSVP to [Sarah Higginbotham](#) so she can plan the pancake production.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

Aging with Grace Monthly Meeting **Tuesday, February 20. 3:00 - 4:15 p.m.** **Harter Room and via Zoom**

Join Ginny Harlan, Martha Cook, and Dan Smith for a monthly support group where we offer each other companionship and spiritual resources as we grow into our elderhood. In this special season of our lives, let's explore together some of those Big Questions as we let God's presence and this community hold us. We can become elders together as we seek dignity, courage, grace, hope, peace, and wisdom in the ending phase of our lives. We are using Joan Chittister's book *The Gift of Years* as a starting point to conversation and reflection, and our reading for this month is "Letting Go" (pp. 89-93). You are welcome to join at any time; homework is not a requirement for participation!



Young Adults: Faith on Tap **Thursday, February 22, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.** **Cambridge Common Restaurant, 1667 Mass Ave.**

Join other young adults (20s and 30s) from First Church for casual fellowship and dinner at Cambridge Common! This event is open to anyone in the age group, whether you're just exploring First Church or have been here a while and are looking to meet some new folks. Let Emma know to expect you, and if you're not already on the YA Mailing List you can sign up by emailing: youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org.

GBIO Housing Justice Action **Sunday, March 3, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.** **Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center (ISBCC)** **100 Malcolm X Blvd., Roxbury**

The Greater Boston Interfaith Organization will convene ALL of GBIO at ISBCC in Boston for an all-out housing justice assembly! We will directly ask our local legislative leaders to support our legislative and budget asks. GBIO stands to win billions of dollars for public

housing, increased access to housing for people leaving incarceration, and the construction of new homes. Every one of us has a role to play by showing up and bringing our neighbors! First Church is committed to bringing 70+ members, which includes YOU! Stay after worship for a light lunch before heading to the action together, by T and other means.

[Register with this link!](#) or scan the QR code. MORE PEOPLE, MORE POWER!



FINDING COURAGE IN COMMUNITY



Lent 2024: Finding Courage in Community

The 40 days of Lent begin on Ash Wednesday, February 14, and culminate in Holy Week observance leading up to Easter Sunday, March 31. Here at First Church, our theme for this Lent is **Finding Courage in Community**. With so much uncertainty ahead, political and otherwise, let's come together to find the courage and resilience that inspires us, connects us, and grounds us in the deep resources and spiritual practices that our faith tradition offers.

As was the case last Lent, we will be surrounded and encouraged by several stunning new portraits on loan from Robert Shetterly and [*Americans Who Tell the Truth*](#). Through worship, small groups, and some time set aside for one-to-one after-worship conversations, let's en-courage one another, deepen our community of resistance and resilience, and lean into God's truth and healing for the journey ahead!



Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 14, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Sanctuary and via livestream

On Ash Wednesday, we reflect on our origins in the dust, our brokenness, and our dependence on God. Through a liturgy of readings, song, and prayer, we gather together in the Spirit to acknowledge ashes as a sign of creation, mortality, repentance, and the Cross. Join us in person for our evening service with the imposition of ashes, or participate from home via our livestream.

LENT AT FIRST CHURCH

Lenten Formation Series: Courage That Inspires

Sundays, February 18 - March 17, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m., Harter Room and via Zoom

We'll begin on the first Sunday of Lent with a general orientation to the liturgical season of Lent by our own Beth Spaulding. Then, join First Church leaders, staff, and guests as they guide us through a time of prayerful meditation and learning from the remarkable lives and stories of various Americans Who Tell the Truth. The four portraits on loan to us this year will be rotated between the Harter Room and Hastings Common so that we may sit with the featured truth teller each week in the Harter Room.



February 18

The Liturgical Season of Lent, led by Beth Spaulding

February 25

Courage that Inspires - Rev. William Barber II

March 3

Courage that Inspires - James Baldwin

March 10

Courage that Inspires - Pauli Murray

March 17

Courage that Inspires - Leah Penniman

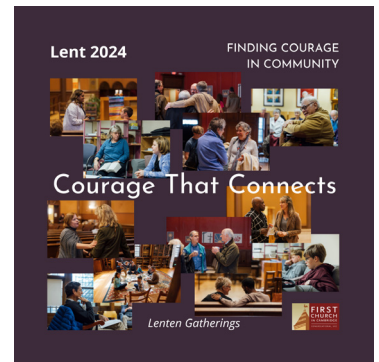
Lenten Gatherings: Courage That Connects

Midweek Soup Suppers

Tuesday, March 5 and Thursday, March 21

5:30 - 7:30 p.m., The Parsonage (44 Garden St.)

During March, we set some time aside to break bread and find courage and nourishment of body and soul through a series of informal gatherings and conversation that will be hosted both at the Parsonage and in the homes of First Church members. After a meal and a gently guided conversation about where we are needing and finding courage, First Church Deacons will offer a simple ritual of Communion to close out the gathering. If you plan to attend one or both of the Parsonage suppers, please RSVP to [Dan Smith](#). And if you'd like to host an additional soup supper in March, please contact Dan by February 18.



After-Worship Conversations

Sundays, February 18 - March 17 at 12:15 p.m.

Looking for a simple spiritual practice to take on this Lent? What about a commitment to reaching out to another member of our faith community for 1:1 conversation? Consider sharing your faith journeys, and perhaps some struggles, with each other. We'll have conversation prompts and extra snacks available as you find a quiet spot in the building (or even outside on a walk) for conversation and connection.

LENT AT FIRST CHURCH

Sign Up Now for a Lent/Spring Faith & Life Group

Registration is open for our next round of Faith & Life Groups, taking place during Lent and into the spring season. Led by First Church members, Faith & Life Groups are designed to encourage meaningful connections through shared interests, whether exploring a spiritual practice, opening our eyes to the beauty around us, delving into a challenging social issue, or attending to significant life stages (parenting, aging, job transitions, etc.). Faith & Life Groups involve making a short-term commitment (a single session to several weeks, depending on the group). [Read the full description of each group and sign up here.](#) Please register by Sunday, February 18.



- **Creating a Spiritual Autobiography** with Stephen Opie
- **MLK Book Study - *Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?*** with Ahmaad Edmund
- **Reading Mary Oliver** with Sue Reynolds and Alex Steinert-Evoy
- **Reparations Book Study - *On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World*** with Abby Shuman and Carla Arevalo
- **Nature as a Path to Connection** with Stefanie Haug
- **Now What?: Retirement's Inner Work** with Jenny Stuart

[Register here.](#)



Lenten Taizé Service

**Wednesday, February 21, 8:00 - 8:45 p.m.
Chapel**

Come join us in the Chapel for a short evening service of candlelight, meditation, and singing in the Taizé tradition. Emma and Owen Duke will be leading this casual time to reflect and find calm in the season of Lent.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Shelter Director Jim Stewart Featured in Spare Change News

Our own Jim Stewart, Director of the First Church Shelter, received an in-depth profile in the latest issue of *Spare Change News*. Jim reflects on his 50 years of work on behalf of the unhoused in the greater Boston area, as well as how his faith informs the work. Copies are available from vendors in Harvard Square and other outdoor areas in Boston and Cambridge. Congratulations, Jim, on this well-deserved publicity around your years of commitment to your vocation!



Beware of Phishing Scams

We are observing an uptick in phishing scams impersonating church staff via email. If you receive an email claiming to be from a First Church staff member that requests the password to the online church directory or asks for an email reply because they are in a meeting, please double-check the sending address. Please note that if the sender is using an email address other than an @firstchurchcambridge.org address, it is most likely a scam. Please do not respond! Church staff would never ask for

any kind of donations to be sent directly to them (or directly to others), and they would not ask for passwords. The scammers have been able to pull enough information from church websites to make the email sound legitimate. Scams have become more and more sophisticated! If you are still wondering, please be sure to speak directly with the staff member involved before responding.

Gospel Explosion Night

Saturday, February 17

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Memorial Church, Harvard University

The Memorial Church and the Love United Black Fellowship will present an evening of gospel music with Southern University Gospel Choir of Baton Rouge, LA.

The concert is free and open to the public. The performance will also be live streamed on the [Memorial Church YouTube Channel](#).





THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, February 12

- 4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Gathering, via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. 10 Million Names, Slavery, and Descendant Communities of New England, Sanctuary and via livestream

Tuesday, February 13

- 10:30 a.m. Communications Team Meeting, The Landing and via Zoom
- 5:30 p.m. Mardi Gras Pancake Supper, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 7:00 p.m. Deacons' Meeting, Harter Room

Wednesday, February 14 - Ash Wednesday

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom
- 3:00 p.m. Buildings & Grounds Committee, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service, Sanctuary and via livestream

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

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

Thursday, February 15

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

Friday, February 16

- 12:00 p.m. Friday Café, MJH

Sunday, February 18

- 9:30 a.m. Lenten Adult Formation: Courage That Inspires, 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: Creative Arts Workshop, MJH
- 12:15 p.m. Refreshments in Margaret Jewett Hall
- 12:15 p.m. After-Worship Conversations
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream

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

617-547-2724 • info@firstchurchcambridge.org • www.firstchurchcambridge.org

 [/firstchurchcambridge](#)  [/FirstChurchInCambridge](#)  [/c/FirstChurchInCambridge](#)