

Lent
February 18, 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 18, 2024

Preaching	Ahmaad Edmund, <i>Pastoral Associate</i>
Liturgist	Stephen Weller
Leading Worship	Carla Arevalo, <i>Pastoral Associate</i>
	Kate Layzer, <i>Minister of Street Outreach</i>
	Lee Prouty, <i>tech support</i>
	Dan Smith, <i>Senior Minister</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. Adult Formation: The Liturgical Season of Lent, 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, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 12:15 p.m. Refreshments and After-Worship 1:1 Conversations, MJH
- 12:30 p.m. Overt White Supremacy in New England Workshop, First Parish UU, Cambridge
- 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

Jesu, meine Freude

J. S. Bach

*HYMN

What Wondrous Love Is This

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul?
What wondrous love is this, O my soul?
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul?
To bear the heavy curse for my soul?

O let us hear your call to be love, to be love,
O let us hear your call to be love;
O let us hear your call, great servant of us all,
To be the least of all, as your love, as your love,
To be the least of all, as your love.

As you have shown the way, let us love, let us love,
As you have shown the way, let us love;
As you have shown the way, so teach us ev'ry day
To simply be the way of your love, of your love
To simply be the way of your love.

*GREETING

Stephen Weller

- L: Sisters, brothers, siblings, come, you who seek courage in community.
C Come, you who long for justice and joy!
L: Beloved, come: you who yearn for a deeper life and a fairer world.
C: Come and find this courage through the Spirit's call
L: to truth that sets us free, to love as wide as the sea!
C: Come now, draw near to God with thanks and praise!

WORDS OF WELCOME

COVENANT TESTIMONY READING AND RESPONSE

- All: We believe that our covenant with God and each other calls us:
to love God with all that we are,
and our close and distant neighbors as ourselves;
to seek peace through justice and equity for all people;
to engage in nonviolent resistance to evil;
to respect and preserve God's earth;
to foster community across every barrier and division;
to attend to God's unfolding and reconciling Word;** *(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.*

to support each other in our frailties and strengths,
that we may embody the love that overcomes fear and death.
This we testify, confessing always our reliance on God's grace in Christ,
and on the power of the Holy Spirit.

CONFESSING

ANTHEM Kyrie (Messe aux chappelles, 1890) Charles Gounod
Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

SUNG PRAYER Lead Me, Lord Hymn #271

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

***HYMN 439** Every Time I Feel the Spirit
Children up through 7th grade are now invited to Church School: Creative Arts Workshop in Margaret Jewett Hall. Caregivers can find the children in Margaret Jewett Hall after worship.

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING Carla Arevalo

READING Matthew 4:1-11

READING Daniel 3:16-20

SERMON Ahmaad Edmund

***HYMN 305** Somebody's Knockin' at Your Door

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS Kate Layzer

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD Dan Smith

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 from your bank account or by credit/debit card:



OFFERTORY

Almighty and Everlasting God

Orlando Gibbons

*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine
demands my soul, my life, my all! Amen.**

GOING FORTH

*HYMN 471

I Want Jesus to Walk With Me

*BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

Wir Christenleut'

J. S. Bach

Our Lenten Bulletin Cover

We are grateful to First Church youth and member Freddie Funck for designing our bulletin cover images through this current liturgical year. Starting in Advent and continuing through Pentecost, Freddie is sharing her artistic gifts with us in ways that reflect not only the different liturgical seasons, but also their wider themes in our life together. Her image for Lent connects to our theme of "Courage in Community."

Lead Me, Lord

271

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy right-ous-ness, make thy way

plain be - fore my face. For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord,

on - ly, that mak - est me dwell in safe - ty.

WORDS: Psalms 5:8, 4:8
MUSIC: Samuel S. Wesley, 1861

LEAD ME, LORD
378.548

PEACE HYMN

439

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Refrain

Ev - ery time I feel the Spir - it mov - ing in my

heart I will pray. Yes, ev - ery time I feel the

Fine

Spir - it mov - ing in my heart I will pray.

1. Up - on the moun - tain, when my Lord spoke, Out of God's
2. O Jor - dan riv - er is chil - ly and cold, it chills the
3. O I have heart - ache and I have woe, and I have

mouth came fire and smoke. Looked all a - round me,
bod - y, not the soul. There's on - ly one train
trou - ble here be - low. But while God leads me,

to Refrain

it looked so fine, I asked my Lord if all were mine.
up - on this track; it runs to heav - en, then right back. O ev - ery
I'll nev - er fear, for I am shel - tered by God's care.

305 Somebody's Knockin' at Your Door

Some-bod - y's knock-in' at your door; some-bod - y's

knock-in' at your door; O sin-ner, why don't you an-swer?

Fine

Some-bod-y's knock-in' at your door.

1. Knocks like Je - sus,
2. Can't you hear Him?
3. Je - sus calls you,

D.S.

Some-bod-y's knock-in' at your door.

Knocks like Je - sus,
Can't you hear Him?
Je - sus calls you,

CLOSING HYMN

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

471

1. I want Je - sus to walk with me; (walk with me)
 2. In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
 3. When I'm trou - bled, Lord, walk with me;
 4. When I'm dy - ing, Lord, walk with me;

I want Je - sus to walk with me; (walk with me)
 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
 When I'm trou - bled, Lord, walk with me;
 When I'm dy - ing, Lord, walk with me;

all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
 when my heart is al - most break - ing,
 when my head is bowed in an - guish,
 when I'm on my bed of sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me. (with me)

WORDS: African-American spiritual
 MUSIC: African-American spiritual; harm. *The Presbyterian Hymnal: Hymns, Psalms and Spiritual Songs*, 1990

SOJOURNER
 88.89

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for the Ingersoll family as they mourn the loss of Evan's mother Solveig Ingersoll, who died recently 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.
- 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 pray for all affected by the shooting at Wednesday's Kansas City Super Bowl Parade that killed one person and injured 22 others. We pray for an end to gun violence everywhere and for common sense state and federal legislation to curb the scourge of too many guns and too many traumatized lives and communities.
- 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 27,000 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](#).

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.

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



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.

FINDING COURAGE IN COMMUNITY



Adult Formation: The Liturgical Season of Lent

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

Join Beth Spaulding for an introduction and orientation to the traditions and history of the Lenten season.

After-Worship 1:1 Conversations

Today and Sundays, February 25 - 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 2024

FINDING COURAGE
IN COMMUNITY



Courage That Connects



Lenten Gatherings



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.](#)

TODAY 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. [Read the full description of each group and sign up here.](#) Please register by the end of today!



- **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

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 the early days of First Church's season of transition, church leaders are pleased to announce the formation of two teams to guide our journey over the coming months.

- The members of our **Interim Minister Search Team** are Jim Cairns, Stephen Weller, and Linda Ziebell. They are working closely with our SNEUCC Area Conference Minister Rev. Alex Shea Will, who is providing resources on the "search and call" process. (Click [HERE](#) for more information about our United Church of Christ polity and the general process for pastoral transitions.) The team is updating our church profile so that the position can be listed for candidates to consider, and the team will be taking the lead on interviewing promising candidates.
- The **Leavetaking and Farewell Team** is made up of Bruce Hoppe, Amy Matias, Beth Spaulding, and Alex Steinert-Evoy. They will begin sharing information with the congregation about these plans very soon.

Moderator Moana Bentin, Vice Moderator Phil Jones, Deacon Co-Chair Leslie Pelton-Cairns, and Deacon Co-Chair Casey Marsh welcome your questions and input as we walk this journey together. Visit the [Transition at First Church](#) page of our website for ongoing updates.

LENT AT FIRST CHURCH

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!



Lenten Taizé Services

Wednesday, February 21, 8:00 - 8:45 p.m., Chapel
Tuesdays, March 12 & 19, 8:00 - 8:45 p.m., Harter Room

All are welcome to join us 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.



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 Duke know to expect you, and if you're not already on the YA Mailing List you can sign up by emailing: youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org.



LENT AT FIRST CHURCH

Lenten Formation Series: Courage That Inspires Sundays, February 25 - March 17, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. Harter Room and via Zoom

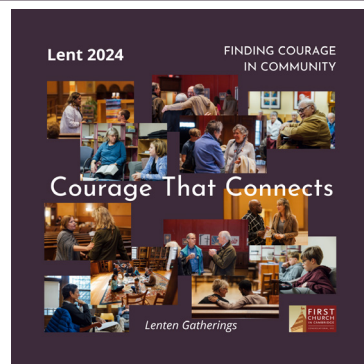
Join First Church leaders, staff, and guests as they guide us through a time of prayerful meditation and learning from the remarkable lives and stories of various *Americans Who Tell the Truth*. The four portraits on loan to us this year will be rotated between the Harter Room and Hastings Common so that we may sit with the featured truth teller each week in the Harter Room.



- February 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 - Soup Suppers Tuesday, March 5 & 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 today.



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!](#) MORE PEOPLE, MORE POWER!



THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, February 19 - Church Office & Building Closed for Presidents Day Holiday

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

Tuesday, February 20

10:30 a.m. Communications Team Meeting, The Landing and via Zoom

3:00 p.m. Aging with Grace Monthly Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom

7:30 p.m. Shelter Oversight Committee, via Zoom

Wednesday, February 21

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

7:30 p.m. Missions & Social Justice Committee, via Zoom

8:00 p.m. Lenten Taizé Service, Chapel

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

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

Thursday, February 22

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

Friday, February 23

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

Sunday, February 25

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: Godly Play, Middler, and Bible 101 classes

12:15 p.m. Refreshments in Margaret Jewett Hall

12:15 p.m. After-Worship "1:1" Conversations

12:30 p.m. Overt White Supremacy in New England Workshop, First Parish UU, Cambridge

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

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