

Lent March 3, 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 1636-2024

March 3, 2024

Preaching Today

Dan Smith, Senior Minister

Liturgist

Laurie Williams, Deacon Carla Arevalo. Pastoral Associate

Leading Worship

Justin Brueggman, quest musician

Lee Prouty, tech support

Emma Thomas, Ministerial Intern

Bulletin Cover Image Freddie Funck, First Church member

Today's Programs and Events

9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: Courage That Inspires - James Baldwin

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. Refreshments and After-Worship 1:1 Conversations, MJH

12:30 p.m. Lunch for those attending GBIO Action, MJH

3:00 p.m. GBIO Housing Justice Action, ISBCC 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 <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 First Church Communications Request form.

GATHFRING

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 Ich ruf zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ J.S. Bach

*HYMN 314 As We Gather at Your Table

*GREETING Laurie Williams

L: Sisters, brothers, siblings, come, you who seek courage in community.

C Come, you who long for healing and wholeness!

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

CONFESSING

ANTHEM Kyrie Philip Le Bas
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 459 Jesu, Jesu

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

-1-

^{*}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.

ORDINATION OF DEACONS

INVITATION

Dan Smith and Emma Thomas

THE CANDIDATES' PROMISES

*THE CONGREGATION'S PROMISES

L: Do you affirm these Deacons' gifts of care and leadership?

All: We do.

L: Will you receive, respect and respond to their ministry among you?

All: We will.

L: Will you uphold and enfold them and all the Deacons of this church

with your prayer and gratitude?

All: We will.

THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

The laying on of hands is an ancient practice by which, through human touch, the Holy Spirit consecrates ("sets apart") and confirms persons called to particular ministries in a community. It is also a sign that these leaders stand in a long and living line of servants who have been called from within their communities for this same ministry.

ORDINATION PRAYER AND DECLARATION

*INSTALLATION PRAYER

L: Let us pray:

All: We welcome you in this ministry with hope, and we install you in joy!

Trust God, seek the Spirit's consolation, love this congregation with all your hearts,

serve, forbear, witness, and lead,

in the name of the good and gracious God. Amen.

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING John 2:13-22

HOMILY Dan Smith

*COVENANT TESTIMONY

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;

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.

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS Carla Arevalo

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 <u>all-in-one link</u> for gifts from your bank account or by credit/debit card:



OFFERTORY Ave Verum Corpus W.A. Mozart

*DOXOLOGY

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.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SHARING THE FEAST

*INVITATION

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

REMEMBERING AND GIVING THANKS

L: Now, O God, we fall silent and remember Jesus, the one who came because words were not enough. (Silence)

L: We remember that he called us friends.

C: He told us everything you placed in his heart.

L: We remember that he gave us peace—

C: a peace nothing else can give.

L: We remember that he did not leave us bereft.

C: He sent us a Helper—
the Spirit who dwells in our hearts!

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. At the three stations in the front of the sanctuary, we invite you to take a piece of bread from the plate and dip it into the cup. At the back of the sanctuary, there is a station with individual servings of bread and individual cups. The cups are filled with grape juice and the bread is gluten-free. Anyone who, for any reason, is 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!

All: Thank you, God, for the 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 gifts 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 367 Break Not the Circle

*BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY Fugue Johann Pachelbel



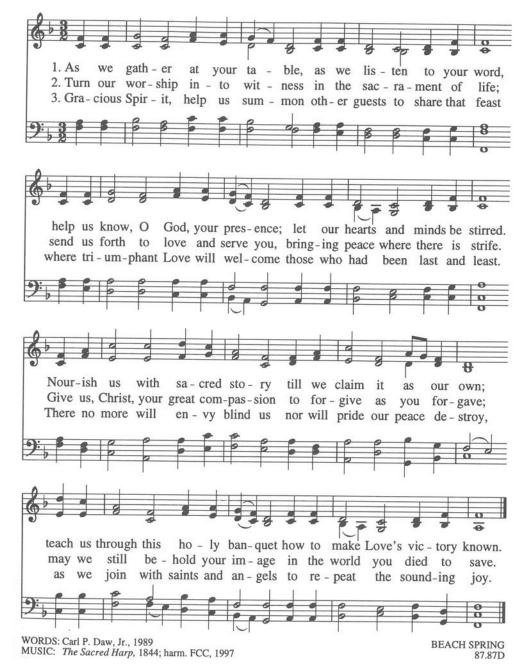
First Church Land Acknowledgment

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.

As We Gather at Your Table

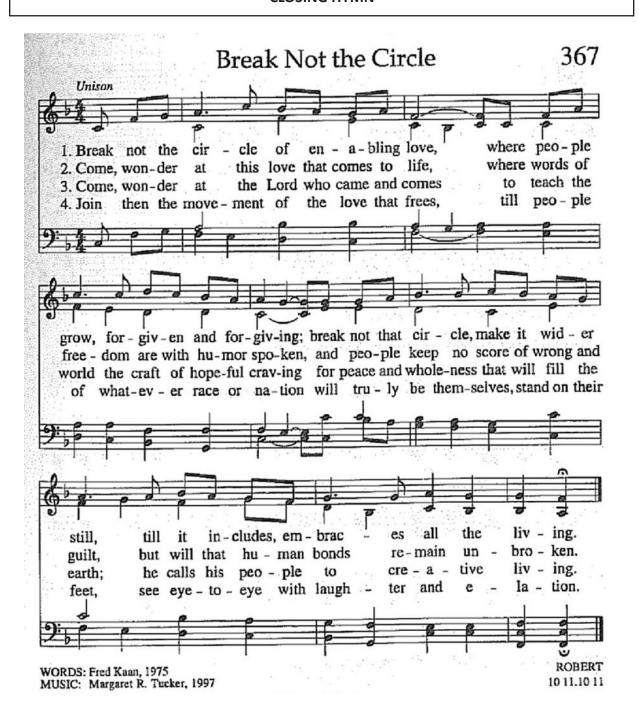
314



-Hymn Insert 1-

Lead Me, Lord 271 Lead me, lead me in thy right-eous-ness, make thy way plain be - fore my face. For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord, ly, that mak est me dwell safe in ty. WORDS: Psalms 5:8, 4:8 LEAD ME, LORD MUSIC: Samuel S. Wesley, 1861 378.548





COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Scott Yockel, who is recovering from a recent hospitalization for ulcerative colitis.
- We pray for George Williams, who is recovering from stomach surgery last week.
- We pray for Alice Kidder, who has been hospitalized this week for ongoing health concerns.
- We pray for Robb Morgan, who is being treated for a ruptured eardrum.
- We pray for strength, courage, and healing for Sue Reynolds, who will be undergoing cancer surgery tomorrow.
- We pray for Carter West, who is experiencing a chronic neurological disorder.
- We pray for Molly Baker and her family as they grieve the loss of Molly's grandfather Hank Hinckley, who died recently. A Leap Day baby, he would have celebrated his 88th birthday on February 29.
- We pray for Brent and Poppy Coffin as Poppy experiences a significant decline in her struggle with Alzheimer's.
- We pray for Jennifer Petrallia and all who are struggling with 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; Lisa DiNardo's friend Graziella Macchetta; and Abby Shuman's uncle Barry, whose brain tumor is metastasizing.
- 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 the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo, where ongoing armed conflicts have led to more than 6 million people killed and more than 5 million people displaced from their homes. We pray also for those who have experienced devastating incidents of gender-based violence during the conflicts.
- We pray for those mourning the death of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny, and we pray for the Russian people amid a wider crackdown on dissent.
- We pray for all soldiers and civilians involved in recent U.S. retaliatory strikes in Yemen, Syria and Iraq. 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.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- 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 especially for the family and friends of Nex Benedict, who died one day after a serious bullying incident in their school in Owasso, OK.
- In the wake of last week's Alabama court ruling that has upended fertility care in the state, we continue to 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.

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 29,000 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.



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



Lenten Formation Series: Courage That Inspires Today and Sundays, March 3 - 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.

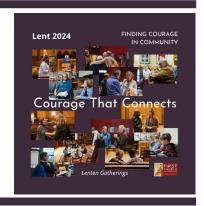
February 25: Courage that Inspires - Rev. William Barber II

Courage that Inspires - James Baldwin TODAY: March 10: **Courage that Inspires - Pauli Murray** March 17: **Courage that Inspires - Leah Penniman**

After-Worship 1:1 Conversations

Today and Sundays, March 10 & 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 guiet spot in the building (or even outside on a walk) for conversation and connection.



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."

A Word About our Covenant Testimony

The First Church Covenant Testimony was composed and adopted in 1990 as an expression of the ways we feel called to live into our faith today. It seeks to be more explicit about the commitment of our congregation to justice, reconciliation, peace, and the integrity of all creation. Read more about our covenant and covenant testimony.

LENT AT FIRST CHURCH



GBIO Housing Justice Action TODAY
Lunch in MJH at 12:30 p.m.; Board the bus at 1:30 p.m.
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, and First Church is thrilled to be bringing such a large delegation to this climactic event! After worship, we'll gather for a lunch of lentil soup (meat and veg versions) and Iggy's bread. Then at 1:30,

most of us will step onto our rented school bus and head to the ISBCC, arriving in plenty of time to avoid the last minute rush and find our seats. Others will get there by carpool or take the T (the ISBCC is across the street from the Roxbury Crossing Orange Line station). The same bus will be waiting to bring us back to FCC from the ISBCC after the GBIO action wraps up at 4:30. If you haven't registered, there's still time: Register with this link! or find Casey, Phil, or Will to help you. MORE PEOPLE, MORE POWER!

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.



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.

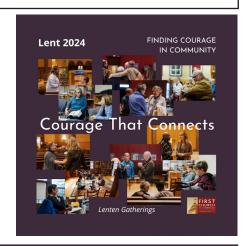
Visit the <u>Transition at First Church</u> page of our website for ongoing updates.

Interim Search Congregational Survey

LENT AT FIRST CHURCH

Lenten Gatherings: Courage That Connects - Soup Suppers Tuesday, March 5 & Thursday, March 21, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. The Parsonage (44 Garden St.)

We have set some time aside to break bread and find courage and nourishment of body and soul through a series of informal gatherings that will be hosted at the Parsonage. 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.





Choir Rehearses for Holy Week Services Thursdays, March 7, 14, and 21, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Margaret Jewett Hall or Harter Room

The First Church Choir will meet for three evening rehearsals in preparation for Holy Week services. Come and join us in our preparations! For more information, contact Music Director Peter Sykes at: psykes@aol.com.

Young Adults: Ice Skating

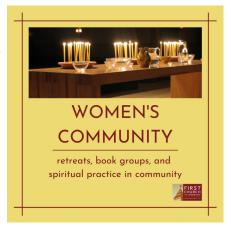
Friday, March 8, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., Steriti Rink, Boston Come join other young adults (20s and 30s) from First Church for ice skating at Steriti Rink in Boston! We'll do an hour or two of skating, then head over to the North End for some pizza. Feel free to drop in late. This event is open to anyone in 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

Women's Community Book Group Tuesday, March 12, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., via Zoom

Please join the women of FCC as we return to reading a novel. This month's read is *Our Missing Hearts* by Celeste Ng, the bestselling author of *Little Fires Everywhere*: "a deeply suspenseful and heartrending novel about the unbreakable love between a mother and child in a society consumed by fear." Join us and, as always, try to bring someone new!





Lenten Taizé Services
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.

Easter Flowers

If you wish to donate memorial flowers for loved ones this Easter, please send the names of those to be remembered to Kirsten Manville in the First Church office by March 24. Contributions of \$20 to help defray the cost of flowers can be made <u>online</u> or by check in the offering basket (payable to First Church in Cambridge, with a memo line of "Easter Flowers"). Please send an email to Kirsten (operations@firstchurchcambridge.org) with the names, even if you pay by check through the offering basket or online; this way we can make sure no one is missed.



On Easter Sunday, the congregation is invited to take a plant to a homebound parishioner to spread the joy of Easter.

LOOKING AHEAD









New Parish List On Its Way

First Church seeks to update our membership database with new information about YOU, including updated contact info like a new email address, phone number, or physical address. On Wednesday, February

21, all those in our directory database should have received an email from First Church providing you with the information we have for you on file. The message included instructions for accessing our online directory, where you can make changes to your profile and see your giving history to First Church. *If you did not receive the email on February 21, please contact Office Assistant Bruce Dillenbeck* to provide your info for our database. We sincerely appreciate your help in keeping our records in order, and we plan to have a new Parish List ready by Easter Sunday.

Middler Book & Bible Study

Sunday, April 7, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m., Harter Room and via Zoom

Join First Church's 5th graders to hear about their learning during this Church School year. Prepare by reading <u>Stella By Starlight</u>, a middle reader novel set in rural North Carolina during the Jim Crow era that students have explored side-by-side with Biblical stories about Moses and his life experiences. Copies of the novel are available at church for a donation of \$7; you can also find it in your local library or download it to your e-reader. Set aside some time to read the engaging story before April 7.



Did you read *Stella By Starlight* with the Middler class of 2017-18? If you have a copy of the book already that you'd be willing to lend to another, please bring it with you to church any Sunday before April 7!



Newtowne School Critter Count

The Newtowne School has started a "critter count" to learn about the other animals we share Harvard Square with. So far over 20 species have been seen! If you would like to share a sighting, email: ben@newtowneschool.org, or scan the QR code for more details.

FRIDAY CAFÉ NEWS



the Friday Café is now collecting

gently used clothing

for neighbors in need (adults)

jeans sweats thermals flannels
hoodies jackets rain gear coats hats
gloves scarves sneakers warm
boots toiletries camping gear

more @thefriday.cafe



Monday, March 4

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

Tuesday, March 5

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

4:00 p.m. Faith & Life Group: Reading Mary Oliver, via Zoom 5:30 p.m. Lenten Soup Supper at the Parsonage, 44 Garden St.

Wednesday, March 6

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

6:30 p.m. Faith & Life Group: Reparations Book Group, via Zoom

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

Thursday, March 7

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

Friday, March 8

12:00 p.m. Friday Café, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH) 6:00 p.m. Young Adults: Ice Skating, Steriti Rink, Boston

Sunday, March 10

9:30 a.m. Lenten Adult Formation: Courage That Inspires, Harter Room and via Zoom

See our Events Calendar

for Zoom links and details.

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

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 livestream11:20 a.m. Church School: Godly Play, Middler, and Bible 101 classes

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

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