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Easter  
March 31, 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.

**March 31, 2024**

FIRST CHURCH  
IN CAMBRIDGE  
CONGREGATIONAL

**388 YEARS  
ON THE WAY**

1 6 3 6 – 2 0 2 4

### Preaching Today

Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*

### Leading Worship

Carla Arevalo, *Pastoral Associate*

BBB, *First Church member*

Andy Clark, *guest conductor*

Sarah Higginbotham,

*Creative Worship & Arts Director*

Phil Jones, *liturgist*

Kate Layzer, *Minister of Street Outreach*

Karen McArthur,

*Minister of Stewardship & Finance*

Lee Prouty, *tech support*

Robinson Pyle, *guest musician*

Peter Sykes, *Music Director*

Emma Thomas, *Ministerial Intern*

John Whaley, *First Church youth*

### Bulletin Cover Image

Freddie Funck, *First Church member*

### Today's Programs and Events

9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)

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

### 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](http://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](mailto: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 C Major  
Sonata in B-Flat Major

Johann Sebastian Bach  
George Frideric Handel

### \*HYMN 205

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

### \*GREETING

Phil Jones

L: Sisters, brothers, siblings all, join me in the ancient Easter greeting:  
Christ is risen!

**C: He is risen, indeed —**

L: to show us the way of God's love and peace,

**C: to share God's justice and joy with our world!**

L: Give thanks, then! Give thanks and praise,

**C: for God's lasting love and boundless beauty**

L: that greets us at graves of sorrow

**C: and grounds our lives in grace, hope, courage and community!**

**All: Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen!**

### WORDS OF WELCOME

Phil Jones and Carla Arevalo

### ANTHEM

With a Voice of Singing

Martin Shaw

### \*EASTER PEACE

**All: Alleluia! Christ's peace is ours forever!**

### \*HYMN C-22

Come and Taste of Resurrection

### TIME WITH CHILDREN

Sarah Higginbotham and Emma Thomas

### CONGREGATIONAL SONG

We Are Going  
**We are going, Heaven knows where we are going.  
We'll know we're there.**

Annie Masembe

**And we'll get there, Heaven knows how we will get there.  
We know we will.**

**It will be hard we know,  
and the road will be muddy and ROUGH!  
But we'll get there, Heaven knows how we will get there.  
We know we will!**

*\*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.*

## OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Kate Layzer

READING

Luke 24:13–35

SERMON

Dan Smith

\*HYMN C-13

Christ, We Meet You On Our Way

## SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

Carla Arevalo, Phil Jones, John Whaley,  
BBB, Emma Thomas, Karen McArthur

L: God be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray... (*silence, intercessions, and the Lord's Prayer*)

L: ... Loving God,

**C: continue to show us the way!**

## 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

Alleluia

Mark Schweizer

**\*DOXOLOGY**

O Jesus, risen now to bless,  
do thou thyself our hearts possess;  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
that we may give thee all our days  
the willing tribute of our praise!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**GOING FORTH**

**\*THE HALLELUJAH CHORUS**

from *Messiah*  
Andy Clark, conducting

G. F. Handel

**\*BENEDICTION**

**VOLUNTARY**

Toccata

Giambattista Martini

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**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.*



SCAN ME

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



Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

205

1. Christ the Lord is risen to - day,  
 2. Lives a - gain our glo - rious King,  
 3. Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - - le - lu - ia!  
 4. Soar we now where Christ has led,  
 5. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!

Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say:  
 Where, O death, is now thy sting?  
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - - le - lu - ia!  
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head,  
 Praise to thee by both be given,

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high,  
 Dy - ing once, he all doth save,  
 Death in vain for - bids him rise, Al - - le - lu - ia!  
 Made like him, like him we rise,  
 Thee we greet tri - umphant now,

Sing, ye heavens, and earth re - ply:  
 Where thy vic - to - ry, O grave?  
 Christ has o - pened Par - a - dise, Al - - le - lu - ia!  
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies,  
 Hail, the Res - ur - rec - tion thou!

PEACE HYMN

C-22 Come and Taste of Resurrection

1. "Come and taste of Re - sur -  
 2. Who am I that you should  
 3. Yet you stand here watch - ing,  
 4. "Put a way then all your  
 5. Christ, your name is glo - ry,

rec - tion," speaks the voice so sweet and  
 love me? Just a crea - ture made of  
 wait - ing, hold - ing out your arms to  
 griev - ing, free your heart from point - less  
 glo - ry; hope of ev - er - las - ting

clear: "Rise and take a new di - rec - tion; if you  
 earth. Ev - ery mor - tal frag - ment of me shrinks a -  
 me, si - lent an - swer em - an - at - ing—"Love lasts  
 strife. Be not fear - ful but be - liev - ing: Now be -  
 grace: Deep in this un - fold - ing sto - ry we have

trust me, have no fear."  
 way from such re - birth.  
 an e - ter - ni - ty."  
 gins e - ter - nal life."  
 glimpsed Love face to face.

Our concept of healing is broad:

the love of God in us as  
 "earthen vessels"  
 bringing about wholeness of mind,  
 body and soul;  
 reconciliation with God,  
 with others,  
 with our deepest selves;  
 healing of the environment  
 and of the world's hurts.

Marjorie Williams

SERMON HYMN

Christ, We Meet You On Our Way C-13

1. Christ, we meet you on our way: Al - le -  
 2. Take our lives, our hopes, our dreams, Al - le -  
 3. Join us in a bond of love, Al - le -  
 4. Let your joy - ous songs be - sung, Al - le -

lu - ia! Com - ing to re - deem the day, Al - le -  
 lu - ia! Wash them in bap - tis - mal streams; Al - le -  
 lu - ia! With saints here and saints a - bove, Al - le -  
 lu - ia! In each place, by ev' - ry - tongue, Al - le -

lu - ia! Ris - ing out of dark - des - pair, Al - le -  
 lu - ia! Now from e - vil and from death, Al - le -  
 lu - ia! Chil - dren, strang - ers, ev' - ry - one, Al - le -  
 lu - ia! Gen - tle Sov - ereign, Ris - en - Friend, Al - le -

lu - ia! You would claim a world so - fair, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 lu - ia! Raise us with re - new - ing breath, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 lu - ia! You for us the vic - t'ry won, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 lu - ia! Liv - ing Spi - rit, with - out end, Al - le - lu - ia!

WORDS: Allen Happe

MUSIC: Robert Williams

LLANFAIR



## HALLELUJAH CHORUS

Hal-lelujah! Hal-lelujah!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Halle-lujah! Hal-lelujah!  
Hal-lelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Halle-lujah!

For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Halle-lu-jah!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Halle-lu-jah!

The kingdom of this world  
is become  
the Kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ,  
and of his Christ;

And He shall reign for ever and ever  
For ever and ever  
And He shall reign and He shall reign  
For ever, for ever, for ever, for ever and ever  
For ever, for ever and ever,

King of Kings,  
For ever and ever,  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

And Lord of Lords,  
For ever and ever,  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

King of Kings,  
For ever and ever,  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

And Lord of Lords,  
For ever and ever,  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

King of Kings,  
For ever and ever,  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

And Lord of Lords,  
King of Kings,  
And Lord of Lords,

And He shall reign, And He shall reign for  
ever and ever.

King of Kings  
For ever and ever!  
And Lord of Lords  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

And He shall reign for ever, for ever and  
ever.

King of Kings, and Lord of Lords,  
King of Kings, and Lord of Lords,

And He shall reign for ever and ever,

King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, Hallelujah!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

\*WAIT and WATCH\*

HAL – LE – LU – JAH!

## WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE!



We're happy that you have joined us for this Easter celebration. Today, we proclaim the joyful news that **Love is stronger than death.**

*A brief word about First Church:*

We are a Christian community seeking to live by God's radical way of hospitality. We welcome one other in all our human diversity and difference, believing that diversity enriches and makes us stronger.

We love the teachings of Jesus with our minds as well as our hearts—believing and questioning, questioning and growing.

We're an historic church (1636) with forward-looking ways. You'll find warmth and passion here, along with theological opinions, good music, food, and fellowship. In tumultuous times, we are a community of healing, resilience, and bold resistance.

If you're looking for a church to call "home," maybe we're the one! We invite you to join us again next Sunday. Talk to the person next to you in the pew. Help us get to know you by filling in a visitor card.

No matter who you are or where you are on the journey of life or the journey of faith, you are welcome here, always.

***Grounded in God,  
Growing in Community,  
Acting in Love***

## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for the family and friends of longtime First Church member Alice Kidder, who died peacefully on March 10, surrounded by family and following an extended time of declining health.
- We pray for Claire Morgan's mother Dana Hunt, who will have surgery tomorrow as a part of her pancreatic cancer treatment.
- We pray for Mike Stevens, who is recovering from aortic valve replacement surgery.
- We celebrate the birth of Brent and Poppy Coffin's grandchild, Shiloh Grace Hurst, born on March 14, and we pray for the family as they welcome Shiloh into the world. We continue to pray for Brent and Poppy as Poppy experiences a significant decline in her struggle with Alzheimer's.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer and other ongoing health challenges: Carol Wilson-Braun, who is managing ALS; Carter West, who is experiencing a chronic neurological disorder; 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; Lisa DiNardo's friend Graziella Macchetta; and Abby Shuman's uncle Barry.
- We pray for the people of Baltimore as they recover from the collapse of the Francis Scott Key bridge this past Tuesday. We pray especially for the families of the six construction workers who are presumed dead.
- We pray for the families, friends, and loved ones of the 139 people killed, as well as for those injured, in a deadly shooting and fire in Moscow.
- 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 all those impacted by the violence of war and political upheaval, throughout the Middle East, in Ukraine, and in Sudan. This week, we pray especially for the people of Haiti, given the heart-wrenching turmoil and gang-related violence leading to the near-collapse of the government and human services sector.
- We pray for political and climate refugees and migrants who make often life-threatening border crossings over land and open water. We pray for wisdom and justice to prevail as our court system tackles issues of immigration in its rulings.
- 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.

## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- 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.*



### **In Memoriam**

A memorial service for beloved First Church member Alice Kidder will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 20, in the Sanctuary and via livestream, with a reception to follow in Margaret Jewett Hall.

### **Prayer for Israel and Palestine**

As the war in Gaza and Israel continues, and as the threat of famine in Gaza looms, our hearts cry out in prayer. With the death of 1400 Israelis and over 31,000 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.



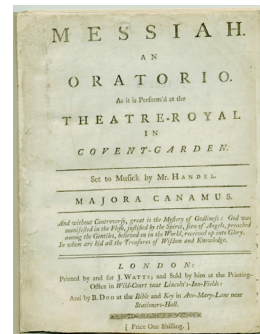
**Do you want to follow the hyperlinks, but you're holding a paper bulletin in your hand?**

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

### About the Hallelujah Chorus

Today, as on Easter's past, we joyfully sing out a beloved masterpiece that for many is synonymous with Easter celebration: the famous "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's oratorio *Messiah*. We do so, however, with an awareness that this piece has a complex history. Some scholars believe *Messiah* contains elements of anti-Jewish hostility. The "Hallelujah Chorus" has come under particular scrutiny, leading to symposia and media coverage on the possible undertones of the piece, given where it falls in the oratorio. You may read more [here](#). Even as we sing out with joy today, we are committed to learning more and considering how we can hold a painful and complex legacy alongside our appreciation of iconic artworks from the past.



*Today's Easter flowers  
are given in celebration and in loving memory of:*



Jeanne Abrahamsen/Oma  
Becky Blank  
Rev. Dudne M. Breeze  
Arthur Winsor Brigham  
Carol Virginia Brigham  
Frank Whitney Brigham  
Velma Brigham  
Christina Carlucci  
Evelyn B. Curry  
Park S. Curry  
Joseph Paul Oscar Cyr  
Marie Theriault Cyr  
Julia B. Defenderfer  
Rev. Robert C. Defenderfer  
Robert C. Defenderfer II  
Katharine Destler  
The Eaton Family  
Beverley Evans  
Pauline Fennel  
Emily Grant  
Wells and Helen Grogan

Allen Happe & Judy McConnell  
John Harlan  
C. William Higginbotham  
Elizabeth Wood Holtzworth  
James W. Holtzworth  
Hilary Hopkins  
Grace Hsiao  
Ruth Yu Hsiao  
Laura Jabado  
Laura and Harold Jensen  
Alice Kidder  
Frank J. Knab, Jr.  
Joan T. Knab  
Bill Lander  
Daniel Burke Leahy  
Virginia Caird Ludwig  
Bob Melichar  
Cindy Melichar  
Marvin G. Mestler  
Ruth Wilcox Mestler  
Anita and Roger Michaud  
Frances Heckathorne Mueller  
Archie, Estelle, and Phil Paris  
Bob and Betty Paul

John Steven Paul  
Joseph Perna  
Annie and Holly Petrallia  
Eric Riedel  
Elizabeth Rose  
Katie Ryde  
Christine Searcy  
Andy, Jeri, Ione,  
and Levon Shuman  
Albert A Smith  
Ernest and Rita Stevens  
Mark Sykes  
Ken Vonderhaar  
Rev. Robert A. Wendelin  
Margaret Goetz Wendelin  
Janet Wagner  
Paul W. Wendelin  
Clarence Nesbitt Wilcox  
Helen Warner Wilcox  
Honora and David Willcutts  
Wallace D. Williams  
Alyce Gowdy Wright  
Hing-Chung Yip  
Mr. & Mrs. Y. J. Yu



## EASTERTIDE AT FIRST CHURCH

### Men's Breakfast

**Saturday, April 6, 8:00 - 9:30 a.m., Harter Room**

All who identify as men at First Church are invited to join us in person on Saturday morning for our monthly gathering, a time to reflect and rejoice. If you would like to be added to the Men's Breakfast email list to receive reminders of these gatherings, please contact Peter Byerly: [p.byerly@comcast.net](mailto:p.byerly@comcast.net)



### Food Pantry Donations on Communion Sundays

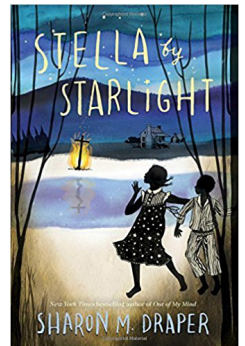
First Church continues to provide contributions to the Many Helping Hands Food Pantry. The volunteer-run, donation-driven pantry offers a grocery shopping experience on the second Saturday of each month. You are invited to donate healthy snacks, hygiene products, spices, and (when possible) items bought in bulk/case, as this supports customers having a similar shopping experience.

*First Church donations can be left in the large baskets in the Narthex on the first Sunday of each month, which is next Sunday, April 7.*

### 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 [Stella By Starlight](#), 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.



### Piano Music Giveaway

**Sunday, April 7, 12:15-12:45 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall**

There will be a wide assortment of piano music (both sheet music and books) available after worship on April 7. Selections include adult and child level music, duets, Christmas music, etc. Everyone is invited to take a look, especially children, adult piano players, and piano teachers. The music is free, but if you feel so moved, a contribution could be directed to First Church's [Frobenius Organ Fund](#) or to the music program of the church.

## EASTERTIDE AT FIRST CHURCH

### Peter Sykes Celebrates Anniversary of First Recital Sunday, April 7 at 3:00 p.m., via YouTube Premiere

Fifty years ago, on Sunday, April 7, 1974, at 3:00 p.m., First Church Music Director Peter Sykes gave his first harpsichord recital. (He was a sophomore in high school.) To commemorate the occasion, Peter will present a virtual harpsichord recital on the very same instrument that he and his father built from a kit. Visit the church's [events calendar](#) to find the link to the virtual performance on Sunday, April 7, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.



PETER SYKES

On Sunday, April 7 at 3 p.m., Peter Sykes, a 12-year-old sophomore at Breckton High School, will present a three-keyboard concert plans, harpsichord, and clavichord music. He will display the instruments and play compositions appropriate to each.

Sykes built his own clavichord from a kit supplied by Zuckerman Harpsichords of New York. He also built the harpsichord from a kit supplied by Frank Hubbard, author of "Three Centuries of Harpsichord Making," and the man probably most responsible for reviving an interest in harpsichords.

Harpsichord offerings will include works by J.S. Bach and Louis Couperin. Mr. Sykes will play Portuguese baroque compositions on the clavichord, and works by Beethoven, Chopin, and Grieg on the piano.

Peter Sykes began his study of piano at age seven at the Cape Cod Conservatory of Music, and is currently studying with Gregorio Lantieri. He has appeared in many concerts locally, and hopes to make music his career.



### Young Adults: Bowling!

**Tuesday, April 9, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Sacco's Bowl Haven, Davis Square**

Come join other young adults (20s and 30s) from First Church for bowling, pizza, and fun times at Sacco's in Somerville! Our budget will cover lanes and shoes for everyone who signs up. 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.

### Ecclesiastical Council for Jaz Buchanan

**Tuesday, April 9, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., via Zoom**

An Ecclesiastical Council (EC) is the final step in the process leading to ordination in the United Church of Christ. The EC for First Church's former Pastoral Associate Jaz Buchanan is taking place on Tuesday, April 9, and you are invited to bear witness to her accomplishments. This gathering is a time to hear Jaz present her theological reflections and take questions from member churches in our geographic association of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ. If you wish to attend, please [RSVP here](#) to receive the Zoom link.



### GBIO Housing Justice Lobby Day

**Thursday, April 11, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

**Massachusetts State House, Beacon St., Boston**

Meet up with others from the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) at the State House steps to remind our legislators of their commitments from our In-District Meetings (IDM) campaign, and show them we won't back down!

[REGISTER HERE!](#)

## EASTERTIDE AT FIRST CHURCH



### **Aging with Grace Monthly Meeting**

**Tuesday, April 16, 3:00 - 4:15 p.m., via Zoom**

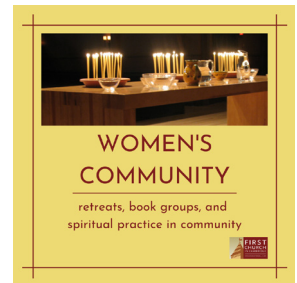
Join Ginny Harlan, Martha Cook, and Dan Smith for a monthly support group where we offer each other companionship and spiritual resources as we grow into our elderhood. In this special season of our lives, let's explore together some of those Big Questions as we let God's presence and this community hold us. We can become elders together as we

seek dignity, courage, grace, hope, peace, and wisdom in the ending phase of our lives. Martha Mueller Cook will send out the reading, some supporting materials, and the Zoom link. Please try to come prepared to share a passage from the reading that is particularly compelling for you. You are welcome to join at any time; homework is not a requirement for participation!

### **Women's Community Book Group**

**Tuesday, April 16, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., via Zoom**

Please join the women of FCC for a rip-roaring discussion of Drew Gilpin Faust's *Necessary Trouble: Growing Up at Midcentury*. This is a memoir by the former president of Harvard that describes her life as "a privileged white girl in conservative, segregated Virginia [who] was expected to adopt a willful blindness to the inequities of race and the constraints of gender. The acceptance of both female subordination and racial hierarchy proved intolerable and galvanizing, [and] she found resistance was necessary for her survival." As we think of our own roles in society, Faust's book is a great inspiration!



### **Reparations in Cambridge**

**Sunday, April 21, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall**

Learn about reparations in Cambridge and a new Reparationist Club. Join local community members for an interactive discussion on how the City of Cambridge is approaching reparations and pathways to repair harm from the racial caste system. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn further on transitional justice, human rights, caste, transnational solidarity, and reparations through monthly Reparationist Club meetings held by local reparative justice organization, [Grow to Consume](#).

Please register here:

[bit.ly/repaircambridgemarch](http://bit.ly/repaircambridgemarch)

## REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT MINISTRY

### Opportunities to Help

We have some exciting news to share about a new initiative within our First Church Refugee Ministry (formerly known as Welcome Corps) – and we need your help!

We are collaborating with the recently-opened MA Safety Net Family Shelter located in the Registry of Deeds (RoD) Building in East Cambridge. This shelter is already at capacity and is housing 200 people from 60 families, all new migrants to the US. You may recall that the Welcome Corps refugees with whom we were matched have been indefinitely delayed. Given this, we decided to shift our efforts to support migrants already in our community during the current crisis and to utilize our resources in a relevant and engaged way.

After meeting with the East Cambridge Shelter, City, and State staff, we have two projects that we are taking on right away. Please note that details may change as we continue to collaborate with the East Cambridge Shelter.

### Teen Room

The East Cambridge Shelter has a space it would like to dedicate to its twenty kids aged 12 – 18. We plan to create a cool, cozy, and productive space for schoolwork, hang-out time, and fun. This will be an immediate and time-limited project. We need volunteers who are interested in:

- connecting with Shelter leadership to plan the space;
- brainstorm what should be there;
- source, purchase, and deliver items;
- and finally, set-up the space.



### Welcome Center at FCC

The Shelter is closed from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on weekdays, leaving guests to find places to go during the chilly days. We would like to welcome them to our church building by providing Margaret Jewett Hall as a multi-purpose space to meet some of their needs, starting with a few Tuesday mornings in April. We need volunteers who can provide:

- greeting and general support during our open hours
- meal support - sourcing, buying, serving and cleaning up lunch
- translation in Haitian-Creole, Spanish, and French
- tutoring for ESOL (English Speakers of Other Languages)
- job coaching
- childcare for little ones not enrolled in school

If you would like to volunteer or learn more, please reach out to Martha Mueller Cook at: [marthamuellercook@gmail.com](mailto:marthamuellercook@gmail.com).

We look forward to hearing from you very soon about getting involved!



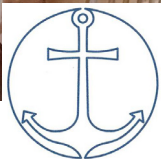
## HOMELESS MINISTRIES

### *Shelter, Community Advocacy*

Through programs like the First Church Shelter and our weekly Friday Café, we offer hospitality, home cooking, and a variety of resources to neighbors experiencing homelessness.

Learn more, and find out how you can get involved:

[firstchurchcambridge.org/homeless-ministries](http://firstchurchcambridge.org/homeless-ministries)







# THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



## Monday, April 1

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

## Tuesday, April 2

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

## Wednesday, April 3

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

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

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

6:00 p.m. Becoming a Trans and Non-Binary Affirming Church, via Zoom

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

## Thursday, April 4

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

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

## Friday, April 5

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

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

## Saturday, April 6

8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast, Harter Room

## Sunday, April 7

9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: Middler Book & Bible Study, Harter Room

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 in Margaret Jewett Hall

3:00 p.m. Peter Sykes' Anniversary Recital, via YouTube Premiere

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

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