



FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

Congregational 1633-1636
United Church of Christ
Garden and Mason Streets
Cambridge, Massachusetts

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC
August 15, 2010
THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

VOLUNTARY

*HYMN 1 *We Limit Not the Truth of God*

*GREETING Brian James

L: Grace, mercy and peace to you from God, brothers and sisters!

C: **From God whose light and truth are breaking forth even now.**

L: From morning to morning, from age to age,

C: **God's spirit is with us.**

L: In the silence of our hearts and in the depths of our needs,

C: **in the potential of our love and in the beauty of our togetherness,**

L: come in then, be at home!

C: **Come in and let us worship and give praise to God!**

WORDS OF WELCOME Dan Smith

ANTHEM *Oculi omnium* Wood

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

C: **God of all mercy and understanding,
forgive us when we are quick and careless judges
Of ourselves, of others and of creation.
Grant us your sense of time,
your sense of proportion,
your sense of the future.
Expand our narrow minds and hearts
until we know the fullness
of your truth, light and grace.
This we ask in Jesus name,
Amen.**

**You are invited to stand.*

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

*HYMN 271 *Lead Me, Lord*

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING Jeremiah 23: 23-29

RESPONSIVE PSALM 82

L: God you have taken your place in the divine council;
in the midst of the gods you hold judgement:

**C: 'How long will you judge unjustly
and show partiality to the wicked?**

L: Give justice to the weak and the orphan;
maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute.

**C: Rescue the weak and the needy;
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.'**

L: They have neither knowledge nor understanding,
they walk around in darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

**C: I say, 'You are gods,
children of the Most High, all of you;**

L: nevertheless, you shall die like mortals,
and fall like any prince.'

**C: Rise up, O God, judge the earth;
for all the nations belong to you!**

READING Luke 12: 49-56

SERMON Dan Smith

*HYMN 221 *Holy Spirit, Truth Divine*

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD Joanne Paul

L: God be with you.

C: And with your spirit.

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

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

**All: Our Father, 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 THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

The Call

Smith

*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Praise God who gives all blessings bright!
Praise Christ the Servant, God's Delight!
Praise Spirit, holy Depth and Height!
One God, one Life, one endless Light!**

*HYMN 259

Awake, Awake to Love and Work

*LEAVE TAKING BLESSING

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Ultimate Jude

Paul Sawyer

*Praise ye the Lord above, praise ye the Lord!
Now unto the One who is able to keep you from falling,
And present you faultless before the presence of Glory with exceeding joy,
to the only wise God, our savior be glory and majesty,
both now and forever. Amen.*

VOLUNTARY

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE...

Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, we are thankful that you are with us today, and hope that you will stay for a bit after worship for refreshments and conversation. (Follow the crowd.) First Church is an open and affirming, just peace congregation of the United Church of Christ. If you'd like to know more about us, please speak to one of the ministers after church, or visit us on the web at www.firstchurchcambridge.org

**Large print bulletins and assistive listening devices are available.
Please ask a greeter for assistance.**

Activity packets for children's use during worship are also available near the sanctuary doors. Nursery care for infants and toddlers (through age 4) is located down the hallway and up four stairs to the door on the right. The worship service is also broadcast in the Hastings Room, across from the sanctuary entrance.

PREACHING TODAY IS Dan Smith, Senior Minister. Assisting with worship is First Church Deacon Joanne Paul. Our liturgist is First Church Treasurer Brian James. Peter Sykes, Director of Music, is playing the organ and directing the choir.

The **YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED** section of the bulletin is omitted from this online version to preserve the privacy of those mentioned. If you'd like more information on the people we're praying for this week, please contact the church office at parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org or 617-547-2724 and we'll get the information to you.

FIRE DRILL TODAY At the close of today's worship service, we will have a fire drill. An evacuation plan has been developed by the Disaster Preparation Planning Committee. The drill will not take long, and we thank you in advance for your cooperation. If you have any questions about the drill, please contact Kirsten Manville in the church office at parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org

SUMMER COOKOUT AT THE PARSONAGE - NEXT SUNDAY! On Sunday August 22nd, Dan and Nancy will be hosting a summer cookout at the parsonage. After church and refreshments on the lawn, please plan to head down to 44 Garden St for a fun and casual afternoon of food and fellowship. Kids and families are more than welcome. This will also be an opportunity to say farewell to our beloved church member Frances Whistler before she returns to England on August 31 after six years here in Boston.

MENTAL HEALTH & SPIRITUALITY GROUP Join us each Sunday 2:00-3:30 p.m. in the Tower Room for sharing how our struggles and our faith inform each other. The group is open: you may attend as often or as little as you like, and newcomers are always welcome. Talk to or e-mail Terry McKinney (temckinney@msn.com) or Carter West (stbosal@arczip.com).

PRAYER AND THE PRACTICE OF MEETING GOD has a new name and a new time. All are welcome to join the **Contemplative Prayer Small Group**, which is meeting throughout the summer at **12:30 p.m. in the chapel**. The group is open so all are welcome to come regularly or just drop in once. The group is organized around a 30 minute stretch of silence couched in brief chanting, psalmody, and a simple liturgy of spoken prayer. If you are looking for a time of communal silence to connect on a more intimate level with God and community then this small group might be a perfect fit. Please join us! For more information, contact First Church Deacon Adwoa Lewis-Wilson at adwoalw1@gmail.com.

YOUNG FAMILIES AUGUST BBQS! Building on the energy created during our first gathering in June, the Young Families Group (those with children 8 years old and younger) organized two backyard cookouts during the month of August as opportunities for connection and fellowship among FCC families during the summer. The first cookout this past Wednesday was a lot of fun, and we are looking forward to the next one! Special thanks to the Blanc and Pelton-Cairns families, who are opening their yards to us all. Here are the details for the second and final August cookout:

SATURDAY AUGUST 28 at 4 P.M.

Leslie and Jim Pelton-Cairns

171 Warren Street

Watertown, MA 02472

RSVP/questions: pelton.cairns@gmail.com

ANY BODY, EVERYBODY, CHRIST'S BODY is the title of a resource guide to help churches become more welcoming and accessible to people with disabilities. This was also the theme of the UCC Coalition gathering in July for which Carolyn Thompson gave the keynote address, "From Creation to Community." A number of people have asked for copies of this sermon. It is now available under Sermons on the First Church website at <http://www.firstchurchcambridge.org/pages/sermons/>. Take a look and see how this expands on the Open Door, Open Table vision of First Church.

UTE'S FIRST SUNDAY! SEPTEMBER 5TH Although she doesn't officially begin her ministry with First Church until August 31, our new Minister of Spiritual Formation, Ute Molitor, has already been dropping by the church to deliver books and office furniture. Her first Sunday in morning worship will be September 5. We'll be further welcoming her and offering opportunities for us all to get to know one another on Regathering Sunday, September 12, and throughout the fall. Let's keep Ute and her family in our prayers throughout these summer months, as she finds some time for Sabbath rest and prepares for this exciting new ministry adventure!

NEW ORLEANS DISASTER RECOVERY SERVICE TRIP February 20-26, 2011 stay in dorm style accommodations at a local UCC church, while you help to rebuild New Orleans. Your cost would be as follows: Flight-\$276.30 on Delta Airlines, Housing - \$50.00 at St. Paul's UCC, Food - TBD family style meals cost shared equally (approx \$90) and shared cost of a rental Van. For more information, please contact Jennie Valentine, 508-572-5564 or jennieval@comcast.net. The deadline to sign up is September 1, 2010. \$100 deposit due at sign up to hold your space. The trip open to travelers age 16+ and no experience is necessary.

SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH

During the months of July and August children are invited to remain in the sanctuary for the entire worship service. We hope that kids will join in our congregation's singing, praising, praying, and peace-passing. For quieter moments, such as the readings and sermon, books and activity packets are available in the corner by the side entrance. We encourage children to pick a quiet activity to help them settle in during this time. If younger children are especially fidgety, families are welcome to move to the Hastings Room (with books and activity packets in hand), where speakers connected to the sanctuary sound system allow you to hear the service.

Through the months of July and August, **worship will be held at 10:00 a.m.**, with pick-up choir meeting at 9 a.m.

The First Church office will be closed on Fridays throughout the summer. The building will remain open as usual, and a sexton will be in the building at all times.

Mission Moment—Restore Us

August 15, 2010

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Proper 15)

How does your congregation announce that it's ready to welcome everyone?

Generosity: Best Practices

A “practice” is often something you do every day—getting better and better at it. Is it possible to become a more generous person by “practicing”?

Of course! In fact, there's really no other way...

Generous giving goes along with generous living.

If you're interested in exploring generous living, consider ordering “The Big Secret of Giving: Hidden Treasures in Life and Church,” a 30-day devotional with reflections, prayers, and quotes.

(Order from UC Resources by calling 800-537-3394; cost is \$3).

Written especially for church members, you'll find “The Big Secret of Giving,” by William C. Green, former UCC Executive for Faith and Giving, original and thought-provoking. And . . . it will help you “practice”!

Stewardship Message

Sabbath Time

I lift up my eyes to the hills... Psalm 121

When you read this message, I hope to be having some Sabbath and renewal time in the mountains of New Hampshire. I know that my help does not come from pine-covered hills, but from the God who made heaven and earth. Still it helps to get away even for just a week to a place of beauty and rest. I hope you have the chance to go somewhere you find restful, even if it is your own backyard. Perhaps the most violated of the Ten Commandments is the one about taking Sabbath time; God tried to establish a society where one of the basic rules was that no created being, not even a servant, should work all the time. We need to take time simply to, as an old Confession puts it, remember that our “chief end” is to praise and enjoy God.

In your Sabbath, whether a day off or a vacation, give of your mental capital, your spiritual energy, to listen for God this summer. Time for reflection, for wonder, for honest questions, for waiting on the Spirit all are gifts to ourselves, to God, and ultimately to our faith communities. This kind of time makes us whole, so that we can work with God to bring wholeness to the world. Give God time this summer. Oh, and don't forget to send in your pledge, too!

Rochelle A. Stackhouse is the Senior Minister of The Church of the Redeemer, United Church of Christ, New Haven Connecticut.

August 2010

God is still speaking,

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



This resource is a free service and is made possible by your gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission.

The Month Ahead

Today, Sunday, August 15

- 9:00 a.m. Pickup Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Dan Smith, preaching
- 12:30 p.m. Contemplative Prayer Group, Lindsay Chapel
- 2:00 p.m. Mental Health and Spirituality Group, Tower Room
- 5:30 p.m. "Kyrie" Devotional Small Group, MJH

Sunday, August 22

- 9:00 a.m. Pickup Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Dan Smith, preaching
- 12:00 p.m. Summer Cookout, Parsonage (44 Garden St.)
- 12:30 p.m. Contemplative Prayer Group, Lindsay Chapel
- 2:00 p.m. Mental Health and Spirituality Group, Tower Room
- 5:30 p.m. "Kyrie" Devotional Small Group, MJH

Sunday, August 29

- 9:00 a.m. Pickup Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Carter West, preaching
- 12:30 p.m. Contemplative Prayer Group, Lindsay Chapel
- 2:00 p.m. Mental Health and Spirituality Group, Tower Room
- 5:30 p.m. "Kyrie" Devotional Small Group, MJH

The large yellowwood trees in front of First Church were planted in 1873 by the famed botanist and First Church deacon Asa Gray. In honor of them, the bulletin covers for 2009-2010 feature collages made from their leaves and branches, created at the 10 o'clock experience hour. This Sunday's image was created by Nellie Baxandall.

First Church Covenant Testimony

Adopted 1990

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 with justice and equity for all people;

To engage in non-violent 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 that love which overcomes fear and death.

This we testify, confessing always our reliance on God's grace in Christ, and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Staff of First Church in Cambridge

Senior Minister	Dan Smith, 617-547-2724, ext. 23 dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org
Director of Music	Peter Sykes, 617-661-0570 psykes@aol.com
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Affiliate Minister of Mental Health Outreach	Terry McKinney, 781-643-7324 temckinney@msn.com
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FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL

United Church of Christ

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