



FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

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

FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE
CONGREGATIONAL
381 YEARS
ON THE WAY
1 6 3 6 - 2 0 1 7

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE...
Grounded in God • Growing in Community • Acting in Love

Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, we are thankful that you are with us today, and we hope that you will stay for a bit after worship for refreshments and conversation. 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 introduce yourself to one of the ministers after church and explore our website at www.firstchurchcambridge.org.

Children of all ages are welcome in our worship. Picture books, children's Bibles, and activity packets can be found in the Children's Book Corner located by the door to the parish building (to the right of the chancel). Children may visit the Book Corner at any point during worship. Nursery care for infants and toddlers is located through that door, up the ramp, and through the fire door. Fussy babies and their caregivers are invited to use Sage Hall, our basement play-space, or the Narthex in the weeks leading up to the completion of the Hastings Common.

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

WORSHIP LEADERS
September 17, 2017

Preaching

Dan Smith, Senior Minister

Liturgist

Tony Amoury Alkhoury, Ministerial Intern

Leading Worship

Karin Case, Minister
Kate Layzer, Minister of Street Outreach

Playing Organ and Directing Choir

Peter Sykes, Director of Music

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

Sonata II

Paul Hindemith

*HYMN C-20

The Household of God

*GREETING

Tony Amoury Alkhoury

L: Beloved of God, whether you are here for an hour or a lifetime
welcome to this household of God's grace!

C: **Here, where our lives are grounded in the hope and
healing of God**

L: Here, where we grow together in community and belonging.

C: **Here, where we act together in love for a better world.**

L: Sisters, brothers, siblings in the Spirit, come gather in.

C: **Here, in this sacred place, where there is room for us all!**

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANTHEM

○ Lord, Give Thy Holy Spirit

John Harper

CONFESSING

INVITATION

SILENCE

SUNG PRAYER

Lord, Prepare Me To Be a Sanctuary

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
sanctuary for you!

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

**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.*

BLESSING AND DEDICATION OF GRIFFIN DESTLER

Opening Words

Parents' Promises

Godparents' Promises

*Congregation's Promises

L: Please rise! Now that Griffin's parents and godparents have made their promises, I ask you all...

L: Will you encourage Griffin to live a life of faith marked by courage, integrity, and truth-seeking? If so, please say we will.

All: We will.

L: Do you promise to attend to your own spiritual journeys, to resist oppression and evil, and to show love and justice as best you are able? If so, please say we will.

All: We will, with the help of God.

L: Do you promise your love, support, and care to Alyce and Mark on their journeys? If so, please say we do.

All: We do.

L: Do you promise your love, support, and care to Griffin as he grows into the fullness of his created potential? If so, please say we do, with the help of God.

All: We do, with the help of God.

FINAL BLESSING

L: Please join me in the final prayer:

All: God, may your blessing and peace be upon Griffin, Mark, and Alyce, and your peace be upon all who love him, now and always. Amen.

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING

Romans 14:1-12

HOMILY

Dan Smith

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Smith

MINISTRY MOMENT

Moana Bentin

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

Kate Layzer

L: God be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Please pray this prayer and address God 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

OFFERTORY

Lobt Gott mit Schall

Heinrich Schütz

Praise God with joy, all ye nations, ye people praise the Lord.

God's grace and favor be with us, it helps heartily.

The faithful will forever keep God's word, with cheerful mind,
with cheerful heart sing we always with joy!

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, the Source of life and birth,
Praise God, the Word, who came to earth,
Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame,
All glory, honor, to God's name. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOING FORTH

*HYMN 485

Bless Now, O God, the Journey

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE, Hymn 344**

Thuma Mina

*(The congregation is invited to join
in the singing of this response.)*

**Send me, Jesus, send me Jesus
Send me, Jesus, send me Lord**

Lead me, Jesus...

Fill me, Jesus...

**Thuma mina...
Thuma mina somandla**

VOLUNTARY

Sonata II

Paul Hindemith

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

- We pray for all those impacted by the recent news of the dismantling of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). May our federal government find a path of compassionate justice for all immigrants seeking safety, security, and well-being in our nation.
- For all those affected by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, and related flooding, and for their loved ones.
- For our nation as it continues to wrestle with ongoing expressions of white supremacy, anti-Semitism, and Islamophobia.
- For all who have fled their home countries as a result of war and terrorism, and for clarity in responding to immigration crises around the world.
- For neighbors facing extreme famine in Somalia, South Sudan, Yemen, and Nigeria.
- For all political leaders, including our current administration, that they may know God's spirit of wisdom and justice in these troubling times.
- For ourselves, that we may open our hearts and minds to all those we disagree with or don't understand, and find the grace to listen, connect, and join together in our common humanity.

Portions of the YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED section of the bulletin are omitted in the online version to protect the privacy of those mentioned. To find out who we are praying for this week, please contact the church offices at parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org or by calling 617-547-2724.

A PRAYER FOR IMMIGRANTS

God of love, God of mercy and God of liberation,
bless this movement for immigrants
to gain the dignity that all people deserve.

We pray for the more than two million families
who have recently been deported
and whose families have been separated.

Today we pray for relief from deportation
for more than five million immigrants
through deferred action legislation.

We pray that our Supreme Court Justices
might take the side of compassion and allow this
much-needed program to move forward.

We know they are the highest court in the land,
but we look to a higher court and a higher law,
one where we understand that loving one another
and welcoming one another into God's family
is of the utmost importance
and we pray to keep these families together. Amen.

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MINISTERIAL INTERN Today we welcome Tony Amoury Alkhoury as our Ministerial Intern for the coming year, along with Jen Bloesch who is returning for a second year with us. Tony is 33 years old and is from Homs, Syria, where he graduated with a MSC in Clinical Pharmacy from Damascus University. He is currently a second-year MDiv candidate at Harvard Divinity School. After graduation, he hopes to get his green card, which would allow him to travel back and forth to help his church and people back in Syria. Tony will be focusing his learning on the areas of preaching and worship, adult formation, and spiritual care and counseling, including work at the Friday Cafe.

WELCOME AND LOOKING AHEAD Today, 10 a.m., New Meeting Room Join us for our first 10 a.m. gathering of the year to reconnect, catch up on what's been happening in our building over the summer months, learn details of our soon-to-be-completed renovations, and catch a glimpse of some of our new spaces. Our new Ministerial Intern, Tony Amoury Alkhoury, joins us today and we'll have a chance to meet Tony and hear a little bit about his background and his plans for the year ahead. Come, catch the excitement as we begin a new program year at First Church.

NEWCOMERS' OPEN HOUSE AT THE PARSONAGE, Today, 12:45–2:00 p.m. Whether you are just getting settled into a new apartment, program, or city, or you've recently joined First Church and still feel new, please join us for Newcomers' Open House at the Parsonage. After church on September 17, walk down to 44 Garden Street, anytime from 12:45–2:00 p.m. for a casual time of good food, conversation, and getting acquainted.

BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH SUNDAY As part of the City of Cambridge's Meet Your Neighbor Day, we have been invited to bring a friend or neighbor to First Church today. Of course, friends and neighbors are always welcome, but today we especially reach out and welcome the wider community!

NIGHT SONG, SOLEMN MYSTICAL COMPLINE Tonight, 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Spend some time at the end of the day nourishing your soul at Night Song. Vox Equalis (treble voices) and Daryl Bichel offer ancient and contemporary chant and improvisation by candlelight, providing space for contemplation and prayer information.

FALL ALL-CHURCH RETREAT—Register now! Friday evening, September 29—Sunday midday, October 1, Craigville Conference Center, Craigville, Cape Cod First Church will host its Annual All-ages, All-church Retreat September 29 – October 1. There is still room for you! Register online now at www.firstchurchcambridge.org. Mouse over Worship, Music and Spiritual Life on our home page, then click on Spiritual Formation on the drop-down menu. Scholarships are available.

FUTURE HAPPENINGS

CALLING CARPENTERS AND CONSTRUCTION VOLUNTEERS, Saturday, September 23rd, 9am–4pm, 151 Blue Hill Avenue, Roxbury Clergy and Laity for Affordable Housing, with support from Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries, will have a work day, providing an opportunity to work with other churches, both urban and suburban, and show love for neighbor in a tangible way. First Church members who attended previous sessions reported a very good experience in relationship building and on-the-ground work. For more information, please contact Alice Kidder at 617-276-6227 or flintkiddr@aol.com. Donations of materials welcome.

REGATHERING SUNDAY, September 24 Our contractors will still be doing some finishing work, which is why we are Regathering later than usual this year. After a summer of construction, we will be all the more ready to reconnect—members, friends, and newcomers alike! Plan to join us on Sunday, September 24, for a full day of worship and fellowship, with Christian Formation activities at 10:00 a.m., Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m., Church School Classes at 11:20 a.m., and a lunch after worship in Margaret Jewett Hall. Feast on great food with friends old and new and feast your eyes on our almost-finished project (the Dedication will likely be in mid-October).

“500”: A FOUR SESSION ADULT FORMATION SERIES FOR THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION Sundays, September 24, October 8, 15 and 22 at 10 am in Margaret Jewett Hall Join us as we dip into a bit of church history and celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. We will follow a series of readings and reflections offered through a study guide prepared by the the United Church of Christ’s Still Speaking Writers’ Group and edited by our previous Senior Minister, Rev. Dr. Mary Luti. “This study guide celebrates the United Church of Christ’s Reformation heritage by lifting up some of the Reformation’s central claims. There is beauty here. And ugliness too. Inasmuch as ideas can thrill, these ideas are thrilling. Brace yourself.”—from the Foreword. We will have copies of the booklet available in church throughout September for a \$5 suggested donation.

CONFIRMATION AND YOUTH GROUP KICK-OFF, September 24 Confirmands (8th/9th graders) and their parents are invited to an Orientation to Confirmation after worship at 12:30 p.m. on Regathering Sunday. We’ll take our lunch to the New Meeting Room to learn about the year ahead, culminating in Confirmation Sunday on Pentecost in May 2018. And then at 3:00 p.m., the Youth Group (9th-12th graders) is invited to meet at the church for their first meeting, a trip to Walden Pond.

FUTURE HAPPENINGS

FRIDAY CAFÉ VOLUNTEER TRAINING AND ORIENTATION, Friday, October 13, 1:00–3:00 p.m., New Meeting Room In anticipation of the opening of Season IV, the Friday Café will hold a training and orientation for new and experienced volunteers one week before Opening Day. This will be a chance to reconnect, prepare for the year, and do some skill building. Sign up at: signup.com/go/qOzFhdP. The Friday Café is a weekly community gathering space at First Church where neighbors experiencing homelessness and food insecurity can relax and eat. It's also a place of encounter, where people in different life situations can sit and talk. Learn more at www.thefriday.cafe

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE Please see the Fall EVENT newsletter for a full update on progress. As you can see, the summer has brought a lot of it! The first phase of preservation and structural work is now complete. We expect to have access to our new meeting room as well as as to Margaret Jewett Hall and the new walkway by September 24. We are holding Sunday, October 22, as a tentative date for a for such a time as this Dedication Sunday! By that point, our kitchen should be ready to use. Thank you for your patience!

HURRICANE RELIEF THROUGH THE UCC Our hearts and prayers go out to all impacted by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. The United Church of Christ is active in networks that meet immediate needs and focuses on long-term recovery that may well last 5 + years. To learn how you can contribute to those efforts, please visit:

- http://www.ucc.org/disaster_hurricane_2017_relief
- or donate via our offering plate, online, or by mail

Please make checks payable to First Church in Cambridge, with Hurricane Relief in the memo.

100% of funds to the United Church of Christ designated for U.S. disaster relief are used for disaster relief and rehabilitation programming within the United States.

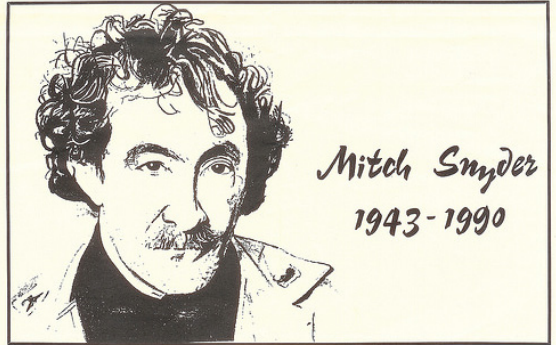
If you would like to give in a more targeted way: Former FCC member Jonathan Page, now pastor of First Congregational Church in Houston, has written to tell us of a fund to help UCC members in Texas who are struggling to cover hurricane losses. 100% of the funds will go to people in our churches who do not have the financial resources to meet their expenses.

Checks can be sent directly to First Congregational Houston (10840 Beinhorn Road, Houston, TX 77024) or to the South Central Conference UCC offices (3610 River Road, New Braunfels, Texas 78132) with a note in the memo line marked "Disaster Relief." You can also donate to the respective funds online at <https://goo.gl/vLSyed> for FCC or <https://sccucc.org/donate/>, for the South Central Conference.

SAVE THE DATES: FIRST CHURCH SHELTER CELEBRATES 30 YEARS!

The First Church Shelter Committee and Shelter Director Jim Stewart invite all members and friends of First Church in Cambridge to join in recognizing and celebrating our thirty years of mission and service to the poor and homeless. The 2017 Mitch Snyder Awards will be presented to a number of individuals and organizations at each of the Anniversary events.

- **CELEBRATION IN THE BRAUN ROOM OF ANDOVER HALL, Friday, October 20, Harvard Divinity School.**
- **2017 MITCH SNYDER LECTURE, Thursday, October 26, 6:30 p.m., Adams House, 26 Plympton Street, Cambridge** Corey Davis, National Health Policy Law Center; and Dr. Kimberly Sue, M.D., Ph.D., Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard University, on "The Opioid Crisis 101 and What Must Be Done." The Mitch Snyder Lecture and Awards are given in memory of the selfless life and example of the late Mitch Snyder, of the Community for Creative Non-Violence, Washington, DC.
- **RECEPTION AT FIRST CHURCH Friday, October 27, 3:00 p.m.** Guest speaker: Marylou Sudders, Massachusetts Health and Human Service Secretary.
- **2017 DORIS BEAUVAIS LUNCHEON, Sunday, October 29, 12:30 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall** Guest speaker: Peter Canelos; Editor-At-Large, Politico, and former Metro and Editorial Page Editor, The Boston Globe, "Homelessness and Public Policy." The Doris Beauvais Luncheon and Lecture memorialize the life and leadership of the late Doris Beauvais, a member of First Church who played a significant role in First Church's acceptance of the challenge to offer shelter to the homeless.



Documentary Viewing, Today at 7:00pm, Old Cambridge Baptist Church (1151 Mass. Ave - enter through red doors on the Mass Ave side of the church), *Harvest of Empire*, a 90-minute documentary film featuring stories from a wide range of immigrants from Latin American countries, will be shown in the Parish Hall at Old Cambridge Baptist Church followed a half-hour discussion. By exploring this history, including U.S. involvement, the film helps to explain why there are so many undocumented immigrants from these countries in the United States. It also leaves us with the question: If the U.S. plays a role in destabilizing a country, what responsibility do we have to help its citizens?



OLD CAMBRIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH
A Progressive Peace and Justice Congregation

Film Screening and Discussion on Immigration Justice Sunday, September 17, 7:00pm

**1151 Mass Ave
Parking Available**

**Enter through red
doors on the Mass
Ave side of the
church.**

All Are Welcome

Onyx Films • EVS Communications • Luquita Productions
PRESENT

HARVEST OF EMPIRE

The Untold Story of Latinas in America

A Film Based on the Book
"Harvest of Empire" by Jose G. Riosmena

ONYX FILMS, EVS COMMUNICATIONS, and LUQUITA PRODUCTIONS PRESENT "HARVEST OF EMPIRE" A FILM BASED ON THE BOOK "HARVEST OF EMPIRE" BY JOSE G. RIOSMENA. A FILM BY JESSICA SUTHERLAND. PRODUCED BY JESSICA SUTHERLAND AND JESSICA SUTHERLAND. WRITTEN BY JESSICA SUTHERLAND AND JESSICA SUTHERLAND. CASTING BY JESSICA SUTHERLAND. COSTUME DESIGNER JESSICA SUTHERLAND. HAIR AND MAKEUP BY JESSICA SUTHERLAND. PRODUCTION DESIGNER JESSICA SUTHERLAND. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JESSICA SUTHERLAND AND JESSICA SUTHERLAND. PRODUCED BY JESSICA SUTHERLAND AND JESSICA SUTHERLAND. www.harvestofempire.com

Harvest of Empire is a 90-minute film featuring stories from a wide range of immigrants from Latin American countries asking the question: If the U.S. plays a role in destabilizing a country, what responsibility do we have to help its citizens?

THE WEEK AHEAD

September 17

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 a.m. First Church Q and A / Meet our New Ministerial Intern, New Meeting Room
- 11:00 a.m. Multigenerational Morning Worship, Dedication of Griffin Destler, Dan Smith, preaching
- 12:30 p.m. Refreshments on the Lawn
- 12:30 p.m. Discernment and Formation Meeting, New Meeting Room
- 12:45 p.m. Newcomers Open House, Parsonage, 44 Garden Street
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song Compline, Sanctuary

Monday, September 18

- 7:00 p.m. Deacon's Meeting, Marian Smith's Home

Wednesday, September 20

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Dan Smith's Office
- 7:00 p.m. Missions and Social Justice, Dan Smith's Office

Thursday, September 21

- 7:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, New Meeting Room

Saturday, September 23

- 9:00 a.m. Stewardship Comminttee Training, Global Health Innovation 104, Mt. Auburn Street, 3rd Floor

REGATHERING SUNDAY, September 24

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 a.m. Coffee/Gathering Time, MJH
- 10:00 a.m. 500: Adult Formation Series for the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, MJH
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Regathering Celebration, Dan Smith, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Opening Day classes for preschoolers-7th grade
- 12:30 p.m. Regathering Lunch, MJH
- 12:30 p.m. Confirmation Class Orientation for Parents and Students, New Meeting Room
- 3:00 p.m. Youth Group Kick-off, gather in church lobby
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song Compline, Sanctuary

THE STAFF AT FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

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**FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE
CONGREGATIONAL, 1633-1636**

United Church of Christ

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www.firstchurchcambridge.org