



FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

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

**strengthen our weaknesses,
and mend our broken hearts.
Fill us again with the spirit of Jesus,
so that with new courage and lasting joy
we may serve you well
by serving the ones you love.
In his name we pray. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

All children from Preschool to 7th grade are now invited to leave for church school. Teachers will meet children at the side door or in the narthex to accompany them to their classrooms. Parents can meet their children in Lindsay Chapel (through Margaret Jewett Hall and to the left) after worship.

*HYMN 302 *Come to Me, O Weary Traveler*

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

READING 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

SERMON Taj Smith

*HYMN 508 *Spirit of Jesus, If I Love My Neighbor*

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS Dan Smith

CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING Phil Lafollette

PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD Katie Omberg

L: God be with you.

C: And also with you.

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Please pray this prayer and address God in words most meaningful to your heart.)

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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

Prayer of St. Patrick

Mark Schweizer

*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**To God, all glorious heav'nly light,
To Christ revealed in earthly night,
To God, the Spirit, now we raise
Our joyful songs of thankful praise! Amen.**

GOING FORTH

*HYMN 352

Go Forth for God

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Benediction

Beverly Taylor

The Word is flesh and dwells among us! Glory to God in the highest!

VOLUNTARY

Dies Sind Die Heil'gen Zehn Gebot

J. S. Bach

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 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.

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

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 and down the hallway (up four stairs to the door on the right). Fussy babies and their caregivers are invited to the Hastings Room, just across the hall from that same door, where the service is broadcast through speakers.

PREACHING TODAY is Taj Smith, Ministerial Intern. Assisting with worship are Dan Smith, Senior Minister, and Katie Omberg, Ministerial Intern. Peter Sykes, Director of Music, is playing the organ and directing the choir. Our liturgist today is Daniel Andrew.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED Please pray for the people of Flint, MI as they deal with a public health crisis after unknowingly drinking city water tainted with lead since 2014. Please hold our nation in your prayers as we confront an epidemic of fear and violence against Muslims and persons of color. Pray for the peace of Israel and Palestine in the face of continued violence. Please pray for relief for migrants and refugees from Syria and other regions. Please keep in your prayers people struggling with grief, illness, addiction or mental health concerns, job related transitions, marital or relationship troubles, or loneliness.

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.

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

FIRST CHURCH HISTORY 101 Today and Sunday, January 31 at 10 a.m., Hastings Room

Why does our church have two founding years — 1633-1636? And just what is our connection to that once very small college across Cambridge Common? What were the theological differences that led Cambridge and many other towns to have a “First Church” and a “First Parish”? What did First Church look like before 1872, when our current “meetinghouse” was built? Join Dan Smith and some of our resident First Church historians for a “starter course” in First Church’s long and robust past. Consider it preparation for our 380th Anniversary, February 1!

SERAPHIM SINGERS CONCERT (DISCOUNT TICKETS AVAILABLE) Today at 3 p.m., Sanctuary

The Seraphim Singers (seraphimsingers.org) invites the First Church community to its performances of "All Flesh is Grass: Reflections on Death and Eternity" Sunday, Jan. 24 at First Church (Sanctuary) and Sunday, Jan. 31 at St. Paul's Episcopal, Brookline. This a cappella program, including Distler's *Totentanz* and Pizzetti's *Requiem*, meditates on human frailty in the face of mortality and the hope for eternal rest. 25%-off online discount for FCC members: use code FCC25. Visit seraphimsingers.org for tickets and info. Daryl Bichel, Night Song Director, is a member of the Seraphim Singers.

NIGHT SONG: SOLEMN MYSTICAL COMPLINE Tonight at 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary Join us for these contemplative and spiritually transporting candle-lit experiences of choral literature, ancient and contemporary chant, and instrumental music. There is no spoken word, no sermon—just the opportunity to experience the Divine through music, being still, and silent meditation. Tonight: Gregorian chant from the *Liber Usualis*, Motets by Byrd and Guerrero, Psalm 4, Tone 8, alternating with Anglican chant by Bichel, Plainchant hymn "Te lucis" with verse 2 set by Tallis Contemplative improvisations. Sung by an ATTB ensemble with pianist Ben Schwendener

FUTURE HAPPENINGS

2016 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON Sunday, January 31 at 12:30 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall Come one and all to the 380th Annual Meeting of First Church on Sunday, January 31, following Morning Worship! A delicious luncheon will lead into our meeting. We will celebrate another very full year of ministry, honor and thank one another for gifts discerned and shared, celebrate our outgoing and incoming leaders, and share plans and visions. We will also pray and sing!

OUT OF MY MIND: A MULTIGENERATIONAL BOOK & BIBLE STUDY WITH THE MIDLERS, Sunday, February 7 at 10 a.m., Hastings Room Join the Middlers, our 5th-7th grade class, for a discussion of Sharon M. Draper's middle reader novel *Out of My Mind*. Explore the compelling story of 11-year-old Melody. She's the smartest girl in her class, but nobody knows it because of her inability to speak and control her body. Learn how the Middlers studied the novel

side-by-side with stories of friendship from the Bible. Copies of the novel are available for a donation of \$5.

COVENANT TO CARE FOR OUR KIDS 2.0 Sunday, February 7 at 12:30 p.m. Hastings Room In 2005 the Executive Council endorsed “Our Covenant for a Safe and Welcoming Community.” The covenant described how First Church had become a church home for a growing number of children, and it outlined how we as a community would set loving and respectful boundaries regarding the supervision and behavioral expectations of our children. A decade later we find ourselves still full of children, praise God! It’s time to take another look at our covenant, to see how we might update it and spread word of it among the congregation yet again. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend this session, as we hope to include the input of many in our covenant revision. All members and friends of First Church who care about our multigenerational community — whether you have small children or not — are also most welcome. “It takes a village,” and we all play important roles in the spiritual formation of First Church’s children.

MARDI GRAS PANCAKE SUPPER Tuesday, February 9, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall The First Church Family Night regulars invite you to join them for an all-church pancake supper on Mardi Gras, Tuesday, February 9. from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.. Come celebrate with pancakes and maple syrup, a traditional sweet treat on the eve of the Lenten season. We’ll decorate our “Alleluia” banner and bury it in the sanctuary, where it will await its unveiling on Easter morning. Pancakes will be provided; please bring fruit or breakfast meats (ready for serving) to share. RSVP to Sarah Higginbotham so she can plan the pancake production.

FEBRUARY COVENANT FRIENDSHIP MEALS TO ATTEND! There are 2-4 spaces open for a meal on Feb. 5 in Somerville; and 6 spaces for one on Feb. 6 in Woburn. These are delightful potluck no-agenda get-togethers for sharing food and conversation with others from FCC. Email Hilary Hopkins at hopkinsjh@verizon.net or sign up on Sunday in MJH, if you’d like to be a guest at one of these fun occasions!

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE As we begin 2016, there are three stewardship updates. 1) 2015 Contribution Statements were emailed this week. If you did not receive yours, please email Karen McArthur karenmc@firstchurchcambridge.org. 2) If you requested 2016 offering envelopes, please pick them up from the back table in the sanctuary. 3) If you have not yet made your 2016 pledge, you may do so by leaving your blue 2016 pledge card in the offering plate, or by pledging online. Thank you for your ongoing and faithful generosity!

THE FRIDAY CAFÉ HAS A NEW WEBSITE! Check it out: thefriday.cafe. Learn about our community ministry with and for homeless neighbors. Sign up to participate or to receive our weekly e-news, and find out how you can support this vi

GBIO "DO NOT STAND IDLY BY" TRAINING & MEETING Do Not Stand Idly By, a national campaign coordinated by Greater Boston Interfaith Organizations and Metro IAF (GBIO's umbrella organization) seeks to leverage the buying power of public officials to influence gun manufacturers to adopt safer practices. Join Rev. Dan Smith and GBIO leaders, new and old, to learn about the status of this important and timely campaign and to strategize around our local piece of the work. The meeting will include relationship building, training and planning for action. Sunday, January 31st, 2016 2:30 p.m. – 5 p.m. at the Office of the Episcopal Diocese 138 Tremont Street, Boston (by Park Street Station). Please RSVP or send questions to Rachie Lewis at rlewis@jcrboston.org.

CALL TO ACTION - BONE MARROW DONORS NEEDED Cambridge City Councilor Denise Simmons has issued a call to action. A neighbor needs a bone marrow transplant. You can help her and others by joining the national registry of potential donors. For more information, please visit www.JustaSwab.org.

BUILDING A CULTURE OF FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION: A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO REDUCING VIOLENCE IN OUR COMMUNITIES February 3 - March 30 (10 consecutive Wednesdays, from 4 until 6 p.m.) at The Walker Center (144 Hancock St, Newton, MA) This a program of Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries (CMM), The Protestant Chaplaincy Council Community Chaplain Program, and The Walker Center for Ecumenical Exchange, which focuses on the need to address the emotional issues stemming from violence: the anger and rage felt by victims, perpetrators and even witnesses. Come for one session or more. If interested or if you have questions, contact Alice Kidder at 617 276-6227 or flintkidr@aol.com. There is a suggested donation of \$15 per session with possible dinner arrangements.

Call to Annual Congregational Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Congregational Meeting of First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, United Church of Christ will be held in its 380th year at 12:30 p.m. Sunday the 31st of January 2016, in the Margaret Jewett Hall on Garden Street in Cambridge, Massachusetts, for the following purposes.

1. To receive and act upon the reports of the Staff, Officers, Council, Boards and Committees of the Church.
2. To make appropriations for the ensuing year for the maintenance, program and mission of the Church, and reliable provisions for meeting those expenses.
3. To vote upon the slate of Officers and Committees for 2016 as prescribed in the Bylaws.
4. To consider any other business that may legally come before the meeting

By direction of Executive
Council,
Phil LaFollette, Clerk
Cambridge, Massachusetts
January 12, 2016



Greater Boston
Interfaith Organization

Conversation Series
Undivided: Rejecting the Rhetoric of Otherness

In the charged rhetoric of our times, the demonization of the other – from Mexican immigrants to Muslims to other marginalized minorities– has become commonplace. GBIO invites congregants from all of our faith traditions to four diverse houses of worship, to develop relationships, learn about each other's traditions and affirm our shared values and common humanity.

1st Conversation at ISBCC (100 Malcom X Blvd, Roxbury) – 1/20 from 5:45–8 p.m.

2nd Conversation at St. Katharine Drexel (175 Ruggles St., Roxbury Crossing) – 2/4 from 7–9 p.m.

3rd Conversation at Temple Israel (477 Longwood Ave, Boston) – 2/11 from 7-9 p.m.

4th Conversation at Bethel AME (40 Walk Hill St, Boston) – 3/15 from 7-9 p.m.

In case of any cancellations due to snow or otherwise, please hold alternative dates of 2/25 & 3/3 for conversations at a place to be determined, from 7-9 p.m.

The Week Ahead

Sunday, January 24

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Community Gathering Time, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 10:00 a.m. First Church History 101, Hastings Room
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Taj Smith, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Classes (presch. - Grade 7)
- 12:30 p.m. Christian Formation Team Meeting, Hastings Room
- 3:00 p.m. Seraphim Singers Concert, Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

Monday, January 25

- 6:00 p.m. Deacons Transition Dinner, Parsonage

Tuesday, January 26

- 7:30 p.m. Gifts Discernment/Nominating Committee, Dan Smith's office

Wednesday, January 27

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Dan Smith's office

Thursday, January 28

- 7:45 p.m. Choir rehearsal, Hastings Room

Friday, January 29

- 1:00 p.m. Friday Café, MJH

Saturday, January 30

- 10:00 a.m. Capital Campaign Leadership Gathering, Hastings Room

Sunday, January 31

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Community Gathering Time, MJH
- 10:00 a.m. First Church History 101, Hastings Room
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, First Church 380th Anniversary Celebration, Joining Sunday, Dan Smith, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Creative Arts (presch.-Grade 7)
- 12:30 p.m. Annual Congregational Meeting and Luncheon, MJH
- 7:00 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

The Staff of First Church in Cambridge

Senior Minister	Rev. Dan Smith, 617-547-2724, ext. 23 dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org
Minister	Rev. Dr. Karin Case 617-547-2724, ext. 26 karincase@firstchurchcambridge.org
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FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL

United Church of Christ

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