



---

**Confirmation  
Sunday**

**FIRST CHURCH  
IN CAMBRIDGE**

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

**FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC**  
**JUNE 9, 2013**  
**THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

VOLUNTARY

\*HYMN 242

*God of Life*

\*GREETING

Emma Blanc

L: Grace, mercy and peace to you from God!  
**C: And to the whole world, peace!**  
L: God is with us in all our teaching and our learning  
**C: in all our comings and our goings!**  
L: at our endings and our new beginnings!  
**C: All glory, honor, and praise be to God!**

\*PRAYER OF PRAISE

L: Let us pray:  
**C: Teach us your ways, O God,  
that we may walk in your truth;  
give us undivided hearts to revere your name.  
Gladden and lift up our souls, O God,  
for you, O God, are good and forgiving,  
abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.  
For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God.  
For you are a merciful and gracious God,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.  
Teach us your ways, O God,  
that we may walk in your truth;  
give us undivided hearts,  
ready to worship and give praise to your holy name. Amen.**

(from Psalm 86)

WORDS OF WELCOME

Sarah Higginbotham

ANTHEM

*Beauty in God's Creation*

A. F. Schultz

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Caroline Williams

*\*You are invited to stand. Hymns preceded by a "C" may be found in the beginning section of the hymnal. The C (Cambridge) - section contains hymns written and composed by current and past members of First Church.*

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

**All: If we have been silent when we should have spoken,  
forgive us, God, and give us bold speech.  
If we have not practiced what we preached,  
forgive us, God, and give us coherent lives.  
If we have failed to perceive your grace,  
poured out upon us through Holy Spirit,  
enliven us even now—this very moment—  
so that we may testify to your deeds  
and live as new people,  
following in Christ’s way. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

\*GREETING OF PEACE

\*HYMN 378                    *God, We Thank You for Our People (vs. 1-3)*

GODLY PLAY GRADUATE RECOGNITION

Terry McKinney

CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHER AND YOUTH LEADER APPRECIATION

Julie Rogers

HYMN

*God, We Thank You for Our People (vs. 4)*

*(Please remain seated for the hymn.)*

READING

2 Timothy 3:14-17

Reebee Girash

HOMILY

Dan Smith

## RITE OF CONFIRMATION

### INVITATION

### PROMISES

- L: Elizabeth, Jessica, Nicole, Angel, Liam, Hannah, Craig, and Robert are asking to be confirmed in the faith and family of Jesus Christ. You have heard the promises they made. What is your will?
- C: **By God's grace, they are worthy. Let them be confirmed!**

### PRAYER FOR THE CANDIDATES

### LAYING ON OF HANDS

### ADDRESS TO NEW MEMBERS

### COVENANT OF FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

- All: We who are now brought together  
and united into one Church  
under the Lord Jesus Christ, our Head,  
in such sort as becometh  
all those whom he hath redeemed  
and sanctified to himself,  
do solemnly and religiously,  
as in his most holy presence,  
promise and bind ourselves to walk in all his ways  
according to the rule of the Gospel,  
and in all sincere conformity to his holy ordinances,  
and in mutual love and respect each to other,  
so near as God shall give us grace.**

### WELCOME

- L: Friends, let us welcome these new members and affirm the ministry we share in Jesus Christ.
- All: We welcome you with joy  
into the common life of this church.  
We promise you our friendship and prayers.  
We will share with you  
the hope and labor of Christ.  
By the power of the Spirit,  
we are one family for the glory of God!**

PRESENTATIONS

\*HYMN C-29

*Perfect Yet Unfinished*

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

L: God be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray (silence, intercessions, 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 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

*Laudamus Te*

Paisiello

\*PENTECOST DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**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.**

\*HYMN 241

*We Will Build Your Church, O Christ*

\*LEAVE-TAKING BLESSING FOR JULIE ROGERS

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

*Ultimate Jude*

Paul Sawyer

*The Pentecost bulletin cover is an image of a ceramic mosaic created by the children of the church and designed by Perry Neubauer. The flames recall the story in Acts when Jesus' followers, meeting together, were visited by tongues of fire over their heads. This symbolized the presence of the Holy Spirit and ignited their mission of spreading the Good News to all people.*

## **GODLY PLAY GRADUATES**

Emma Blanc	Allegra Mujica
Will Chun	Ivy Seek
Takura Duche	Ella Simons
Colin Harmer	Anna Wendelin
Hannah Jenkins	Luke Wendelin

## **CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS AND LEADERS**

### **Godly Play 1**

Deb Cunningham, Theresa Hajer, John Matias, David McCann, Nora Willcutts

### **Godly Play 2**

Joanne Paul, Mary Robinson, Marian Smith, Johanna Wendelin

### **Seasons of the Spirit**

Stefanie Haug, Steve LaMaster, Catherine Poole, Sunessa Schettler, Jim Stewart

### **Godly Play Teacher Trainer**

Susie Longfield

### **Youth Group Leaders**

Laurie Burt, Amy Click, Devin Hansen, Tim Seery, Laurie Williams

### **Confirmation Class Leaders**

Sarah Higginbotham and Julie Rogers

### **Creative Arts Project Leaders**

Amy Clark, Sarah Fujiwara, Linda Ziebell

## **CONFIRMANDS**

Elizabeth Ball  
Jessica Goode  
Nicole Haas-Loomis  
Angel Lazar  
Liam Simons  
Hannah Stuart  
Craig Williams  
Robert Wittram

## **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](http://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, toddlers and preschoolers 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** Dan Smith, Senior Minister. Assisting with worship are Sarah Higginbotham, Director of Creative Worship & Arts, Julie Rogers, Affiliate Minister of Youth & Young Adults, Reebee Girash, Interim Minister, and Terry McKinney, Minister of Mental Health & Healing. Acting as liturgists, greeters, and offering collectors are First Church Confirmands and Church School students and teachers. 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](mailto:parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org) or 617-547-2724 and we'll get the information to you.

## TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

**CONFIRMATION SUNDAY WITH ALL-CHURCH PICNIC Today at 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary and Cambridge Common** As the church program year comes to a close, we will celebrate with our Confirmation Class of eight young men and women as they complete one step on their ongoing faith journey and mark the end of the confirmation process. The Church School will assist in the liturgy this morning, and we will recognize and thank the teachers and leaders who have walked alongside our children throughout the year. Following worship, we'll gather across Garden Street on the Cambridge Common for our annual All-Church Picnic, complete with an all-ages kickball game.

**ISRAEL PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE REPORT Today at 10:00 a.m., Hastings Room** Please join Rev. Dan Smith and our *Havruta* Scholar-in-Residence, Rev. Brent Coffin, in the Hastings Room for the second of two Sundays as they share observations and reflections from their recent trip to Israel and Palestine. This past January, and as part of Dan's sabbatical, these two long-time colleagues and friends spent time in Jerusalem, the Galilee and the West Bank, including Bethelhem and Ramallah. The trip was part spiritual pilgrimage, part socio-political education and part *havruta* text study. Come hear their stories and their questions, and feel free to bring your own! Brent and Dan will also share some ideas for how we might continue to reflect theologically on our ties to this region and the ongoing conflict there.

**SPIRITUALITY AND MENTAL HEALTH GROUP Today at 2:00 p.m., Tower Room** How do emotional struggles and mental health difficulties affect your relationship with God? Does your faith change your experience of mental health issues? Join us in the Tower Room each Sunday from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. as we hold these questions and our experiences in the healing light of Christ. 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 (tmckinney@firstchurchcambridge.org) or Carter West (stbosal@arczip.com).

**ELLEN ROHAN BALL GRADUATION PARTY Today at 3:00 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall** Please join Ellen Rohan Ball in celebrating her graduation from Andover Newton this past May 18th. Ellen and her family are holding a celebration today in Margaret Jewett Hall to share her joy and in gratitude for all the help and well-wishes received over her time here. Come for a light food fare and homegrown music, from 3 to 5 p.m. All are welcome! Please RSVP Ellen at erohanball@aol.com, and please, no gifts necessary.

**NIGHT SONG: SOLEMN MYSTICAL COMPLINE Today at 8:30 p.m., Sanctuary** Night Song continues through the spring and summer - but with several changes. The starting time will be 8:30 p.m., as sunset is occurring later now. The setting will be simpler, with no icons, very few candles and no incense. And there will be no jazz instrumental component, making it 30 minutes in length and more traditional in nature. The music will be Gregorian chant and Renaissance polyphony. Night Song is based on Compline, the last daily service of Christian worship, dating back to monastic life in the Middle Ages. Offered in the quietness of the evening, Night Song invokes a sense of protection and peace for the night that is to come.

## FUTURE HAPPENINGS

**FAREWELL TO REEBEE GIRASH Sunday, June 23 at 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary** On June 23, we will say farewell to our fabulous Interim Minister, Reebee Girash. On that day, we will recognize and give

thanks for her wonderfully competent and caring ministry over the course of this past Sabbatical year. There will be a reception in MJH following a special farewell Sunday service. Please mark your calendars for this date, and know that we'll be collecting cards and remembrances to send Reebee off with our love and lasting affection.

**PASTORAL TRANSITION NOTES** As Sabbatical/Interim Minister Reebee Girash's departure approaches, she has been working with the rest of the staff and her Pastor Relations Committee to prepare. Every pastor has their own practice regarding pastoral transitions. Reebee has written a blog post outlining her specific practice, and you can read it at <http://www.firstchurchcambridge.org/members/blog/a-word-on-transition>. You are welcomed and encouraged to speak with Reebee directly, or with Dick Harter, Chris Reynolds, or Jean Bellow (Reebee's PRC) with any questions about this transition.

**YOUTH PLANNING MEETING Sunday, June 23 at 1:00 p.m., Hastings Room** First Church Teens and their Families - It has been an exciting and busy year of starting up programs and activities for teens of First Church and we know that the future of these programs is looking bright! Please join Dan, Sarah and Julie at a meeting on Sunday, June 23 at 1 p.m. in the Hastings Room for a 30-40 minute meeting on next year's youth programs and ministries. At this meeting, we'll talk about some of the exciting plans that are already underway and we'll have some dates ready so you can mark your calendar now.

**GREATER BOSTON INTERFAITH ORGANIZATION PUBLIC HEALTH CONFERENCE Sunday, June 23, 3:00 - 6:30 p.m. (registration at 2:30 p.m.), Andover Newton Theological - School 210 Herrick Road, Newton Centre (Newton Centre T stop)** Please join us at this public health conference, where workshops will include: *Holding Compassionate Health Care Conversations, Improving Patient/Physician Communication, Addressing Violence in Our Communities, and Evidence Based Care* For more information, please contact Alliea E. Grouppp at [aegrouppp@aol.com](mailto:aegrouppp@aol.com) or (617) 435-4220.

**SAVE THE DATE - FIRST CHURCH FALL RETREAT: OUR LIFE TOGETHER Friday - Sunday, October 4-6 at the Craigville Conference Center on Cape Cod** Building on the success of three very-well attended family retreats, First Church will host an all-ages, all-church retreat this fall. Come for one night or two. The gathering will be based on the theme of finding balance and wholeness through individual and communal spiritual practices. It will balance our dual needs for time alone and time together, offering practical ideas for patterning our days and weeks, and our family, professional and church life in ways that reflect our faith and covenantal commitment. There will be time for adult conversation, teen gatherings and multigenerational fun and games. Childcare and children's activities will be organized by our nursery coordinator with help from parents and all of us. **REGISTRATION IS DUE BY JUNE 28th! Please register online.** Every effort has been made to keep this affordable and scholarships will be available. For more information and to register, please visit "Latest News" on our website or find the link in this coming week's First Glance newsletter. Please be sure to let us know if you plan to stay for one night or two.

### **GET INVOLVED**

**"PICKUP CHOIR"** For the summer, the First Church Choir continues to sing for Sunday services, but does not rehearse on Thursday night. The music we sing during the summer is less complicated and perhaps more familiar to the average choral singer, and participation is open to anyone who would like to give it a try. The ability to read music and hold a part is desirable, and music for the following Sunday's service will be made available for those who would perhaps like to take it home and prepare over the week. This is a

great opportunity to worship God in song, to sing some great music, and to meet a really fun and nice group of people! Rehearsal will be at 10 a.m. on June 9, 16, and 23, and then move to 9 a.m. for the months of July and August. Ask Peter Sykes for more details.

**DO YOU HAVE A LAPTOP YOU COULD DONATE TO FIRST CHURCH?** First Church is looking for a laptop with Windows 7, Vista, or XP to use in conjunction with our sound system for recording Sunday services, and other special events in the sanctuary. The laptop currently in use is on its last legs and needs to be replaced. However, Windows 8 cannot be used with the current set up, so we are looking for an older laptop that is still in relatively good condition. If you have one to donate please contact Kirsten Manville at parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge or 617-547-2724 ext. 21. Thank you!

**CALLING ENERGETIC, CARING FIRST CHURCHERS OPEN TO THE SPIRIT OF SHARING!** We as a church have been invited to assist the members of Bethel Tabernacle Pentecostal Church in offering children in Dorchester a day of fun at their Free Fun Carnival on Saturday, June 29th. Bring your own children or come by yourself for a day of fun, sharing and hope. Carpools will leave First Church at 9 a.m. for the church at 12 Bicknell Street in Dorchester. You will run games and help with food concessions. All welcome! To sign up, please contact Jean Bellow at jean\_bellow@comcast.net or Alice Kidder at (617) 924-7236 or flintkiddr@aol.com. Thanks so much for your participation.

**SEEKING A FEW MORE VOLUNTEER TEACHERS FOR CHURCH SCHOOL 2013-14** The Church School will run four classes on Sunday mornings, plus a youth program on Sunday afternoons. Every class and group is anchored by experienced teachers, but most teaching teams still have opportunities for new folks to join. If you can commit to two Sundays or less per month, plus a handful of teacher training meetings and a bit of lesson preparation, please contact Sarah Higginbotham to explore the options for supporting this vital ministry of First Church.

**MASSACHUSETTS CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 214TH ANNUAL MEETING: RISKING VISION June 14 - 15, 2013 at Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center** What if every Jesus follower in each of our congregations could describe a vivid, specific, shared vision for her or his church? If each of us had a compelling sense of the particular call of God on our own faith community, how might God's love and justice be made real? We will ponder these questions at today's Annual Meeting.

**"WRESTLING IN THE DAYLIGHT: A RABBI'S PATH TO PALESTINIAN SOLIDARITY: A BOOK TALK WITH RABBI BRANT ROSEN.** Rabbi Rosen will read from and discuss his book, a compilation of posts from his blog, "Shalom Rav" and readers' comments reflecting the complex discussions in the American Jewish Community and beyond over the Palestine/Israel question. Rabbi Rosen is a congregational rabbi in Evanston, IL and the founder/co-chair of the Jewish Voice for Peace Rabbinical Council. In Margaret Jewett Hall, Tuesday, June 25 at 7:00 p.m.. Sponsored by Jewish Voice for Peace, Boston and the Palestine Israel Task Team of First Church. All are welcome.

## The Week Ahead

### Sunday, June 9

#### Confirmation Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 a.m. Coffee/Gathering Time, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 10:00 a.m. Christian Formation for Adults, Hastings Room
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Confirmation Sunday
- 12:15 p.m. End of Year Picnic on the Common
- 2:00 p.m. Spirituality and Mental Health Group, Tower Room
- 8:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

### Monday, June 10

- 2:30 p.m. Building the Beloved Community, Dan Smith's office
- 6:00 p.m. Building & Grounds Committee, Room 204
- 7:00 p.m. Search Committee Meeting, Dan Smith's office

### Tuesday, June 11

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

### Wednesday, June 12

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Dan Smith's office
- 7:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting

### Friday, June 14

- 3:30 p.m. Massachusetts Conference UCC 214th Annual Meeting, Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center

### Sunday, June 16

- 10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Dan Smith Preaching
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour, MJH - Newcomers Table
- 2:00 p.m. Spirituality and Mental Health Group, Tower Room
- 8:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

## SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

*Starting now and continuing throughout the summer 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.*

## 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	Rev. Dan Smith, 617-547-2724, ext. 23 dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org
Interim Minister	Rev. Reebee Girash, 617-547-2724, ext. 26 rgirash@firstchurchcambridge.org
Minister of Mental Health & Healing	Rev. Terry McKinney, 617-299-1617 tmckinney@firstchurchcambridge.org
Affiliate Minister of Stewardship and Finance	Rev. Karen McArthur, 617-547-2724, ext. 22 treasurer@firstchurchcambridge.org
Affiliate Minister of Youth & Young Adults	Julie Rogers, 617-547-2724 jrogers@firstchurchcambridge.org
<i>Havruta</i> Scholar-in-Residence	Rev. Brent Coffin
Director of Music	Peter Sykes, 617-661-0570 psykes@aol.com
Director of Creative Worship & Arts	Sarah Higginbotham, 617-547-2724, ext. 42 shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org
Staff Composer	Patricia Van Ness
Shelter Director	Jim Stewart, 617-661-1873 jstewart@firstchurchcambridge.org
Parish Administrator	Kirsten Manville, 617-547-2724, ext. 21 parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org
Administrative Assistant	Julie Rogers, 617-547-2724, ext. 41 jrogers@firstchurchcambridge.org
Sextons	Ronaldo dos Santos, Tina Quimby, George Williams, Kimmel Williams, 617-642-3980



**FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL**

*United Church of Christ*

11 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138

617-547-2724