



FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

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

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC

July 22, 2012

THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Each morning we must hold out
the chalice of our being
to receive, to carry, and give back.

-- Dag Hammarskjold

VOLUNTARY

*HYMN C-13

Christ, We Meet You On Our Way

*GREETING

L: May the peace of God be upon this house,

C: and upon all who enter herein.

L: Jesus says, "Where two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there among them."

C: We gather in Christ's name.

L: Jesus says, "Come all who labor and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest."

C: We gather in Christ's peace.

L: As we gather in the newness of this day,
let us open our hearts to Christ's love.

*PRAYER OF PRAISE

**All: God of love and power,
we come to you on this midsummer day
with hearts that are full:
full of joys, full of cares,
full of concerns for our friends, our families, and our world.
Open our hearts to your word to us this day –
that we might hear once again
the good news of Christ's healing and resurrection. Amen!**

WORDS OF WELCOME

Karen McArthur

ANTHEM

Thine, O Lord, is the Power

Reger

**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.*

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

**C: Loving God, we come to you knowing that you care for us.
Yet we know that we turn our backs on that love.
We are too busy, or too worried,
or too important, or too powerless.
Help us to find a quiet place,
where we can stop and feel your presence.
Lead us to a still place,
where we can hear your voice.
Meet us in that sacred place
where we can see ourselves as you see us –
and know once again that
when we are truly transparent with you,
you love us and lead us into new life.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

*HYMN

We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness

*We yearn, O Christ, for wholeness and for your healing touch;
too long have we felt helpless; our burdens seemed too much.*

*Forgetting all pretenses we make our pleadings heard,
in hope and expectation await your gracious word.*

*We long to have companions who travel by our side,
strong friends to call and answer with whom we are allied;
as we lift up each other when struggles lay us low,
community will flourish; our faith and caring grow.*

*We need your living presence, O Christ of Galilee,
a presence that revives us and sets our spirits free.
No longer are we fearful, your love pervades each place.
Empower us with courage to claim your healing grace.*

Text: Dosisia Carlson, 1986

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

SERMON

The Chalice of Our Being

Karen McArthur

*HYMN 371

Living God, Your Joyful Spirit

PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD

Julie Rogers

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

(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 OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Somebody's Knockin'

from Hymns of Truth and Light

*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 259

Awake, Awake to Love and Work

*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 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, 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 Karen McArthur, Affiliate Minister of Stewardship & Finance. Assisting with worship is Julie Rogers, our new Affiliate Minister off Youth & Young Adults. 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.

MENTAL HEALTH & SPIRITUALITY GROUP The Mental Health & Spirituality Group which explores the intersection between faith and mental health struggles, **will not be meeting today**, but will return to its normal time, next Sunday, July 29 at 2 p. m.

SUMMER COOKOUT AT THE PARSONAGE, Sunday, July 29 On Sunday, July 29, Dan and Nancy will be hosting a summer cookout at the Parsonage. After Morning Worship and refreshments on the lawn, plan to head down to 44 Garden Street for a fun and casual afternoon of food and fellowship. Kids and families are more than welcome. Please note: the cookout will be cancelled in case of rain!

"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! Ask Peter Sykes for more details.

SHELTER INTERN The Shelter Committee is asking for an interested high school junior or senior to participate in an intern program. The objective of the program will be to create a pamphlet or other appropriate materials to explain the details of how the Shelter fulfills its mission of providing shelter to homeless men and assisting in their transition back into permanent housing. There are a lot of details to this process as well as a wider context of social discussion on the issue of homelessness and how to best address the challenge. For example, there are other models of providing this kind of service to the community. How does how we do it at the First Church Shelter compare to other accepted models? This is intended as an opportunity for the Shelter to engage in the life of the Congregation through the contribution of a caring and interested young adult. At this point no stipend is envisioned, although this could be the subject of discussion. As a motivational point, this sure would look good on a college resume! Structure for the program will be provided by Michael Swartz, Chair of the Shelter Committee with support from Jim Stewart, Shelter Director, and other members of the both the Committee and the Shelter Staff. Interested individuals should contact Michael Swartz at michael.swartz@perkinelmer.com.

COOKIES FOR COFFEE HOUR ALERT Janet Lyman will shortly be resuming her former role soliciting cookies for Coffee Hour, phoning from her nursing home setting in Brookline. Please continue to respond to calls for cookies as you are able. Your caller ID will indicate a call from Brookline. When you receive a message from Janet, be sure to use the number she left in her message.

ORGANIC VEGETABLES FROM ROCKVILLE MARKET FARM! Now's the time to sign-up for a farm share from Rockville Market Farm. Sign-up at <http://rockvillemarketfarm.com/> and

select First Church Cambridge as your location. A bag of organic produce will be delivered to our Parsonage at 44 Garden Street each Thursday with your name on it. Easy pick-up from our garage fridge, whenever you can come by. Deliveries begin in mid to late June, can be paused for vacations, and are truly delicious!! Questions? Email Nancy at nkkilburn@comcast.net. Thank you for supporting organic farming!

FAMILY SUMMER PROGRAM AT CRAIGVILLE RETREAT CENTER, AUGUST 5-11

For many years, a handful of First Church families have enjoyed a week on the Cape at Craigville Retreat Center. This year, PACE (Parent and Child Experience) includes a morning children's program, adult bible study, discussion groups, and art classes, and afternoon free time with beach privileges. Accommodations are in an historic inn with private bedrooms and three meals a day. \$545.00/adult; \$265.00/child; \$75.00/children before 1st grade; children under 2 are free. All are welcome - come to be refreshed and renewed to rejoice. Call Joanne Hartunian for more information, 617-484-0776, and speak with the Wendelin, Wilson Braun, Rohan Ball, or Jeffers Lo families for great stories of Craigville summer memories.

REGISTER YOUR CHILDREN & YOUTH FOR THE 2012-2013 PROGRAM YEAR

All children from infants to teenagers can be registered for programs at First Church. We have moved to an online registration form, found on our website. We invite parents to please take a moment before Re-Gathering Sunday, September 9, to register your children, so that we can be prepared to welcome them into the Nursery, Church School, Confirmation Class, or Youth Group. Speak with Sarah Higginbotham if you have questions or concerns.

FALL FAMILY RETREAT, OCTOBER 13-14 - REGISTER NOW ONLINE

Families with children from infants to teenagers are invited to join us on the third annual Fall Family Retreat at Craigville Retreat Center on October 13-14, 2012. Spend 24 hours on the Cape with your church friends - we'll play, sing, eat, worship, laugh, and pray together. Registration is now taking place on our website - click on "Latest News" or visit the Children or Youth pages on the site.

NEW "MEMBERS" ONLY SECTION OF CHURCH WEBSITE

-- Starting in September, members and friends of First Church will be given a username and password to access a new "members-only" section of our website. Whether you have been a part of our congregation for a few weeks or for a lifetime, as an official member or a friend, you will be welcome to sign on for access to our church directory, prayer requests, a First Church blog, small group announcements, board minutes, budgets, and more. Users will be able to update contact information, post photos and also email each other through our site (note: actual email addresses will remain hidden). In order to set up an initial version of our online member directory, we will be uploading our current Parish List of contact information directly to the site. Your information will not be accessible to anyone but members and friends of our community. If you would prefer not to have your information available to other First Church users, please send an email to Kirsten Manville at parishadmin@firstchurhcambridge.org by September 5th and please include "opt out" in the subject line.

NIGHT SONG HELPERS NEEDED Night Song is offering 1/2 hour Compline services at 8:30 on Sunday nights in our sanctuary from now through early November when they will return to their long services starting at 7. Do you attend these services regularly or are you looking for an extra reason to do so? Night Song is looking for volunteers to help set out candles, hand out service bulletins and count attendees. If you are willing to help now or beginning in November, please contact Night Song Artistic Director Daryl Bichel at darylbichel@aol.com. If you'd like to know more about Night Song, please visit our website and look under Worship, Music and Spiritual Life.

The 2011-2012 bulletin cover art series was designed by Perry Neubauer and constructed by many hands, large and small. Today's bulletin cover was created by Claudia Dyer.

Mission Moment

"THAT COULD BE ME"

I used to be one of the people who, when asked to donate something to a food drive, would look in the pantry for a can of something we were never going to eat and donate that. The pumpkin puree I was never going to make into a pie was a regular contribution. A tiny can of mushrooms. Some sort of prune butter. A box of "lite" microwave popcorn. And once, I'm not proud to say, a jar of maraschino cherries.

I would feel guilty but convince myself that prune butter and canned mushrooms were better than nothing if you're really hungry. The food that families would actually eat, I reasoned, was required by MY family. I couldn't be expected to give that away. It would be irresponsible.

Then time passed and life happened and I grew increasingly aware of my financial vulnerability. Paradoxically, this made me more generous. It was no longer impossible to see myself as someone who might need donated food someday. And if that day came, how would I feel face-to-face with someone's castoff pickled beets?

As economic hardship sent more families to food pantries, last November the United Church of Christ's Mission:1 campaign was launched in recognition of the power of many individuals and churches coming together to take action on one urgent issue: hunger and food-related injustice. In that campaign we found hope in the power that flows when people release their confident belief in "us" and "them," when they look at someone else and recognize, "That could be me."

Christina Villa
Publishing, Identity & Communication
United Church of Christ

July 2012

God is still speaking,

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



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.

SMALL GROUP AND WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

First Church maintains a busy schedule of small group activities and worship opportunities throughout the year, but we slow down a bit in the summer months. Here's a quick guide to what's happening when:

Worship Services

***Night Song** continues to offer a 30-minute Compline service at 8:30 p.m. on Sundays through the summer and fall will resume its schedule of full services on Sundays at 7:00 p.m. in November.*

***Third Sunday Jazz at 5:00 pm** will return in September with a Regathering celebration on September 16th.*

Small Groups

***Third Sunday Newcomer Sessions** after morning worship will be offered again beginning in September.*

***Tuesday Family Night** will re-start its bi-weekly schedule in late September.*

The Week Ahead

Today, Sunday, July 22

- 9:00 a.m. Pick up Choir
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Karen McArthur, preaching
- 8:30 p.m. Night Song Compline, Sanctuary

Sunday, July 29

- 9:00 a.m. Pick up Choir
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Dan Smith, preaching
- 2:00 p.m. Mental Health and Spirituality Group, Tower Room
- 8:30 p.m. Night Song Compline, Sanctuary

Looking Ahead

Sunday, August 5

- 9:00 a.m. Pick up Choir
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Dan Smith, preaching
- 1:00 p.m. Outdoor Church, Cambridge Common
- 2:00 p.m. Mental Health and Spirituality Group, Tower Room
- 8:30 p.m. Night Song Compline, Sanctuary

Sunday, April 12

- 9:00 a.m. Pick up Choir
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Summer Healing Service, Dan Smith, leading
- 11:15 a.m. Centering Prayer Series, Hastings Room
- 2:00 p.m. Mental Health and Spirituality Group, Tower Room
- 8:30 p.m. Night Song Compline, Sanctuary

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
Minister of Mental Health & Healing	Rev. Terry McKinney, 781-643-7324 temckinney@msn.com
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 jrogers@firstchurchcambridge.org
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FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL

United Church of Christ

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