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Bulletin Announcements  
January 17, 2021

**FIRST CHURCH  
IN CAMBRIDGE**  
Congregational 1633-1636  
United Church of Christ  
Garden and Mason Streets  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

FIRST CHURCH  
IN CAMBRIDGE  
CONGREGATIONAL  
**384 YEARS**  
ON THE WAY  
1 6 3 6 – 2 0 2 0

## WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE...

### Grounded in God • Growing in Community • Acting in Love

These past months have brought home to all of us the vital importance of working together to slow and limit the spread of Coronavirus. We know we are called to be a community of faith, not fear. We also know we are called to care for the most vulnerable in our midst, to be good stewards of our staff and resources, and to be good citizens of the wider community.

Under normal circumstances, people of faith would care for each other by drawing close together. It's what we do. It's who we are. In times of loss or threat, we respond by coming together to pray and to sing, to hug and hold each other tight.

Pandemics are different. During an outbreak such as the one we are facing now, we are called to care for each other by moving farther apart, creating a holy buffer of social distance. We do this not only for our own safety and the safety of the people around us, but in loving stewardship to our wider world.

Even when apart, we are not alone. God is with us, in every heartbeat, every breath: strengthening, comforting, and upholding us. Christ is with us, walking beside us, sharing our trials, speaking peace to our fears. The Spirit is with us, uniting us one to another across the barrier of physical distance.

These are temporary measures only. They won't last forever. We will rejoice and celebrate all the more when we are able to come back together, to share stories of what it was like, to laugh, to cry, and to share hugs and handshakes again. Until then, day by day, let's hold one another in prayer.

#### WORSHIP LEADERS

January 17, 2021

#### Leading Worship

Dan Smith, Senior Minister  
Jaz Buchanan, Pastoral Associate  
Sarah Higginbotham,  
Director, Creative Worship & Arts  
Peggy Stevens  
Stefanie Haug  
Alice Kidder  
Dave Kidder  
Linda Ziebell

#### Offering Testimonies

Jim Cairns  
Amy Matias  
Mary Martha Thiel

#### Musical Offerings

Issa Bibbins, piano  
Nola Hood, voice

You can find today's pre-recorded worship service on our [YouTube channel](#).

*The photograph on the bulletin cover is by Gaylen Morgan.*

## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Ariel Ackermann and her family as they grieve the loss of Ariel's grandmother, Betty, who died recently of COVID-19.
- We pray for the family and friends of Cliff Moller, including First Church Shelter staff member Steve Brown. Cliff died last week, just three months shy of his 100th birthday.
- We pray for Jim Cairns's mother Betsy, who was recently diagnosed with cancer and will undergo surgery this week.
- We pray for Dean Eaton's niece Kate Smith and her husband James, who sustained serious injuries and needed extensive surgery following a near-fatal motorcycle accident.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Sarah Robinson, daughter of Mary Robinson and Mary Martha Thiel; Ron Paquette, Caroline Newton's father; Penny Kilburn, Nancy Kilburn's mother; Katie, Moana Bentin's sister; Amy Golodet, Jonathan New's sister-in-law; Karen Anne Zee's daughter Becky Collet, and for her sons-in-law, Denis Collet and Stewart Bailey; and Beth and Polly, Ann McCann's sisters.
- We pray for the residents of 14 Concord Avenue (just down the street from the church), where an 8-alarm fire on Wednesday morning displaced 30 people. We give thanks that no one was killed or badly injured.
- We continue to pray for all who are grieving the loss of loved ones to COVID-19. We pray for the "long-haulers"—those who continue to live with symptoms from the disease. We continue to lift up health care professionals and essential workers, that they may feel supported and cared for.
- We pray for Native communities who are grieving the loss of tribal elders and family members. The COVID-19 virus has killed American Indians at especially high rates, robbing tribes of precious bonds and repositories of language and tradition.
- We pray for our nation in the midst of this historic week of insurrection, impeachment proceedings, and ongoing threats of violence. We pray for our sharply divided nation, for a peaceful transition of power in this Presidential Inauguration month, and for all in positions of leadership.
- We pray for the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Presbyterian Church in Springfield, MA, which experienced yet another arson attack on December 28, 2020. This is the second Black church in Springfield in recent history to be targeted in an act of white domestic terrorism.
- We pray for all who are caregivers—caring for elderly parents, for those with dementia, for young children, for older children, for those struggling with addiction, depression, anxiety—and for all those they care for.
- We pray for all who continue to to name, confront, and work toward the eradication of white supremacy and white privilege.
- We pray for the 14 men who are finding sustenance and protection in our First Church Shelter, and for the guests of the Friday Cafe, who are finding food and listening ears. We pray for all who are experiencing deprivation and hardship in these uncertain times.

## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for those who seek sanctuary in houses of worship around the country, including our partner University Lutheran Church in Harvard Square. We pray for solace and security for immigrants and all those who live in fear and anxiety over their status in this country. We also pray for all who work for a just and compassionate future for immigrants and asylum seekers.
- We pray that God may grant us the strength to confront and combat the many realities of the climate crisis, and that we and our leaders may be empowered to take bold steps to care for God’s creation. We pray especially for the poor, who are disproportionately affected by our inaction.

## TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

**ADULT FORMATION: LEARNING COMPASSION Today, 9:30 a.m., via Zoom** In their book *Compassionomics*, scientists Stephen Trzeciak and Anthony Mazzarelli ask the question of whether compassion can be taught and learned. At the Center for Contemplative Science and Compassion-Based Ethics at Emory University, Lobsang Tenzin Negi developed cognitive-based Compassion Training, which he calls “a model for a secular compassion meditation practice drawn from the vast, varied Tibetan Buddhist tradition.” If compassion can be nurtured, let’s join together and consider some of the ways in which Professor Negi suggests. Community Minister Rev. Alex Steinert-Evoy will lead us in a discussion of the research as we consider our own definitions of compassion. Together, we will look at ways we might cultivate compassion towards ourselves and others in 2021.

[Click here to join Adult Formation directly](#), or go to [zoom.us](https://zoom.us) and “join a meeting” using the following information:

Meeting ID: 869 6902 6288    Passcode: 372484    Call-in Number: +1 929 205 6099

**CHILDREN’S FORMATION: ALL-CHURCH SCHOOL MLK PROJECT Today, 9:30 a.m., via Zoom**

How can children live out Dr. King’s dream today? Kids of all ages are invited to join Sarah for a brainstorming session where we’ll try out some ideas for how we can help to make racial and economic justice a reality. [Click here to join the Church School Zoom directly](#), or go to [zoom.us](https://zoom.us) and “join a meeting” using the following information:

Meeting ID: 897 8647 6898    Call-in Number: +1 929 205 6099

**MLK SUNDAY WORSHIP Today, 11:00 a.m., via YouTube Premiere** Join us for a special pre-recorded service in honor of the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Members of our Beloved Community team and participants in our recent racial justice programs will be leading the service and offering reflections about what they’ve been learning in recent months on their individual and collective journeys. Recordings of guest musicians Issa Bibbins and Nola Hood will

## TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

be featured, as well as a powerful short video of rare archival footage of the March on Washington. [Click here to find the worship video on our YouTube channel.](#)

**CONVERSATIONS ABOUT BECOMING AN ANTI-RACIST CHURCH Today, 12:15 p.m. and Sunday, January 24, 9:30 a.m., via Zoom** With help from our Community Minister for Racial Justice Carlyle Stewart, church leaders have been drafting a new language for our vision of becoming an anti-racist church. Please join us today after our MLK worship for a Zoom Coffee Hour discussion of this vision and/or at the 9:30 a.m. Adult Formation on January 24. Dan Smith and Karlene Griffiths-Sekou will be leading. A final version of the vision will be brought to our Annual Meeting on January 31 for congregational approval. [Click here to join Zoom Coffee Hour](#) directly, or go to [zoom.us](https://zoom.us) and “join a meeting” with the following instructions:  
Meeting ID: 876 6474 8993 Password: coffee

**WINTER WALK Today, 2:45 p.m., Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge** We will seek out buds and other winter wonders! Meet Hilary Hopkins at Story Chapel near the entrance. We’ll walk for about an hour. Come prepared for the weather and, of course, wear your masks. Heavy snow will postpone us to January 24.

**NEW TO FIRST CHURCH?** Have you just begun joining us for online worship? Consider filling out this [“virtual visitor card”](#) so that we might reach out and connect with you about our community. Our next Joining Sunday will take place on January 31. Please contact Dan Smith if you would like to discuss joining First Church as a member.

**PLEASE BE CAREFUL OF EMAIL SCAMS** We are observing an uptick in phishing scams impersonating church staff via email. If you receive an email claiming to be from Dan Smith (or another staff) that asks for an email reply because he is in a meeting, please double-check the sending address. Please note that if the sender is using an email address other than an @firstchurchcambridge.org address, it is most likely a scam. Please do not respond. Church staff would never ask for any kind of donations to be sent directly to them (or directly to others). The scammers have been able to pull enough information from church websites to make the email sound legitimate. Scams have become more and more sophisticated! If you are still wondering, please be sure to speak directly with Dan or to the staff person involved before responding.

## FIRST CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS

**THE MOSTLY VIRTUAL 2021 MLK WEEK OF SERVICE AND LEARNING Beginning Tomorrow, January 18** Honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life and work by joining with others to serve those in need in our community and to learn how you can help create an equitable community that brings us closer to racial justice and equality. The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the inequality and injustice in our society. But we can still lend our helping hands. And we can work together to make this a day—and even a week—of giving and learning. Join together virtually for hands-on service on MLK Day and a Week of Racial and Social Justice Conversations focused on Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.'s work, legacy and continuing power to challenge and inspire us. Go to <https://manyhelpinghands365.org/> to register and learn more.

**A CALL FOR WINTER AND LENTEN FAITH & LIFE GROUP LEADERS** Are you interested in leading a small group via Zoom? Faith & Life Groups are designed to encourage meaningful connections through shared interests, whether exploring a spiritual practice, opening our eyes to the beauty around us, delving into a challenging social issue, or attending to significant life stages (parenting, ageing, job transitions, etc.) Faith & Life Groups involve making a short-term commitment (a single session to several weeks, depending on the group). If you are looking for a great way to dip your toes into the life of our church and stay connected outside of Sunday Worship, this is for you! Questions? Looking to lead a group? Please contact Lexi Boudreaux, Pastoral Associate. Stay tuned!

**HAVE YOU PLEDGED?** We have received pledges totaling just under \$525,000, which is 87% of the way to our 2021 pledge goal. Many thanks to all who have responded so far. Is your piece of our puzzle not yet in place? The Stewardship Committee would love to send you your thank you gift this week! [Make your pledge online and then check out how we've pieced together our progress.](#)

**BIPOC SPACE, TIME, AND COMMUNITY** If you are a Black, Indigenous or Person of Color (BIPOC) member of First Church, please consider joining our periodic Zoom meetings designed as active listening sessions to reflect, heal, support one another, and build community. Please contact Moana Bentin ([moana.bentin@gmail.com](mailto:moana.bentin@gmail.com)) with questions or to receive a Zoom invitation to participate. This group is by BIPOC for BIPOC.

**ONLINE WORSHIP LITURGISTS** Assist in worship, either in-person or via video. [Sign up here](#), and you will receive an email with instructions on how to contribute! Questions? Contact Lexi Boudreaux: [lexi@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:lexi@firstchurchcambridge.org)

## FIRST CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS

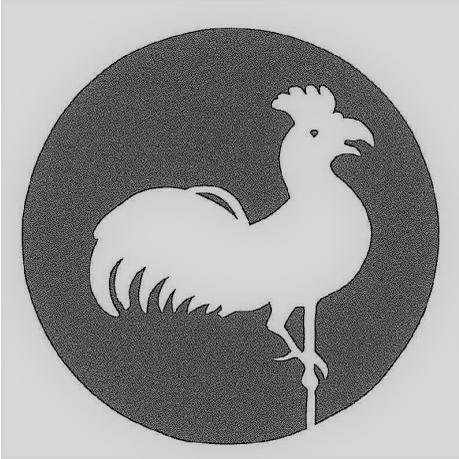
**PRAYING THE PSALMS GROUP** **Tuesday mornings, 7:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m., via Zoom** Our Praying the Psalms group has resumed weekly meetings via Zoom. The group is set up to accompany individual reading of one Psalm per day, starting with Psalm 1 on January 1. Each Tuesday at 7:45 a.m., we gather online for a time of soulful check-in and shared reflection about the Psalms of the week. Feel free to drop in virtually when you can, or plan to make it a regular part of your week. See the calendar on our website for the Zoom information.

**WEEKLY FCC PROFESSIONAL CAREGIVERS' CALL** **First and Third Tuesdays, 4:00 p.m., via Zoom** Hospital workers, homecare workers, therapists, chaplains, doctors, nurses, caregivers and essential workers of all kinds — would it help to talk and share your experience with others at First Church? If you've been flat out and barely able to come up for air, please drop-in when you can for a time to listen, share, pray, and process. Our next session held via Zoom is ***this Tuesday, January 19.***

**BOSTON UNIVERSITY GRANT EXTENDS TIME WITH CARLYLE STEWART, COMMUNITY MINISTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE** Good news, church! Thanks to renewed funding from our BU School of Theology Creative Callings Project grant, Carlyle Stewart, our Community Minister for Racial Justice, will continue to be with us through most 2021. Carlyle will be preaching on February 21 and helping lead an FCC leadership retreat soon after. In addition, he will be continuing to lead weekly theological reflection sessions on biblical and spiritual themes related to our work of becoming an anti-racist church.

**PRAYER SHAWLS FOR OUR NEW CONFERENCE** Do you like to knit, crochet, or sew? Rev. Darrell Goodwin, the new General Minister of [SNEUCC](#) (the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ—that's us) is asking for prayer shawls for conference staff, ministers, and partners—tangible signs that we are wrapping them in prayer. Watch Rev. Goodwin's recent [video](#) to learn more, and follow him on social media @RevDGoodwin to keep up with what's happening in the life of our conference!

## CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING



Notice is hereby given that  
the Annual Meeting  
of First Church in Cambridge,  
Congregational, United Church of Christ,  
will be held in its 385th year  
at 12:30 p.m.,  
Sunday the 31st of January, 2021,  
by Zoom conference:

1. to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2020, Annual Meeting and the minutes of the November 22, 2020, Special Meeting,
2. to receive and act upon the 2020 reports of the Staff, Officers, Executive Council, Boards, Committees, Teams, and Groups of the Church,
3. to consider a Vision for Being an Anti-Racist Church, and
4. to consider any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

By direction of the Executive Council,

David Kidder, Clerk *pro tempore*  
Cambridge, Massachusetts  
January 7, 2021

## WIDER COMMUNITY ACTIONS AND EVENTS

### **FREE COVID TESTING NOW AVAILABLE FOR ALL WHO LIVE, WORK, AND PRAY IN CAMBRIDGE**

The City of Cambridge and Cambridge Public Health Department (CPHD) are offering [free COVID-19 testing](#) for Cambridge residents and, we are told, for all who work and pray in Cambridge. The PCR tests are anterior nasal swab tests and not the nasopharyngeal swab test that go all the way back in the nasal passages. No identification or Social Security number is required. All sites are wheelchair accessible. Available testing appointments can book up quickly, but please keep checking back as new appointments will be added when they become available. When you sign up for an appointment, you will be asked for your address and to “Select all that apply: \*I am a Cambridge resident \*I am an employee in Cambridge \*I am a City of Cambridge employee \*None of the above.” If you don’t live or work in Cambridge, be sure to select \*None of the Above and then list in the address line that follows: “Member of First Church in Cambridge, 11 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA.” To schedule an appointment, [sign up online](#) or call 617-349-9788.

**FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS WELCOME** Patrons need cereal, canned veggies and fruit, proteins (canned chicken & peanut butter especially); feminine products and diapers very welcome. Please do not donate fresh food or anything already opened. Deliver to Hilary’s front porch, 30 Winslow St., Cambridge, ¾ mile up Garden St. from FCC, first street on right after Garden and Sherman diverge. There is a wreath on the front door and a storage box on the porch: pull up its lid, close firmly, ring bell for #30 on silver mailbox. Thank you!

**FINANCIAL DONATIONS TO PROVIDE FOOD SECURITY** The following organizations welcome financial donations. They work providing food to people who are living with food insecurity. [Food For Free](#) supports low-income Cambridge residents. It offers fresh produce as well as other kinds of food. In some cases it will also deliver food to people who are unable to come to their food pantry. [Greater Boston Food Bank](#) provides food to over 500 partner agencies in Eastern Massachusetts. It will also help people locate and apply for other food resources.

***Have an announcement for the bulletin?***

***Please send information about church or wider community events to Sarah Higginbotham (shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org) by 10:00 a.m. on Tuesdays to be considered for the following Sunday’s bulletin.***

## MEDITATIVE MUSIC FOR YOUR WEEK

**LINKS TO CHANT WORKS PROVIDED BY NIGHT SONG** Looking for meditative chant music during your time at home? Night Song Director Daryl Bichel offers the following suggestions:

### **St. Mark's Cathedral in Seattle**

#### **Compline Podcast, 3 and 10 January 2021**

<https://complinepodcast.org/?p=1900>

<https://complinepodcast.org/?p=1903>

To bring you up to date here are the compline liturgies for January 3 (Christmas 2) and January 10 (Baptism of Christ). These are recordings from previous years as the compline choir is still not singing due to the pandemic.

### **Abbey of St. Pierre de Solesmes**

#### **Gregorian Chant for Epiphany**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=496hY\\_Oykp8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=496hY_Oykp8)

Here, the monks choir from the Abbey of St. Pierre de Solesmes sings the Gregorian chant propers for mass on the feast of the Epiphany. The scores are provided so you can follow along if you wish.

### **Epiphany Lessons and Carols 2020**

#### **St. Mark's Cathedral in Seattle**

<https://saintmarks.org/2020/01/a-service-of-lessons-carols-on-the-eve-of-the-feast-of-the-epiphany/>

Here, you have an opportunity to hear the choir that sings for morning services at the Cathedral, and to hear the large organ designed and built by the Dutch firm D.A. Flentrop and installed in 1965.

## LOOKING AHEAD

### **Sunday, January 17**

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: Learning Compassion, via Zoom
- 9:30 a.m. Children's Formation: MLK Project, via Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship via YouTube Premiere, lay leaders offering testimony
- 12:15 p.m. Zoom Coffee Hour with Anti-Racist Vision Discussion
- 5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

### **Monday, January 18 - MLK Day - Church Office and Building Closed**

- 4:00 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

### **Tuesday, January 19**

- 7:45 a.m. Praying the Psalms Group, via Zoom
- 4:00 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 7:00 p.m. Deacons' Meeting, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Shelter Oversight Committee, via Zoom

### **Wednesday, January 20**

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, via Zoom
- 4:00 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 7:30 p.m. Missions & Social Justice Committee, via Zoom

### **Thursday, January 21**

- 6:00 p.m. Weekly Bible Study, via Zoom
- 7:45 p.m. First Church Choir Call, via Zoom

### **Friday, January 22**

- 1:00 p.m. Friday Café lunch bag pickup, Tower Room

### **Saturday, January 23**

- 4:00 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

### **Sunday, January 24**

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: Anti-Racist Vision Discussion, via Zoom
- 9:30 a.m. Children's Formation: Remote Church School Classes, via Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. Live-Stream Worship, recognition of Homeless Ministries  
Jaz Buchanan, preaching
- 12:15 p.m. Zoom Coffee Hour
- 2:00 p.m. Youth Group, meet on church playground (weather permitting)

***Zoom invitations to our week's programs can be found on each event listed in [the calendar on our website](#). They may also be found in the all-church email that was sent this morning. To join our all-church email list, please [sign up here](#).***

## THE STAFF AT FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

### Senior Minister

Rev. Dan Smith  
617-547-2724 ext.23  
dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org

### Minister of Stewardship & Finance

Rev. Karen McArthur  
karenmc@firstchurchcambridge.org

### Minister of Street Outreach

Rev. Kate Layzer  
617-851-5074  
kate@thefriday.cafe

### Pastoral Associate

Lexi Boudreaux  
lexi@firstchurchcambridge.org

### Pastoral Associate

Jaz Buchanan  
jaz@firstchurchcambridge.org

### Director of Music

Peter Sykes  
617-645-0833  
psykes@aol.com

### Director, Creative Worship & Arts

Sarah Higginbotham  
617-547-2724, ext. 42  
shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org

### Staff Composer

Patricia Van Ness  
www.patriciavanness.com

### Poet-in-Residence

Jean Dany Joachim  
jeandany@gmail.com

### Shelter Director

Jim Stewart  
617-661-1873  
jstewart@firstchurchcambridge.org

### Director of Operations

Kirsten Manville  
617-547-2724, ext. 21  
parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org

### Facilities Manager

Kris McQuage-Loukas  
617-547-2724, ext. 44  
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### Office Assistant

Bruce Dillenbeck  
617-547-2724  
bruce@firstchurchcambridge.org

### Sextons

Douglas Casey, Rebecca LaFrance,  
George Williams, Kimel Williams  
617-642-3980

Would you like to give to  
First Church in Cambridge?  
Here are easy ways to do it:



Text \$ \_\_ to 1-844-996-0982



FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE  
CONGREGATIONAL, 1633-1636  
United Church of Christ  
11 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138  
www.firstchurchcambridge.org